

## S 1263

Debt-Free College Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Apr 21, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Apr 21, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1263>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** HI • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 21, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 21, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 21, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2804	Related bill	Apr 22, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

## **Debt-Free College Act of 2021**

This bill establishes measures to cover the unmet financial need of students who are enrolled at certain institutions of higher education (IHEs). *Unmet financial need* refers to the difference between a student's cost of attendance and the student's expected family contribution, plus any federal, state, and local sources of grant aid. In addition, the bill makes certain Dreamer students (i.e., students who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status) eligible for federal financial aid.

First, the bill requires the Department of Education (ED) to award grants for state-federal partnerships with a goal of providing debt-free college for all eligible students at in-state public IHEs. *Eligible student* refers to an individual who (1) is enrolled or is eligible to enroll in an in-state public IHE, (2) completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or demonstrates eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant through institutional financial-aid eligibility forms, and (3) demonstrates satisfactory academic progress.

Next, the bill requires ED to award grants to historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions to cover the unmet financial need of enrolled students.

ED must establish an office to administer grants and provide oversight.

In addition, the bill makes Dreamer students who entered the United States before the age of 16 and who meet certain educational criteria eligible for federal student aid.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 21, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 21, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.