College decisions require careful consideration

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In the last few months a couple of developments regarding higher education have passed almost, to all intents and purposes, without a ripple in the news. These developments, both relatively small in scale but monumental in impact, have the potential to dramatically change the way education is delivered to students in the United States.

First, Congress has issued its most aggressive financial aid bill since the creation of the Pell Grant, a program that has been the linchpin of college access for the poor for generations. The new bill, which is estimated to cost $100 billion over the next decade, provides more money for Pell Grants and expands eligibility for students, particularly those from middle-class families. In addition, the bill includes a provision that allows students to apply for Pell Grants while they are still in high school, which will allow many more students to plan for college and will help reduce the financial burden of higher education.

Second, with the rise of online education, more and more students are choosing to take courses online instead of in the traditional classroom setting. The growth of online education has led to a number of new options for students, including the ability to take courses from anywhere in the world, as well as the opportunity to earn degrees online. This has the potential to dramatically expand access to higher education, particularly for students who live in rural or remote areas where traditional college campuses are not available.

In addition to these developments, there are a number of other factors that are likely to impact the future of higher education. The rise of big data and analytics in education is one such factor, as universities are increasingly using data to understand student behavior and to improve the educational experience. Another factor is the increasing importance of online and mobile learning, which is making it easier for students to access education from anywhere and at any time.

Overall, it seems clear that the future of higher education is changing rapidly, and that there will be a number of important developments in the years to come. It will be interesting to see how these changes will impact students, universities, and society as a whole.