

October 28, 2008

OSFA/FFELP #08-09:03

Dear Student Loan Participant:

On October 16, 2008, the *Common Manual* Governing Board approved three proposals from Batch 152 to modify the *Common Manual*. The changes will be incorporated into the *Common Manual* with the publication of the next annual update. Enclosed are the following updates:

- **Identity Theft**
- **Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grant Definitions**
- **Common Review Initiative Update**

For further information you may contact me at (850) 410-6846 or e-mail at reitha.scott@fldoe.org.

Sincerely,

Reitha Scott, Policy Manager
Office of Student Financial Assistance

COMMON MANUAL UPDATES

Identity Theft

The *Common Manual* has been revised to include identity theft in the list of circumstances under which a lender may be eligible for claim payment in the FFELP overview in Chapter 2. The *Common Manual* has also been revised to state that a borrower who has defaulted on his or her loan is eligible for a new FFELP loan if the defaulted loan has been discharged because the borrower is determined to be the victim of the crime of identity theft. In addition, the definition of the term “discharge” has been updated to include the crime of identity theft.

Affected Sections: 2.2.C Repayment
 5.2.D NSLDS Data Match
 Appendix G

Effective Date: False certification as a result of identity theft loan discharge claims processed by the lender on or after September 8, 2006.

Basis: §682.402(e)(14).

Policy Information: 1060/Batch 152

Guarantor Comments: None.

COMMON MANUAL UPDATES

Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grant Definitions

The *Common Manual* has been updated to include glossary definitions for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (National SMART) Grant Programs.

The ACG is a federal need- and merit-based grant that is intended to encourage a student to complete a rigorous secondary school program of study. The National SMART Grant is also a federal need- and merit-based grant that is intended to encourage a student to major in one of the physical, life, or computer sciences; engineering; technology; mathematics; or a critical foreign language.

A cross-reference to the FSA Handbook was included in the new glossary definitions for the ACG and National SMART Grant Programs, and was added to the existing “Pell Grant” glossary definition.

Affected Sections: Appendix G

Effective Date: July 1, 2006.

Basis: Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171); HEA §401A; 2008-09 FSA Handbook, Vol. 1, Chapter 6, p. 1-63.

Policy Information: 1061Batch 152

Guarantor Comments: None.

COMMON MANUAL UPDATES

Common Review Initiative Update

The *Common Manual* has been updated by removing information about the Common Review Initiative from Appendix F and placing the information in Chapter 17, Program Review.

Affected Sections: Chapter 17 Program Review
Appendix F Common Review Initiative

Effective Date: January 1, 2008.

Basis: None.

Policy Information: 1062/Batch 152

Guarantor Comments: None.