



2025 CAA and Accreditation Update

August 22, 2025

September 5, 2025

October 1, 2025



Housekeeping

- Session is not being recorded.
- This is the third of three info shares.
- Session is related to the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology's revisions to Standard 3.4 A/B.
- Session is intended for academic and clinical faculty and other individuals affiliated with graduate education programs accredited by the CAA.
- Use of Chat is active.

Meet the CAA Speaker



**Memorie Gosa, PhD,
CCC-SLP, BCS-S**

2025 CAA Chair



**Shatonda Jones,
PhD, CCC-SLP**

2026 CAA Chair-Elect

Legislation

Legislation and Policies



EXECUTIVE ORDERS



US DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION POLICIES



STATE LAW



FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Presidential Executive Orders

- January 20, 2025

- Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing
- Termination of DEI and DEIA programs and practices

- January 21, 2025

- Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity
- Encouraging the private sector to end DEI and DEIA

- March 20, 2025

- Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities
- Dismantling of the US Department of Education

- April 23,2025

- Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education

Commission for Public Higher Education

Created and initially funded by the State University System of Florida as a new institutional accreditation agency focused on public universities

Has the interest and support of six additional public university systems:

- University System of Georgia

- State University System of Florida

- University of North Carolina system

- University of South Carolina system

- University of Tennessee system

- Texas A&M University system

Implications for CAA Standard 1.1 – Institutional Accreditation

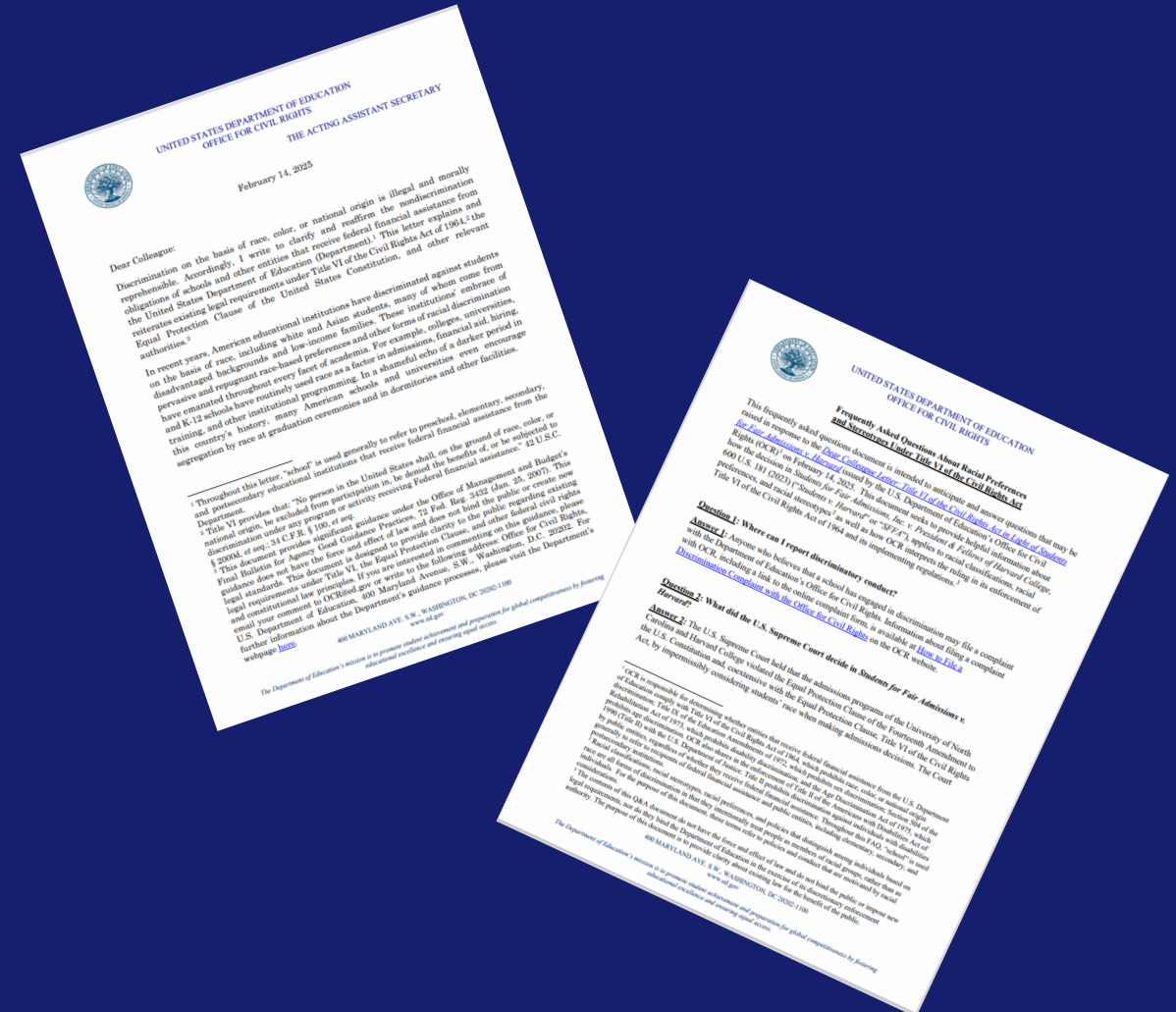
USDE Policies

US Department of Education

February 14, 2025: [Dear Colleague Letter](#)

March 3, 2025: [FAQs related to the Dear Colleague Letter](#)

May 1, 2025: [Procedural changes to the recognition process and opening applications for new accreditors](#)



Accreditation Federal Legislation

House Education & Workforce Committee recent bills

HR 2516 – Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2025

Prohibiting policies and standards regarding political issues, political litmus tests, or DEI standards during accreditation evaluations

Prohibit accreditors from prohibiting religious missions or being controlled by a religious organization, or following religious tenets

HR 4045 – Accreditation Choice and Innovation Act

Allow for new agencies to apply for recognition with less oversight and eligibility requirements, proposes required outcome measures, allows institutions to easily change accreditors

Requires agencies to be separate and independent from any related association or organization both financially and administratively

State Laws

Updated on August 22, 2025, with new information on New Hampshire.

We are tracking 136 bills in 30 states and the U.S. Congress. Since 2023,

136

have been introduced.

29

have final legislative approval.

29

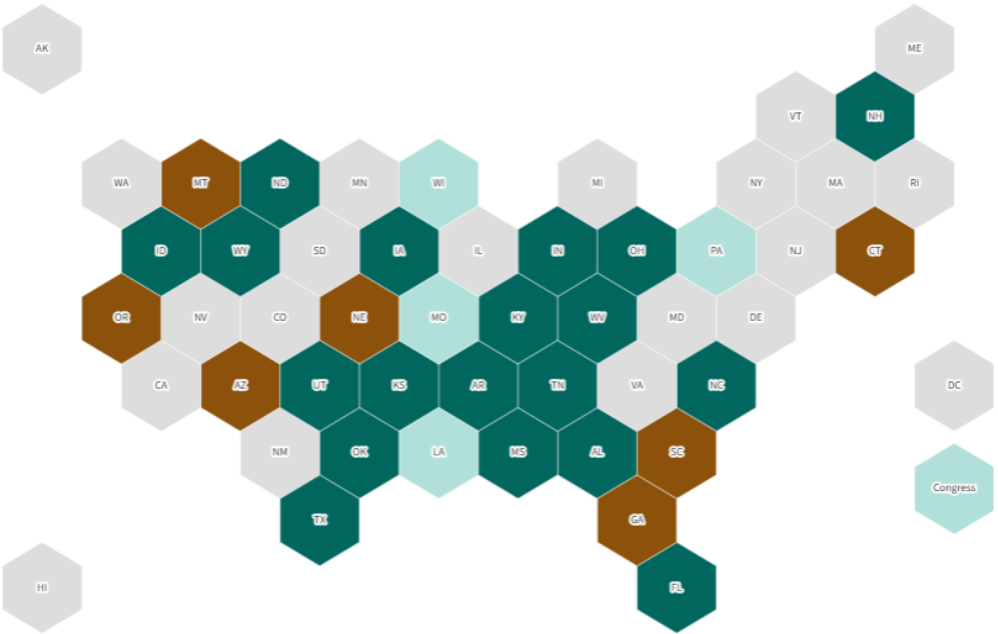
have become law.

99

have been tabled, failed to pass, or been vetoed.

Where Anti-DEI Legislation Has Been Proposed

No bill Introduced Final legislative approval Signed into law Tabled, failed to pass, or vetoed



* A Flourish map

“Illegal DEI” and the CAA’s Definition

Many institutions or accreditors that have come under scrutiny have programs or standards related to

- Admissions
- Specific scholarships or other funding
- Faculty hiring
- “showing preference to...” or “disfavoring [students/ individuals]...”
- Requiring employers or students to engage in activities or educational sessions related to understanding DEI
- Teaching content related to DEI

- CAA and other accreditors from Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors
 - Urged the USDE to understand that many programmatic accreditors of healthcare programs use “DEI” in terms of *inclusivity*
 - Students must understand how the differences in the backgrounds and experiences of clients/ patients affect decisions related to healthcare and outcomes

CAA Actions

Accreditation and CAA Actions

CAA Thoughts and Next Steps

- Accreditation Staff to continue to meet with ASHA, ASPA, monitor CHEA, and other entities, legal guidance
- Compliance Expectations:
 - February 14, 2025: Continue to show the CAA how your program is providing students with opportunities to utilize the tenets of **person- and family-centered care** in clinical decision making in ways that do not violate state law.
 - **The CAA is *not* requiring programs to choose between compliance with accreditation standards and compliance with state or federal law.**
- Standard 3.4 A/B Revisions

Info Shares and Tiered Peer Review Process

Info Shares

- April 14, 2025
- April 24, 2025 at CAPCSD
- August 22, 2025
- September 5, 2025

Peer Reviews:

- Accredited Program Peer Review
May 20- June 10, 2025
- Widespread Peer Review
June 10 – July 10, 2025

Common Themes from Peer Review

Anti-Discrimination must be “put back;” they have been removed

CAA/CFCC/ASHA are removing cultural competence requirements

Changes are violating the ASHA Code of Ethics

Must protect faculty and student recruitment efforts

Common Theme 1: Anti-discrimination measures have been removed.

The CAA has a standard that addresses anti-discrimination:

Standard 1.8 The institution and program must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders prohibiting discrimination towards students, faculty, staff, and persons served in the program's clinics. This includes prohibitions on discrimination based on any category prohibited by applicable law but not limited to age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status.

Common Theme 2:

Cultural competence requirements have been removed.

The following standards include culture

- 3.1.2A-3.1.6A
- 3.1.2B
- 3.1.6B

Standard 4.2

Standard 3.0 A/B

- Ad Hoc Committees met to confirm knowledge and skills for entry into the profession
- Recommendations to CAA are currently under review

Common Theme 3:

Changes violate the ASHA Code of Ethics

The following standards discuss “ethics” or “ethical practice”

- 3.1.1A/B
- 3.1.6A/B
- 3.8 A/B
- 3.10 A/B
- 4.4

Standards do not specifically reference ASHA Code of Ethics

- Programs are preparing students of credentials that extend outside of ASHA, which include state licensure, DOE credentials, ABA certifications, all with their own codes of ethics

Common Theme 4:

Student and faculty recruitment efforts must be preserved.

- The current and previous versions of the Standards do not discuss faculty or student recruitment in terms of DEI
- Standards do not give or encourage preference to one group of people over another

Revised Standard 3.4 A/B

Standard 3.4A/B An effective audiology program is organized and delivered in such a manner that the tenets of person-and family-centered care are reflected in the program, consistent with recognized standards of ethical practice and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

Requirement for Review

- The program must provide evidence that the tenets of person-and family-centered care are taught in didactic courses.
- The program must provide evidence that the tenets of person-and family-centered care are modeled throughout the clinical practicum experience.

New Definition: Person- and Family-Centered Care

For the purposes of programmatic accreditation, the CAA defines "person- and family-centered care" as the following: Audiologists and speech-language pathologists provide services to a wide population of individuals that could include those with cultural and linguistic expectations, differences, and histories with which the service provider may not be familiar.

Effective clinical relationships require service providers to understand and respect values, attitudes, beliefs, circumstances, experiences, modes of communication, and mores that differ from their own. It also requires service providers to consider and respond with respect to these differences in planning, implementing, and evaluating individualized health education programs, assessments, and interventions.

Person-and family-centered care as it is referenced in these standards refers to, "integrated ... services delivered in a setting and manner that is responsive to individuals and their goals, values, and preferences, in a system that supports good provider-patient communication and empowers individuals receiving care and providers to make effective care plans together."

New Definition: Tenets of Person- and Family- Centered Care

Respect for
individual values
and preferences

Informed
decision-making

Integrated
services

Communication
and education

Access to care

Involvement of
family and friends

Emotional
support, empathy,
and respect

Physical comfort

Continuity of care

Accountability

What does this mean for programs?

- Allows for flexibility to meet the standard in accordance with program and institutional mission and goals
- Programs already have met 3.4

Implementation

New standards in effect for all applications and annual reports received *after* October 1, 2025



FALL 2025 SITE VISITS
CURRENT STANDARDS



SPRING 2026 SITE VISITS
CURRENT STANDARDS



AUGUST 2025 ANNUAL REPORTS
CURRENT STANDARDS

Implementation

New standards in effect for all applications and annual reports received *after* October 1, 2025



FEBRUARY 2026 APPLICATIONS
NEW STANDARDS



FEBRUARY 2026 ANNUAL
REPORTS
NEW STANDARDS



AUGUST 2026 APPLICATIONS
NEW STANDARDS



AUGUST 2026 ANNUAL
REPORTS
NEW STANDARDS

Other CAA Activities

Clinical Standards Updates

CAA is currently conducting its comprehensive standards review:

- Curriculum and Practice Analysis Studies for AUD and SLP
 - Joint Studies conducted by the CAA and CFCC in 2023-2024
 - Looks at required knowledge and skills for entry-level independent practice and where competency is achieved
 - Guided by groups of certified audiologists and SLPs
 - Peer review was open to all certified clinicians

Accreditation - CAA

Comprehensive Standards Review

- CAA preliminary review – COMPLETED 2025
- Focus Groups – COMPLETED 2024
 - 2 Academic SLP groups
 - 1 Academic Audiology groups
 - 1 Focus group at NBASLH
- Ad Hoc Committee on Standard 3.0A Review – COMPLETED 2024
- Ad Hoc Committee on Standard 3.0B Review – COMPLETED 2025
- Waiting to receive and consider report from Competency Framework Committees

Next Steps

- Review all comments, suggestions, and draft edits
- Peer Comment in 2026 Q1
- Updated Standards To Be Announced - August 1, 2026
- Implementation Date – August 1, 2027

Questions

Contact Us:

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