What is Inclusive Access?

The cost of college textbooks has increased sharply over the last several decades, creating challenges for students and faculty. Inclusive Access is a textbook sales model that adds the cost of digital course content into students’ tuition and fees. While the adoption of this model addresses some challenges, it is also creating many new ones. Higher education institutions should fully examine the facts and implications of automatic textbook billing.

What questions should students ask?

1. What efforts have been made to verify that inclusive access saves students money?

2. How are the advertised student savings calculated? Does the calculation reflect that many students buy used books?

3. Will I be asked for consent before I am automatically billed, or will I be billed automatically?

4. Will I be informed of the amount I will be billed at the time I am registering for courses?

5. Will I be informed about the terms of service of the digital textbooks when I am registering for courses?

6. What efforts will the campus make to ensure a simple and transparent opt out process?

7. If I opt out, will I still be able to complete all of my required assignments?

8. Has the campus agreed to any quotas for the number of students who need to be opted in?

9. What support mechanisms are in place for students who cannot afford inclusive access materials?

10. What plans are in place to ensure inclusive access doesn’t become a runaway fee?

Where can you get more information?

InclusiveAccess.org is a community-driven initiative to raise awareness of the facts about automatic textbook billing. Visit our website for more information and resources.