

EXHIBIT 2

Exhibit 2-001



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February 23, 2022

Via Electronic Submission

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please accept this request for records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, et seq., on behalf of the State of Florida. Copies of the following records must be provided:

1. Any records of a relevant DOE official that discuss, mention, or relate to Florida Senate Bill 7044.
2. Any records of a relevant DOE official that discuss, mention, or relate to requests, including anticipated requests, from Florida educational institutions to change accreditors.
3. Any records of a relevant DOE official that discuss, mention, or relate to the July 19, 2022 letter from Herman Bounds to institutional accrediting agencies regarding "voluntary membership," including records regarding the drafting of this letter.
4. Any records of a relevant DOE official that discuss, mention, or relate to the July 19, 2022 Dear Colleague letters, "Guidance for Institutions Seeking to Change or Add Accrediting Agencies" (GEN-22-10) and "Procedures for Institutions Seeking Approval of a Request to Change or Add Accrediting Agencies" (GEN-22-11).
5. Any records of a relevant DOE official that discuss, mention, or relate to plans to amend regulations on accreditation under the Higher Education Act of 1965, including but not limited to communications with any individual or entity outside the federal government.
6. Any records of a relevant DOE official that discuss, mention, or relate to a planned negotiated rulemaking on regulations regarding accreditation, including but not limited to communications with any individual or entity outside the federal government.

The term "relevant DOE officials" refers to the following persons, as well as their predecessors and successors (to include both individuals who held the same office as well as those who performed the functions and duties of the same office in an acting capacity or otherwise), and their respective immediate staff members:

- Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Education, Department of Education
- Sheila Nix, Chief of Staff, Department of Education
- Roberto Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Department of Education

- Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education
- James Kvaal, Under Secretary
- Nasser Paydar, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Office of Postsecondary Education
- CJ Powell, Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education
- Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Advisor to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs, Office of Postsecondary Education
- Scott Prince, Senior Director of Policy Development, Analysis & Accreditation, Office of Postsecondary Education
- Richard Cordray, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid
- Annmarie Weisman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, Office of Postsecondary Education
- Herman Bounds Jr., Director, Accreditation Group
- Any member of the Accreditation Group

This request is limited to records created between January 20, 2021, and the date of your response.

I request that these records be processed on an expedited basis and produced in an electronic format no later than 20 working days from the date of this request. Expedited treatment is warranted because the polices at issue raise serious questions regarding federal interference in higher education administration in the State of Florida. Further, given that many Florida educational institutions have imminent accreditation timelines, it is urgent that Florida be aware of any such interference.

I ask that any fees be waived because of the significant public interest in the continued accreditation of educational institutions and provision of student aid through these state institutions.

If you have any questions, please contact me using the contact information in the letterhead.

Certification in Support of Expedited Processing

I hereby certify that all statements provided in the foregoing request are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

Natalie P. Christmas
Assistant Attorney General of Legal Policy