

May 9, 2023

Re: Closure of ASA College on February 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

We write from the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) regarding the closure of ASA College (ASA). As documented below, ASA closed on February 24, 2023.

ASA's accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, states that "[o]n February 24, 2023 . . . ASA College closed without prior approval while on adverse action status [T]he institution is no longer operational." (**Exhibit 1**). The United States Department of Education's Closed School Monthly Report for March 2023 lists ASA College as closed as of February 24, 2023 (**Exhibit 2, page 5**). ASA's closure has been widely reported by the media, including New York Focus (**Exhibit 3**), Inside Higher Education (**Exhibit 4**), and Documented (**Exhibit 5**).

Any former ASA students can contact the New York Legal Assistance Group for *free* legal assistance through our ASA hotline at 212-659-6166 or ASAHotline@nylag.org.

Sincerely,



Jessica Ranucci, Esq.
New York Legal Assistance Group
100 Pearl Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10004

EXHIBIT 1



Statement of Accreditation Status

ASA COLLEGE

Phase: Formerly Accredited

Status: Unapproved Institutional Closure

Candidacy Granted: January 1, 2005

Accreditation Granted: June 24, 2010

Accreditation Ceased: March 1, 2023

Notification of Adverse Action

On February 24, 2023, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to note that ASA College closed without prior approval while on adverse action status. To note that the institution is no longer operational, and accreditation ceased effective March 1, 2023. As of March 1, 2023, ASA College is no longer accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education www.msche.org.

On February 10, 2023, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to reject the teach-out plans because they did not meet the criteria established in the Teach-Out Plans and Agreement(s). However, the Commission has approved teach-out agreements with (1) Berkeley College (New York), New York, NY, for the following programs: Business Administration (AAS); Criminal Justice (AAS); Paralegal Studies (AAS). (2) Helene Fuld College of Nursing, New York, NY, for the following program: Nursing (AAS) (3) Touro University, New York, NY, for the following programs: Business Administration (AAS), Business Management and Administration with a concentration in Information Systems (AOS), Business Management and Administration with a concentration in Data Communications (AOS), Criminal Justice (AS), Nursing (AAS), and Paralegal Studies (AS); (4) Florida Memorial University, Miami Gardens, FL, for the following programs: Business Administration (BS), Finance (BS), Criminal Justice (BA), Psychology (BS), and Healthcare with a concentration in Administration (BS).

New York students can obtain historical records and transcripts from the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) via email at: asaquestions@nysed.gov. Florida students can

obtain historical records and transcripts from the Florida Commission for Independent Education via email at: cieinfo@fldoe.org. For more information about closed school loan discharge please visit: studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school. For more information about borrower-defense loan discharge please visit: studentaid.gov/borrower-defense/. For free legal advice and questions about these programs please contact the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) via email at: asahotline@nylag.org. For international students with questions please contact the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) via email at: sevp@ice.dhs.gov. For veterans with questions please contact the New York State Office of Veterans' Affairs via email at: ELR-NYC.VAVBABUF.RO.EDU@va.gov.

The February 24, 2023, institutional closure terminated ASA College's appeal of the November 11, 2022, adverse action to withdraw accreditation.

The institution failed to submit the required substantive change request for institutional closure, as directed on February 8, 2023. The Commission has been unable to confirm the following information, which was noted in the February 10, 2023, action: (1) financial aid counseling provided to students; (2) communications regarding student records has occurred; (3) a complete list of students currently enrolled in each program at all locations of the institution, their individual status, and the program requirements each student has completed; (4) information regarding all students, including online and/or international students and students in Florida and New York, in all ASA College programs and how those students will be accommodated through teach-out agreements; (5) availability of ASA College staff to assist students as part of the teach-out plan; (6) appropriate information and public disclosures posted at ASA College websites, including those for its New York and Florida locations; (7) documentation of appropriate advisement and support services specific to the needs of international students; (8) responsiveness to NJCAA reporting requirements; (9) payment of contracts for disposition of student, employee, and financial records; (10) the status of the institution's payroll obligations; (11) provisions to assist faculty and staff to secure employment; (12) compliance with reporting requirements from local, state, and federal authorities; and (13) response to formal complaint regarding nonpayment of contractual obligations with athletics officials in Florida.

151 Lawrence Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

(718) 522-9073

www.asa.edu

EXHIBIT 2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CLOSED SCHOOL UNIT
CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

Run by EPALAHJO
Report Date 04/03/2023 04:28
Closure Month March
Closure Year 2023

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CLOSED SCHOOL UNIT
CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I
School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

Region I - Cheryl Marotta (617) 289-0131

STONE ACADEMY

560 Saw Mill Road	OPE ID: 01242500	CMO Grantee DUNS: 075399253
West Haven, CT 06516-4049	FFEL: 012425	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: ABHES	FDSLP: G12425	

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 02/15/2023

School is covered by a state tuition recovery fund.

Notes: N/A

Contact: Cheryl Marotta (617)289-0131

Main Campus: Located in Region I.

STONE ACADEMY -WATERBURY(Additional Location)

101 Pierpont Road	OPE ID: 01242503	CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Waterbury, CT 06705-3823	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: ABHES	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 02/15/2023

School is covered by a state tuition recovery fund.

Notes: N/A

Contact: Cheryl Marotta (617)289-0131

Main Campus: Located in Region I.

STONE ACADEMY - EAST HARTFORD(Additional Location)

745 Burnside Avenue	OPE ID: 01242504	CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
East Hartford, CT 06108-0000	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: ABHES	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 02/15/2023

School is covered by a state tuition recovery fund.

Notes: N/A

Contact: Cheryl Marotta (617)289-0131

Main Campus: Located in Region I.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

Region II - Fanny Kong (646) 428-3799

CAPRI INSTITUTE OF HAIR DESIGN

615 Winters Avenue

Paramus, NJ 07652-3901

Accrediting Agency: NACCAS

OPE ID: 02103700

FFEL: 021037

FDSLP: G21037

CMO Grantee DUNS: 075143834

Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 12/01/2021

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: No known student arrangements

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CAPRI INSTITUTE OF HAIR DESIGN

1595 Main Avenue

Clifton, NJ 07011-2111

Accrediting Agency: NACCAS

OPE ID: 00907800

FFEL: 009078

FDSLP: G09078

CMO Grantee DUNS: 801954884

Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 12/01/2021

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: There are no known student arrangements

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CAPRI INSTITUTE OF HAIR DESIGN

268 Brick Boulevard

Brick, NJ 08724-7166

Accrediting Agency: NACCAS

OPE ID: 02265500

FFEL: 022655

FDSLP: G22655

CMO Grantee DUNS: 131663221

Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 12/01/2021

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: The Department is not aware of any student arrangements.

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

CAPRI INSTITUTE OF HAIR DESIGN

660 North Michigan Avenue
Kenilworth, NJ 07033-1042
Accrediting Agency: NACCAS

OPE ID: 02183600
FFEL: 021836
FDSP: G21836

CMO Grantee DUNS: 789786928
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 12/01/2021

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: The Department is unaware of any student arrangements

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY - GEORGIAN COURT LOCATION(Additional Location)

900 Lakewood Drive
Lakewood, NJ 08701-3920
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 00263244
FFEL: N/A
FDSP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Records are stored at the main campus

400 South Orange Ave.
South Orange, NJ 07079

Closure Date: 08/31/2022

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All students did not complete the program.

Instruction was moved to the Freehold location.

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

ASA COLLEGE

151 Lawrence Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201-5208
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 03095500
FFEL: 030955
FDSLP: G30955

CMO Grantee DUNS: 963965199
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: State Licensing Agency

Address: NY State Education Department - Division of College and
University Evaluation

Closure Date: 02/24/2023

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: The closed school staff is not aware of any special conditions
concerning this closure.

School has not responded to the Department's request for more information.

Student arrangements are unknown.

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

ASA COLLEGE - MANHATTAN CAMPUS(Additional Location)

1293 Broadway
New York, NY 10001-2910
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 03095502
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: State Licensing Agency

Address: NY State Education Department - Division of College and
University Evaluation

Closure Date: 02/24/2023

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: The closed school staff is not aware of any special conditions
concerning this closure.

School has not responded to the Department's request for more information.

Student arrangements are unknown.

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

ANOUSHEH SCHOOL OF HAIR

1152 Vestal Avenue	OPE ID: 04275100	CMO Grantee DUNS: 080841152
Binghamton, NY 13903-1559	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: NACCAS	FDSLP: G42751	

Record Holder: State Licensing Agency

Address: New York State Education Department
Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision, 89 Washington Avenue,
EBA 560, Albany, New York 12234

Closure Date: 09/30/2022

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: The school taught all students and graduated the last on September 10, 2022

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE - THE CON EDISON LEARNING CENTER(Additional Location)

43-82 Vernon Boulevard	OPE ID: 00270901	CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Long Island City, NY 11101-6979	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: School

Address: Concordia University Texas,
11400 Concordia University Dr.
Austin, Texas 78726

Closure Date: 08/31/2021

Notes: N/A

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

CONCORDIA COLLEGE - PRACTISING LAW INSTITUTE(Additional Location)

810 7th Avenue
New York, NY 10019-5856
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 00270902
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Concordia University Texas,
11400 Concordia University Dr.
Austin, Texas 78726

Closure Date: 08/31/2021

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: Concordia College have teach out agreements with Iona College, College of Mount Saint Vincent and Manhattanville.

The academic and/or financial aid records/transcripts will be stored at:

Concordia University Texas,
11400 Concordia University Dr.
Austin, Texas 78726

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY - BUFFALO CENTER(Additional Location)

5200 South Park
Hamburg, NY 14075-0000
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 00281701
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: The Administration Building, 3261 West State Road and via
software: Colleague

Closure Date: 05/15/2020

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: No known student arrangements - all students were transferred to the online format of the program

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

Region III - Seri Singh (202) 377-3424

HILLSDALE BEAUTY COLLEGE(Additional Location)

440 Marshall Street
Coldwater, MI 49036-0000
Accrediting Agency: NACCAS

OPE ID: 02595701
FFEL: N/A
FDSLPL: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: 64 Waldron St.
Hillsdale MI 49242

Closure Date: 12/17/2022

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from an electronic application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: All students that did not complete the program at this location, transferred to the main location.

Contact: Seri Singh (202)377-3424

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY - BEAUMONT HOSPITAL(Additional Location)

3601 West 13 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073-6712
Accrediting Agency: NCACHE

OPE ID: 00230705
FFEL: N/A
FDSLPL: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Oakland University
318 Meadow Brook Drive
Rochester, MI 48309

Closure Date: 01/06/2020

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from the additional location application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: All students that did not complete their program prior to closure continued at the main location or online.

Contact: Alekia Campbell (Watts) (202)377-4216

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY - CRESSONA MALL, SUITE 6190(Additional Location)

1544 Route 61 Highway South	OPE ID: 00323318	CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Pottsville, PA 17901-4213	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: School

Address: 400 Saint Bernardine Street
Reading, PA 19607

Closure Date: 01/01/2023

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from an electronic application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: The Pottsville location moved from the Cressona Mall building to the Pottsville Collegetown building January 1, 2023. All students from the Cressona location are now enrolled and completing same educational programs at the new Pottsville location. This is a move to a new building and a change of address for the location, not a closure and opening of a new location.

Contact: Seri Singh (202)377-3424

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

CARLOW UNIVERSITY- GREENSBURG EDUCATION CENTER(Additional Location)

Professional Building	OPE ID: 00330303	CMO Grantee DUNS: 965235450
Greensburg, PA 15601-3234	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: Other

Address: Allegheny Records Destruction
1735 East Carson Street #402
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1705

Closure Date: 05/06/2022

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from the recertification application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: All students did not complete their program prior to closure.

Contact: Alekia Campbell (Watts) (202)377-4216

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

CARLOW UNIVERSITY - PENN HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - RICHLAND CAMPUS(Additional Location)

101 Community College Way
Johnstown, PA 15904-2949
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 00330304
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Other

Address: Allegheny Records Destruction
1735 East Carson Street #402
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1705

Closure Date: 12/31/2012

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from the recertification application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: All students completed their program prior to closure.

Contact: Alekia Campbell (Watts) (202)377-4216

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

CARLOW UNIVERSITY - FAYETTE COUNTY HEAD START OF FAYETTE COUNTY(Additional Location)

492 Coolspring Street
Uniontown, PA 15401-4575
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 00330305
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Other

Address: Allegheny Records Destruction
1735 East Carson Street #402
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1705

Closure Date: 12/31/2013

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from the recertification application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: All students completed their program prior to closure.

Contact: Alekia Campbell (Watts) (202)377-4216

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BEAVER COUNTY - WESTERN AREA CTC(Additional Location)

688 Western Avenue	OPE ID: 00680704	CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Canonsburg, PA 15317-1477	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: School

Address: 1 Campus Drive
Monaca, PA 15061

Closure Date: 08/28/2022

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from an electronic application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: The nursing students completed the fall semester at clinical sites in their region, they also came to main campus one day a week for lecture. Any remaining students (just a few) will finish the program this semester in the same manner.

Contact: Seri Singh (202)377-3424

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BEAVER COUNTY - LINCOLN PARK PERFORMING ARTS CHAR(Additional Location)

1 Lincoln Park	OPE ID: 00680705	CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Midland, PA 15059-1535	FFEL: N/A	Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE	FDSLP: N/A	

Record Holder: School

Address: 1 Campus Drive
Monaca, PA 15061

Closure Date: 07/01/2021

Notes: The Department became aware of this closure from an electronic application recently submitted.

Student Arrangements: The nursing students completed the fall semester at clinical sites in their region, they also came to main campus one day a week for lecture. Any remaining students (just a few) will finish the program this semester in the same manner.

Contact: Seri Singh (202)377-3424

Main Campus: Located in Region III.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

Region IV - Chandra Brown (404) 974-9315

ASA COLLEGE - HIALEAH(Additional Location)

530 West 49th Street
Hialeah, FL 33012-3605
Accrediting Agency: MSACHE

OPE ID: 03095504
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: State Licensing Agency

Address: NY State Education Department - Division of College and
University Evaluation

Closure Date: 02/24/2023

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: The closed school staff is not aware of any special conditions concerning this closure.

School has not responded to the Department's request for more information.

Student arrangements are unknown.

Contact: Teresa Martinez (646)428-3748

Main Campus: Located in Region II.

Region V - Leslie Orofino (312) 730-1733

CHICAGO SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY - UNIV CENTER OF LAKE COUNTY(Additional Location)

1200 University Center Drive
Grayslake, IL 60030-3061
Accrediting Agency: WASC SR

OPE ID: 02155301
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Chicago School of Professional Psychology
325 N. Wells
Chicago, IL 60654

Closure Date: 08/26/2018

Notes: The closure of the Grayscale, IL location was reported to the Department via the E-APP(electronic application). The last date of instruction was on August 26, 2018. All records are being maintained at the Chicago Campus.

Student Arrangements: According to a school official, all students completed their program of study by the last date of instruction.

Contact: Chartise Logan (202)377-3640

Main Campus: Located in Region IX.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTION AND RECORDING (THE)

300 North 1st Avenue, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1648

OPE ID: 04130200

FFEL: 041302

FDSLPL: G41302

CMO Grantee DUNS: 132942116

Perkins: N/A

Accrediting Agency: ACCSC

Record Holder: Other

Address:

Closure Date: 03/17/2023

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All students completed their program.

Contact: Rosa Reth (312)730-1469

Main Campus: Located in Region V.

INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTION AND RECORDING (THE) -(Additional Location)

4545 West 77th St
Edina, MN 55435-5019

OPE ID: 04130201

FFEL: N/A

FDSLPL: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A

Perkins: N/A

Accrediting Agency: ACCSC

Record Holder: Other

Address:

Closure Date: 03/17/2023

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All students completed their program.

Contact: Leslie Orofino (312)730-1733

Main Campus: Located in Region V.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

Region VI - Tynisa Adams (214) 661-9508

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS - UNT AT FRISCO - HALL PARK(Additional Location)

2811 Internet Boulevard OPE ID: 00359436 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Frisco, TX 75034-1851 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: SACSCC FDSLP: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main UNT Campus
Eagle Student Services Center
1147 Union Circle
Denton TX 76201

Closure Date: 12/16/2022

Notes: This location closed 12/16/2022.

Student Arrangements: N/A

Contact: Tynisa Adams (214)661-9508

Main Campus: Located in Region VI.

Region VII - Holly Wolfe-Walkenbach (202) 816-0416

SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MCCREARY CENTER(Additional Location)

250 College Street OPE ID: 00199704 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Whitley City, KY 42653-0000 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: SACSCC FDSLP: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: 808 Monticello Street
Somerset, KY 42501-2973

Closure Date: 11/11/2022

Notes: N/A

Contact: Holly Wolfe-Walkenbach (202)816-0416

Main Campus: Located in Region VII.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE - RUSSELL CENTER(Additional Location)

848 West Steve Wariner Drive
Russell Springs, KY 42642-0000
Accrediting Agency: SACSCC

OPE ID: 00199708
FFEL: N/A
FDSL: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: 808 Monticello Street
Somerset, KY 42501

Closure Date: 11/11/2022

Notes: N/A

Contact: Holly Wolfe-Walkenbach (202)816-0416

Main Campus: Located in Region VII.

DYERSBURG STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - NCC TIPTONVILLE(Additional Location)

960 Tn-212
Tiptonville, TN 38079-0001
Accrediting Agency: SACSCC

OPE ID: 00683505
FFEL: N/A
FDSL: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: 1510 Lake Road
Dyersburg, TN 38025-2450

Closure Date: 06/30/2022

Notes: none

Contact: Holly Wolfe-Walkenbach (202)816-0416

Main Campus: Located in Region VII.

TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY - HOHENWALD MT. PLEASANT HS(Additional Location)

600 North Greenwood Street
Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474-1098
Accrediting Agency: COE

OPE ID: 00535601
FFEL: N/A
FDSL: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: 813 West Main Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462-2201

Closure Date: 12/20/2013

Notes: N/A

Contact: Holly Wolfe-Walkenbach (202)816-0416

Main Campus: Located in Region VII.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY-HOHENWALD MAURY REGIONAL MEDIC(Additional Location)

1224 Trotwood Avenue
Columbia, TN 38401-4697
Accrediting Agency: COE

OPE ID: 00535606
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: N/A

CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: 813 West Main Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462-2201

Closure Date: 12/20/2013

Notes: N/A

Contact: Holly Wolfe-Walkenbach (202)816-0416

Main Campus: Located in Region VII.

Region VIII - Rosa Reth (312) 730-1469

UNITED COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEAUTY

4219 South Broadway
Englewood, CO 80113-4634
Accrediting Agency: ACCSC

OPE ID: 04289700
FFEL: N/A
FDSLP: G42897

CMO Grantee DUNS: 084715778
Perkins: N/A

Record Holder: Unknown

Address:

Closure Date: 03/20/2023

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All students enrolled in UCHB, graduated, and they received Certification from UCHB.

Contact: Rosa Reth (312)730-1469

Main Campus: Located in Region VIII.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

Region IX - Leslie Chin (415) 486-5613

PRESIDIO GRADUATE SCHOOL - SAN FRANCISCO CAMPUS(Additional Location)

1721 Broadway OPE ID: 04235501 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Oakland, CA 94612-2115 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: WASC SR FDSL P: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main Campus
649 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Closure Date: 01/12/2022

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All remaining (127) students transferred to the instruction site at Hult International Business School at 1355 Sansome Street, SF, CA 94111 to complete their programs of study.

Contact: Tracy Jones (Simmonds) (404)974-9439

Main Campus: Located in Region IX.

PACIFIC ISLANDS UNIVERSITY- PIU CHUUK TEACHING FACILITY(Additional Location)

Weno, Chuuk OPE ID: 03438302 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Weno, FM 96942-0009 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: TRACS FDSL P: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main Campus
172 Kinney's Road
Mangilao, GU 96913-2619

Closure Date: 06/30/2009

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: Most students completed their programs of study and the remainings students transferred to the main campus.

Contact: Tracy Jones (Simmonds) (404)974-9439

Main Campus: Located in Region IX.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

PACIFIC ISLANDS UNIVERSITY - CHUUK TEACHING FACILITY(Additional Location)

Tol Island OPE ID: 03438301 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Chuuk, GU 96942-0009 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: TRACS FDSLP: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main Campus
172 Kinney's Road
Mangilao, GU 96913-2619

Closure Date: 06/30/2009

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: Most students completed their programs of study and the remaining students transferred to the main campus.

Contact: Tracy Jones (Simmonds) (404)974-9439

Main Campus: Located in Region IX.

Region X - Leslie Chin (415) 486-5613

CITY UNIVERSITY OF SEATTLE - DAVID L. STONE CENTER (JBLM)(Additional Location)

David L. Stone Center Building OPE ID: 11302207 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA 98433-2006 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: NWCCU FDSLP: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main Location
521 Wall Street, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98121

Closure Date: 09/30/2022

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All remaining students completed their programs of study online.

Contact: Tracy Jones (Simmonds) (404)974-9439

Main Campus: Located in Region X.

CLOSED SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT - SECTION I

School Closure Records Created during: March 2023

CITY UNIVERSITY OF SEATTLE - JOHN D HAWK BUILDING (JBLM)(Additional Location)

John D Hawk Building OPE ID: 11302208 CMO Grantee DUNS: N/A
Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA 98433-2006 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: NWCCU FDSLPL: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main Campus
521 Wall Street, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98121

Closure Date: 09/30/2022

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: Remaining students completed their programs of study online or at another City University of Seattle location.

Contact: Tracy Jones (Simmonds) (404)974-9439

Main Campus: Located in Region X.

GENE JUAREZ ACADEMY - MOUNTLAKE TERRACE(Additional Location)

24255 Van Ry Boulevard OPE ID: 02203302 CMO Grantee DUNS: 117035788
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-5400 FFEL: N/A Perkins: N/A
Accrediting Agency: NACCAS FDSLPL: N/A

Record Holder: School

Address: Main Campus
2222 South 314th Street
Federal Way, WA 98003-5087

Closure Date: 12/30/2022

Notes: N/A

Student Arrangements: All except 4 students completed their programs of study prior to the closure date. The remaining 4 students completed their programs at the Main location.

Contact: Tracy Jones (Simmonds) (404)974-9439

Main Campus: Located in Region X.

Region XI - Chartise Logan (202) 377-3640

(No school closures to report this month)

End of Report

EXHIBIT 3



NEW YORK STATE

REPORTING

BUDGET

NEW YORK CITY

EDUCATION

For Scandal-Plagued For-Profit Colleges, No State Is More Welcoming Than New York

As ASA College prepares to shut its doors after years of controversy, New York continues to shell out tuition subsidies to for-profit colleges — at rates higher than any other state.

LILAH BURKE · FEBRUARY 23, 2023



New York state provided ASA with more than \$13.5 million in subsidies over three years, even after mounting warning signs. | Ajay Suresh



was helping her pay for it.

Muranelli — 37 years old, with three kids, born into a Dominican family and living in the Bronx — enrolled in the for-profit college’s joint GED and paralegal associate degree program in September. She quit her job, thinking she could save on childcare and earn an education at the same time. A bachelor’s degree and even law school seemed within her grasp. She could finish the program in 16 months.

And it wouldn’t cost her anything upfront, since New York state and the federal government had awarded her a significant amount of aid.

But the dream didn’t last. In November, ASA College lost its accreditation after its accreditor said it had failed to provide “a quality student learning experience.” The federal education department tightened the screws on funding. Professors, no longer being paid, started canceling class. Muranelli went down to the Manhattan campus and found it shuttered.

When the administration began communicating about where students could go next, students realized that the schools mentioned didn’t offer their programs or hadn’t agreed to take their credits. For Muranelli, ASA started tacking on fees for “accident insurance” and “technology,” even though she was taking classes from home on her own computer.

She had thought ASA was a quality college. Apparently, so had New York state.

In the last three years for which data is available, New York state provided ASA with more than \$13.5 million in subsidies for low-income student enrollment through the tuition assistance program, called TAP, even after years of mounting warning signs about the quality of the college’s education.

ASA would have been hard pressed to find a check that size in any other state. About half of US states subsidized tuition for students at for-profit colleges, a recent survey found. And most that do give far less. New York spends more than any other state supporting for-profit higher education. It has led the pack since 2011.





In the 2020-2021 academic year, states awarded over \$125 million in need-based grants to students at for-profit colleges. Once again, New York topped the list.

New York	33.7M
California	27.6M
New Jersey	13.1M
Illinois	12.3M
Kentucky	7.3M
Tennessee	5.6M
Minnesota	4.8M
Washington	4.7M
Florida	4.2M
Pennsylvania	2.5M
Ohio	2.3M
West Virginia	1.9M
Vermont	1.7M
Indiana	1.1M
Colorado	1.1M
Alaska	1M
Iowa	442K
Nebraska	403K
Massachusetts	354K
Arizona	306K
North Dakota	126K
Alabama	46K
Oklahoma	26K
Oregon	26K
Maryland	5K
Rhode Island	3K
Arkansas	0
Connecticut	0
Delaware	0
Georgia	0
Hawaii	0
Idaho	0
Kansas	0
Louisiana	0



An association of for-profit colleges has fought successfully to preserve that windfall. In 2019, it bested the most powerful force in Albany: After then-Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed a set of stricter rules for the sector, lawmakers, some with for-profit colleges in their districts, rallied to kill the proposal.

"We hit a buzzsaw with the legislature," Rich Azzopardi, the former governor's spokesperson, told New York Focus.

The issue has nearly disappeared from the Albany agenda in the years since. When the few interested legislators do propose bills, they're never brought to a vote.

For Muranelli, the indifference of the government was a shock.

"Once you sign that line that you are enrolled in their college, you no longer matter.

What matters is the money that now they are going to deplete with your name,"

Muranelli told New York Focus. "And I really truly wish I would have known that."

Missed Warnings

There were warning signs. Despite ads claiming students were destined for "exciting careers," media reports as early as 2013 said students graduated with nothing but debt.

The president and owner of ASA was pushed out of his role after at least 10 employees and students accused him of sexual misconduct, including rape. He then reinstalled himself as president in 2021, only to resign again after allegations went public in the press.

New York City sued ASA for subway ads that promised immigrants and tourists a legal way to stay in the country, settling with the college last year for \$112,500.

ASA continued to receive state dollars throughout it all. And it's not the only one.



payments it was not owed. Last March, the company settled and agreed to \$20 million in debt relief for students.

Yet the college collected nearly \$12 million in state subsidies from 2018 to 2020, and likely more since. Berkeley is still on the list of eligible schools.

Plaza College, a for-profit institution in Forest Hills, offers another example. In 2010, a state legislator was sent to prison over a wide-ranging corruption scandal that included a bribe from an official at Plaza to nominate its president for a state position and to introduce favorable legislation. The college has collected over \$27 million in state subsidies in the years since, and is still eligible for funding today.

Nationally, for-profit colleges dominate complaints from students about fraud. Of 100,000 complaints to the US Education Department about deceptive practices, nearly all of them were regarding for-profit colleges, according to public records research from the Century Foundation, a progressive think tank.

New York statute says a college can be cut off from tuition subsidies if there is evidence of fraud. The agency responsible for administering TAP did not respond to a request about the aforementioned colleges.

The industry's primary lobbying group in New York — called the Association of Proprietary Colleges until it changed its name to the Association of Private Colleges late last month — noted that neither Berkeley nor Plaza was formally charged with or admitted any wrongdoing.

ASA did not respond to a request for comment. Berkeley and Plaza each provided statements about their missions, but didn't respond to queries about their respective scandals.

Critics of the industry say instances of fraud like these are just the most prominent ways for-profit colleges can take advantage of students.

In New York, the 59,540 students who attended for-profit colleges in 2017 made up only 6 percent of the state's undergraduates. Yet a study by the Center for an Urban Future found that for-profit students accounted for 41 percent of the student loan borrowers



receive subsidies.

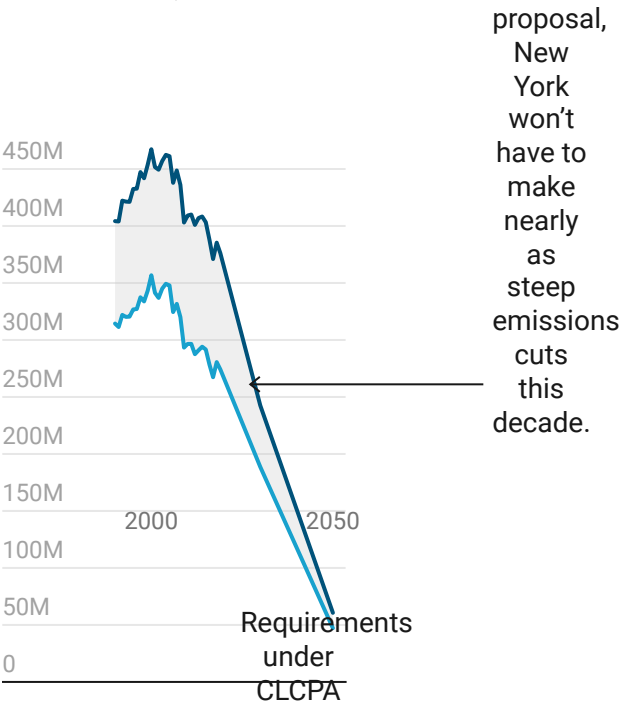
“We’ve seen numerous cases where students are really left worse off than if they had never attended the schools at all,” said Carolyn Fast, a researcher at the Century Foundation who formerly worked on for-profit college enforcement at the New York Attorney General’s Office.

A majority of ASA students make less than \$25,000 — about the national average for someone with only a high school diploma — 10 years after entry. According to federal education data, at least four other for-profit degree-granting colleges in New York that receive TAP can say the same, compared to one nonprofit and zero public colleges.





shift to a 100-year period, which would allow the state to emit significantly more carbon.



Metric tons of CO2 equivalent, gross

Chart: Akash Mehta/New York Focus • Source: [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) • [Get the data](#) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created



For-profit colleges generally say that they provide opportunities for students who are often not well served by traditional higher education, such as older, rural, and low-income students. In New York, students at for-profit colleges are more likely to be Black and Hispanic than students in other sectors.

The industry nationally has leaned on this fact to explain poor graduation, earnings, and default outcomes. Students who are already marginalized face greater barriers to labor market success and paying off their loans.

New York City has instead called the relationship between these colleges and marginalized students “predatory inclusion” — the expansion of educational access with low-quality, high-cost programs.

Average outcomes don’t capture all for-profit colleges, the industry’s defenders point out.

Donna Stelling-Gurnett, president and CEO of the Association of Private Colleges, said outcomes at the group’s 11 member colleges — which do not include ASA — are strong. The APC boasts that its members’ associate programs have better on-time graduation rates than those at New York’s public colleges. (Their borrower default rates, however, are higher.)

For example, LIM College, an APC member and for-profit college in Manhattan, has similar graduation rates and median expected earnings for graduates as City College, part of CUNY. The School of Visual Arts’s graduation rates are approaching those of the Fashion Institute of Technology, part of SUNY. Tuition and fees at LIM and SVA, however, are several times higher than at City College and FIT.

‘Parts of the Power Structure’

A small coterie of advocates have long been beating the drum about New York’s willingness to subsidize enrollment at poorly performing for-profit colleges.



take federal and state money, pay their salaries, and there's not a lot of oversight over what they do with that money," she said. "Students are left holding the bag. I don't see any reason these schools should be subsidized."

Chuck Bell, programs director of advocacy at Consumer Reports, said the subsidies appear to students as a seal of approval from the state about programs that don't deserve it. "The state should be using the power of the public purse to promote good educational outcomes for every student," he said. "From the taxpayer point of view, we're funding a lot of misery for our students who attend these institutions."

Johnson Tyler, staff attorney with South Brooklyn Legal Services, describes the industry as deliberately seeking out marginalized students. "One of the sad realities of for-profit education is the poorer the student, the more money you make," he said.

A handful of state lawmakers have taken up the cause as well.

Senator James Skoufis has sponsored a bill to eliminate the subsidies since 2019, most recently introduced last month. "I'm interested in putting for-profit schools out of business," he said. "I think the TAP prohibition is a step towards that ultimate goal."

Assemblymember Harvey Epstein sponsored similar legislation, as well as other bills that would create more requirements for for-profit colleges in the past two legislative sessions. "Even if you think there are good institutions providing good education ... the level of default should be alarming," he said.

But as a whole, the legislature has moved in the opposite direction.

In 2019, Cuomo proposed the For-Profit Accountability Act in his executive budget. The bill would have required for-profit colleges to spend a certain amount on instruction and receive a portion of their revenue from private sources, among other requirements. But it went nowhere.

"The legislature did not want anything to do with it," recalled Azzopardi, the Cuomo spokesperson.



accountability measures for poorly performing colleges, none have passed the legislature since. Even bills only requiring public financial disclosures have gone nowhere.

“These colleges definitely become parts of the local communities, parts of the power structure,” Azzopardi continued. “When you have these institutional players that have these sorts of connections, sometimes well thought-out, good legislation dies.”

Skoufis echoed that point, attributing the legislature’s attitude to local ties.

“Part of it is parochial,” he said. “Some of my colleagues who identify as progressive have a for-profit school or multiple in their districts. And for them that supersedes any ideological position they might otherwise have on this issue.”

Legislative support for for-profit institutions has been nearly unanimous. In 2017, the legislature passed a bill that would make for-profit colleges eligible for subsidies beyond TAP. No lawmakers in the Assembly voted against it, and only one — Republican Robert Ortt — did in the Senate.

Cuomo vetoed that legislation; lawmakers pushed it through the budget process the next year.

New York Focus reached out to lawmakers who voted for the legislation and whose districts at the time included some of the largest for-profit colleges in the state, including Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Gustavo Rivera, Liz Krueger, and Neil Breslin.

Only one responded. Hoylman-Sigal said that with the benefit of hindsight, he may not have supported the bill to expand subsidies — and that while some for-profit colleges have good track records and he doesn’t want to see the sector put out of business, it is “an area that New York needs to re-examine.”

“Recent scandals have shed new light on for-profit institutions,” he said. “We have to question why taxpayers are subsidizing these private institutions. You could call it another form of corporate welfare. ... Why do we do this when most states [do] not?”



two state assemblymembers.

Carl Heastie, speaker of the Assembly, taught as an adjunct professor at the for-profit Monroe College from 2007 to 2014, and resumed in 2017, after he was elected speaker. His office did not respond to a request for comment.

Among the industry's most visible champions in the legislature is Toby Ann Stavisky, the chair of the Senate's higher education committee. In 2014, Stavisky attended a ribbon-cutting at Plaza College alongside Charles Callahan, the administrator recently embroiled in the legislative bribery scandal — and since elevated to college president. Three years later, she co-sponsored the legislation that would have made students at for-profit colleges eligible for even more subsidies.

Stavisky did not agree to an interview for this story, but a spokesperson sent a statement over email. "Public, private and proprietary institutions each play a unique role within the higher education system," they said. "When we see a proprietary college lose accreditation, it actually shows our system of protecting the students is functioning."

The Association of Private Colleges said in a statement that it would support more conditions on where students can use tuition subsidies as long as measures applied to all colleges, not just for-profit ones.


The association spent nearly \$936,000 on lobbying between January 2019 and December 2022. Other figures in the for-profit industry have donated substantial sums to state elections, such as Marc Jerome, the president of Monroe College in the Bronx, who donated \$19,000 last year to PACs supporting political candidates, including Stavisky and Governor Kathy Hochul.

Stelling-Gurnett, president of APC, said their advocacy focuses on expanding eligibility and award amounts for TAP. An APC spokesperson said their lobbying is "in line with what other higher ed associations do."

Back at ASA College, all campuses are set to close by the end of February. The New York Legal Assistance Group operates a hotline for ASA students and is hoping to get relief and clarity from state and federal regulators.



looking for and don't offer many programs online, which she needs to watch her son. But after her experience, she doesn't want to attend another for-profit college.

"The way I see it," she said, "it's a scam." 

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NEW YORK STATE



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NEW YORK FOCUS

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The confirmations of Rowan Wilson and Caitlin Halligan may reverse the Court of Appeals' rightward trend.

SAM MELLINS

The State Assembly Is Foreclosing Hochul's Housing Supply Plan

Democratic Assembly leaders refused to entertain the governor's primary tactic to achieve housing growth and affordability.

SAM MELLINS



Updates: New York ‘Conceptually’ Has a Budget

Kathy Hochul and the legislators are closing in on a final state budget. As they settle their differences, we’ll keep you up to date on the latest.

NEW YORK FOCUS



Housing Nixed in Latest Budget Talks

“It’s done. It’s not happening,” an Assembly source told New York Focus. Lawmakers are poised to reject measures to boost housing supply and protect renters.

SAM MELLINS

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New York law requires utilities to build out gas infrastructure at customers' expense. The Senate wants to close the spigot.

COLIN KINNIBURGH

ALSO FILED IN NEW YORK CITY



New York City Pensions to Divest Future Private Equity Holdings From Fossil Fuels



LILAH BURKE

Why Does Rikers Island Still Lock People in Shower Stalls?

So-called “de-escalation units” were supposed to help people cool off after violent encounters. But months after their implementation, Rikers staff still use the old brutal methods.

CHRIS GELARDI

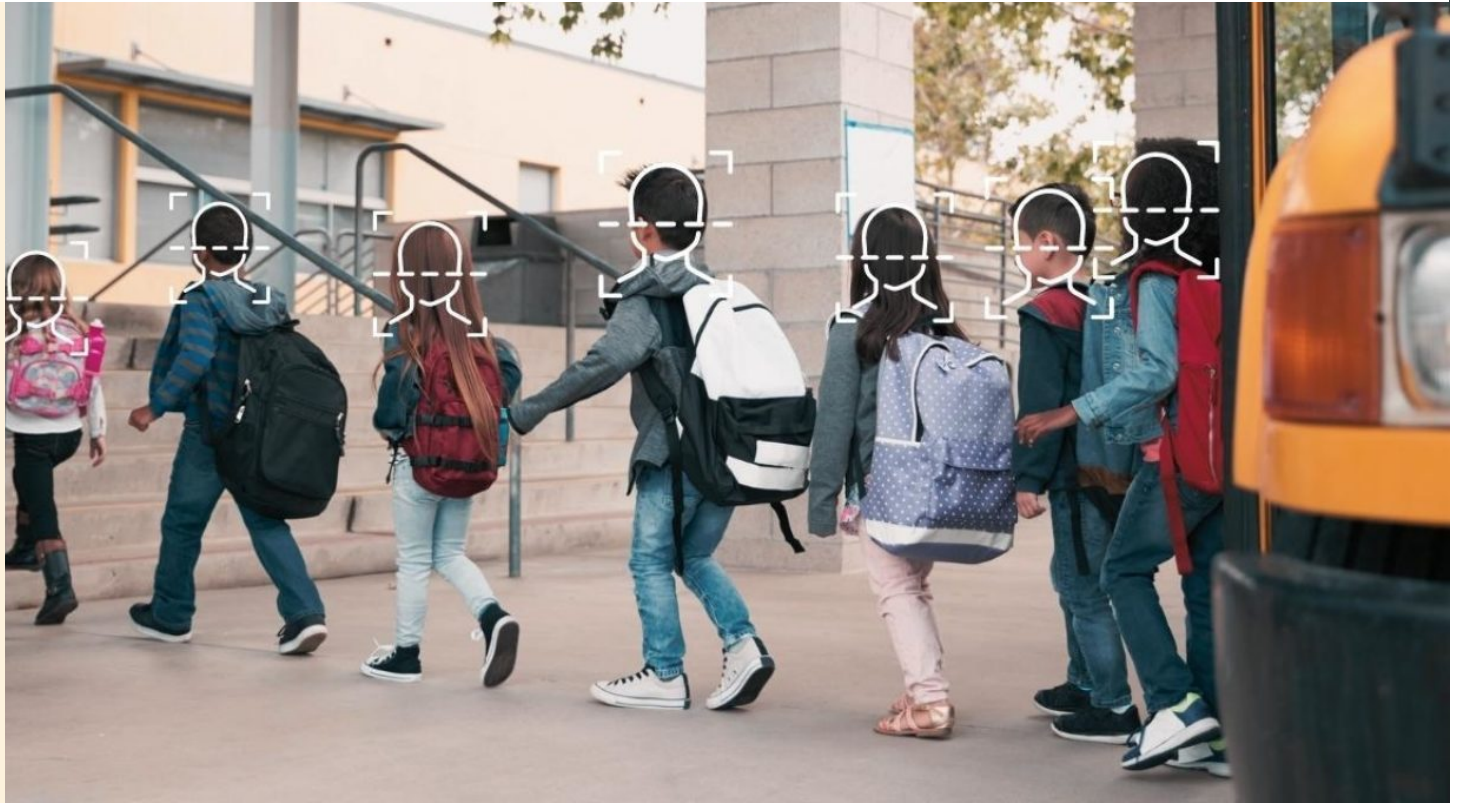
Rikers Intake Is a Mess, But We Can’t Expect Too Much Progress, Federal Judge Rules

Nearly a year and a half after they were supposed to fix their system, jail officials still don’t know how long they’re keeping people in notorious intake pens.

CHRIS GELARDI



ALSO FILED IN
EDUCATION



Whatever Happened to New York's School Facial Recognition Ban?

In 2020, New York became the first state to ban biometric technology from schools. But administrators are still seeking “face analytics” tools and other gray-area tech — with scant guidance from the state.

REBECCA HEILWEIL

Hochul at Divide with Lawmakers on Child Care, Once A Top Priority

Child care used to be Hochul's marquee issue. Now, she's proposing a modest expansion—but only if Congress doesn't act.

SAM MELLINS

Columbia Student Worker Strike Could Become Testing Ground for Biden-Era NLRB

An NLRB ruling on a grievance made by striking Columbia student workers could suggest the board's approach to a major question about the legal status of student workers.

MAXWELL PARROTT

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New York Focus is a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom covering state and local politics in the Empire State. We aim to make government more transparent by publishing in-depth journalism that explains how the state really works.

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EXHIBIT 4

**DIVE BRIEF**

Embattled for-profit ASA College closes without teach-out plan

Published Feb. 24, 2023



Natalie Schwartz
Editor

ASA College had several teach-out agreements rejected by its accreditor.

The image by [ajay_suresh](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Dive Brief:

- The accreditor for ASA College, an embattled for-profit institution headquartered in New York, announced Friday that the school has shuttered without an approved teach-out plan, which is a written plan meant to help students finish their credentials elsewhere.
- The closure comes after ASA College and Middle States Commission on Higher Education, or MSCHE, disagreed on whether the institution was closing. ASA College notified MSCHE that it would close on Feb. 24, the last day of its fall classes, according to the accreditor. But the institution said in an emailed statement earlier this month that it did not intend to close.
- The closure plans appear to have been muddled from the beginning. MSCHE noted on Feb. 10 that ASA College did not provide evidence that it communicated with constituents about its closure nor that it released transcripts to students wishing to transfer.

Dive Insight:

ASA College's financial and regulatory challenges have been mounting for some time. The for-profit found itself in hot water with its accreditor more than a year ago, leading the U.S. Department of Education to restrict its access to federal financial aid.

Those issues came to a head in November, when MSCHE said it was planning to pull ASA College's accreditation by March. At the time, the accreditor said the college couldn't comply with its standards, including those related to governance, ethics and institutional resources.

ASA College has also been in trouble with local regulators. The for-profit agreed in October to pay around \$113,000 in civil penalties to New York City's consumer protection division for running misleading ads targeting low-income people and immigrants.

Moreover, a class-action lawsuit against ASA College has accused the institution of withholding and delaying payments to employees. To date, nearly two-dozen employees have joined the complaint as named plaintiffs, according to court documents.

It's unclear how many students are affected by the closure. Top ASA College officials did not respond to a request for comment Friday.

Nicole Biever, MSCHE's director for strategic partnerships and advocacy, said in an email Friday that the accreditor hasn't been able to confirm the number despite repeated requests for details and for lists of students studying either online or at one of ASA College's locations.

Federal data shows the institution enrolled around 2,700 students in fall 2021.

They may face hurdles transferring to other institutions.

For one, ASA College has said students can either obtain their transcripts from the institution or Parchment Exchange, an online transcript provider. However, Bieber noted that ASA College hasn't provided MSCHE with details of the contract with the provider or evidence of payment.

"ASA College cannot withhold student transcripts," Bieber said. "New York law prevents institutions from withholding student transcripts and from charging students higher fees for their transcripts if they have unpaid debts."

MSCHE has repeatedly reminded ASA College that they must release transcripts to students, Bieber added.

The accreditor also rejected ASA College's teach-out plan Feb. 10, noting that it did not meet the agency's standards.

In one instance, the accreditor rejected a teach-out agreement with United International College because ASA College could not provide evidence that United International was accredited by an agency recognized by the Education Department. Colleges must be accredited by federally recognized agencies to receive federal financial aid.

United International College, a for-profit in Florida, was accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. However, ACICS lost federal recognition in August because of continued noncompliance with the Education Department's standards. Institutions under its purview have been given 18 months to find a new accreditor and are subject to enrollment restrictions until they do.

Teach-out agreements with two nonprofits in Florida, Keiser University and Southeastern University, were also rejected because

the institutions rescinded them, according to MSCHE. ASA College told the accreditor that it hasn't pursued any teach-out agreements for online students.

It's unclear whether ASA College has been informing students of its teach-out agreements. In an FAQ provided by MSCHE about the institution's closure, the accreditor said it hasn't been able to locate disclosures about the agreements on ASA College's website.

Biever said MSCHE will continue to update the FAQ with information for those who are affected by the closure.

As of Friday afternoon, a pop-up message on ASA College's website said it was "currently" not accepting new applications for enrollment.

MSCHE issued a public call for colleges to help ASA College students when the institution "failed to provide information about options for all of its students," Biever said.

Several colleges responded. Those include a variety of institution types, including local community colleges and a primarily online university.

EXHIBIT 5

Education

Troubled ASA College Closed But Left Students Out In the Cold

Students claim ASA is charging students thousands for transcripts and other vital documents for their visa applications

AMIR KHAFAGY

MAR 02, 2023

ASA COLLEGE, DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK CITY. PHOTO: FLICKR



Like many of his fellow international students, Edwin Rodriguez, 30, came to New York from Colombia to attend college with nothing but ambitious dreams for his future. But after nearly two and a half years studying at [the long-troubled](#) for-profit ASA College, which abruptly shut its doors last week, he says he's been left with

thousands of dollars in debt, no degree, and ASA holding his student transcripts ransom.

“I feel I lost two years of my life,” said Rodriguez, who enrolled with ASA College in 2020.

After he received an email two weeks ago informing him of ASA’s imminent closing, Rodriguez said he contacted the college, demanding a tuition refund of \$1,800 for the past semester and for his transcripts. Instead of refunding him, he claims ASA administrators said he would have to pay the college \$5,000, the remainder of his outstanding tuition balance, in cash or money in order to receive his transcripts.

“I said no,” Rodriguez said. “I do not want to pay one dollar more for this school because the certifications they gave didn’t work, and the second thing is I don’t want to spend any more money at this college.”

In November, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) [withdrew ASA’s accreditation](#) because the school failed to adhere to its accreditation standards. And although ASA’s accreditation expired on March 1, the college, with campuses in Brooklyn and Manhattan, closed without the approval of the MSCHE.

Since MSCHE announced the college’s loss of [accreditation in November](#), Jessica Ranucci, the coordinating attorney of the Special Litigation Unit with the New York Legal Assistance Group, says over 100 ASA students have contacted them for help, with many of them being international students. Like Rodriguez, they have recounted similar experiences with ASA withholding their transcripts in exchange for cash payments.

“Among the international students, we have heard from a number of students who have reported that they have had real problems getting ASA to sign their withdrawal paperwork,” she said.

Ranucci adds that international students are particularly vulnerable because their immigration status is completely reliant on their status as a student. [Federal regulations require](#) undergraduate students with F-1 and J-1 visas to take 12 credits each semester. Anything less can cause their visa to be revoked. If a situation occurs, such as their school abruptly closing, international students must have their transcripts transferred to their new school as soon as possible to stay in the country lawfully. Any delay can risk their status.

As most international students [don’t qualify for federal student loans](#), Rodriguez has already paid the school \$30,000 in tuition out of his own pocket since 2020. After hearing the news, he had a panic attack, he said. “I have anxiety problems so I had to go to the hospital for a week because I was thinking about how I was going to fix my life.”

The closure of ASA is the culmination of years of turmoil that go back as [early as 2006](#).

On Feb. 10, [MSCHE found](#) ASA failed to communicate with students about the closure, to provide students with financial aid counseling, to release student transcripts, and to help place students at new schools.

Last October, the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) [forced ASA to pay \\$112,500](#) in civil penalties for a series of deceptive ads targeting international students. Many of the ads promised to help students stay in the country and provide them with \$4,000-\$8,000 “gifts” upon graduation.

The school has also faced several lawsuits, including [lawsuits](#) by at least 10 women claiming that ASA’s founder and owner Alex Shchegol raped and sexually harassed female international students. The school paid more than \$2 million in out-of-court settlements.

ASA was also taken to court in a [2014 lawsuit](#) for taking advantage of low-income international students, which was eventually dismissed in 2015 but was refiled and the case was settled in 2016.

ALSO READ



ASA administrators did not respond to Documented’s request for comment.

Given the time and money Rodriguez invested in his ASA education, he refuses to return to Colombia empty-handed. He wants his story to be told and is seeking legal help.

“We come to this country with different dreams,” he said. “You pay for the school because you want to change your life but when you realize you don’t have anything after two years, you feel lost.”

The New York Legal Assistance Group is operating a free hotline for ASA students at 212-659-6166 or ASAHotline@nylag.org

AMIR KHAFAGY

AMIR KHAFAGY IS AN AWARD-WINNING NEW YORK CITY-BASED JOURNALIST. HE IS CURRENTLY A REPORTER FOR AMERICA CORPS
MEMBER WITH DOCUMENTED. MUCH OF AMIR'S BEST WORKS THE

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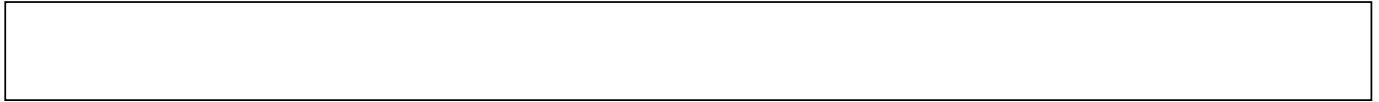
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