

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN  
44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
WWW.BARRAGAN.HOUSE.GOV  
FACEBOOK.COM/CONGRESSWOMANBARRAGAN  
TWITTER: @REPBARRAGAN



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1030 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-8220

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
302 W. FIFTH STREET, SUITE 201  
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731  
(310) 831-1799

701 E. CARSON STREET  
CARSON, CA 90745

8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE  
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

205 S WILLOWBROOK AVENUE  
COMPTON, CA 90220

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**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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October 16, 2020

Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I write in regard to the Compton Community College District (CCCD) appeal seeking a decision from the Department's Office of Postsecondary Education (Department) to deny them eligibility for Titles III, V and VIII in Fiscal Year 2020. Compton College is a vital higher education institution within my Congressional District that deserves support, recognition and financial assistance, especially during this pandemic.

The Department has misidentified Compton College's effective date as a free-standing institution and is penalizing the College because of a partnership with El Camino College that has since ended. Compton College achieved accreditation on June 7, 2017 under the authority of El Camino Community College District. Moreover, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges issued an Executive Order on August 29, 2018 that declared Compton College as an independent college under the authority of the Compton CCD Board of Trustees. The 2017-18 data should be considered the base year for FY 2020 and the college and students should not have to wait until FY 2022 for this critical eligibility.

The application materials describe that all institutions requesting designation as an eligible institution must submit data to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) and Federal Student Aid in the institution's legal name during the base year. Compton College submitted data to the IPEDS in 2017-2018 through their partnership with El Camino College as the Compton Community Education Center, while Compton College students continued to receive Federal Financial Student Aid. For FY 2020, with the base year as 2017-2018, the information was reported under the 00119701 OPEID. The new 04281700 OPEID is now used to submit data going forward from FY 2019-2020 to continue reporting on Compton College students.

I respectfully request your thorough reconsideration of Compton College's ability to apply and qualify for Titles III, V, and VIII. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Nanette Diaz Barragán*

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress