

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I write today to request that the Department of Education reconsider Morris Brown College for funding that was disbursed as a result of the American Rescue Plan. Morris Brown College was founded in 1881 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Last November, Morris Brown College announced their accreditation application with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) had been approved. Morris Brown College is the first Historically Black College and University to earn its accreditation back twenty years later.¹

On April 13, 2021, Morris Brown College entered into the pre-accreditation candidacy status, which indicated demonstrated compliance with the Institutional Eligibility Requirements via the Self-Study process.²

By less than a week, Morris Brown College missed out on much-needed grant funding as the Department of Education's American Rescue Plan methodology pulled data as of April 7, 2021 for the (a)(1) and (a)(4) allocation tables. The methodology document states, "Schools that are currently ineligible per the PEPS weekly data extract as of April 7, 2021, or for whom IPEDS data was unavailable, are excluded from the allocation table."³

Additionally, since Morris Brown College was not included in the 2021 Eligibility Matrix, they remain ineligible for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (a)(2) funding.⁴

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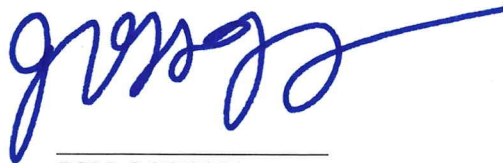
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ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Department of Education has not yet released eligibility requirements for Supplemental Support under American Rescue Plan (a)(3) funding.⁵ Depending on the eligibility requirements, Morris Brown College could be eligible to apply for funds. I ask that you consider eligibility requirements that would allow for colleges and universities in similar situations, like Morris Brown College, to be eligible to apply for funds.

I urge you to reconsider the prior disbursed allocations and include Morris Brown College in updated allocation tables for which they would have otherwise qualified for had they not miss the cut off by a week.

Thank you for your swift attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JON OSSOFF
U.S. SENATOR

¹ <https://morrisbrown.edu/another-major-win-for-morris-brown-college-accreditation-application-approved/>

² <https://tracs.org/Documents/StepTowardAccreditation.pdf>

³ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arpa1methodology.pdf>

⁴ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arpa2methodology1.pdf>

⁵ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfiihbcu.html>