Tips for writing a comment

- Use data and stories together— the best comments include both personal narratives and data to support claims.
- The more points you make, the better— the more relevant arguments you can raise about the proposed regulations, the more the Department of Education has to respond to in earnest.
- Structure your comment— break it into topic paragraphs that capture different parts of your argument. If you are able to, quote specific parts of the proposed legislation in your comment.
- Suggest alternatives— explain how those alternatives might be more effective than the original

Incorporating legal language

Refer to broad legal terms within the proposed regulations, such as the following:
- Standard of proof (Clear and convincing vs. preponderance of the evidence)
- Due Process
- Quid Pro Quo
- Supportive Measures

Do's and Don'ts

Do
- Give specific examples of how the rules would affect you, or people you know personally
- Propose a middle ground compromise that is between your ideal and theirs
- Write in a professional manner, without being overly emotional in your comment
- Put contact information in, if you feel comfortable. This will be public record.
- Include personal stories— these can be powerful

Don't
- Just say “it’s wrong” without suggestions
- Make up justifications
- Write random thoughts down, without good grammar or structure
- Suggest going to a different or older standard without suggesting specific recommendations
- Write in a way that expresses anger or frustration in an unprofessional manner