



CHUCK GRASSLEY

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR IOWA

NET PRICE CALCULATOR IMPROVEMENT ACT

Net Price Calculators (NPCs) are online tools that provide prospective students with individualized college costs and financial aid figures early in the admissions process, before students decide to apply to specific schools. By entering information on their finances, academics and other factors, students can use these calculators to generate a unique financial aid profile and estimate the “net price” of the college after grants and scholarships are applied.

In 2008, Congress required all institutions of higher education receiving federal funds to post a net price calculator on their website. However, many of these calculators are difficult for students to find, use and compare. **When students and families don’t have the information they need about college costs, they may not take into account the total amount of financial aid offered and base their decision on the “sticker price.”** The bipartisan, bicameral *Net Price Calculator Improvement Act* would make these calculators more user-friendly and accessible.

Specifically, the *Net Price Calculator Improvement Act* would:

- Require institutions to place their calculators on webpages where students and families are likely to look for cost and admissions information – such as the financial aid or tuition and fees page.
- Improve comparability between schools by requiring the “net price” be the most visually prominent figure on the results screen.
- Strengthen information for veteran students by requiring that calculators indicate on the results screen that prospective students may qualify for veteran benefits and include a link directing eligible students to such benefits.
- Authorize the Department of Education to develop a “universal calculator” that would enable students to answer one set of financial and academic questions in order to generate a list of comparable net price estimates for multiple institutions of higher education.
- Require the Department of Education to submit a report on the steps the Department has taken to raise awareness of Net Price Calculators among prospective students and families, particularly those in high school and middle school, and students from low-income families.