

February 21, 2025

Dear QM Colleague,

As an organization dedicated to improving the quality of online education through rigorous quality assurance and professional development, Quality Matters (QM) is committed to supporting our members in navigating the evolving landscape of education. We are aware of the recent Dear Colleague Letter issued by the U.S. Department of Education on February 14, 2025, and understand that it has prompted important discussions within the education community.

QM's quality assurance Rubrics are built upon evidence-based educational best practices with the singular goal of enhancing online learning environments for all students. These tools are designed to assess factors such as instructional quality, student engagement, accessibility, and equitable access to resources. QM Rubrics emphasize universal principles of fairness, belonging, and academic excellence—principles that benefit the entire learning community.

We recognize that institutions across the country operate within different regulatory contexts. QM respects the autonomy of each institution and remains committed to providing guidance that aligns with institutional priorities. At the core of our work is the belief that every student deserves access to high-quality online education that supports their success, regardless of their background and lived experiences, so that educational opportunity is available to all.

QM acknowledges the value that diverse perspectives—including those from historically marginalized communities—bring to the educational experience. Promoting supportive learning environments that encourage student engagement, belonging, and well-being remains central to our mission of improving online education. Our commitment is to partner with you in fostering educational excellence for all learners.

We appreciate your continued trust as we work together to navigate this complex and evolving environment. The QM team is here to offer guidance, resources, and support to help you meet your institutional goals while maintaining high standards of quality and integrity in online education to ensure the success for all of your students.

Respectfully,



Deborah Adair, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer