Federal Update
March 26, 2015

Kevin Campbell
United States Department of Education
Reauthorization of HEA of 1965
HELP Seeks Your Help

- Accreditation
- Risk Sharing - Student Loans
- Consumer Information
- Comments by April 24

http://www.help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=4dc6f28c-e8ea-4a94-9c82-91db98e10c0d&groups=Chair
Strengthening America's Higher Education System

The House Education and the Workforce Committee is currently working to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA). To accomplish this goal, members have examined issues ranging from the accessibility gap to the simplification of the federal aid process. Below is information concerning the committee's efforts to reauthorize HEA and improve our nation's higher education system.

Legislation:

http://edworkforce.house.gov/highered/

Committee Whitepaper: Strengthening America's Higher Education System

Fact Sheet: Empowering Students through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act

Bill Text: Empowering Students through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act
America’s College Promise Proposal
FACT SHEET - White House Unveils America’s College Promise Proposal: Tuition-Free Community College for Responsible Students

Nearly a century ago, a movement that made high school widely available helped lead to rapid growth in the education and skills training of Americans, driving decades of economic growth and prosperity. America thrived in the 20th century in large part because we had the most educated workforce in the world. But other nations have matched or exceeded the secret to our success. Today, more than ever, Americans need more knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a growing global economy without having to take on decades of debt before they ever have the opportunity to start their careers.

In our Resources section, you will find information of interest to community college stakeholders (e.g., presidents, trustees, faculty, staff, students, families, etc.). You will find information on grants that community colleges can apply for, financial aid resources for students (such as student loans), student success resources, and resources for veterans transitioning to college. You will also find communities of practice we have developed for those working in Adult Education (see LINCS) and in Career and Technical Education (see PCRN). We also will be building a...
Resources for CCs

In our Resources section, you will find information of interest to community college stakeholders (e.g., presidents, trustees, faculty, staff, students, families etc.). You will find information on grants that community colleges can apply for, financial aid resources for students (such as student loans), student success resources and resources for veterans transitioning to college. You will also find communities of practice we have developed for those working in Adult Education (see LINCS) and in Career and Technical Education (see PCRN). We also will be building a community college resource list for resources from other federal agencies.
Training
Institutional Eligibility

What are eligible institutions and why is this important to you? What should you know about accreditation, state authorization and the E-App?

Introduction to Federal Student Aid

This course is required training for many schools and financial aid administrators. To find out more about this course, select the button below.

E-Training Help Center

Training Officer Directory | Virtual Tour | Trouble With Site? Frequently Asked Questions | Privacy Policies | Important Links

Help Center

EDExpress 2014-2015 Rel 3.0 NEW!

EDExpress Rel. 3.0 for 2014-15 features: Global, App Express, Packaging, Pell, Direct Loan and TEACH Modules.

View These Important Links

What do you think? Please share your comments and suggestions with us.

FSATRAINING.INFO
March Webinars

- Changes to Adverse Credit History Provisions for DL PLUS
  - March 12, 2015
  - See ANN 15-04 and 06 (recording)

- COD System Update: 2015-2016 New Award Year Setup
  - March 17 and repeated on March 19
  - See ANN 15-05
  - Recording coming soon
2015

FSA Training Conference
Tuesday, Dec. 1 - Friday, Dec. 4, 2015
Mandalay Bay
Las Vegas, NV

2014

FSA Training Conference
Tuesday, Dec. 2 - Friday, Dec. 5, 2014
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA

Click here for Session Presentations and recordings

What’s New

UPDATED 03.20.15

The 2015 FSA Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals will be held at Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, Nevada from December 1 - 4, 2015.

Did You Know?
FSA is a part of the U.S. Department of Education and is the largest provider of college and career school student financial aid in the nation. FSA provides more than $150 billion of federal Title IV funds in grants, loans, and work-study programs to more than 13 million students. College-bound applicants fill out financial aid application called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA®, to begin this process.

Useful Resources

Training for Financial Aid Professionals
Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP)
Ask-A-Fed at the FSATC
FY 2012 Draft CDRs

- FY 2012 Draft CDRs were released Feb 23, 2015
- FY = Oct 1 – Sep 30
- Three year rates
  - Two year rates are no longer calculated
- Draft rates are only released to the school
- Official rates are released to the public in Sep
- Time period for challenges and adjustments began on Mar 3, 2015
- See the Feb 23 EA
• Provides a summary of:
  • Cohort Default Rate calculations
  • Consequences of high default rates
    • NOTE: An institution’s decision to stop participating in the Direct Loan Program does NOT eliminate the possibility that it will lose eligibility to participate in the Pell Grant Program. CDRs, and possible consequences, continue until no more of the institution’s former students enter repayment on their DL or FFEL loans taken for attendance at that institution
  • CDR challenges, adjustments and appeals
    • Detailed discussion and chart on participation rate index challenges and appeals
CDR Sanctions and Benefits

- CDR sanctions based solely on a school’s 3-year rates
- CDR benefits (single disbursement in a single term loan and 30 day delay for 1st time, 1st year borrower exemptions) are based on school’s three most recent fiscal years for which official CDRs are available
  - Can be made up of 2 or 3 year rates IF both rates exist for a FY
  - Must pick one rate (either 2 or 3 year rate) to be used for each FY
  - Currently, the most recent fiscal year CDRs are FY09, FY10 and FY11 which have official 2 and 3 year rates for each of those FYs
  - HOWEVER, future FY rates will only have 3 year rates so that by September 2017, the 3 most recent fiscal years will only have 3 year rates
Default Management Resources

• Default Prevention Resource Webpage
  • www.ifap.ed.gov/DefaultPreventionResourceInfo/index.html
  • Right-hand side of IFAP website
    • Cohort Default Rate Guide

• Default Prevention questions can be sent to:
  • defaultpreventionassistance@ed.gov

• Default Management Website

• Cohort Default Rate questions should be directed to:
  • (202) 377-4259; fsa.schools.default.management@ed.gov

• Default Prevention and Management Course
  • fsatraining.info (under training by topics)
The Federal Pell Grant Program

Senator Claiborne Pell – 1918-2009
The Federal Pell Grant Program

- 2015-16 Pell Grant for a full time student with a zero EFC is $5775.00
Pell Payment Schedules

- GEN-15-02 – Pell Payment & Disbursement Schedule
  - Maximum Pell for 2015-2016 - $5,775
  - 2015-2016 minimum scheduled award is $588
  - Maximum Pell Grant eligible EFC for 2015-2016 will be 5198
  - ED to develop a separate Pell Grant Program Payment and Disbursement for students in eligible career pathway programs who become TIV eligible through the reinstated ATB process
    - Will be provided in a subsequent communication
FSA ID: The FSA PIN Replacement

Person Authentication Service (PAS)
Introducing the FSA ID

The FSA ID will modernize access for students, parents and borrowers to FSA systems

- FSA is adopting the best practice of using a username and password instead of personal information
- The FSA ID
  - Requires users to enter less information (2 fields instead of 4)
  - Provides more secure access to user’s information
  - Links to PIN information during registration
  - Offers self-service capability (name change)
Introducing the FSA ID

The FSA ID will modernize access for students, parents and borrowers to FSA systems

- The FSA ID (username and password) will replace PIN for students, parents and borrowers accessing FSA systems starting May 10, 2015

(was originally scheduled for April 26)
Introducing the FSA ID

• **What happens for new user?**
  - Registration requests the same required information as PIN
  - New users will be directed to the registration page to create an FSA ID (username and password) similar to today’s PIN creation page

• **What happens if I have a PIN already?**
  - During account creation, the user will be asked for their PIN.
  - As long as the PIN information matches their other information, the account will be linked to the FSA ID account

• **Will the changes affect a user’s ability to access previous FAFSA submissions?**
  - If the user links their PIN, they will have access to previous FAFSA submissions
Introducing the FSA ID

• Can users still access FAFSA by providing their Last name, SSN and DOB?
  • FAFSA functionality will not change except that the FSA ID will replace the PIN information
  • Users will not be able to sign or correct their application without their FSA ID.

• Will customer support change?
  • Customer support will not change. Similar to PIN, all users will be directed to call the FSAIC helpdesk for login related issues

• Will my FSA access to other people’s information require a new username and password?
  • This is only for users who are accessing their own information such as students, parents, borrowers and applicants
FSA ID Communication to Students

- ED to post high-level information about the FSA ID on each impacted website in mid-April 2015
- As of May 10, 2015, users who arrive at impacted websites will be directed to a link to register for their new FSA ID
  - Registration process should take less than seven minutes
- Later this winter, ED will post a step-by-step guide about registering for an FSA ID on IFAP for schools to share with students, parents, and borrowers

All information will stress there is nothing a user can or should do prior to implementation on or after May 10, 2015
NSLDS Enrollment Reporting
Enrollment Reporting Transition

• All schools must have implemented the new enrollment reporting processes and file layouts by October 1, 2014
  – Schools that report using the new enrollment reporting file layouts after July 1, 2014 must report program-level enrollment information retroactive to July 1, 2014

• New format includes:
  – Campus level data
  – Program level data (can be multiple programs)
  – Email Address
Enrollment Reporting Frequency

Beginning July 1, 2014, ED will request enrollment information from schools every 60 days and schools will be required to respond to those requests within 15 days of the date that ED sent the enrollment reporting roster to the school.

• Schools may choose to receive reports more frequently
Enrollment Status

- Only classes that are applicable toward the student’s academic credential (degree, certificate, etc) count toward Title IV enrollment status
- In Title IV, there is always an exception…
- For DL/FFEL, “active enrollment” is reported to NSLDS for Enrollment Reporting
  - Classes do NOT have to be applicable to the student’s academic credential
Enrollment Status

• If you combine a mini-term or intersession with a longer standard semester to make one payment period, enrollment status is applicable to the payment period, NOT a separate enrollment status for each part.
Upcoming ER Enhancements

• Student Contact Information will be mandatory

• Compliance Measurements/Letters to schools
  • Focus on roster completion, including program-level
  • Report all Title IV students attending your school
  • Escalating notices will be sent for non-compliance
  • Referral to FSA Program Compliance for action

• Updated Enrollment Reporting Guide
  (scheduled for July, 2015)
Gainful Employment - Regulations

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)
  - Federal Register - March 25, 2014
  - OPE Website with discussions and materials associated with GE negotiated rulemaking:
- Final Federal Register - October 31, 2014
  - Effective date - July 1, 2015
Lawsuits

• ED has been sued by two associations representing postsecondary schools over GE regs

• No delay, at this time, on implementation
The HEA provides that to be Title IV eligible an educational program must be offered by:

A public or non-profit postsecondary educational institution and leads to a degree; or

Any institution and “to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation”

- Generally, all non-degree programs must lead to *gainful employment*
- Generally, all programs at for-profit institutions must lead to *gainful employment*
Which Programs are GE Programs

• At proprietary institutions, all programs are GE Programs except for –
  • Preparatory coursework necessary for enrollment in an eligible program
  • Bachelor’s degree programs in liberal arts offered since January 2009 that are offered by a proprietary institution that has been regionally accredited since October 2007
Which Programs are GE Programs

- At public institutions and not-for-profit institutions, all programs are GE Programs except for –
  - Programs that lead to a degree
  - Programs of at least two years in length that are designed to be fully transferable to a bachelor’s degree program
  - Preparatory coursework necessary for enrollment in an eligible program (loan only)
Which Programs are GE Programs

- GE Programs include –
  - Teacher certification programs leading to a certificate awarded by the institution
  - English as a Second Language programs

- GE Programs do not include –
  - Teacher certification coursework that does not lead to a certificate awarded by the institution
  - Preparatory coursework necessary for enrollment in an eligible program (loans only)
Gainful Employment Measure

- Debt-to-earnings (D/E) rates
  - Annual Earnings D/E rate
  - Discretionary Income D/E rate
  - Passing: Annual D/E \( \leq 8\% \) or Discretionary D/E \( \leq 20\% \)
  - Failing: Annual D/E \( > 12\% \) or Discretionary \( > 30\% \)
  - Zone: Annual D/E \( > 8\% \) and \( \leq 12\% \) or Discretionary D/E \( > 20\% \) and \( \leq 30\% \)
Gainful Employment Results

- Program’s loses Title IV eligibility if:
  - D/E measures – Fails in two out of three years
  - OR
  - D/E measures - Fails or in the zone for four consecutive years
GE Reporting

- GE reporting now available in NSLDS (GE EA #52 - 2/11/15)
- Report all Title IV students by July 31, 2015
  - Report 2008-09 through 2013-14 award years
  - Programs with Medical and Dental Residencies report 2007-08 through 2013-14 award years
- Report following award years by October after end of the award year
  - Report 2014 – 2015 Award Year by October 1, 2015
GE Data to Report

Institutional Data
Program Data
Student Enrollment Data
Student Financial Data

• **ONLY** submit data on students enrolled in a GE program
• **ONLY** submit data on Title IV aid recipients (exclude FWS or FSEOG only recipients)
• **ONLY** submit data for programs that exist as of 7/1/15

Data provided in 2011 will not be available to reuse
Gainful Employment – Current Disclosures

Court left regulations (34 CFR 668.6(b)) in place that require schools to disclose certain GE Program data

• Schools **must use the Department’s GE Disclosure Template** to provide all GE disclosures
  
  • Schools must have updated their GE program disclosures with 13-14 information no later than **January 31, 2015**
  
  • GE Electronic Announcement #50 (9/11/14)
  
  • Template updates include: improved printing capabilities, updated SOC codes, optional context boxes, graduate certificate option, school name on output screen, bulk upload tool used if certain criteria met with different length programs
  
  • Technical questions: (855) 359-3697 or gedt@inovas.net
Disclosures Under New Final Rules

• Through December 31, 2016, current disclosure requirements remain in effect
  • Occupations; Normal time to complete program; On-time graduation rate for completers;
    Tuition & fees, books & supplies, room & board; Placement rate for completers (as determined by State or Accreditor methodology); and Median loan debt

• Institutions must comply with new disclosure requirements (October 31, 2014 Final Rules) beginning January 1, 2017
  • conduct consumer testing, hold focus groups and prepare new disclosure template
GE Resources

• GE Information Page on IFAP
  • Federal Register Notices; DCLs; Electronic Announcements; FAQs; Webinars; Presentations; Resources

• GE presentations at the FSA Training Conference
  • fsaconferences.ed.gov – sessions #GS1, 30, 58

• EA 1/9/14 (GE #51) – Updated NSLDS Gainful Employment Submittal File Record Layouts

• ANN-15-01 - Recorded Webinar – GE Reporting

send questions to GE-Questions@ed.gov
Let’s Go to COD
COD Updates – March 29, 2015

- COD will allow COD Web users to create and submit a Subsidized Usage inquiry to FSA for Subsidized Usage cases that require FSA intervention and can’t be resolved by a school.
- Done via new Create Subsidized Usage Inquiry page.
COD Updates – March 29, 2015

- COD will introduce a Subsidized Usage Calculator on COD Webpage (Mar 29)
  - Users will be able to enter loan data and estimate the students’ subsidized usage based upon the information entered and the loans existing on the COD System
  - Will allow the user to model potential impacts to the student’s subsidized usage and eligibility
  - Actions taken via the Subsidized Usage Calculator will NOT result in any changes to the student’s loans on the COD System
COD Updates -- March 29, 2015

- Ability-To-Benefit tag re-named “Student Eligibility Code”
  - 01-Ability To Benefit Testing Completed
  - 02-College Credits
  - 04-Home Schooled
  - 06-High School Diploma
  - 07-GED Certificate of State Equivalent Test
  - 08-State Authorized High School Equivalent Certificate
  - 09-Academic Transcript of a 2-Yr Program acceptable for full credit transfer to a Bachelor’s Program
  - 10-Program leads to at least an Associates Degree, Excelled in High School, and met the Admissions requirements
COD Updates -- March 29, 2015

• Direct PLUS Loan program
  • New Direct PLUS Loan applicants with an adverse credit decision on or after March 29, 2015 will be required to complete a new PLUS Counseling segment in StudentLoans.gov
  • The new mandatory PLUS counseling for certain applicants with adverse credit history is a separate module and does NOT fulfill the entrance counseling requirement for first-time graduate/professional student Direct PLUS Loan applicants
  • These borrowers would have to conduct two different counseling sessions
COD Updates -- March 29, 2015

• Direct PLUS Loan program
  • Updated adverse credit history criteria for ALL credit checks performed on or after March 29, 2015
  • COD system will update the number of days a credit check is valid from 90 days to 180 days
  • New disbursement level edit - COD Reject Edit 217
    • Actual disbursement submitted with no PLUS Counseling on file
COD Updates -- March 29, 2015

- Direct PLUS Loan program
  - New “Credit Requirements Met” tag in common record, COD Web and PLUS application responses and line item on certain COD screens
  - Confirms all credit related requirements have been met
    - An approved endorser or approved appeal
    - PLUS Counseling has been completed
  - Can search for completed PLUS Counseling sessions on existing COD Counseling Search page
  - New fields added to Credit Check Information page:
    - Appeal Status; PLUS Counseling Completed; PLUS Counseling Completion Date
COD Updates -- March 29, 2015

- Direct PLUS Loan program
- New weekly credit status report in COD Web in CSV format
  - Indicate if borrower’s credit requirements met and if PLUS Counseling has been completed
  - Contain borrowers that have a valid credit check and a PLUS Request or Direct PLUS Loan on file who have not met the credit requirements, or have met the credit requirements within the past 30 days
COD Data Collection (Pell)  
FR Mar 23

(1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of ED?
(2) Will this information be processed and used in a timely manner?
(3) Is the estimate of burden accurate?
(4) How might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
(5) How might ED minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology?

Comments are requested and due by May 22
Policy Potpourri
Ability to Benefit (ATB)

- The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 reinstated the ATB alternatives for Title IV student eligibility for students enrolled in “career pathway programs”
- Applies to students who are enrolled or who first enroll in an eligible program of study on or after July 1, 2014
- Pell limitations for students who first enroll in an eligible program on or after July 1, 2015

OPE and OGC are currently reviewing the law and will provide detailed guidance to schools in the near future

- Stay tuned to IFAP!
Affordable Health Care and COA

• If an institution requires health insurance for all or a category of students attending the institution, it may include a reasonable amount for health insurance under “miscellaneous personal expenses” in those students’ COAs (long standing guidance)
  – Covering cost of insurance is a condition of enrollment
Affordable Health Care and COA

- Institutions which do not have similar requirements may not include the cost of health insurance in every student’s cost of attendance
  - The fact that the Affordable Care Act requires individuals to maintain health insurance does not bear on this issue because the cost is not specific to the student’s educational expenses
FSEOG/FWS Matching Fund Waivers

• To obtain a waiver for matching funds for FSEOG or FWS, a school must be eligible to apply for a TITLE III/V grant
• To see if a school would be eligible to apply for a TITLE III/V grant, school must apply electronically with OPE (as outlined in federal register notice – current notice dated 11/3/14)
FSEOG/FWS Matching Fund Waivers

• If approved, a school will obtain a waiver for matching funds for FSEOG and FWS for *one year*
  • However, if school actually applies for and receives a Title III/V grant, the school can receive a waiver for FSEOG/FWS matching funds for the *duration of their Title III/V grant*

• Questions about current waiver duration or concerns about FSEOG/FWS waiver process, please contact the Campus-Based Call Center at 877-801-7168
The current G-845 is expired

DHS-USCIS has advised the Department that we may continue to use the G-845 (expiration date 01/31/2015) until further notice

Once new/revised G-845 is ready for deployment, FSA will issue an electronic announcement and an errata section in the FSAHB to include the updated G-845/guidance on the G-845
DL “Years” and Pell Formulas

- FSA HB page 3-104 has a table explaining the differences between what different years are and what schools can use what year
  - SAY
  - BBAY 1
  - BBAY 2
  - BBAY 3
- FSA HB page 3-51 – 3-59 explains the various Pell formulas and what schools can use what formulas
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
DL “Years” and Pell Formulas

- Many schools with traditional academic calendars use an SAY with Pell Formula 1
- Many schools with traditional academic calendars use a BBAY 1 with Pell Formula 1
- Difference is in how Summer is dealt with
- Some schools with traditional academic calendars use Pell Formula 3
- Length of Summer term will dictate what “year” is to be used for DLs year round
- Must be substantially equal to use SAY or BBAY 1
- If NSE, must use BBAY 3
Additional DCLs & Announcements
Dear Colleague Letters

GEN-15-05 – 2015-16 Unusual Enrollment History Flag

2015-2016 UEH Flag has expanded to consider—

- An applicant’s prior receipt of, in addition to a Federal Pell Grant, a Federal Direct Loan (not including Direct Consolidation Loans or parent PLUS Loans)

- The prior four, instead of three, award years

A school may self-select a student for UEH (not selected by ED) if suspect enrollment problems

- Self-selected students treated as if have UEH 3 flag

*GEN-13-09 provides full institutional resolution guidance*
Dear Colleague Letters

- **GEN-15-03** – Federal Perkins Program
- Barring any Congressional action, the authority to make Perkins loans to new borrowers will end September 30, 2015
  - If prior to October 1, 2015, school makes *the first disbursement* of a Federal Perkins Loan to a student for the 2015-2016 award year, school may make any remaining disbursements of that 2015-2016 loan after September 30, 2015
Dear Colleague Letters

• Additional aspects of winding-down the Federal Perkins Loan Program, including disposition of schools’ Perkins revolving funds and outstanding loan portfolios will be addressed in future communications via IFAP
Dear Colleague Letters

• GEN-15-02 – Pell Payment & Disbursement Schedule
  • ED to develop a separate Pell Grant Program Payment and Disbursement for students in eligible career pathway programs who become TIV eligible through the reinstated ATB process
  • Will be provided in a subsequent communication
Dear Colleague Letters

• **GEN-14-23** – Title IV aid and competency-based education (CBE) with current statutory/regulatory rules
  • Distinction between competency-based education in eligible direct assessment programs and regular credit-hour programs
• ED established e-mail address for competency-based education questions: **CBE@ed.gov**
• Currently have 3 experiments related to competency-based education and direct assessment programs
  • For more information contact experimentalsites@ed.gov
• Schools interested in developing a direct assessment program should also review DCL GEN-13-10
Dear Colleague Letters

• GEN-14-23 – Title IV aid and CBE

• 16 Q & As to help address school questions about -
  • Distinction between credit hour CBE and direct assessment;
  • Requirements for establishing credit hour equivalencies in direct assessment programs;
  • Prohibitions on paying Title IV aid for credit earned through prior learning assessments;
  • Satisfactory academic progress;
  • Accrediting agencies’ roles in reviewing CBE programs;
  • And much more…
Dear Colleague Letters

• **GEN-14-22** – Title IV aid and apprenticeship programs
  - Apprenticeship is a training system that combines job-related instruction with structured on-the-job learning experiences
  - If apprenticeship is part of academic program that participates in Title IV programs, school may provide aid to an eligible student, including the apprenticeship portion of the program
Dear Colleague Letters

• GEN-14-21 – Pell Grant eligibility for students confined or incarcerated in locations not Federal or State Penal Institutions
  • Clarifies students confined/incarcerated in locations not Federal or State penal institutions, like juvenile justice facilities, and meet applicable eligibility criteria, are eligible for Pell
  • Juvenile justice facilities are not Federal or State penal institutions for Pell purposes regardless of what gov’t entity operates or has jurisdiction over the facility, including Federal or State government
Dear Colleague Letters

• GEN-14-21 – Pell Grant eligibility for students confined or incarcerated in locations not Federal or State Penal Institutions

• Students confined in juvenile justice facilities after being adjudicated delinquent are considered to be “incarcerated”

• Pell eligibility applies to students in juvenile justice facilities regardless of age, type of sentence, length of sentence, and whether adjudicated as a juvenile or convicted as an adult
Dear Colleague Letters

• **GEN-14-06** – Recognized Equivalent of a HS Diploma

  • A *State-authorized examination that the State recognizes as the equivalent of a high school diploma* is considered a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma

  • State authorized exams include not only the GED test but now also include the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)
Dear Colleague Letters

- **GEN-14-06** – Recognized Equivalent of a HS Diploma
  - As of Jan. 2014, some States replaced GED with different State-authorized exams or offer choices of authorized exams
  - A student who takes the HiSET, TASC, or other State-authorized examination will receive official notification of a passing or failing score used to determine if a State will issue a high school equivalency certificate
Electronic Announcements

12/29/14 – Transition to Soft Tokens

– Alternative to the Two Factor Authentication (TFA) physical token is now a "soft token" - an app on user's mobile device that automatically generates a One-Time Password (OTP) when app is opened

– Use of a soft token is optional at this time

– Step-by-step instructions are provided to use soft tokens

– PDPA must collect and store unused physical token (do NOT send to ED)

– Cannot have both a soft token and physical token
  • Once soft token is activated, physical token is disabled

TFA Support Center – 800-330-5947, option 2 or TFASupport@ed.gov
2015-2016 Processing
FAFSA Definition of Parent

• Current definition is: biological or adoptive
• New definition will be: biological, adoptive or person that the state has determined to be the parent
  – For example, a person listed on the birth certificate
• Clarifying who is not a parent
  – List of people who are not considered a parent unless they have legally adopted the student will now include widowed stepparent
WHO’S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA®?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For reporting purposes, “PARENT” means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent’s information to include (depending on your family situation).

The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

- Widowed Stepparent
- Grandparents
- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Elder Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles

If you’re not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

If you’re not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/fafsa/filling-out/dependency

https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/who-is-my-parent.png
Foster Care Benefits

• Require all FOTW applicants to tell us if they are or were in foster care to ensure people entitled to benefits receive them

• Separate from current dependency question
  – New question will be earlier in application process

• “Yes” answer will result in SAR comment with hyperlink to information regarding benefits, and hyperlink will also appear on FOTW confirmation page
List of Colleges

• School selection page
  • Adding text to tell students that all schools they select will receive the list of selected schools

• School selection summary page
  • Adding text to tell students that for federal purposes it does not matter in what order schools are listed but it may be important for state purposes
    • Direct students to check with state
    • May need to list state school first in order to receive state benefits
Separated – FAFSA Guidance

For FAFSA purposes, a married couple is separated if the couple is considered legally separated by a state, or if the couple is legally married but has chosen to live separate lives, including living in separate households, as though they were not married. If you and your spouse are separated but living together, select “I am married / remarried,” not “I am separated.”

NOTE: When two married persons live as a married couple but are separated by physical distance (or have separate households), they are considered married for FAFSA purposes.
Data Retrieval Tool – Amended Returns

• In the filtering question, unusually large number of applicants report filing an amended return
  • Rewording question to specifically ask if they have filed a 1040-X amended return
  • Help text will also refer to the 1040-X and make clear what the 1040-X is
Data Retrieval Tool – Timing Issues

• Some applicants who are eligible to use the tool find there is no data to import due to owing taxes
• New hyperlink statement: “How you filed your taxes can affect if tax information is available to import.”
• Hyperlink will lead to help text that explains timing for tax information availability
Help Text Changes

• Gender question
  – Clarifying help text to state we are asking about sex at birth

• Citizenship status
  – Adding help text regarding DACA to help students in this category identify themselves
    • Should answer that they are neither citizens or eligible noncitizens
    • Although they can receive Social Security numbers, they are not eligible for Title IV
2015-16 FA Shopping Sheet

- February 24 EA with FA Shopping Sheet Info for 15-16
  - updates,
  - HTML specifications
  - Institutional Metric Data file
Verification
2015-16 Verification

• Same verification items and Verification Tracking Groups to be verified as 2014-2015

• Applicant will remain in original 2015–2016 Verification Tracking Group for the entire 2015–2016 award year record

• Federal Register published June 25, 2014
• GEN-14-11 published June 30, 2014
• EA November 24, 2014 – Suggested Text
V4/V5 Tracking Results – 2015-2016

• The V4 and V5 tracking process in FAA Access that began in the 2014-15 processing year WILL CONTINUE for 2015-16.

• Schools need to select the proper award year for which they are providing results
  • 2014-15; 2015-16, etc.

https://faaaccess.ed.gov
V4/V5 Tracking Results – 2015-16

Whom to report: student for whom school received an ISIR with a Verification Tracking Group of V4 or V5 AND for whom school requested verification documentation
  • Do NOT include students the school selected for verification of identity or high school completion status

When to report: 60 days following the institution's first request to the student to submit the required V4 or V5 identity and high school completion documentation
  • changes to previously submitted Identity Verification Results must be updated within 30 days
October 17, 2014 Electronic Announcement

- Alternative documentation allowed when tax filer RECENTLY requested but unable to obtain an IRS Tax Return Transcript using the IRS paper or on-line request process
- No alternative documents for telephone requests
- Exception not permitted for transcripts unable to be obtained simply because the IRS has not had time to process the data due to a recent filing

For 2014-2015 award year
2014-2015 – Transcripts Unavailable

- In instances where tax filer recently requested a IRS Tax Return Transcript and was unsuccessful:
  - Signed copy of relevant 2013 IRS tax return
  - Communication from IRS stating request unsuccessful
    - Letter from IRS *(SIGNED AND DATED BY TAX FILER)*; or
    - Screen shot print *(SIGNED AND DATED BY TAX FILER)*
  - Completed and signed IRS Form 4506 T-EZ or 4506-T listing institution as third party
    - Send to IRS only if doubt paper tax return accuracy
More to Come: Federal Perkins Loan Program
COMING SOON

More to Come: Ability to Benefit Reinstatement
More to Come: Loan Counseling
11 More Days...
To ensure quality training we ask all participants to please fill out an online session evaluation

https://s.zoomerang.com/s/KevinCampbell-TX

Survey feedback is a tool to help us improve our training, justify training/travel expenditures and to listen to our customers.

Please provide any comments regarding this training or the trainer to:

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Need Help?

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Reach FSA
855.FSA.4FAA  --  1 number to reach 10 contact centers!

Campus Based Call Center   eZ-Audit
COD   School Eligibility Service Group
CPS/SAIG   Foreign Schools Participation Division
NSLDS   Research and Customer Care Center
G5   Nelnet Total & Permanent Disability Team
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Thank You, LASFAA!

Spring Conference
Alexandria, LA
March 26, 2015
Questions about this Session?

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