

Do You Know TRIO?

A TRIO HISTORY FACT SHEET

NATIONAL **TRIO** CLEARINGHOUSE

The Early History of the Higher Education Act of 1965

What was the Higher Education Act of 1965?

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was a legislative document that was signed into law on November 8, 1965 “to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education” (Pub. L. No. 89-329).

Why is the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 an important part of TRIO history?

The HEA created grants, loans and other programs to help students acquire education beyond secondary school. The Talent Search program, then called Contracts to Encourage the Full Utilization of Educational Talent, was created in the Higher Education Act of 1965. Today, all TRIO programs are authorized under the amended law.

Why was the Higher Education Act created?

In his January 1965 education message, President Johnson articulated the need for more higher education opportunities for lower and middle income families, program assistance for small and less developed colleges, additional and improved library resources at higher education institutions, and utilization of college and university resources to help deal with national problems like poverty and community development. The HEA was a response.

What is the legislative history of the Higher Education Act of 1965?

On January 19, 1965, the Administration’s proposals to increase and improve resources at higher education institutions and provide financial assistance to students in postsecondary education were introduced in the House as bills, H.R. 3220 and H.R. 3221 and in the Senate as S.600. Later, proposals for teacher training programs were introduced in the Senate as bill S.2302 on July 19, 1965.

The Special Subcommittee on Education conducted 13 days of hearings in Washington, D.C. (February 1-5 and March 8-10, 12, 16-19, 1965) and 2 days of field hearings at the University of Chicago (April 30 and May 1, 1965). The Education Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare held 12 days of hearings (March 16, 22, 30, May 18-20, June 1-3, 7-8, and 11, 1965). The subcommittee also received recommendations from student aid officers, professors and administrators through informal meetings and correspondence.

On July 14, 1965, the House Committee on Education and Labor, chaired by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., reported out a new bill, H.R. 9567, incorporating many of the provisions of H.R. 3220 and many of the suggestions from higher education officials. On August 26, the bill passed the House and was sent on to the Senate. On September 1, the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, chaired by Sen. Lister Hill, reported H.R. 9567 to the Senate with their amendments. The bill passed the Senate on September 2. In October, the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare met in conference to produce one version of H.R. 9567 and reported it out on October 19. It was passed by the House and by the Senate on October 20. President Johnson signed the bill on November 8, 1965 and it became Public Law 89-329.

Has the Higher Education Act been reauthorized since its enactment?

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was reauthorized in 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992 and 1998. Before each reauthorization, Congress amended additional programs, changed the language and policies of existing programs, or made other changes. In 2004, the Higher Education Act is scheduled for the next reauthorization.

Sources: Higher Education Act of 1965, H.R. 621, 89th Cong., 1st Sess. (1965); Higher Education Act of 1965, S.673, 89th Cong., 1st Sess. (1965); Higher Education Act of 1965, Pub. L. No. 89-329 (1965); Vol. 111 Cong. Record (1965) 883, 978, 17367; Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1996; Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions 108th Cong., 1st Sess. (2003).