

### Federal Update




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Federal Update

**Accreditation Innovation and Other Issues**

- The Department also announced an intent to establish three subcommittees that would make recommendations to the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on:
  - Distance Learning and Innovation
  - Eligibility of faith-based entities and activities
  - TEACH Grants

4 FederalStudentAid

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**Accreditation Innovation and Other Issues**

- The Distance Learning and Educational Innovation Subcommittee will address:
  - Simplification of State authorization requirements related to programs offered through distance education or correspondence courses, including disclosures about such programs to enrolled and prospective students and other State authorization issues
  - The definition of "regular and substantive interaction," as that term is used in the definitions of "correspondence course" and "distance education"

5 FederalStudentAid

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**Accreditation Innovation and Other Issues**

- The TEACH Grants Subcommittee will address:
  - The simplification and clarification of TEACH Grant program requirements to:
    - Minimize the inadvertent grant-to-loan conversions and
    - Provide opportunities to correct erroneous conversions

6 FederalStudentAid

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**Accreditation Innovation and Other Issues**

- The Faith-Based Institutions Subcommittee will address:
  - Requirements for accrediting agencies to honor institutional mission
  - Provisions regarding the eligibility of faith-based entities to participate in the Title IV, HEA programs

7 FederalStudentAid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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**Accreditation Innovation and Other Issues**

- Main Committee Session Dates:
  - Jan. 14–16, 2019
  - Feb. 19–22, 2019
  - March 25–28, 2019
- Sessions will take place in Washington, DC. Specific locations were announced in a Federal Register notice and on our website
- The Department brought specific proposals to the first round of negotiations

8 FederalStudentAid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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**Borrower Defense to Repayment**

- The Department formed a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee to negotiate the following issues:
  - Federal Standard for BDTR
  - BDTR Process
  - Limited Aspects of Financial Responsibility and Administrative Capability
  - Pre-dispute Arbitration Agreements, Class Action Waivers, and Internal Dispute Processes
  - Closed School Discharges
  - False Certification Discharges
  - Guaranty Agency Collection Fees
  - Subsidized Usage Period Recalculation

9 FederalStudentAid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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**Borrower Defense to Repayment**

- Financial Responsibility Subcommittee
  - Formed to consider issues relating to recent changes to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) standards

10 FederalStudentAid

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**Gainful Employment**

- A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was published Aug. 14, 2018
  - The comment period ended on Sept. 13, 2018
  - The Department received nearly 14,000 comments
- A final regulation is under development

11 FederalStudentAid

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**Gainful Employment**

- [June 18, 2018 GE EA #116](#): Deadline to comply with requirements of 668.412 (d) and (e) delayed until July 1, 2019. Supersedes GE EA #106. Specifically these regulations require schools to:
  - Include the disclosure template, or a link thereto, in their GE program promotional materials; and,
  - Directly distribute the disclosure template to prospective students
- Consistent with previous announcements, schools must comply with 668.412(a), (b), and (c) to post disclosures on their GE program webpages using the approved disclosure template provided by ED. The deadline for these actions was April 6, 2018.

12 FederalStudentAid

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**Statutory Updates**

13 FederalStudentAid PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT

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**Minibus Appropriations Bill**

- On Sept. 28, 2018 the President signed the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 6157; Public Law No: 115-245) which impacted Federal student aid in several ways:
  - Increased Maximum Pell Grant awards
  - Level funding for FWS/FSEOG awards
  - Deferment for Cancer Treatment
  - FAFSA® Data Usage
  - Temporary Extended Public Service Loan Forgiveness (TEPSLF)
  - Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Outreach

14 FederalStudentAid PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT

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**Deferment for Cancer Treatment**

- Direct Loan, FFELP, and Perkins Loan borrowers will become eligible for an interest-subsidized deferment for the period of time for which they are receiving treatment for cancer and for the 6-month period following the cessation of such treatment. The term "cancer treatment" is undefined.
- This provision is only available for loans that are disbursed on or after the date of enactment, Sept. 28, 2018, or loans in repayment on the date of enactment
- Loans disbursed prior to Sept. 28, 2018 that have not yet entered repayment are not eligible for this benefit

15 FederalStudentAid PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT

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**FAFSA Data Usage**

- The law permits, but does not require, schools to provide FAFSA data to a scholarship granting organization, or to an organization that assists the applicant in applying for and receiving Federal, State, local or tribal assistance if:
  - The applicant has provided explicit written consent, and
  - The disclosure is to assist the applicant in applying for and receiving financial assistance at that school
- The organization cannot sell or otherwise share the FAFSA data they receive from schools under this section
- This provision will remain in effect until the HEA is reauthorized

16 Federal Student Aid

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**Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)**

- The appropriations law sets aside an additional \$2.3 million from the Student Aid Administrational account (same as in FY 2018) for FSA to perform outreach to all Direct Loan borrowers with respect to PSLF, particularly those who are not in qualifying repayment plans for PSLF
- The law also permits FSA to spend these funds on enhancements to PSLF operations
  - PSLF Help Tool - [StudentLoans.gov/pslf](http://StudentLoans.gov/pslf)

17 Federal Student Aid

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**TEPSLF**

- The appropriations law provides a supplemental \$350 million for the temporary expansion of PSLF for Direct Loan borrowers that was created in FY 2018, bringing the total appropriation to \$700 million
- This expansion is available to those who do not otherwise qualify for PSLF solely because some or all of their payments were made on a non-qualifying repayment plan (such as the Extended Repayment Plan)
- To qualify for the temporary expansion, a borrower must demonstrate that the payment they made 12 months prior to applying for the temporary expansion of PSLF and the payment they made immediately prior to applying for the expansion are at least as much as they would have paid under an income-driven repayment plan

18 Federal Student Aid

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**Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship**

- On March 23, 2018 the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, (H.R. 1625, Public Law 115-141)
- Amends Sec. 473(b) of HEA and expands special rule for "EFC shall be deemed zero"
- Student must be eligible to receive Pell Grant for the year in which eligibility determination is made beginning with 2018-2019 award year (EFC > 0 and ≤ the maximum EFC for Pell Grant)
- Parent or guardian actively serving as a public safety officer and died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer

19 Federal Student Aid

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**Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship**

- School's responsibility
  - Determine and document, working with the student, that the student met eligibility requirements
  - Documentation requirements are not prescribed but may include
    - Determination letter for certain federal benefits under DOJ's Public Safety Officers Benefit Program
    - Written attestation made by a state or local government official with authority over the individual who died in the line of duty
    - See 11/19/2018 EA for more examples
  - Submit eligibility determination to FSA through the COD System in awards 2018-19 and 2019-20
    - Eligibility determination validation will move to FAA Access beginning in the 2020-2021 award year

20 Federal Student Aid

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**Verification**

21 Federal Student Aid

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**Electronic Announcement: January 9, 2019**

- Signed copies of paper tax returns may now be accepted in lieu of documents issued by the IRS
  - Schools may still opt to require IRS documentation
  - Signature requirements for tax preparers continue to apply
- IRS verification of non-filing (VNF) is still required for non-filing parents, independent students and spouses, but a signed statement may be provided if the VNF cannot be obtained
  - Applicants are not required to document their attempt to obtain IRS documents, unless the school doubts the attempt was made

22 FederalStudentAid PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE

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**Tax Filing Extenders: Documentation**

- A signed statement certifying that the individual:
  - Attempted to obtain non-filing verification from the IRS or other tax authorities and was unable to; *and*
  - Has not filed a Federal income tax return
- A list of the sources of any income, and the amount of income from each
  - If self-employed, the signed statement must also include the AGI and the amount of U.S. income tax paid

23 FederalStudentAid PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE

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**Tax Filing Extenders: Other Documents**

- Copy of IRS Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return"
- Copy of the IRS's approval of an extension beyond the automatic six-month period
- Copy of IRS Form W-2 for each source of employment income received or an equivalent document

24 FederalStudentAid PROUD SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE

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**Amended Tax Returns**

- Individuals who filed an amended tax return must submit the following documents to the institution:
  - If identified by IRS Request Flag 07, all original income and tax information is considered verified
  - If not identified by IRS Request Flag 07, an IRS Tax Return Transcript, or any other IRS tax transcript(s) that include all of the income and tax information required, or a signed copy of the original tax return;

AND

  - a signed copy of IRS Form 1040X that was filed with the IRS
- If the amendment was not due to filing a 1040X, the applicant must provide IRS documentation of the change

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**Identity Theft**

- Victims of IRS tax-related identity theft must submit:
  - Statement signed and dated by the tax filer indicating s/he was a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft and the IRS has been made aware;

AND

  - An IRS Tax Return Database View (TRDBV) transcript
    - Tax filers who cannot obtain a TRDBV transcript may instead submit other official IRS document(s) if they include all income and tax information required to be verified, or a signed copy of the tax return

26 FederalStudentAid FEDERAL SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT

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**Non-IRS Tax Filers**

- Tax filers who filed an income tax return with a taxing authority in a US territory or commonwealth, or with a foreign central government, may submit:
  - a copy of a transcript of their tax information, if available free of charge

OR

  - a signed copy of the applicable income tax return that was filed with the taxing authority

27 FederalStudentAid FEDERAL SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT

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**2018-2019 Verification: References**

- [GEN-17-05](#): 2018-2019 Verification (5/5/17 Federal Register)
  - No changes to verification tracking groups
- [August 16, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#): 2018-19 Verification Suggested Text
- Updates:
  - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) is available again (masking process)
  - *Dependent students* who are nontax filers **do not** have to provide confirmation of nonfiling status from the IRS or other relevant tax authority
    - Other parties do (parents, independent students, etc.)

28 FederalStudentAid

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**2019-2020 Verification: References**

- [GEN-18-03](#) - 2019-20 Verification (3/28/18 Federal Register)
  - No changes to verification tracking groups or FAFSA verification items from 2018-2019
  - No changes to the acceptable documentation requirements from 2018-2019
- [June 8, 2018 Electronic Announcement](#) - 2019-20 Verification Suggested Text
- [July 30, 2018 Electronic Announcement](#) - EDE Technical Reference for the 2019-20 ISIR record layout, including Verification Tracking Flags

29 FederalStudentAid

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**Changes to IRS Tax Transcript**

New IRS Tax Transcripts Redacted Data

- Effective 9/23/18, IRS tax transcripts display a reduced number of digits/characters for SSN, EIN, account/phone #, last name, address
- *The revised IRS tax transcript is acceptable for verification purposes*
- At the end of 2018 transcripts will no longer be faxed
- Filers currently can create “customer file numbers” when requesting transcripts via 4506T/T-EZ
  - Available next year for Get Transcripts Online or Online by Mail

30 See 10/4/18 Elec. Ann. FederalStudentAid

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**Changes to IRS Tax Transcript**

New IRS Tax Transcripts Redacted Data

- Spring of 2019, IRS plans to remove option for requesting 3rd-party receipt of tax data on 4506-T/T-EZ and only mail transcripts to taxpayer
  - Schools can receive transcripts directly by participating in IRS' Income Verification Express Services [IVES] by registering for e-Services on IRS.gov

31 See 10/4/18 Elec. Ann. FederalStudentAid FEDERAL SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL

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**Changes to Other IRS Tax Forms**

- The recently passed tax reform law changes other IRS tax forms (e.g. Form 1040)
- The IRS released drafts of new tax forms in August 2018
- One major change is the elimination of tax forms 1040A and 1040EZ, and the creation of 6 new schedules
- FSA is reviewing these 2018 tax form changes to see how these changes effect 2020-2021 forms and processes

32 FederalStudentAid FEDERAL SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL

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**NSLDS Updates**

33 FederalStudentAid FEDERAL SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL

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Federal Update

### New Enrollment Reporting Guide (November 2018)

- See Electronic Announcement November 14, 2018

34 Federal Student Aid

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### Aid Overpayment Compliance Report

- Released in November 2018
- To assist schools in their effort to identify aid overpayments which need to be assigned to ED or updated on NSLDS
- The report can be requested with the following outputs:
  - Ad-hoc report from the Web Report List Page on NSLDS
  - Scheduled report with a monthly or quarterly distribution via SAIG:
    - Fixed-width (Message Class AOCOFWOP)
    - Comma separated values (CSV) (Message Class AOCOCDOP)

**ID:** [OVPC1](#) **Type:** Extract

**Name:** AID OVERPAYMENT COMPLIANCE REPORT

**AID OVERPAYMENT COMPLIANCE REPORT Profile Update**

SAIG MAILBOX:

FREQUENCY: QUARTERLY

SCHOOL BRANCH: ALL

EXTRACT TYPE: FIXED WIDTH

35 Federal Student Aid

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### NSLDS Student Access (SA) Website

- Released in November 2018
- The SA Authorization page displays the following when a lender or lender servicer is authorized:
  - Lender/Lender Servicer Name
  - Lender/Lender Servicer Code
  - Authorization Expires On
- This page allows the borrower to authorize a lender or lender servicer, that they do not have a direct relationship with, access to their loan information

Add Authorizations

Organization Code

Please enter the six-digit code of the lender or lender servicer to which you want to grant access.

| Current Authorizations       |        |        |            |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Name                         | Type   | Code   | Expires On |
| NORTH SOUTH BANK OF THE WEST | Lender | 800051 | 12/31/2018 |
| EAST SECURITY BANK           | Lender | 800052 | 12/31/2018 |

36 Federal Student Aid

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### NSLDS – Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant

- Schools can now view Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants (IASG) information for a student on the Grants page, under the Aid tab of the [NSLDS Professional Access](#) website

The screenshot shows the NSLDS Professional Access interface. At the top, it says 'Student is on your school's Transfer Monitoring List.' Below that is a 'Pell Grant History' table with columns: #, Award Year, Scheduled Amount, Award Amount, Disbursed Amount, % Sched. Award Used by Award Yr., Latest Disb., and Posted by COD. Below the Pell table is an 'Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant History' table with the same columns. A red box highlights the 'Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant History' table.

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### NSLDS – Children of Fallen Heroes

- The Children of Fallen Heroes indicator is displayed in the Pell Grant History table on the Grants Page under the Aid tab of the [NSLDS Professional Access](#) website

The screenshot shows the NSLDS Professional Access interface. It says 'Student is not on your school's Transfer Monitoring List.' Below that is a 'Pell Grant History' table with columns: #, Award Year, Scheduled Amount, Award Amount, Disbursed Amount, % Sched. Award Used by Award Yr., Latest Disb., and Posted by COD. A red box highlights the 'Children of Fallen Heroes' indicator in the table.

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### Changes to Enrollment Update

- Planned for Spring 2019
- New search options will be available on the Enrollment Update page:
  - Credential Level
  - Special Program Indicator (SPI)
  - Published Program Length (PPL)
  - Classification of Institutional Programs (CIP) Code

A red stamp with the text 'COMING SOON!' is located at the bottom right of the slide.

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**COD Updates**

40 FederalStudentAid

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**Release 17.2 Children of Fallen Heroes (December 2018)**

- Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) Scholarship Act
  - Eligibility certified by the financial aid administrator on COD Web by marking the CFH Indicator = "true" for Pell-eligible students that qualify
  - Will allow awarding the maximum Pell Grant Scheduled Award based on Cost of Attendance
  - CFH Indicator "tag" will not be returned in responses, but new **Warning Edit 224** will be
    - Message- "Pell award submitted with CFH Indicator = true"

41 FederalStudentAid

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**COD Update –17.2 DL Report Changes**

- Promissory Notes Search Results page
  - MPN Expiration Date added
  - Help text added to MPN ID, Note Status, Type Indicator, MPN Expiration Date
- PSLF Help Tool
- Subsidized Usage Limit Applies (SULA) "Reductions Needed Report" is now "Discrepant Loan Data Report"
  - Additional modifications to some of the reporting fields

42 FederalStudentAid

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### Federal Update

**COD Update – Release 18.0**

- COD System implementation early April, 2019
  - New Award Year Set-up for 2019-20
  - No new schema
  - CFH Indicator added to 2018-19 Pell POP, 2019-20 Pell MRR, Pell Reconciliation, and Pell Grant Year-to-Date files
  - StudentLoans.gov Process Demonstrations
  - *Return of Title IV (R2T4) migrating to COD*
  - Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) Validation Edits

43 FederalStudentAid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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**COD Update –18.0 R2T4 on COD**

- R2T4 migrating to COD
  - Core-functionality and calculations will not change
  - Base year for tool will be 2017-18
    - Data (i.e., calculations, PDFs) will be available for ten years from base-year
  - Calculations and previous information will not transfer to COD
  - Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant included in tool calculation

44 FederalStudentAid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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**COD Update – Posted Resources**

- 2019-20 COD Technical Reference (EA), November 19, 2018
- 17.2 Implementation (EA), November 20, 2018
- Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act (EA), November 19, 2018
- R2T4 Transition to COD (EA), December 20, 2018

45 FederalStudentAid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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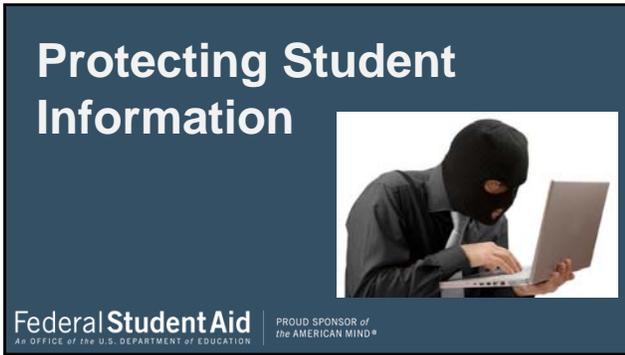
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**Federal Student Aid Updates and Reminders**

49 Federal Student Aid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN ATHLETE

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**TEACH Grant Reconsideration**

**1/31/19 – Electronic Announcement**

- TEACH Grant recipients whose grants converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans can request reconsideration if met or are meeting four-year teaching requirement within eight-year service obligation period, but had grants converted to loans because did not comply with annual certification requirement
- Week of Feb. 4, 2019, emails will be sent to individuals who are eligible to request TEACH Grant reconsideration
  - Emails sent from [noreply@studentloans.gov](mailto:noreply@studentloans.gov)
- More information at - [StudentAid.gov/teach-reconsideration](http://StudentAid.gov/teach-reconsideration)

50 Federal Student Aid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN ATHLETE

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**Selective Service Match**

**1/31/19 – Electronic Announcement**

- Central Processing System (CPS) resumed its daily match with Selective Service System (SSS) for 2018-19 and 2019-20
- We have begun reprocessing 2018–19 and 2019–20 application and correction records impacted by the SSS match bypass that occurred during the recent government shutdown
- Reprocessed ISIRs will be sent under the IGSG19OP (for 2018–19) and IGSG20OP (for 2019–20) message classes
  - SARs and ISIRs will include SAR comment code 172
  - Reprocessed ISIRs will include a value of "50" for the Reprocessed Reason Code

51 Federal Student Aid PRIDE SPONSOR OF THE AMERICAN ATHLETE

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**2019-2020 College Financing Plan**

**1/16/19 – Electronic Announcement**

- *Shopping Sheet renamed College Financing Plan*
- New College Financing Plan template is part of Beta Testing
  - Schools not required to use but if implemented, please provide comments to [shoppingsheet@ed.gov](mailto:shoppingsheet@ed.gov) no later than April 1, 2019
- Attached to EA are the HTML specifications, institutional metric data file, the technical guide, FAQs and the Plan template
- 2020-2021 College Financing Plan to include additional data elements and a new responsive design and the ability to customize colors of the College Financing Plan to match those of your institution

52 FederalStudentAid

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**2018-2019 Deadline Dates**

**12/4/18 – Federal Register**

- A listing of deadline dates for the receipt of documents and other information from applicants and institutions participating in certain Federal student aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for the 2018–2019 award year
  - Includes deadlines for FAFSA processing, ISIR corrections, verification documentation and Title IV origination and disbursement records

53 FederalStudentAid

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**Campus-Based Deadline Dates**

**1/24/19 – Federal Register**

- A listing of the Campus-Based Program deadline dates for 2018-2019 expenditures and the 2020-2021 request including:
  - Campus-Based Reallocation Form for return of 18/19 funds and request for supplemental FWS funds for 19/20 award year (August 12, 2019)
  - 2020-2021 FISAP (October 1, 2019)
  - 2020–21 FISAP Edit Corrections (December 13, 2019)
  - Request for a waiver of the 2020–21 award year penalty for the underuse of 2018–19 award year funds (Feb. 3, 2020)
  - Request for a waiver of the FWS Community Service Expenditure Requirement for the 2020–21 award year (April 20, 2020)

54 FederalStudentAid

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### Federal Update

**Cohort Default Rates**

- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 national federal student loan cohort default rate (CDR) decreased to **10.8 percent** from the FY 2014 national rate of 11.5 percent. The FY 2015 CDR represents the lowest national cohort default rate since the three-year rate was first released in 2012
- During the tracking period for the FY 2015 borrower cohort—from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2017—more than 4.9 million borrowers entered repayment, and 531,653 of them, or 10.8 percent, defaulted on their loans. Those borrowers attended 6,155 postsecondary institutions across the nation
- We anticipate releasing the draft FY2016 CDRs in February 2019
  - Stay tuned to IFAP

55 FederalStudentAid

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**Disaster Assistance**

- On Aug. 29, 2017, the Department released Dear Colleague Letter [GEN-17-08](#) to help Title IV participants affected by a major disaster
- On [Sept. 28, 2018](#), the Department released an Electronic Announcement related to the 2018–19 Supplemental Campus-Based Funds and Hurricane Florence
- The Department maintains resources for institutions impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael on the [Hurricane Help](#) page of ED.gov
- The Department continues to provide waivers and assistance to schools impacted by hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, and other disasters

56 FederalStudentAid

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**FSA Publications Distribution**

- As of Aug. 31, 2018, FSA no longer prints or delivers FSA publications (except for the FAFSA form).
- Publications will still be available electronically
  - <https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources.jsp>
  - <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources>
  - <https://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/>
  - <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>

57 FederalStudentAid

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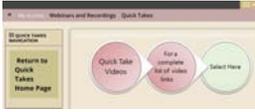
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For discussion purposes only

Federal Update

**FSA E- Training: Quick Takes**

- Brief videos, 15-20 minutes in length, on a variety of Federal Student Aid topics such as :
  - Conflicting Information
  - Professional Judgement
  - Defining a “year” in Federal Student Aid
  - Establishing Cost Of Attendance
  - Satisfactory Academic Progress
  - More than 20 topics available
- On the FSA E-Training Home page, select “Menu”, scroll down to “Webinars and Recordings” and select Quick Takes



61 FederalStudentAid

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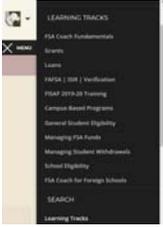
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**FSA E- Training: Learning Tracks**

- Training is available in more detail on a variety of Federal Student Aid topics such as:
  - R2T4
  - Campus Safety and Security
  - Default Prevention
  - Several others
- Designed to take 60-90 minutes each
- On the FSA E-Training Home page, select “Menu”, scroll down to “Learning Tracks”, and select a topic or select “Search” and “Learning Tracks” after selecting “Menu”



62 FederalStudentAid

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**FSA E- Training: Record of Learning**

- The FSA E-Training site will create a record of learning for each offering a learner completes
- Assists the learner in documenting what has been completed
- Helps supervisors monitor training programs

63 FederalStudentAid

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For discussion purposes only

### Federal Update

**2019 Federal Student Aid Training Conference**

We look forward to seeing you at the FSATC in Reno, NV  
Dec. 3 – Dec. 6, 2019 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center

Watch IFAP for more information  
as the date approaches



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**Training Feedback**

To ensure quality training we ask all participants to please fill out an online session evaluation

- All registrants for this session will receive an email with a link to an electronic evaluation that we ask you to complete
- This feedback tool will provide a means to educate and inform areas for improvement and support an effective process for “listening” to our customers

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**Additional Contact Information**

[CODSupport@ed.gov](mailto:CODSupport@ed.gov); 800-848-0978

- Questions related to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, the Campus-Based programs, or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, Pell Grant, TEACH Grant, and Direct Loan processing

[nslds@ed.gov](mailto:nslds@ed.gov); 800-999-8219

- Questions related to NSLDS functions such as student eligibility, overpayments, loan history, and enrollment reporting

[CPSSAIG@ed.gov](mailto:CPSSAIG@ed.gov); 800-330-5947

- Questions related to the Central Processing System (CPS), the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG), FAA Access to CPS Online, and assistance with software products such as EDconnect and EDExpress

[edcaps.user@ed.gov](mailto:edcaps.user@ed.gov); 888-336-8930

- Questions related to G5, the Department of Education's electronic system for grants management and payments

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Federal Update

**Ask A Fed goes online!**

FSA has implemented a new resource to assist Financial Aid Administrators obtain guidance about the FSA programs. Based on the popularity and effectiveness of the Ask A Fed desk at the annual FSA Training Conference, we have instituted a similar process using email. Please send your inquiries about Title IV regulations to [AskAFed@ed.gov](mailto:AskAFed@ed.gov)



The Ask A Fed email box is staffed every business day by a team of FSA Training Officers and they are ready to assist schools with their questions.

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