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Higher education in the United States is an optional final stage of formal learning following secondary education. Higher education, also referred to as post-secondary education, third stage, third level, or tertiary education occurs most commonly at one of the 4,360 Title IV degree-granting institutions, either colleges or universities in the ...Education in the United States is provided by public, private and home schools. State governments set overall educational standards, often mandate standardized tests for K–12 public school systems and supervise, usually through a board of regents, state colleges, and universities. IR in the Know keeps you up to date on current and emerging issues related to higher education data collection, analyses, and reporting with a brief summary of topics and links to more detailed information. NEA, AFT & AAUP issue joint recommendations for Higher Ed Act. The three unions, NEA, AFT and AAUP, representing more than 350,000 higher-education faculty and staff, have issued recommendations to Congress around the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.