

§ 686.32

34 CFR Ch. VI (7–1–12 Edition)

(2) Has completed the relevant initial or subsequent counseling as required in § 686.32;

(3) Has signed an agreement to serve as described in § 686.12;

(4) Is enrolled in a TEACH Grant-eligible program; and

(5) If enrolled in a credit-hour program without terms or a clock-hour program, has completed the payment period, as defined in 34 CFR 668.4, for which he or she has been paid a grant.

(b)(1) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress, but changes that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay a TEACH Grant to the student for the entire payment period.

(2) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student enrolled in a TEACH Grant-eligible program is not maintaining the required GPA for a TEACH Grant under § 686.11 or is not pursuing a career in teaching, but changes that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay a TEACH Grant to the student for the entire payment period.

(c) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress or the necessary GPA for a TEACH Grant under § 686.11 or is not pursuing a career in teaching, but changes that determination after the end of the payment period, the institution may not pay the student a TEACH Grant for that payment period or make adjustments in subsequent payments to compensate for the loss of aid for that period.

(d) An institution may make one disbursement for a payment period to an otherwise eligible student if—

(1)(i) The student's final high school GPA is not yet available; or

(ii) The student's cumulative GPA through the prior payment period under § 686.11 is not yet available; and

(2) The institution assumes liability for any overpayment if the student fails to meet the required GPA to qualify for the disbursement.

(e)(1) In accordance with 34 CFR 668.165, before disbursing a TEACH

Grant for any award year, an institution must—

(i) Notify the student of the amount of TEACH Grant funds that the student is eligible to receive, how and when those funds will be disbursed, and the student's right to cancel all or a portion of the TEACH Grant; and

(ii) Return the TEACH Grant proceeds, cancel the TEACH Grant, or both, if the institution receives a TEACH Grant cancellation request from the student by the later of the first day of a payment period or 14 days after the date it notifies the student of his or her right to cancel all or a portion of a TEACH Grant.

(2)(i) If a student requests cancellation of a TEACH Grant after the period of time in paragraph (e)(1)(ii) of this section, but within 120 days of the TEACH Grant disbursement date, the institution may return the TEACH Grant proceeds, cancel the TEACH Grant, or do both.

(ii) If the institution does not return the TEACH Grant proceeds, or cancel the TEACH Grant, the institution must notify the student that he or she may contact the Secretary to request that the TEACH Grant be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070g, *et seq.*)

§ 686.32 Counseling requirements.

(a) *Initial counseling.* (1) An institution must ensure that initial counseling is conducted with each TEACH Grant recipient prior to making the first disbursement of the grant.

(2) The initial counseling must be in person, by audiovisual presentation, or by interactive electronic means. In each case, the institution must ensure that an individual with expertise in title IV, HEA programs is reasonably available shortly after the counseling to answer the student's questions. As an alternative, in the case of a student enrolled in a correspondence program of study or a study-abroad program of study approved for credit at the home institution, the student may be provided with written counseling materials before the grant is disbursed.

(3) The initial counseling must—

(i) Explain the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant agreement to serve as described in § 686.12;

(ii) Provide the student with information about how to identify low-income schools and documented high-need fields;

(iii) Inform the grant recipient that, in order for the teaching to count towards the recipient's service obligation, the high-need field in which he or she has prepared to teach must be—

(A) One of the six high-need fields listed in §686.2; or

(B) A high-need field listed in the Nationwide List at the time and for the State in which the grant recipient begins teaching in that field.

(iv) Inform the grant recipient of the opportunity to request a suspension of the eight-year period for completion of the agreement to serve and the conditions under which a suspension may be granted in accordance with §686.41;

(v) Explain to the student that conditions, such as conviction of a felony, could preclude the student from completing the service obligation;

(vi) Emphasize to the student that if the student fails or refuses to complete the service obligation contained in the agreement to serve or any other condition of the agreement to serve—

(A) The TEACH Grant must be repaid as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan; and

(B) The TEACH Grant recipient will be obligated to repay the full amount of each grant and the accrued interest from each disbursement date;

(vii) Explain the circumstances, as described in §686.43, under which a TEACH Grant will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan;

(viii) Emphasize that, once a TEACH Grant is converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, it cannot be reconverted to a grant;

(ix) Review for the grant recipient information on the availability of the Department's Student Loan Ombudsman's office;

(x) Describe the likely consequences of loan default, including adverse credit reports, garnishment of wages, Federal offset, and litigation; and

(xi) Inform the student of sample monthly repayment amounts based on a range of student loan indebtedness.

(b) *Subsequent counseling.* (1) If a student receives more than one TEACH Grant, the institution must ensure

that the student receives additional counseling prior to the first disbursement of each subsequent TEACH Grant award.

(2) Subsequent counseling may be in person, by audiovisual presentation, or by interactive electronic means. In each case, the institution must ensure that an individual with expertise in title IV, HEA programs is reasonably available shortly after the counseling to answer the student's questions. As an alternative, in the case of a student enrolled in a correspondence program of study or a study-abroad program of study approved for credit at the home institution, the student may be provided with written counseling materials before the grant is disbursed.

(3) Subsequent counseling must—

(i) Review the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant agreement to serve as described in §686.12;

(ii) Emphasize to the student that if the student fails or refuses to complete the service obligation contained in the agreement to serve or any other condition of the agreement to serve—

(A) The TEACH Grant must be repaid as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan; and

(B) The TEACH Grant recipient will be obligated to repay the full amount of the grant and the accrued interest from the disbursement date;

(iii) Explain the circumstances, as described in §686.34, under which a TEACH Grant will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan;

(iv) Emphasize that, once a TEACH Grant is converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, it cannot be reconverted to a grant; and

(v) Review for the grant recipient information on the availability of the Department's Student Loan Ombudsman's office.

(c) *Exit counseling.* (1) An institution must ensure that exit counseling is conducted with each grant recipient before he or she ceases to attend the institution at a time determined by the institution.

(2) The exit counseling must be in person, by audiovisual presentation, or by interactive electronic means. In each case, the institution must ensure that an individual with expertise in title IV, HEA programs is reasonably

available shortly after the counseling to answer the grant recipient's questions. As an alternative, in the case of a grant recipient enrolled in a correspondence program of study or a study-abroad program of study approved for credit at the home institution, the grant recipient may be provided with written counseling materials within 30 days after he or she completes the TEACH Grant-eligible program.

(3) Within 30 days of learning that a grant recipient has withdrawn from the institution without the institution's knowledge, or from a TEACH Grant-eligible program, or failed to complete exit counseling as required, exit counseling must be provided either in-person, through interactive electronic means, or by mailing written counseling materials to the grant recipient's last known address.

(4) The exit counseling must—

(i) Inform the grant recipient of the four-year service obligation that must be completed within the first eight calendar years after completing a TEACH Grant-eligible program in accordance with § 686.12;

(ii) Inform the grant recipient of the opportunity to request a suspension of the eight-year period for completion of the service obligation and the conditions under which a suspension may be granted in accordance with § 686.41;

(iii) Provide the grant recipient with information about how to identify low-income schools and documented high-need fields;

(iv) Inform the grant recipient that, in order for the teaching to count towards the recipient's service obligation, the high-need field in which he or she has prepared to teach must be—

(A) One of the six high-need fields listed in § 686.2; or

(B) A high-need field listed in the Nationwide List at the time and for the State in which the grant recipient begins teaching in that field.

(v) Explain that the grant recipient will be required to submit to the Secretary each year written documentation of his or her status as a highly-qualified teacher in a high-need field at a low-income school or of his or her intent to complete the four-year service obligation until the date that the serv-

ice obligation has been met or the date that the grant becomes a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, whichever occurs first;

(vi) Explain the circumstances, as described in § 686.43, under which a TEACH Grant will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan;

(vii) Emphasize that once a TEACH Grant is converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan it cannot be reconverted to a grant;

(viii) Inform the grant recipient of the average anticipated monthly repayment amount based on a range of student loan indebtedness if the TEACH Grants convert to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan;

(ix) Review for the grant recipient available repayment options if the TEACH Grant converts to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, including the standard repayment, extended repayment, graduated repayment, income-contingent and income-based repayment plans, and loan consolidation;

(x) Suggest debt-management strategies to the grant recipient that would facilitate repayment if the TEACH Grant converts to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan;

(xi) Explain to the grant recipient how to contact the Secretary;

(xii) Describe the likely consequences of loan default, including adverse credit reports, garnishment of wages, Federal offset, and litigation;

(xiii) Review for the grant recipient the conditions under which he or she may defer or forbear repayment, obtain a full or partial discharge, or receive teacher loan forgiveness if the TEACH Grant converts to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan;

(xiv) Review for the grant recipient information on the availability of the Department's Student Loan Ombudsman's office; and

(xv) Inform the grant recipient of the availability of title IV loan information in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS).

(5) If exit counseling is conducted through interactive electronic means, an institution must take reasonable steps to ensure that each grant recipient receives the counseling materials and participates in and completes the exit counseling.

(d) *Compliance.* The institution must maintain documentation substantiating the institution's compliance with this section for each TEACH Grant recipient.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070g, *et seq.*)

§ 686.33 Frequency of payment.

(a) In each payment period, an institution may pay a student at such times and in such installments as it determines will best meet the student's needs.

(b) The institution may pay funds in one lump sum for all the prior payment periods for which the student was eligible under § 686.11 within the award year as long as the student has signed the agreement to serve prior to disbursement of the TEACH Grant. The student's enrollment status must be determined according to work already completed.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070g, *et seq.*)

§ 686.34 Liability for and recovery of TEACH Grant overpayments.

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, a student is liable for any TEACH Grant overpayment made to him or her.

(2) The institution is liable for a TEACH Grant overpayment if the overpayment occurred because the institution failed to follow the procedures set forth in this part or in 34 CFR part 668. The institution must restore an amount equal to the overpayment to its TEACH Grant account.

(3) A student is not liable for, and the institution is not required to attempt recovery of or refer to the Secretary, a TEACH Grant overpayment if the amount of the overpayment is less than \$25 and is not a remaining balance.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if an institution makes a TEACH Grant overpayment for which it is not liable, it must promptly send a written notice to the student requesting repayment of the overpayment amount. The notice must state that failure to make the requested repayment, or to make arrangements satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt to repay the overpayment, makes the student ineli-

gible for further title IV, HEA program funds until final resolution of the TEACH Grant overpayment.

(2) If a student objects to the institution's TEACH Grant overpayment determination, the institution must consider any information provided by the student and determine whether the objection is warranted.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if the student fails to repay a TEACH Grant overpayment or make arrangements satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt to repay the TEACH Grant overpayment, after the institution has taken the action required by paragraph (b) of this section, the institution must refer the overpayment to the Secretary for collection in accordance with procedures required by the Secretary. After referring the TEACH Grant overpayment to the Secretary under this section, the institution need make no further efforts to recover the overpayment.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070g, *et seq.*)

§ 686.35 Recalculation of TEACH Grant award amounts.

(a) *Change in enrollment status.* (1) If the student's enrollment status changes from one academic term to another academic term within the same award year, the institution must recalculate the TEACH Grant award for the new payment period taking into account any changes in the cost of attendance.

(2)(i) If the student's projected enrollment status changes during a payment period after the student has begun attendance in all of his or her classes for that payment period, the institution may (but is not required to) establish a policy under which the student's award for the payment period is recalculated. Any such recalculations must take into account any changes in the cost of attendance. In the case of an undergraduate or post-baccalaureate program of study, if such a policy is established, it must be the same policy that the institution established under 34 CFR 690.80(b) for the Federal Pell Grant Program and it must apply to all students in the TEACH Grant-eligible program.