

September/October 1999

NEWS FROM FLORIDA OSFA

What's new?

1999 Fall Training Conference

The Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) & The Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrator (FASF AA) announce the **FIRST EVER** Joint **1999 Fall Training Conference**, Wednesday, December 8th, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 9th, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you are a scholarship coordinator, student loan administrator, or a participating OSFA lender/servicer, you won't want to miss this event! The 1999 Fall Training Conference hosted by the "New" Florida OSFA and FASF AA features presentations on Bright Futures, State Scholarship and Grant Programs, and FFELP programs; electronic showcases; lender activities; nationally recognized guest speakers; electronic access overview; loan origination training and a default prevention discussion. Make your processing easier by learning about our latest products and services for your loans, scholarships, and grants.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of our first joint training conference as the "New" Florida OSFA in collaboration with FASF AA. **REGISTER NOW!** Registration deadline is November 18, 1999. All participants are encouraged to register on-line via E-mail to: krohn@mail.doe.state.fl.us or fax to (850) 410-1960.

For further information, please call Pam Krohn at (850) 488-9718 or Barb Dombrowski at (850) 487-0059.

Preclaims, Claims, and Supplemental Claim Forms.

OSFA provided copies of the Common Manual Preclaim, Claim, and Supplemental Claim Forms in the August 1999 issue of the OSFA Connection. Please disregard the above mentioned forms. It has come to our attention that the forms contain a printing error. OSFA is including a current, correct copy of each of the CCI Forms in this issue of the Florida OSFA Connection. Should you have any questions, please contact the Policy Unit at (850) 921-8948 or Claims Unit at (850) 671-6400.



STATE PROGRAMS

1999 Policy & Training Unit

The OSFA State Programs 1998-99 Annual Report to the Commissioner will be available by the end of October. This report gives useful information and statistics on all of our State programs for the 1998-99 academic year.

Don't forget to contact us if you need technical assistance- (850) 487-0049 or call toll free (888) 827-2004.

Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)

The FSAG Manual is currently being printed for distribution by the end of October. The updated manual lists new rules and procedures that affect administration of the Florida Student Assistance Grant. Upon receipt of the new manual, any previous manuals will be obsolete so look for them soon.

State Student Financial Aid Database Project

Our database project is well underway. We are contracting with KPMG and will share our future kick-off meeting minutes in the next OSFA Connection. Our first goal is a student application for all programs on the Web. We hope this will be available by the first of the year.

OSFA Workshop-

Our first OSFA Workshop will be held December 8-9, 1999. Sessions during this conference will address the FSAG system, Florida Bright Futures activities and an electronic access overview.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program - 7th Semester--Early Notification Eligibility

Eligibility Procedures

- The current systems, the on-line system and FASTER (Florida Automated System For Transferring Educational Records) addresses 91

(production) and 92 - (practice), will continue to be used for 8th semester initial evaluation of 1999 graduates through the next 6-8 months. Next summer, those same addresses will be used for Year 2000 graduates who are being evaluated Based on all high school work.

- The on-line system and FASTER addresses 93 (production) and 94 (practice) will be used for evaluations based on 7th semester (or the term prior to the last term in high school) to be available in late November. Changes in the evaluation program for Year 2000 (removing the FAS Certificate and the GSV 24 credit method as well as adding AP and IB fine arts courses) will be completed at that time.
- Schools and districts who enter Year 2000 seniors in the 92 practice system prior to the availability of the 94 practice system will be able to move those students from 92 to 94 or may resubmit the transcripts to 94 for 7th semester early notification evaluations.
- All Year 2000 graduating students sent to production (address 93) for an early evaluation will receive a letter notifying them of their award status.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to notify the Florida Bright futures Scholarship Program (FBFSP) of their postsecondary institution choice as soon as possible after receipt of the award letter.

Eligibility Evaluation

- Student Authorization Forms must be completed by students prior to the transcript being sent to FASTER address 93 (production system).
- Students must have either completed or be enrolled in all course requirements for the scholarship.
- Transcripts may include up to 1.0 credit of courses in progress in each subject area.
- The grade point average will be based on courses completed. Courses in progress will be used to satisfy required credits only, not for grades.

Thank you for your commitment to learning our new procedures.

(Early Notification Eligibility Continued)

- We will follow the criteria approved by the State University System (SUS) for Year 2000 graduates and allow Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) fine arts courses to be included in the additional four credits to help raise the student's grade point average for initial eligibility.
- Community service hours must be completed for all methods of qualifying for the FAS Award.
- All SAT, ACT, or CPT tests used for 7th semester early notification evaluations must be taken by January 31, 2000. The month of June will continue to be the testing deadline for students being evaluated based on all high school work.

Faster Changes for Transcript Submission to be Effective November 15, 1999

- For dual enrollment courses with an elective (EL) subject area, the evaluation program will default to the state approved subject area. If a subject area other than EL is provided on the transcript, the evaluation program will accept that specification and not use the state approved subject area.
- A FASTER message record will be sent back to the district or school when a transcript is not accepted by the Bright Futures evaluation system. A coding system will be used to indicate why the transcript was not accepted. The district or school can then correct the error and resubmit the transcript.
- The only **early admission indicator** that will be recognized by the FASTER system this year will be the Early Admission flag on the FASTER 101 record.
- New fields will be added to the FASTER record allowing you to transmit National Merit and National Achievement Scholar and Finalist information via the FASTER transcript.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Student Authorization Form Memo

Eligibility processing for 1999 graduates was, from our perspective, a resounding success! The evaluation of 99 percent of our applicants was complete, and colleges and students were notified of the results by the third week in August. There were a few problems, as is inevitable the first time any new procedure is implemented, but you helped us, here at DOE, and we worked through those minor glitches quickly.

Telephone System Overload

A breakdown in our toll-free telephone system occurred briefly in August because of the number of students attempting to notify us of their choice of college or university during a short period of time. We did not anticipate that most students would choose to call rather than return the Data Correction Form provided with the award letter. The overload on the telephone lines not only made it impossible for people to reach us, but also shut down the Sprint system. Sprint was concerned about this overload, too, and made every attempt to correct the situation but with much success.

We believe the implementation of our 7th semester early notification system will help to prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future. And, we will provide a means by which Year 2000 applicants will be able to access their Bright Futures records, update demographic and postsecondary institution information, and possibly view their award status through the Internet. This capability will be available next spring.

Student Authorization Form

The Student Authorization Form (SAF) and its accompanying letter to high school seniors are ready for you to distribute! Please photocopy them and give one to each senior, or early admissions student, interested in applying for The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The SAF, and its accompanying letter, will be on-line at www.firm.edu/doe/brfuture within two weeks. *Remember, a completed SAF held on file at your school is necessary before a student's transcript may be sent to the Bright Futures Production System.*

Revision to Florida Academic Scholarship and Florida Merit Scholarship Evaluation

For Year 2000 graduates, the FBFS evaluation program will be revised to conform to the State University System admissions criteria. The program will allow Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Fine Arts courses to be included in the additional four credits that can be used to help raise the student's grade point average for initial eligibility.

7th Semester Early Notification

The 7th Semester Early Notification Evaluation Program will be ready by early December. Until then, you may continue to use the current 8th semester evaluation system. Details regarding the 7th Semester Early Notification Evaluation Program are enclosed.

Instructions For and Enhancement to the Initial Eligibility (IE) System

We strongly encourage you to change the password to your on-line system every few months to maintain secure information.

Please remove the 1999 graduates from the practice system if you are finished with them. Use the same practice system, as soon as you would like, to begin entering transcripts for your Year 2000 graduates.

Make sure the students know that the Florida Academic Scholars Certificate and Gold Seal Vocational Scholars 24 credit methods are no longer valid. (These methods are identified on the evaluation report as FASC and GSV-U).

The IE program has been enhanced with:

- A new view screen to provide you with the date(s) and type(s) of letter(s) sent to the student (identified on the student list with action button "V").
- The ability to selectively transfer transcripts to production (identified on the student list with action button "X").
- Course flag fields on the course edit screen to be used to designate courses in progress for 7th semester--early notification evaluations (identified on the course edit screen with action button "E").

Examples of these are included for you.

Regional Training

Regional training workshops for all high school guidance counselors will be held in late November and early December. Dates and locations will be determined very soon.

Brochures

Our informational brochure with detailed scholarship requirements is on its way to the printer. We plan to provide you with enough to give one to each and every student in your high school (grades 9-12). Look for them soon!

If you have any question regarding these updates, please call (850) 410-1310.

NSLDS SSCR Y2K Contingency

The Department of Education issued a Dear partner Letter on October 4, 1999, titled NSLDS SSCR Y2K Contingency, which stated that the Department will be taking a precautionary measure to help insure that the computer systems of all parties involved in

enrollment data processing will be immune from Y2K in difficulties. Under this one-time schedule change: All schools (or their servicers) will receive an SSCR file in the beginning of November. This will provide schools/servicers a reasonable recent enrollment status should there be a disruption in reporting come January. Schools will have the usual 30 days to respond to the file and 10 days to correct any errors. Rosters will be produced in January and all subsequent months according to schools' SSCR schedules, just as before. Please review your SSCR schedule using the NSLDS on-line screens.

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

High School and TRIO Counselor Workshops

The U.S. Department of Education announced a series of one-day federal student aid workshops for High School and TRIO counselors. The workshops will be presented from October 1999 through January 2000, the Department will offer forty one-day workshops nation-wide.

Topics include Induction to Student Financial Assistance Programs and General Student Eligibility Criteria, Completing the 2000-2001 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, Hands-on overview of applying electronically through FAFSA on the Web, Getting the Results, What the College Does, and Where to Find Information. Other topics include a review of the federal financial aid delivery system and how an expected family contribution is calculated.

For further information you may contact the Training Branch at 202-205-2667.

NASFAA Fall Training, Reauthorization: Where We Are and Where We're Going

NASFAA has provided a list of sites offering NASFAA's fall workshop Reauthorization: Where We Are and Where We're Going. The workshops will describe the major new requirements and their impact on schools.

Sites and dates of workshops:

- Oct. 27, 1999 - Macon Tech. Instit - Macon, GA.
- Nov. 20, 1999 - Columbia College - Columbia, MO
- Dec. 1, 1999 - Univ. of Kentucky - Lexington, KY.
- Dec. 7, 1999 - Virginia. Commonwealth Univ. - Richmond, VA.

Federal Updates

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All Participants

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

❖ **ED Announcement on FY97 Official Cohort Default Rates.**

The Department mailed the FY 1997 Official Cohort Default Rates to schools via overnight mail on September 29, 1999. The FY 1997 official cohort default rates represent those borrowers that have entered into repayment on certain Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and William Ford Federal Direct Loan (DL) Program loans during FY 1997 and defaulted (or met other specified conditions) during FY 1997 or FY 1998. Additional information on how cohort default rates are calculated and how to appeal an official cohort default rate can be found in the **FY 1997 Official Cohort Default Rate Guide** located in the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website bookshelf or you may contact the Default Management Division at (202) 708-9396 or via email at: OSFA_IPOS_Default_Management_Division@ed.gov.

❖ **GEO: Default Rates Need to Be Computed More Appropriately**

The U.S. General Accounting Office released a report titled "Student Loans: Default Rates Need to Be Computed More Appropriately." The following are portions of the cover letter and the "Results in Brief". The full report can be found on NASFAA's website.

COVER LETTER

Two major federal student loan program, the Federal Family Education Loan program (FFELP) and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program (FDLP), provide funding that is vital to helping students meet their postsecondary education costs. FFELP, formerly known as the guaranteed student loan program, provides loans through private lenders such as banks. These loans are insured against default by state or nonprofit guaranty agencies, which are later reimbursed by the Department of Education. FDLP, often referred to as the direct loan program, provides loans from the federal government through

Students' schools. The first FDLP loans were made in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1994. The Department uses student borrowers' experiences with loans from FFELP and FDLP for determining a school's default rate.

IN fiscal year 1998, these programs provided student borrowers with nearly 8.4 million loans totaling more than \$30 billion. However, when borrowers fail to meet their financial obligations by not repaying their federal student loans, it is the government that ultimately must pay for this failure. For example, the Department of Education paid \$2.1 billion in default claims from these programs in fiscal year 1998. An accurate measure of student loan defaults at colleges, universities and vocational schools is an important means for monitoring the extent of financial risk to the Department from its student loan programs. To protect the government from the costs associated with extremely high rates of default, the Department now excludes schools from program participation if their default rate is 25 percent or more for 3 consecutive years.

You asked us to examine one aspect of the way in which the Department calculates this default rate. The issue involves borrowers who have temporary approval through their lenders or loan services through "deferment " or "forbearance" not to make payments on their loans. In the Department's calculation of a school's default rate, these borrowers are not counted as defaulters, but they do count as a part of the total number of borrowers. The number of borrowers in default is divided by a number larger than the total number of borrowers who are actually repaying their loans. As a result, the default rates are understated.

As agreed with your offices, we focused our work on answering three specific questions with regard to these calculations:

- Over the past several years, has there been an increase in the number of borrowers who entered repayment but subsequently received deferments or forbearances?
- What would have been the effect on the most recent default rates if borrowers whose loans were in deferment or forbearance had been excluded from the default rate calculation?
- Under this alternative method of calculating the default rate, would any additional schools have exceeded the 25-percent default rate threshold?

(Default Rates Need to Be Computed More Appropriately Continued)

Between 1993 and 1996, the percentage of borrowers with loans in deferment or forbearance more than doubled, from 5.2 percent of borrowers who had begun repaying to 11.3 percent. This doubling was consistent across the various types of schools, including 4-year and less-than-4-year public and private schools as well as proprietary schools. According to Department of Education officials, the increase was attributable, in part, to provisions of the 1992 amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 that eased the requirements for obtaining deferments and forbearances as a way of helping minimize loan defaults.

Excluding borrowers with loans in deferment or forbearance entirely from the calculation of the cohort default rate would have had the effect of increasing the overall default rate from 9.6 percent to 10.9 percent for 1996, the most recent cohort year for which data are available. The proportional increases would have been roughly similar for the various types of schools. For example, the rate at 4-year schools would have risen from 6.8 to 7.7 percent, while the rate at proprietary schools would have risen from 18.3 to 20.1 percent.

For the 1996 cohort, excluding borrowers with loans in deferment or forbearance from the calculation would have increased the number of schools with rates exceeding the 25-percent threshold (for excluding schools from the loan programs) by 181 schools, from 352 to 533--an increase of 51 percent. Under the law, these schools would have become ineligible to participate in student loan programs if their cohort default rate had exceeded the threshold for 3 consecutive years. Since 1991, the Department has denied participation in the programs to more than 1,000 schools because their default rates were too high. Most of the additional schools that would have exceeded the threshold under the alternative calculation method were proprietary schools, but 12 were 4-year colleges and universities and 57 were public or private schools with degree programs of less than 4 years. Because of the number of borrowers with loans in deferment or forbearance has been growing, and because the exclusion of these borrowers from the calculation could have a substantial effect on schools' default rates, the Congress may want to consider requiring an alternative method for computing default rates.

Review of Federal Student Financial Aid Regulations

As part of an ongoing process for improving the student financial assistance regulations and in preparation for a report to be submitted to Congress in October, the Department of Education is reviewing its regulations relating to student financial aid. As part of that review, the Department solicited the views of customers and partners - including students, schools, and financial institutions to listening sessions that were held in September. These listening sessions were intended to surface regulatory issues, to identify regulatory sections in need of improvement, and to talk about an ongoing process for regulatory reform.

Following the listening sessions, the Department will synthesize the information collected, as well as their own analysis of the regulations, and present it in a report to Congress in October. The initial report will chronicle the issues identified at the listening sessions and outline the process for continuing the Department's work on regulatory reform.

Reminder About Use of PINs in 1999-2000

The Department issued a friendly reminder that the Department will be mailing PINs (formerly known as Electronic Access Codes or EACs) instead of paper Renewal FAFSAs to students who in 1999-2000 filed web applications or who indicated on their FAFSAs that they were a 5th year undergraduate or a graduate student. In addition, the Department will mail PINs to those students for whom you requested (through the Renewal Application process) that the Department mail PINs instead of paper Renewal FAFSAs.

This mailing will take place between November 22, 1999 and December 31, 1999. Electronic filings have dramatically lower error rates than do the paper versions, so the Department hopes you will remind your students, either through email distribution or through your publications process, that these PINs will be coming to their permanent mailing address. The Department also hopes you will inform your students that these PINs can be used to access their financial aid history through the National Student Loan Data System and the Direct Loan Servicing System.

ED to Permit Students to Make Some FAFSA Corrections on the Web.

The U.S. Department of Education is proud to announce Corrections on the Web for the 1999-2000 school year. This new feature will allow students to make address, phone number, and college choice corrections on the web using an Electronic Access Code (EAC, soon to be renamed PIN). Corrections on the Web are available on the FAFSA on the Web site (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>) and will NOT require that a student submit a paper signature.

In March 2000, the Department will also bring online a full correct feature for the 2000-20001 school year that will allow students to make corrections to all fields on their Student Aid Report (SAR) with the exception of their Social Security Number and Date of Birth.

Electronic Access Guide

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the electronic release of the Electronic Access Guide on the IFAP web site (www.ifap.ed.gov).

The Electronic Access Guide is a reference provided to schools participating in electronic aid processing for the first time. It gives an overview of the steps required to successfully exchange data with ED's data processing centers as well as the implications of using this process along with the school's own operations and equipment. Nine school profiles, along with descriptions of how they implemented electronic processing of financial aid data at their schools, are included. For further information, call (800) 330-5947.

Guidance for Helping Title IV Participants Affected by Hurricane Floyd.

The Department of Education recognizes the severe impact that Hurricane Floyd and its aftermath has had on Title IV participants located in Federally declared natural disaster areas. The Secretary wishes to assist the victims of the hurricane in their recovery by providing certain regulatory relief to students, schools, lenders, and guaranty agencies in their administration of the student financial aid programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. This relief is generally applicable to the 1999-2000 award year (July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000).

Dear Colleague Letter GEN-99-27 supplements the Dear Guaranty Agency letter, published on August 5, 1999 as Disaster Letter 99-28, which provided to lenders and guaranty agencies separate guidance on handling borrowers who are in repayment and have been affected by a natural disaster. Loan holders have been authorized to grant affected borrowers an administrative forbearance for up to three months based on a borrower's request for assistance. A Title IV participant that deviates from otherwise required actions in its administration of the Title IV program on the basis of the guidance in GEN-99-27, must document that fact and indicate what alternative procedures were followed. The Secretary provides guidance and enforcement relief from regulatory requirements in GEN-99-27.

The Secretary believes that it is in the best interest of the FFEL Program to consider each Federal Stafford loan that has not entered repayment and that was not in a default status on the date the borrower's attendance at the school was interrupted due to the disaster to be (or have been) in an "in-school" status and to continue in that status until the school resumes normal operations. This period of disaster-related nonattendance should not result in a borrower entering or using any of his or her grace period.

The Secretary authorizes lenders not to disburse loan proceeds to schools in the affected area according to the originally established disbursement schedules as required, if they have been informed that a school has delayed opening for a scheduled term or has ceased operations for an undetermined period of time. Lenders should await revised disbursement schedules from the affected schools.

The Secretary has provided waivers applicable to FFEL schools located in a disaster area. The Secretary will allow modified timelines for the return of undisbursed funds as specified under the Cash Management section of GEN-99-29. The Secretary will also not enforce the usual deadline for schools to complete and submit required student status confirmation reports to the Secretary or guaranty agency within 30 days of the school's receipt of the report. The Secretary will instead require completion and submission of these reports within 90 days.

To assist participants in complying with the guidance provided in GEN-99-27, the Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance has attached a copy of this letter for your reference.

Department of Education's Approval of the Federal PLUS Loan Application Materials.

The Department issued a Dear Guaranty Agency Director letter, GEN-99-28, which serves as the Department of Education's approval of the Federal PLUS Loan application materials. The application materials include the following documents:

- Application and Promissory Note for Federal PLUS Loan
- Instructions for Completing Federal PLUS Loan Application and Promissory Note
- Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities
- Endorser Addendum to Federal PLUS Loan Application and Promissory Note
- Instructions for Completing Endorser Addendum to Federal PLUS Loan Application and Promissory Note.

The PLUS loan application materials have been revised to include changes made to the Federal Family Education Loan Program by the 1998 Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965. The new application materials also incorporate suggestions made by the financial aid community in response to the Department's May, 1999, request for comments. While changes were made to the text of the application materials, no changes were made to the data collection items. Since the new application materials reflect changes made to the Higher Education Act, agencies and lenders should implement them as soon as possible. At the latest, the new application materials must be used for application issued on or after March 1, 2000. Complete old PLUS forms received by lenders after that date may be processed.

Economic Hardship Deferment Request Form Errors.

It has been brought to the attention of the U.S. Department of Education, that there is an error on one of the Worksheets associated with the recently approved Economic Hardship Deferment Request form. On Worksheet B, Step 3, Item (2) refers to "TOTAL AMOUNT BORROWED from Step 3" in two different places. Actually, the total amount borrower is calculated in Step 2, not Step 3.

In addition, the Economic Hardship Deferment Request form that was provided earlier contained an incorrect OMB number. The OMB number for all of

The Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program deferment forms are 1845-0005.

The Department has corrected these errors and our office has enclosed a copy of the corrected Economic Hardship Deferment Request form as well as a corrected copy of the Worksheet B.

The Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance had previously provided a copy of the new approved deferment forms. Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the corrected Economic Hardship Deferment Request form.

Student Loan Cohort Default Rate for Fiscal Year 1997.

Secretary of Education, Richard Riley gave a statement October 5, 1999, regarding the student loan cohort default rate for fiscal year 1997. Secretary Riley stated that the national rate is 8.8 percent, the lowest ever. A declined for seven straight years since its peak of 22.4 percent in fiscal year 1990.

Secretary Riley feels that default rates are more than an indicator of the health of the student aid programs, that the lower default is one of the many ways that student aid has been strengthened over the past six years:

- Students have saved nearly \$9 billion through lower loan fees and interest rates;
- Taxpayers have saved over \$5 billion thanks to the creation of the Direct Student Loan program and smaller subsidies on guaranteed loans; and
- The Department has expanded student aid opportunities, including providing larger Pell grants; one million work-study opportunities; the new Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits for higher education and training; and the Gear Up and Trio initiatives to help disadvantaged students prepare for college success.

Although these are important improvements, Riley is concerned that Congress is writing a budget that undercuts these accomplishments, rather than building upon them. The House proposal ends dedicated funding for class-size reduction; cuts after-school and reading initiatives; eliminates 64,000 college work-study slots; and provides not one dime to help disadvantaged children succeed in college through Gear Up or to help school districts replace the nation's aging and overcrowded schools. The Senate proposal, while a bit better in some areas, still eliminates the priority for class size and under-funds vital investments in education.

**Federal
Registers
and Dear
Colleague
Letters**



FEDERAL CORRESPONDENCE

❖ **Dear Partner, LEAP-99-2, Fiscal Year 1998 LEAP Performance Report, August 1999.**

Enclosed in this letter is a copy of the LEAP Program Performance Report (ED Form 1288-1) for fiscal year 1998. The LEAP program was formerly known as the State Student Incentive Grant Program. The deadline for receipt of this report is October 1, 1999. Also enclosed is a review sheet to assist in assuring that the performance report is completed properly.

Dear Partner, CB-99-15, Use of State Scholarships and Grants as the Non-Federal Share of Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant Awards - August 1999.

This letter supplements the Campus-Based programs Reference of the 1999-2000 Student Financial Aid Handbook. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, provides that the Federal share of awards under the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program may not exceed 75 percent of such awards. The non-Federal share of FSEOG awards shall be made from an institution's own resources, including institutional scholarships and grants, tuition or fee waivers, State scholarships and grants, and foundation or other charitable organization funds. In response to inquiries concerning the use of State scholarships for this purpose, the Department has determined that all State scholarships and grants, except for Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership awards, are eligible funds that may be used to meet the non-Federal share requirement. LEAP awards, for this purpose, are defined as the Federal LEAP allocation plus the minimum required State matching amount. The remaining State grant amounts are considered non-LEAP awards and therefore can be used to meet the non-Federal share requirement.

❖ **Dear Financial Aid Administrator, CB-99-16, Campus-Based Programs Funding Formula Changes for the 2000-2001 Award Year, September 1999.**

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 made several changes to the funding formulas that are used to calculate awards made to institutions that participate in the Campus-Based programs. This letter details those changes and explains how your institution's Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program funding allocations for award year 2000-2001 will be calculated. In addition, this letter requests that you verify the enclosed new 2000-2001 guarantee for each of the Campus-Based programs for your institution.

❖ **Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-99-25, Action Letter #4, September 1999.**

This letter is a follow-up to Action Letter #1 (June 1999) on the 2000-2001 Renewal Application Process. It provides step-by-step instructions and tips to schools wishing to request electronic files and/or printed materials for the 2000-2001 Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

❖ **Dear Colleague Letter, ANN-99-9: October 7, 1999 SFA Satellite Videoconference, September 1999.**

The Department of Education announced a satellite videoconference to be presented October 7, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST. The title of the program is "Power Up for 2000: Application and Delivery System Updates." If you were unable to participate in the live videoconference, you may borrow a videotaped copy. Call 1-800-FED-AID approximately two weeks after the videoconference to borrow a tape.

Dear Financial Aid Administrator, CB-99-18: Reminder about the FISAP, September 1999.

This letter is a reminder that in late July, 1999 the Department mailed to you, or your servicer, materials for the electronic submission of the Fiscal Operations Report for 1998-1999 and Application to Participate for 2000-2001 (FISAP) for the Campus-Based Programs. If you or your servicer did not receive this package, please call TIVWAN/NCS at (800) 615-1189 immediately.

❖ Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-99-26, Ordering Bulk Quantities of 2000-2001 Application Materials, September 1999.

The Department of Education announced that their Web-based ordering system is available for ordering supplies of 2000-2001 application materials. You can access the system from their "Information for Financial Aid Professionals" (IFAP) web site by selecting Bulk Publication Ordering System from the list of links on the left-hand side of the IFAP main page. Please remember that you will need your school's OPEID number to place an order. Materials available for ordering are:

- The 2000-2001 Free Application for Federal Student Aid in English and Spanish.
- The Student Guide.
- Funding Your Education.

Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-99-27, Guidance for Helping Title IV Participants Affected by Hurricane Floyd, September 1999.

The Department recognizes the severe impact that Hurricane Floyd and its aftermath has had on Title IV participants located in Federally declared natural disaster areas. As he has done in the past, the Secretary wishes to assist the victims of the hurricane in their recovery by providing certain regulatory relief to students, schools, lenders, and guaranty agencies in their administration of the student financial aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. This relief is generally applicable to the 1999-2000 award year (July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000).

Dear Guaranty Agency Director, GEN-99-28, Federal PLUS Loan Application, September 1999.

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Dear Guaranty Agency Director, GEN-99-29, Economic Hardship Deferment Request Form Error, October 1999.

It has been brought to the attention of the Department that there is an error on one of the Worksheets associated with the recently approved Economic Hardship Deferment Request form.

Dear Colleague, GEN-99-30, 99-G-322, 99-L-215: Notice of Approval of Extension of the Expiration Date for Federal Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note, September 1999.

This letter serves as the Department of Education's notice of approval of the extension of the expiration date and new Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) control number for the revised Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized) Master Promissory Note (MPN).

When the Office of Management and Budget approved the revised Federal Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note, it was under control number 1840-0742 with an expiration date of September 30, 1999. The Department applied for an extension of that expiration date and OMB responded with a new expiration date of 08/31/2002. Further, all former Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) paperwork control numbers are being converted to Student Financial Assistance (SFA) control numbers. OMB gave this revised Stafford Loan MPN a new SFA control number of 1945-0006.

Dear Partner, ANN-99-11: SFA COACH Computer-Based Training, October 1999.

This letter introduces the Department's new "SFA University." SFA COACH is a computer-based introductory training course covering all major SFA topics. You may access SFA COACH at: www.ifap.ed.gov.

❖Federal Register, 38 CFR Part 21, Increased Allowance for Educational Assistance Test Program, Final Rule, August 17, 1999.

The law provides that rates of subsistence allowance and educational assistance payable under the Educational Assistance Test Program shall be adjusted annually by the Secretary of Defense based upon the average actual cost of attendance at public institutions of higher education in the twelve-month period since the rates were last adjusted. After consultation with the Department of Education, the Department of Defense has concluded that the rates for the 1998-99 academic year should be increased by 5% over the rates payable for the 1997-98 academic year. The regulations dealing with these rates are amended accordingly. This rule is effective as of August 17, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests, August 18, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests regarding the Evaluation of Effective Adult Basic Education Programs and Practices, Income Contingent Repayment Plan Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information, Income Contingent Repayment Plan Alternative Documentation of Income, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program Statutory Forbearance Forms, and the Designation of Exemplary and Promising Programs. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 18, 1999.

Federal Register, Applications for Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program, August 20, 1999.

This is a notice inviting applications for the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program New Awards for Fiscal Year 2000. Deadline for transmittal of applications is November 29, 1999.

Federal Register, Submission for OMB Review, August 24, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review regarding Application for Grants Under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program: Repayment Plan. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 23, 1999.

Federal Register, 34 CFR Part 682 and 685, Proposed Rule, August 10, 1999.

The Secretary proposes to amend the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program regulations and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program regulations. These proposed regulations are needed to implement recently enacted changes to the Higher Education Act of 1965 made by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. The proposed regulations deal with provisions of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 that affect FFEL borrowers, schools, lenders, and guaranty agencies and Direct Loan borrowers and schools. These proposed regulations seek to improve the efficiency of Federal student aid programs, and, by so doing, to improve their capacity to enhance opportunities for postsecondary education. Comments must be received on or before September 15, 1999.

Federal Register, Review of Regulations Under title IV of the HEA of 1965, as amended, August 26, 1999.

The Department solicits advice and recommendations from interested parties regarding a review of the regulations for programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, amended. Written comments must be received on or before September 30, 1999.

Federal Register, Waiver Request of the Allocation Reduction For The Underuse of Funds, August 31, 1999.

Notice of the closing date for institutions to submit a request for a waiver of the allocation reduction for the underuse of funds under the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs. Schools must request a waiver of the underuse penalty, written explanation and additional documentation to support the explanation by October 1, 1999.

Federal Register, Submission of The Fiscal Operations Report for 1998-99, Notice, August 31, 1999.

This is a notice of the closing date for the submission of the Fiscal Operations Report for 1998-1999 and Application to Participate for 2000-2001 (FISAP) in the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and Federal Work-Study (FWS) Programs (ED FORM 646-1; OMB No. 1840-0073). To ensure consideration for 2000-2001 funds, an institution must submit an electronic FISAP, the FISAP signature page, and the "compliance certifications" form by October 1, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of proposed Information Collection Requests, September 1, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information regarding Electronic Debit Payment Option for Student Loans. The need for an Electronic Debit Account Program will give the borrower another option in which to repay federally funded student loans via automatic debit deductions from their checking accounts. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 1, 1999.

Federal Register, Final Eligibility Criteria, Preferences, and Priorities for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, September 1, 1999.

The Health Resources and Services Administration announces final eligibility criteria, preferences, and priorities for the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Student program, 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. A notice which proposed eligibility criteria preferences, and priorities for the SDS program was published in the Federal Register at 64 FR 29660, dated June 2, 1999. A period of 30 days was established to allow public comment concerning the proposed eligibility criteria, preferences, and priorities. Five comments were received. This notice discusses these comments and sets forth the final eligibility criteria, preferences, and priorities.

The program elements described in this notice are for

use in fiscal year 1999 and beyond and will become effective, except where indicated other wise, for SDS funds awarded to schools in FY 1999 and beyond.

Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests - September 7, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information regarding the Guaranty Agency Quarterly/Annual Report, Guaranty Agency Financial Report, and the Adult Education Annual Performance and Financial Reports. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 8, 1999.

Federal Register, 34 CFR Part 668, Notice of proposed rulemaking, August 10, 1999.

These proposed regulations would govern the disclosure of institutional and financial assistance information provided to students under the student financial assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (Title IV). The proposed regulations implement changes made to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. Comments must be received on or before September 15, 1999.

Federal Register, 34 CFR Parts 600 and 668, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, July 15, 1999.

The proposed regulations amend the regulations that govern institutional eligibility for and participation in the student financial assistance programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. These proposed regulations implement statutory changes made to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. Many of the proposed regulatory changes merely conform current regulatory provisions to the statutory changes. Comments must be received on or before September 13, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Meeting, September 15, 1999.

This notice provides the proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The meeting will be held October 7, 1999 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Washington, DC.

Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests, September 15, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information regarding the Vocational Technical Education Annual Performance and Financial Reports. The information contained in the Annual Performance Reports for Vocational Technical Education is needed to monitor the performance of the activities and services funded under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, Report to Congress on the Levels of Performance Achieved on the core indicators of performance, provide necessary outcome information to meet the Office of Vocational and Adult Education's Government Performance and Results Act goals for Vocational Technical Education, and provide documentation for incentive awards under Title V of the Workforce Investment Act. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 15, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Availability of Funds, September 16, 1999.

The Corporation for National Service announces the availability of up to \$400,000 annually over a three year period to provide technical and administrative support for the President's Student Service Scholarship Program. The deadline for submission of applications is October 25, 1999.

❖ Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests, September 20, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests regarding the Performance Report for the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program. This information collection provides the U.S. Department of Education with information needed to determine if grantees have made substantial progress toward meeting the program's objectives and allow program staff to monitor and evaluate the program. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 19, 1999.

Federal Register, Submission for OMB Review, September 20, 1999.

Comments are invited on the submission for OMB review regarding the Guaranty Agency Monthly Claims and Collections Report. Comment must be received on or before October 20, 1999.

Federal Register, Federal TRIO Program Training, September 21, 1999.

The Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education provided this notice, inviting application for the training program for Federal TRIO Programs (Training Program) New Awards for FY2000. The purpose of the Training Program is to provide grants to train staff and leadership personnel employed in, or preparing for employment in, projects funded under the Federal TRIO Programs to improve the operation of those programs and projects. Deadline for applications is December 10, 1999.

Federal Register, Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and State Approval Agencies, September 23, 1999.

The U.S. Secretary of Education is required by statute to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and State approval agencies (1) whose accreditation or approval is a required element in enabling accredited or approved institutions, programs, or both to establish eligibility to participate in Federal programs and (2) whom the Secretary has determined to be reliable authorities regarding the quality of education or training provided by the institutions or programs these agencies accredit or approve. This document contains the current list of nationally recognized agencies and supersedes any previously published lists of these types of agencies.

Federal Register, Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests, September 28, 1999.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information regarding the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program. The LEAP Program, which was formally known as the State Student Incentive Grant Program, uses matching Federal/State funds to provide a nationwide system of grants to assist postsecondary education students with substantial financial need. On this application the states provide information the Department requires to obligate programs funds and for program management.

Federal Register, 38 CFR Part 21, Montgomery GI Bill--Active Duty: Administrative Error, September 27, 1999.

This document amends the educational assistance and education benefit regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Effective September 27, 1999.

Federal Register, Request for Comments on Revisions to Strategic Plan, September 28, 1999.

The Corporation for National and Community Service requests comments from the public on proposed changes to the Corporation's Strategic Plan. Written comments must be received by December 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Meeting, September 30, 1999.

The purpose of this notice is to announce the public meeting of the National Advisory Committee and invite third-party oral presentations before the Committee. This notice also presents the proposed agenda and informs the public of its opportunity to attend this meeting. The meeting will be held December 6-8, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton Hotel at Pentagon City Mall, Arlington, Virginia.

Federal Register, 38 CFR Part 21, Final Rule, Payments of Educational Assistance, September 30, 1999.

This document amends the educational assistance regulations dealing with the advance payment and lump-sum payment of educational assistance. These regulations are being amended by removing provisions that no longer apply and by making other changes for the purpose of clarification. This will make these regulations easier to use. In addition, this document makes nonsubstantive changes for the purpose of clarification in the educational assistance regulations concerning eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program. Effective date is September 30, 1999.

Federal Register, Notice of Availability of Funds for Loan Repayment Program, October 4, 1999.

The Administration's budget request for fiscal year 2000 includes \$11,000,000 for the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program for health professions educational loans (undergraduate and graduate) in return for full-time clinical service in Indian health programs. It is anticipated that \$11,000,000 will be available to support approximately 275 competing awards averaging \$40,000 per award. This program announcement is subject to the appropriation of funds. Beginning January 14, 2000, application will be evaluated.

Federal Register, Notice of Advisory Committee Meeting, October 8, 1999.

This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming partially closed meeting of the Advisory committee on Student Financial Assistance. The meeting will be held November 2, 1999 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but closed from approximately 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and November 3, 1999 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Federal Register, Notice of Partially Closed Meeting, October 13, 1999.

This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Advisory Council on Education Statistics. Dates of the meeting are October 28-29, 1999.

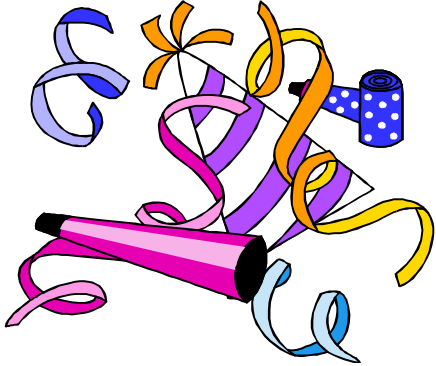
❖ Federal Register, Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year 2000, October 13, 1999.

Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program, Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI); notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 2000. The OERI Visiting Scholars Fellowship Program allows individuals to conduct educational research at the OERI national research institutes in Washington, DC for up to 12 months. For FY 2000 applicants are encouraged to design projects that address the invitational priorities in the Priorities section of this application notice. Deadline for applications is January 24, 2000.

Federal Register, Agency Information Collection Activities, Notice, October 19, 1999.

Periodically, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes abstracts of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget.

The proposed project: Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP) Application (OMB No. 0915-0150)-Revision, has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review. Written comment should be sent within 30 days of this notice to: Wendy A. Taylor, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Rm. 10235, Washington, DC 20503.



CELEBRATING OSFA STAFF

Please join OSFA in welcoming the following new employees:

Financial Operations

Sandra Sidwell - Management Review Specialist

Denise Donaldson - Accountant II

OSFA Data Center

Angela Footman - Automated Scheduling Software Specialist

Program Policy & Institutional Review

David Rabon - Program Specialist II

Outreach & Marketing

Hamida Faquir - Program Specialist III

**Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance
325 West Gaines Street
124 Collins Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400**

OSFA UNIT TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

FEDERAL	
OSFA DIRECTOR	Telephone # (850) 488-4095
	Fax # (850) 488-3612
POLICY & PROCEDURES	Telephone # (850) 921-8948
	Fax # (850) 922-1484
COLLECTIONS	Telephone # (850) 488-6712
	Fax # (850) 922-4503
CLAIMS	Telephone # (850) 671-6400
	Fax # (850) 410-5221
LOAN ORIGINATION	Telephone # 1-800-366-3475
	Fax # (850) 942-8017
OSFA DATA CENTER	Telephone # (850) 671-6400
	Fax # (850) 942-8017
FFELP CUSTOMER SERVICE	Telephone # 1-800-366-3475
	Fax # (850) 942-8017
GENERAL ACCOUNTING	Telephone # (850) 487-0051
	Fax # (850) 413-7443
FFELP ACCOUNTING	Telephone # (850) 671-6400
	Fax # (850) 942-8017
LENDER & SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY	Telephone # (850) 488-7043
	Fax # (850) 410-1960
PROGRAM REVIEWS	Telephone # (850) 488-8122
	Fax # (850) 410-1960
STATE	
STATE PROGRAMS	Telephone # (850) 488-1034
	Fax # (850) 488-5966
GRANTS	Telephone # (850) 488-6181
	Fax # (850) 488-5966
BRIGHT FUTURES	Telephone # (850) 487-3260
	Fax # (850) 487-6244
STATE POLICY & TRAINING	Telephone # (850) 487-0049
	Fax # (850) 488-5966
SCHOLARSHIPS	Telephone # (850) 487-3260
	Fax # (850) 488-5966
SPECIAL INTEREST (STATE)	Telephone # (850) 410-1318
	Fax # (850) 488-5966
TEACHER PROGRAMS	Telephone # (850) 487-1080
	Fax # (850) 488-5966
STATE ACCOUNTING	Telephone # (850) 410-1318
	Fax # (850) 488-5966

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