

HIGHER EDUCATION EDITION

90 Days, No New Budget.

Six moves for procurement teams, drawn from E&I's quarterly State of the Industry Report.

6.3%

Producer-price inflation, 12 months to Sept 2026

3.7%

Consumer inflation, the index most budgets use

2.6 pts

The gap, all on the side institutions buy from

**Re-index the escalation review**

PROCUREMENT

Flag contracts that escalate on CPI where the purchase is producer-priced. A “greater of X% or CPI” cap permits increases above inflation.

**Assign downward-adjustment monitoring**

PROCUREMENT

Three of the four master agreements we examined have a downward-adjustment clause. Name an owner; unmonitored, it returns nothing.

**Fix the FERPA annual notice**

REGISTRAR & COUNSEL

Confirm it defines school-official criteria before another vendor receives education records. A contract clause can't make the designation.

**Measure unsanctioned AI use**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Nationally, 56% of staff use AI tools their institution didn't provide. Get your own figure from identity and network telemetry.

**Map building performance exposure**

FACILITIES

List the standards that apply at each site, with deadlines, and confirm the mandated O&M program and energy plan exist in writing.

**Re-scope enrollment-services diligence**

ENROLLMENT

Ask every proposal three things: what financial relief is included, how the file is targeted, and how advising is sustained.

Want help with any of these?

Your E&I sourcing consultant can point you to the contract that fits.
Executive Overview and full report: [LANDING PAGE LINK]

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