

Executive Order 14348

Transparency and Protection of U.S. Higher Education from Foreign Influence

September 5, 2025

Overview

On September 5, 2025, the White House issued [Executive Order 14348: Transparency and Protection of U.S. Higher Education from Foreign Influence](#), directing the U.S. Department of Education to increase oversight of foreign funding, contracts, and partnerships within higher education. The order aims to protect American universities from potential foreign influence by enforcing stricter disclosure and audit requirements. It builds on [Section 117 of the Higher Education Act](#), expanding compliance and reporting standards to strengthen research integrity and data security across the education sector.

The policy aims to enhance national security and data protection within higher education, ensuring transparency in how universities engage with foreign entities. For the technology industry, it signals growing demand for secure, U.S.-based, and audit-ready digital solutions that support institutional compliance. The order also creates new opportunities for vendors and resellers to deliver cybersecurity, data governance, and reporting tools that align with federal oversight priorities.

Permitting Framework

By **September 5, 2025**, federal agencies are required to implement new oversight measures to strengthen transparency and compliance within higher education institutions under Executive Order 14348.

- The Department of Education (ED) leads implementation, audits, and enforcement. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assesses national security risks, while the Department of Commerce (DOC) manages export controls. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) coordinates interagency reporting and data standards.
- ED will issue compliance guidance by Q4 2025, begin audits in Q1 2026, and will reach full enforcement by Q3 2026 for all federally funded institutions.
- Agencies must produce annual compliance reports, maintain a centralized database of foreign partnerships, and release public summaries of enforcement actions to ensure accountability and national security.

Timeline

Policy	Focus & Key Provisions
EO Issued and Effective (Sep 2025)	The White House releases Executive Order 14348, directing the Department of Education to strengthen oversight of foreign funding and partnerships in higher education.
Compliance Guidance Released (Q4 - 2025)	The Department of Education (ED) publishes official compliance and reporting guidance for universities and research institutions.
Audits Begin (Q1 - 2026)	ED launches initial audits and institutional data reviews to assess foreign funding disclosures and reporting accuracy.
Full Enforcement (Q3 2026)	All federally funded higher education institutions are required to fully comply with EO 14348 disclosure, documentation, and audit standards.

What Does This Mean for Government?

Federal agencies will face new mandates to:

- Strengthen oversight and report on foreign funding, research contracts, and university partnerships.
- Coordinate data sharing and risk assessments between the Department of Education (ED), Homeland Security (DHS), Commerce (DOC), and OMB.
- Establish secure digital systems to track disclosures, audits, and enforcement actions across all federally funded higher education institutions.

Education data and research security are now national security priorities — requiring agencies to treat higher education oversight with the same rigor as federal compliance and intelligence systems.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

For contractors, integrators, and technology vendors working with higher education and government clients, this Executive Order is a signal to prioritize compliance, data security, and audit readiness in all education-related projects.

Key takeaways for vendors:

- Compliance and transparency tools (e.g., audit tracking, disclosure databases, reporting automation) will be in higher demand as universities modernize systems to meet federal standards.
- U.S.-based, FedRAMP-certified solutions will gain preference as institutions move away from foreign-hosted or high-risk platforms.
- Cybersecurity and data governance services will become essential to helping universities protect research data and document foreign partnerships.

In short, Executive Order 14348 positions compliance, transparency, and data protection as core requirements for doing business with federally funded higher education institutions — creating new opportunities for trusted, secure technology partners.

About Technology by Policy

Tech by Policy is a Carahsoft initiative that helps technology vendors align their solutions to evolving federal, state, and local policy priorities to accelerate growth in the public sector. The program connects policy to procurement— translating executive orders, modernization mandates, and compliance frameworks into actionable go-to-market strategies.

By mapping technology capabilities to government missions, Tech by Policy enables vendors to build visibility, strengthen credibility, and drive adoption through policy-aligned positioning, campaigns, and education.

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