

July 1999

NEWS FROM OSFA



What's new?

OSFA Transition Update - Through cooperative efforts among EDS, OSFA, private consultants, other state agency staff, and you, we completed the transition to the Northwest Regional Center on time and we are accepting your loan transmissions. Many thanks to Florida colleges, lenders, servicers, and the many people that made this happen.

Changes being made to the OSFA Outlook - As OSFA works to improve the service to participants, we are also working to improve the newsletter. The OSFA Outlook is currently looking at a new name and design.

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To go along with our new look we are looking for increasing involvement with our participants. OSFA would like participants to provide items of interest for the newsletter, subjects that you would like to have information on, features on schools and lenders, and the option of receiving the newsletter through electronic format.

If you have an event, program, materials, achievements, or other items of special interest that you would like to share with other participants and OSFA, please call Reitha Scott at (850) 487-1530.

If your office is interested in receiving the OSFA newsletter by e-mail, please submit your name, institution, and e-mail address to Reitha Scott either by fast at: 850-922-1484 or e-mail at scottr@mail.doe.state.fl.us.

(What's New Continued)
Goals Set For IOC

With leadership of Joel Jarrett, the new Institutional Oversight and Compliance (IOC) Director, refreshing, entrepreneurial changes are in the wind for IOC. Re-engineering of the school and lender eligibility and program participation processes is in the works. IOC has been busy compiling comparison studies of guarantors, interviewing front-line experts, analyzing markets and trends, and initiating process mapping. In the same vein of thought as Tom Peters, co-author of "Inserch of Excellence", IOC is jumping out of its box to explore the research and development possibilities of streamlining and combining similar processes with OSFA State Programs, the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the State Board of Non Public Career Education. The goal is to remove the barriers of those we serve, to maximize educational opportunities, and provide financial assistance through the Florida Federal Family Education Loan Program. If you are interested in contributing any ideas or suggestions to improve these processes, please e-mail Joel Jarrett at jarretj@mail.doe.state, fl.us.

HEA Drug Conviction Provision Postponed

On June 16, 1999, the U.S. Department of provided a Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-99-16: HEA Drug Conviction Provision Postponed.

The Department stated in the letter that they had received numerous inquiries that ask for their policy regarding the new drug conviction student eligibility provision in the Higher Education Act (HEA). As a result, this policy guidance was issued while awaiting the results of the negotiated rulemaking process and publication of final regulations in this area.

The drug conviction provision constitutes a new student eligibility requirement contained in section 484 of the (HEA). It provides that a student's eligibility for Federal student aid is suspended if the student is convicted, under Federal or State law, of any offense involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance (generally meaning illegal drugs, but not including alcohol or tobacco). Any such suspension of eligibility begins on the date of conviction and lasts until the end of a statutorily specified period. The suspension of eligibility ranges from one year to indefinite, depending upon the number and type of convictions. A student may

regain eligibility early by completing a drug rehabilitation program that meets certain statutory and regulatory requirements (including two unannounced drug tests), or if the conviction is overturned.

All regulations related to Title IV of the HEA are subject to both the requirements of negotiated rulemaking and the master calendar provisions of HEA. As a result, final regulations establishing the criteria for acceptable drug rehabilitation programs will be published later this year and will become effective July 1, 2000.

After reviewing the legislative history of the new provision, the Department believes that Congress intended the drug rehabilitation relief provision to be available at the same time students are subject to the loss of eligibility. Members of Congress specifically indicated in statements on the floor of Congress that students should be able to regain Title IV eligibility if they complete a rehabilitation program. Thus, this new student eligibility provision will not be implemented until regulations defining an acceptable drug rehabilitation program take effect on July 1, 2000. Until that time no student will be determined to be ineligible for Title IV assistance under the new provision.

Nonetheless, a student's actions between now and the effective date of the regulations may affect eligibility. For example, a first conviction for possession of a controlled substance on February 1, 2000, will make the student ineligible for Title IV assistance from July 1, 2000 (the effective date of the regulation) until January 31, 2001 (one year from the date of conviction). If the conviction was the second for the student, eligibility would not be regained until January 31, 2002 (two years from the conviction). Because of the serious consequences to some students of the new provision and because there are certain actions that they could take to mitigate those consequences, the Department encourages, but are not requiring, you to inform your student of the new provision and help them understand how their actions might affect their future eligibility.

Students affected by the new law can avoid a loss of eligibility by completing an acceptable drug rehabilitation program. Because the final regulations defining an acceptable rehabilitation program will be published by November 1, 1999, there will be time for students to enroll in acceptable drug rehabilitation

(Drug Conviction Provision Continued)

programs before regulations become effective on July 1, 2000.

The Department also reminds you that schools need not actively question their federal student aid applicants about drug related matters. The Department plans to use the 2000-2001 aid application processes (FAFSAs and SARS) to collect needed information from applicants and to report the results to schools on ISIRs. The Department has been working with representatives from schools and colleges in their planning of these new and sensitive processes. The Department will keep all of the financial aid community updated as these plans are developed.

Time Frame for Return of FFEL Funds - Effective July 1, 1999.

The U.S. Department of Education issued a reminder on June 11, 1999, of the changes in the time frame for the return of Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) funds.

Institutions are reminded that under Section 668.167(b) Returning funds to a lender, an institution must return FFEL program funds to the lender if the

proceeds have not been disbursed to the student or parent within three business days following the date the institution receives the funds, either by means of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or a master, when received after June 30, 1999.

FFEL Variable Interest Rates for July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

The U.S. Department of Education released a memo June 4, 1999 for the FFEL Variable Interest Rates. On June 9, 1999, the Department issued another memo, which corrected the interest rate memo that was distributed on June 4, 1999. The June 4th memo contained an error in the interest rate formula for Consolidation Loan made before July 1, 1994. Enclosed are the charts that show the variable interest rates applicable to the Federal Stafford, Federal SLS, Federal PLUS, and Federal Consolidation loan programs for the period of July 1, 1999 - June 30,2000. Interest rates for variable-rate loans under these programs are determined annually, and are based on the bond equivalent rate of either 91-day Treasury Bills or 52-week Treasury Bills auctioned on May 24, 1999, is 4.621 percent, which rounds to 4.62 percent. The bond equivalent rate for 52-week Treasury Bills auctioned on May 25, 1999, is 4.879 percent, which rounds to 4.88 percent.

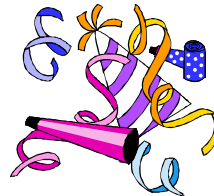


STATE PROGRAMS

Update on the Florida's State Programs

OSFA State Programs has completed the funding cycle for the 1998-99 academic postsecondary year. Programs included the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Florida Student Assistance Grants, and the Florida Resident Access Grants, just to name a few of our larger programs. We are pleased to announce the fiscal support of over \$210,000,000 to eligible students this past year.

Look for the future OSFA Outlook to include articles about Bright Futures initial eligibility criteria for the class of 2000, the many returns from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid application (FAFSA) and more.



CELEBRATING OSFA STAFF

OSFA New Employees

The Office of Student Financial Assistance would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members to the team:

- Darryl Floyd - Research Assistance (Claims)
- Connie Holloway - Research Assistant (Claims)
- Martha Mashburn - Program Specialist III
- Joe Duggar - OSFA Data Center Manager
- Cathy Eaker - Research Assistance (Claims)
- Michelle Carreras - Consumer Complaint Analyst
- Juanita Watkins - Consumer Complaint Analyst
- Miguel Caraballo - Consumer Complaint Analyst
- Lois Johnson - Consumer Complaint Analyst
- Cheryl Botts - Accounting & Finance Director II
- Sandra Maddox - Data Processing Manager
- Marguerite Matthews - Systems Project Administrator

Federal Updates

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All Participants

This index is to assist participants in easily identifying articles of interest.

❖ **Update on the Recipient and Financial Management System (RFMS)**

The Department issued an announcement on May 27, 1999 which provided an update on the Recipient and Financial Management System (RFMS).

The Department has completed their end of testing. As of May 26, 1999-2000 Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) has been sent to TIVWAN mailboxes. The ESOA's provide initial authorization amounts for institutions' GAPS accounts. Beginning on July 1, 1999, these initial authorization amounts will be available to view on the GAPS website (<http://gapsweb.ed.gov>), and will be available for you to draw from GAPS. Note that your GAPS award number has changed for the Pell Grant Program for 1999-2000 and future years. The new number will be available on ESOA.

Also, RFMS has begun accepting origination records. For those that submit origination records during the first week of production, origination acknowledgments will not be received back from RFMS before June 1, 1999.

❖ **Y2K Testing with the CPS**

CPS will be available to schools for Y2K testing. Two six-week sessions have been scheduled for this activity. The first session is June 1 - July 12, 1999. The second session is August 9 - September 20, 1999.

The Y2K test consists of entering FAFSA information for twelve test cases. These test cases are in Adobe PDF format and may be downloaded from the ED web page at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCIO/year/cpstest.html>. If you require assistance, please contact CPS Customer Service at 1-800-330-5947, option 2, or via email at CPS@NCS.COM. There is no charge for CPS Y2K test calls or emails.

NSLDS SSCR Revised Error Edits.

The Department of Education announced on June 2, 1999 the revised NSLDS SSCR error codes, which became effective June 1, 1999. Completion of address fields is no longer required. The list of error codes may be accessed through the Department of Education's website at: <http://ifap.ed.gov>.

If you have any questions concerning these Error codes, please call the NSLDS Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219.

❖ **Update on the Recipient and Financial Management System (RFMS)**

On May 26 the Department began sending your 1999-2000 Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) to your TIVWAN mailbox, and began accepting origination records. The submission and processing of the batches have gone very well. As of June 4, a total of 62 batches from 40 schools had been received. The Department is proud to announce that the processing of batches is proceeding smoothly. The processing of records by the system will continue to be monitored, and close attention will be paid to any feedback you may have in an effort to make sure the Pell Grant processing flows smoothly.

ED Announces New SFA Technical Support Web Site.

SFA Technical Support is a customer service website for the Department's SFA systems and software. It contains general descriptions of all of SFA's systems, as well as frequently asked questions and tips. There is a Feedback page, which allows you to submit recommendation for improvements to the Department's systems and software. Contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all of the systems are listed. There is also information on how to subscribe to and use the new e-mail list serve for technical inquiries, SFATECH. SFA Technical Support is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/sfatech/index.html>.

❖ **HHS Award Notice Update**

This Announcement from the Department of Health and Human Services is to the person(s) responsible for administering the following programs:
Health Professions Student Loan

**Federal
Registers
and Dear
Colleague
Letters**



FEDERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Colleague - DLB-99-29: Direct Loan Repayment Book is Now Available, May 1999.

The newest Direct Loan Repayment Book is available at the Loan Origination Center in Montgomery. The booklet helps students understand the available repayment plans and choose the one that is best for them. Beginning with this edition, the Repayment Book will no longer be year specific. The figures used in the examples, charts, and worksheets are estimates based on current program guidelines. You may order the Repayment Book from the Loan Origination Center by phone at 1-800-848-0978 or fax at 1-800-557-7396.

Dear Guaranty Agency Director - Disaster Letter 99-18: Severe Weather in Illinois, June 1, 1999.

On May 28, the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated Jo Davies county in Illinois to be a disaster area that qualifies for federal assistance under FEMA's Individual Assistance program because of severe storms and flooding that occurred May 16-17. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of that county.

Dear Financial Aid Administrator - CB-99-08, June 1999.

This letter provides information about additional methods by which an institution may submit its request for a waiver of the 1999-2000 Federal Work-Study (FWS) community service expenditure requirement.

Dear Guaranty Agency Director, Disaster Letter 99-20: Severe Weather in Iowa, June 9, 1999.

On June 2, the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated three more counties in Iowa as disaster areas that qualify for federal assistance under

FEMA's Individual Assistance program because of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that began May 16. The most recent letter about this disaster was "Disaster letter 99-17" dated May 24. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of the following counties (new counties in bold): Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, **Butler**, Clayton, **Clinton**, **Crawford**, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Harrison, Jones, and Linn.

❖ Dear Colleague, Ann-99-5, June 1999.

This letter announces three additional Spring Training '99 workshops for Puerto Rico schools and includes agendas and a registration form.

❖ Dear Guaranty Agency Director - Disaster Letter 99-19: Severe Weather in North Dakota, June 9, 1999.

On June 8, the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated the following jurisdictions in North Dakota as disaster areas that qualify for federal assistance under FEMA's Individual Assistance program because of severe storms, tornadoes, snow and ice, flooding, ground saturation, landslides, and mudslides starting March 1: Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward, and Wells counties, and the American Indian reservations of the Devil's Lake Sioux Tribe, the Fort Berthold Tribe, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of those counties and reservations.

Dear Colleague, DLB-99-36, June 1999.

The Department is please to share a press release from Secretary Riley's office which announces several changes for Direct Loan borrowers, including a one-point reduction in the loan origination fee for all

(DLB-99-36 Continued)

borrowers of Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans. The loan origination fee will be reduced from four to three percent.

**Dear Guaranty Agency Director,
Disaster Letter 99-23: Severe Weather in Iowa, June 11, 1999.**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has added Scott County in Iowa as a disaster area that qualifies for federal assistance under FEMA's "Individual Assistance" program because of severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that began May 16. The most recent letter about this disaster was "Disaster letter 99-17" dated May 24. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of the following counties: Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Harrison, Jones, Linn, and Scott.

**Dear Guaranty Agency Director,
Disaster Letter 99-24: Severe Weather In Colorado, June 11, 1999.**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has designated Pueblo Count in Colorado as a disaster area that qualifies for federal assistance under FEMA's "Individual Assistance" program because of severe storms and flooding starting April 29. The most recent letter about this disaster was "Disaster letter 99-16" dated May 18. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of the following counties: Bent, El Paso, Larimer, Otero, Pueblo, and Weld.

**Dear Guaranty Agency Director,
Disaster Letter 99-25: Tornadoes in Kansas, June 11, 1999.**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has designated Reno and Sumner counties in Kansas to be disaster areas that qualify for federal assistance under FEMA's Individual Assistance program because of tornadoes that occurred May 3-4. The most recent letter about this disaster was "Disaster letter 99-11" dated May 5. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of the following counties: Reno, Sedgwick, and Sumner.

**Dear Guaranty Agency Director,
Disaster Letter 99-26: Tornadoes in Texas, June 11, 1999.**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has added Gregg, Red River, and Titus counties in Texas as disaster areas that qualify for federal assistance under FEMA's Individual Assistance program because of tornadoes that occurred May 4. The most recent letter about this disaster was "Disaster Letter 99-12" dated May 7. Guaranty agencies and lenders are authorized to use the Department's disaster-related forbearance policies to assist FFEL borrowers who are residents of the following counties: Bowie, Gregg, Red River, and Titus.

Dear Colleague, ANN-99-06, June 15, 1999.

The Department of Education is pleased to announce Direct Loan Consolidation training. This announcement tells what the training will cover, who should attend, the training dates and locations and how to register.

Dear Colleague, GEN-99-18, Action Letter #1, June 1999.

This letter provides advance information for schools on the changes made to the process for requesting electronic and/or printed Renewal Free Applications for Federal Student (Renewal FAFSA) for the 200-2001 processing cycle.

Dear Colleague, DLB-99-35: Direct Loan Consolidation Training, June 1999.

This bulletin follows up on the recent Dear Colleague letter (ANN-99-06), dated June 15, 1999, which announced Direct Loan Consolidation training. The announcement and this bulletin tell you what topics the training will cover, who should attend, the training dates and locations, and how to register.

Dear Financial Aid Administrator, CB-99-09, June 1999.

This letter accompanies the 1997-98 Federal Perkins Loan Service Cancellations Payment Letter.

❖Federal Register, Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request - Notice - June 4, 1999.

Corrections to the June 1, 1999, Federal Register Notice, document 99-137767 beginning on page 29512.

Federal Register, "Low Income Levels" for Health Professions and Nursing Programs, Notice, June 2, 1999.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is updating income levels used to identify a "low income family" for the purpose of providing training in the various health professions and nursing programs included in titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

The Department periodically publishes in the Federal Register low-income levels used for grants and cooperative agreements to institutions providing training for (1) Disadvantaged individuals, (2) individuals from a disadvantaged background, or (3) low-income families. The programs under the Act that may use "low income levels" as one of the factors in determining a disadvantaged or low-income status are noted in this federal register. Also included is a table of income figures that have been updated to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index through December 31 1998 as well as the definition of Income.

Federal Register, Department of Health and Human Services - Request for Comments for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, June 2, 1999.

The Health Resources and Services Administration announces that applications for fiscal year 1999 for the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program are being accepted under the authority of section 737 of the Public Health Service Act, Title VII, Part B, as amended by the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998, Public Law 105-392, dated November 13, 1998. This notice requesting comment on proposed eligibility criteria preferences and priorities includes updates to information provided in the January 6, 1999, program announcement.

The SDS program provides funds to health professions and nursing schools for the purpose of assisting such schools in providing scholarships to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are

enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) as full-time students in the schools.

Federal Register, Notice of Availability of the Amendments to the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1998-99 School Year, June 1, 1999.

The Secretary of Education announces that the 1998-99 Amendments to the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools have been incorporated into the 1998-99 Directory currently available on the Department of Education's website. Under the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan programs, a borrower may have repayment of his or her loan deferred and a portion of his or her loan canceled if the borrower teaches full-time for a complete academic year in a designated elementary or secondary school having a high concentration of students from low-income families. The 1998-99 Directory lists, on a State-by-State and Territory-by-Territory basis, the schools in which a borrower may teach during the 1998-99 school year to qualify for deferment and cancellation benefits. The Amendments to the Directory identify changes in the list of schools that qualify borrowers for teach cancellation benefits under each of the loan programs.

Federal Register, 34 CFR Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy, June 1, 1999.

The Secretary proposes to amend the regulations implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The amendments are needed to implement sections 951 and 952 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (HEA), and to clarify several existing provisions. Comments must be received by the Department on or before August 2, 1999.

❖ Federal Register, Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records, Notice, June 1, 1999.

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the Acting Chief Information Officer for the Department of Education publishes this Notice of a New System of Records for the Student Account Manager System, as authorized by the Higher

(Federal Register, Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records, Notice, June 1, 1999 Continued)

Education Act of 1965, Title IV-A through IV-H, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1092b). This system contains a database of student accounts containing records of activities relative to Federal loan and grant transactions. The Secretary seeks comments on the proposed routine uses of this system of records. Comments on proposed routine uses for this system of records must be received on or before July 1, 1999.

❖ Federal Register, Notice of revision of the Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2000-2001 Award Year, June 1, 1999.

The Secretary of Education announces the annual updates to the tables that will be used in the statutory "Federal Need Analysis Methodology" to determine a student's expected family contribution (EFC) for award year 2000-2001 under Part F of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (title IV, HEA Programs).

❖ Federal Register, Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request - Notice - June 4, 1999.

The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review regarding the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), including Web-Based Collection on Pricing of Postsecondary Education and the NCES Quick Response Information System. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 6, 1999.

❖ Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests - June 4, 1999.

The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests in regards to the Application to Participate in Federal Student Financial Aid Programs. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 3, 1999.

❖ Federal Register, National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of

Postsecondary Education; Meeting, June 9, 1999.

This notice sets forth the proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory committee Act. Date and time of the meeting is June 28, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW, Washington, DC.

Federal Register, Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for Approval of Nurse Education, June 9, 1999.

The purpose of this notice is to invite written comments on accrediting agencies whose applications to the Secretary for initial or renewed recognition will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on December 6-8, 1999. This notice also invites written comments on agencies submitting interim reports that will be reviewed at the December meeting. Please submit written comments by July 26, 1999, to Nami Randolph, Chief of the Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch, U.S. Department of Education.

Federal Register, 34 CFR Part 685, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, June 16, 1999.

The Secretary proposes to amend the regulations governing the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. These amendments are a result of recently enacted changes to the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) made by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. The proposed regulations would amend the current regulations to: remove references to the phase-in of the Direct Loan Program, update the loan interest rate formulas, and reflect the Secretary's authority to charge reduced loan fees on Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans and to charge reduced interest rates to encourage on-time loan repayment. Comments must be received on or before July 30, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Technical Assistance Workshop, June 17, 1999.

The Secretary announces a technical assistance workshop to assist institutions of higher education in preparing grant applications for the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need *GAANN) Program for the FY 2000 grant competition. For further information on the GAANN Program please refer to Title VII, Part A, Subpart 2 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and 34 CFR Part 648. This information is also located at the Department of Education's website at : <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/HEP/iegps>.

The technical assistance workshop will be held in the Denver metropolitan area from Sunday, July 18, 1999, through Tuesday, July 20, 1999.

Federal Register, 28 CFR Part 92, Interim Final Rule, June 21, 1999.

This interim final rule concerns the timing of Police Corps reimbursements of educational expenses. This rule provides that reimbursements will be made through two equal payments at the start and conclusion of a participant's first year of service. This Interim Final Rule is effective on June 21, 1999. Comments on this rule must be received on or before September 20, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection, June 22, 1999.

The Acting Leader, Information Management Group,

Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the proposed information collection request regarding the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant Programs. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 23, 1999.

Federal Register, Submission for OMB Review, June 23, 1999.

The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review in regards to "What Works" Study for Adult ESL Literacy Students and Student Aid Report (SAR). Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 23, 1999.

Federal Register, 34 CFR Part 685, Federal Direct Loan Program, Final Regulations, May 28, 1999.

The Secretary amends the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program regulations, 34 CFR Part 685. This amendment deletes Appendix A of these regulations and cross-references to Appendix A within Part 685. Future updates to the information in Appendix A of 34 CFR Part 685 will be published in the Federal Register as an annual notice. These regulations take effect July 1, 1999.

Through our commitment to excellence and our dedication to our customers, we will be the best student financial assistance program in the nation.

OSFA