

submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the PRA Coordinator of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W208C, Washington, DC 20202–8240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202–377–4018.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Federal Direct Loan Program Regulations for Forbearance and Loan Rehabilitation.

OMB Control Number: 1845–0119.

Type of Review: An extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals and Households.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 129,027.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 35,094.

Abstract: This information collection for the Direct Loan (DL) Program regulations is related to regulations for forbearance in § 685.205 and reasonable and affordable loan rehabilitation in

§ 685.211. The Department of Education is requesting an extension without change of the current burden calculated for this information collection. Due to the COVID–19 pandemic and loan payment pause, there is not sufficient information to estimate burden changes. These regulations provide additional flexibilities for DL borrowers and permit oral requests for forbearance, as well as allow a borrower to object to the initially established reasonable and affordable loan repayment amount. In addition, if a borrower incurs changes to his or her financial circumstances, the borrower can provide supporting documentation to change the amount of the reasonable and affordable loan monthly repayment amount. There has been no change to the regulatory language.

Dated: September 8, 2022

Juliana Pearson,

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket ID ED–2022–FSA–0073]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of a new system of records and of the rescindment of two systems of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act), the U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes this notice of a new system of records entitled “Aid Awareness and Application Processing” (18–11–21) and of the rescindment of the system of records notices entitled “Federal Student Aid Application File” (18–11–01) and “Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS)” (18–11–11). The Aid Awareness and Application Processing system of records consolidates the Federal Student Aid Application File and CEMS system of records notices to create a new system of records notice that combines customer information necessary for the Department to process customer applications for Federal student financial program assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); to perform the duties and responsibilities

of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Ombudsman; and, separately, to provide Federal student loan repayment relief including under the borrower defense to repayment regulations. The Department's will use the new Digital and Customer Care (DCC) information technology (IT) system to accomplish these functions and duties. The Department will also use DCC IT to make customers aware of aid program opportunities and updates under title IV of the HEA via digital communication channels and establishes the *StudentAid.gov* website as the front end for assisting customers with all their Federal student financial aid needs throughout the student aid lifecycle.

DATES: Submit your comments on this new system of records notice and rescindment of two system of records notices on or before October 13, 2022.

This new system of records notice will become applicable on September 13, 2022, unless it needs to be changed as a result of public comment, except for the routine uses. The routine uses that are outlined in the section entitled “ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH USES,” will become applicable on October 13, 2022, unless they need to be changed as a result of public comment. The Department will publish any changes to the new system of records notice or routine uses resulting from public comment.

This notice of the rescindment of two system of records notices will become applicable September 13, 2022, unless it needs to be changed as a result of public comment. The Department will publish any changes to the notice of the rescindment of two system of records notice that result from public comment.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *regulations.gov*. However, if you require an accommodation or cannot otherwise submit your comments via *regulations.gov*, please contact the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The Department will not accept comments submitted by fax or by email, or comments submitted after the comment period closes. To ensure that the Department does not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID at the top of your comments.

• *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov* to submit your comments electronically. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including

instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under the “help” tab.

Privacy Note: The Department’s policy is to make all comments received from members of the public available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record: On request, we will provide an appropriate accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this notice. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of accommodation or aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Coghlan, Central Processing System (CPS)—System Manager, Student Experience and Aid Delivery, Federal Student Aid (FSA), U.S. Department of Education (Department), Union Center Plaza (UCP), 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202–5454. Telephone: (202) 377–3205. Email: Rachel.Coghlan@ed.gov.

Bonnie Latreille, Ombudsman/Director, Ombudsman Group, Federal Student Aid (FSA), U.S. Department of Education (Department), Union Center Plaza (UCP), 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202–5454. Telephone: (202) 377–3726. Email: Bonnie.J.Latreille@ed.gov.

Pardu Ponnappalli, Digital and Customer Care (DCC) Information System Owner, Technology Directorate, Federal Student Aid (FSA), U.S. Department of Education (Department), Union Center Plaza (UCP), 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202–5454. Telephone: (240) 382–5825. Email: Pardu.Ponnappalli@ed.gov.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Privacy Act, the Department proposes to establish a new system of records notice entitled, “Aid Awareness and Application Processing.” This new system of records combines records that previously were maintained in the “Federal Student Aid Application File” (18–11–01) and “Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS)” (18–11–11) systems of records and the Department’s new

Digital and Customer Care (DCC) information technology (IT) system to consolidate the Department’s functions that require personally identifiable information (PII) from customers for purposes of, among other things, the following: processing applications, and determining eligibility and benefits, for Federal student financial program assistance under title IV of the HEA; and providing information and updates about aid program opportunities under title IV of the HEA via digital communication channels.

This new system of records uses the Department’s DCC IT system, which contains a digital platform that provides a unified digital access point, through the *StudentAid.gov* website, to assist aid applicants and recipients (also referred to herein as “customers”) with information about the Federal student financial assistance programs authorized by title IV of the HEA, and application processing throughout the student aid lifecycle. This single unified website consolidates the content and services previously provided across the following Department customer sites: *StudentLoans.gov*, *FSAID.ed.gov*, *NSLDS.ed.gov*, *BorrowerDischarge.ed.gov*, and *FAFSA.gov*. The DCC IT system contains a digital marketing and communications platform that sends digital communications to customers for various purposes which include informing them of title IV, HEA aid marketing campaigns and sending them transactional communications (such as confirmation emails when a user completes an action). The DCC IT system also contains a customer care platform that uses customer information to provide a complete customer view to customer service representatives and the FSA Ombudsman to facilitate improved customer service and better case solution outcomes.

The Department proposes to rescind the system of records notice entitled “Federal Student Aid Application File” (18–11–01). The records in the Federal Student Aid Application File system of records contain information provided by applicants for title IV, HEA program assistance, which is collected from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), for purposes that include, but are not limited to: assisting with the determination, correction, processing, tracking, and reporting of program eligibility and benefits for Federal student financial assistance programs authorized by title IV of the HEA; making a loan or grant; and verifying the identity of the applicant, and the parent(s) of a dependent applicant, and the accuracy of the

information in the system. The Department is rescinding the Federal Student Aid Application File system of records notice because the records previously covered by that system are now covered by the Aid Awareness and Application Processing system of records notice.

The Department proposes to rescind the system of records notice entitled “Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS)” (18–11–11). The records in the CEMS system of records contain information that is used for purposes related to the duties and responsibilities of the FSA Ombudsman; and, separately, to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Department under the Department’s borrower defense to repayment regulations. The purposes of the CEMS system of records include, but are not limited to: verifying the identities of individuals; recording complaints and comments; tracking individual cases, including complaints, borrower defense submissions, general inquiries, and chat sessions, through final resolution; and receiving, reviewing, evaluating, and processing requests for relief under the borrower defense to repayment regulations. The Department is rescinding the CEMS system of records notice because the records previously covered by that system are now covered by the Aid Awareness and Application Processing system of records notice.

Accessible Format: On request to either of the program contact persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit

your search to documents published by the Department.

Richard Cordray,

Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes a new system of records notice entitled “Aid Awareness and Application Processing” (18–11–21):

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

Aid Awareness and Application Processing (18–11–21).

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202. Lee’s Summit Federal Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 200 Space Center Drive, Lee’s Summit, MO 6464–1182. This is where paper applications are stored.

General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) Image and Data Capture (IDC) Center, 1084 South Laurel Road, Building 1, London, KY 40744. The IDC scans paper financial aid documents and correspondence, key-enters the data, and electronically transmits the data and related images to the Central Processing System (CPS) for processing.

Next Generation Data Center (NGDC), 250 Burlington Drive, Clarksville, VA 23927. NGDC hosts the infrastructure that supports CPS applications including backend application processing.

CPS Print Facility, 327 Columbia Pike, Rensselaer, NY 12144. This facility handles print operations.

Salesforce Government Cloud, 415 Mission Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. The system is accessible via the internet to different categories of users, including Department personnel, customers, and designated agents of the Department at any location where they have internet access. This site is the location where customer interactions with contact center support via all inbound and outbound channels (phone, email, chat, webform, email, customer satisfaction survey, fax, physical mail, and controlled correspondence) and customer-provided feedback (complaints, suspicious activities, positive feedback, and dispute cases) are tracked and worked by contractors and the Department. This site also contains workflow management for processing tasks including, but not limited to:

credit appeals, borrower defense to repayment, commingled Social Security numbers (SSNs), and archived document retrieval in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid® (FAFSA) special correction application process. This site stores customer-provided documentation to support the interactions and processing tasks, as needed. This site will also be used by the Department for determining employer eligibility to support Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), and Office of Inspector General (OIG) fraud referrals.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) GovCloud (East/West), 410 Terry Avenue, North Seattle, WA 98109–5210. The Digital and Customer Care (DCC) information technology (IT) system is hosted at this location. This site is the location where the Shado (Dynamo) application collects, processes, stores, and makes available user activity events from across the DCC IT system to provide a complete view of the customer to the Department and its contractors. This site is also the location where the Adobe Marketing Campaign application delivers strategic and real-time personalized email and short message service (SMS) communications.

Contact Center Fulfillment Center (Senture facility), 4255 W. Highway 90, Monticello, KY 42633. This facility handles mail fulfillment and imaging operations.

The following ten listings are the locations of the Aid Awareness and Application Processing Customer Contact Centers:

Jacksonville Contact Center, One Imeson Park Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32118;

Knoxville, TN Servicing Center, 120 N. Seven Oaks Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922;

1600 Osgood Street, Suite 2–120, North Andover, MA 01845;

11499 Chester Road, Suite 101, Sharonville, OH 45246;

100 Domain Drive, Suite 200, Exeter, NH 03833;

221 N Kansas Street, Suite 700, El Paso, TX 79901;

4255 W. Highway 90, Monticello, KY 42633;

555 Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO 65202;

633 Spirit Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63005; and

820 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

CPS—System Manager, Student Experience and Aid Delivery, FSA, U.S.

Department of Education, Union Center Plaza (UCP), 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202–5454.

Ombudsman, FSA, U.S. Department of Education, UCP, 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202–5454.

DCC—Information System Owner, Technology Directorate, Federal Student Aid (FSA), U.S. Department of Education (Department), Union Center Plaza (UCP), 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202–5454.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1070 *et seq.*); 20 U.S.C. 1018(f) and 1087e(h); and the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 (20 U.S.C. 1098bb) (including any waivers or modifications that the Secretary of Education deems necessary to make to any statutory or regulatory provision applicable to the Federal student financial assistance programs under title IV of the HEA to achieve specific purposes listed in the section in connection with a war, other military operation, or a national emergency). The collection of SSNs of individuals, and parents of dependent students, who apply for or receive Federal student financial assistance under programs authorized by title IV of the HEA is also authorized by 31 U.S.C. 7701 and Executive Order 9397, as amended by Executive Order 13478 (November 18, 2008).

PURPOSE(S) OF THE SYSTEM:

The information contained in this system is maintained for the following purposes related to applying for Federal student financial assistance and administering title IV, HEA programs:

(*Note:* Different parts of the HEA use the terms “discharge”, “cancellation” or “forgiveness” to describe when a borrower’s loan amount is reduced in whole or in part by the Department. To reduce complexity, this system of records notice uses the term “discharge” to include all three terms (“discharge”, “cancellation” and “forgiveness”), including but not limited to discharges of student loans made pursuant to specific benefit programs. At times, the system of records notice may refer by name to a specific benefit program, such as the “Public Service Loan Forgiveness” program; such specific references are not intended to exclude any such program benefits from more general references to loan discharges.)

(1) Assisting with the determination, correction, processing, tracking, and reporting of program eligibility and benefits for the Federal student financial assistance programs authorized by title

IV of the HEA, including, but not limited to, discharge of eligible loans under title IV, HEA programs;

(2) Making a loan or grant;

(3) Verifying the identity of the applicant for Federal financial assistance under title IV of the HEA, the spouse of a married applicant, and the parent(s) of a dependent applicant, and the accuracy of the information in this system;

(4) Reporting the results of the need analysis and Federal Pell Grant eligibility determination to applicants, institutions of higher education (IHEs), third-party servicers, State agencies designated by the applicant, and Departmental and investigative components;

(5) Reporting the results of duly authorized matching programs between the Department and other Federal, State, or local agencies to applicants, IHEs, third-party servicers, State agencies designated by the applicant, and Departmental and investigative components where the Department is required by law to do so or where it would be essential to the conduct of the matching program to report, such as for the imposition of criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions;

(6) Enforcing the terms and conditions of a title IV, HEA loan or grant;

(7) Servicing and collecting a delinquent title IV, HEA loan or grant;

(8) Initiating enforcement action against individuals, IHEs, or other entities involved in program fraud, abuse, or noncompliance;

(9) Locating a debtor or recipient of a grant overpayment;

(10) Maintaining a record of the data supplied by those requesting title IV, HEA program assistance;

(11) Ensuring compliance with and enforcing title IV, HEA programmatic requirements and various consumer protection laws;

(12) Acting as a repository and source for information necessary to fulfill the requirements of title IV of the HEA;

(13) Evaluating title IV, HEA program effectiveness;

(14) Enabling IHEs and State grant agencies designated by the applicant to review and analyze the financial aid data of their applicant population;

(15) Enabling IHEs and State grant agencies to assist applicants with the completion of the application for the Federal student financial assistance programs authorized by title IV of the HEA;

(16) Assisting State agencies, eligible IHEs, and other entities that award aid to students and that are designated by the Secretary with making eligibility

determinations for the award of aid and with administering these awards; and

(17) Promoting and encouraging application for title IV, HEA program assistance, State assistance, and aid awarded by eligible IHEs or by other entities designated by the Secretary.

The information contained in this system is also maintained for the following purposes related to managing customer engagement:

(1) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the FSA Ombudsman, including investigating and resolving complaints, inquiries, and requests for assistance, updating borrower account records, correcting errors, analyzing complaint trends, and making appropriate recommendations pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1018(f);

(2) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Department to provide Federal student loan repayment relief under Federal law;

(3) Verifying the identity of FSA customers;

(4) Recording complaints, suspicious activities, positive feedback, and comments as provided by customer interactions with contact center support via inbound and outbound channels (phone, chat, webform, email, customer satisfaction survey, fax, physical mail, social media platforms, digital engagement platforms, and controlled correspondence);

(5) Tracking individual cases, including complaints, borrower defense submissions, general inquiries, and chat sessions, through final resolution, reporting trends, and analyzing the data to recommend improvements in Federal student financial assistance programs;

(6) Assisting in the informal resolution of disputes submitted by aid applicants or aid recipients about issues related to title IV, HEA program assistance;

(7) Carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Department under the borrower defense to repayment regulations at 34 CFR 685.206, including receiving, reviewing, evaluating, and processing requests for relief under the borrower defense to repayment regulations; and

(8) Initiating proceedings, where appropriate, to require IHEs to pay the Department the amounts of the loans on which borrower defense discharges have been granted.

The information contained in this system is also maintained for the following purposes related to assisting aid applicants and recipients with Federal student financial assistance programs authorized by title IV of the HEA, and managing customer

relationships for marketing and improving customer service:

(1) Determining employer qualification for borrowers to receive discharge under the PSLF Program;

(2) Collecting, processing, storing, and making available user activity events and user-submitted documentation from across the DCC IT system to provide a complete view of the customer to the Department and its contractors;

(3) Sending aid applicants and aid recipients strategic and real-time, personalized communications via email, and SMS “text messages” via mobile phone communications to inform them of title IV, HEA aid marketing campaigns (such as encouraging completion of their FAFSA), and sending transactional communication to customers (such as confirmation emails when a user completes an action);

(4) Measuring customer satisfaction and analyzing results; and

(5) Promoting and encouraging the repayment of title IV, HEA program loans in a timely manner.

The information in this system is also maintained for the following purposes relating to the Department’s administration and oversight of title IV, HEA programs:

(1) To support the investigation of possible fraud and abuse and to detect and prevent fraud and abuse in the title IV, HEA Federal grant and loan programs;

(2) To support compliance with title IV, HEA statutory and regulatory requirements;

(3) To provide an aid recipient’s financial aid history, including information about the recipient’s title IV, HEA loan defaults, title IV, HEA aid receipt, and title IV, HEA grant program overpayments;

(4) To facilitate receiving and correcting application data, processing Federal Pell Grants and Direct Loans, and reporting Federal Perkins Loan Program expenditures to the Department’s processing and reporting systems;

(5) To support pre-claims/ supplemental pre-claims assistance;

(6) To assist in locating holders of title IV, HEA loan(s);

(7) To assist in assessing the administration of title IV, HEA program funds by guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders, IHEs, and third-party servicers;

(8) To initiate or support a limitation, suspension, or termination action, an emergency action, or a debarment or suspension action;

(9) To inform the parent(s) of a dependent applicant of information

about the parent(s) in an application for title IV, HEA funds;

(10) To disclose to the parent(s) of a dependent applicant applying for a PLUS loan (to be used on behalf of a student), to identify the student as the correct beneficiary of the PLUS loan funds, and to allow the processing of the PLUS loan application and promissory note;

(11) To expedite the student application process;

(12) To enable an applicant, at the applicant's written request, to obtain information from other Federal agencies' records;

(13) To identify, prevent, reduce, and recoup improper payments, prevent fraud, and conduct at-risk campaigns, including protecting customers from Third-Party Debt Relief firms;

(14) To help Federal, State, Tribal, and local government entities exercise their supervisory and administrative powers (including, but not limited to licensure, examination, discipline, regulation, or oversight of educational institutions, Department contractors, guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders, and third-party servicers) or to respond to individual aid applicant or recipient complaints submitted regarding the practices or processes of the Department and/or the Department's contractors, or to update information or correct errors contained in Department records regarding the aid applicant's or recipient's title IV, HEA program funds;

(15) To provide eligible applicants for title IV, HEA aid, and when necessary, the spouse or parents of an applicant, with information about certain Federal means-tested benefits and services for which they may qualify;

(16) To collect, track, and process Office of Inspector General (OIG) fraud referrals;

(17) To support research, analysis, and development of educational policies in relation to title IV, HEA student aid programs; and

(18) To conduct testing, analysis, or take other administrative actions needed to prepare for or execute programs under title IV of the HEA.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

This system maintains records on individuals who are, were, or may be participants in any of the Federal student financial assistance programs under title IV of the HEA who request assistance, directly or through a designated third party, from the Department.

In addition, this system maintains records on individuals who are students in attendance at a secondary school, as

defined under 20 U.S.C. 7801(45), for which State grant agencies and other eligible requesting entities such as secondary schools, local educational agencies (LEAs), Tribal agencies, or other designated entities that have an established relationship with the student pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Student Aid internet Gateway (SAIG) Participation Agreement for State grant agencies, submit information (e.g., name, date of birth (DOB), and zip code) to the Department in order for the Department to provide such entities with the student's FAFSA filing status information to promote and encourage the student to apply for title IV, HEA program assistance, State assistance, and aid awarded by IHEs or by other entities designated by the Secretary, as currently permitted by Section 483(a)(3)(E) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(E)).

This system also maintains records on student and parent applicants (and their authorized third parties) who apply for Federal student financial assistance under one of the programs authorized under title IV of the HEA, including, but not limited to the: (1) Federal Pell Grant Program; (2) Federal Perkins Loans Program; (3) Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) Program; (4) National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (National SMART) Grant Program; (5) Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program; (6) Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) Program; (7) Direct Loan Program, which includes Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans, Federal Direct PLUS Loans, and Federal Direct Consolidation Loans; (8) Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program; and (9) Federal Insured Student Loan (FISL) Program.

Also, this system contains records on individuals who are the parent(s) of a dependent applicant, or the spouse of a married applicant.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

This system maintains records that contain the following information:

(1) Information provided by applicants for title IV, HEA program assistance on an incomplete or completed FAFSA, including, but not limited to, the applicant's name, address, SSN, DOB, telephone number, driver's license number, email address, citizenship status, marital status, legal residence, status as a veteran, educational status, and Federal tax information and financial information;

(2) Information provided about the parent(s) of a dependent applicant, including, but not limited to, the parent's highest level of schooling completed, marital status, SSN, last name and first initial, DOB, email address, number of people in the household supported by the parent, and income and asset information;

(3) Information on spousal income and assets, for an applicant who is married;

(4) Information provided by IHEs on behalf of student and parent applicants, including, but not limited to, verification results, dependency overrides, and resolution of comment codes or reject codes;

(5) Information on applicants' expected family contributions (EFCs), Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR), and Student Aid Report (SAR). The system determines an applicant's EFC. The EFC is used by IHEs to determine the student's eligibility for Federal and institutional program assistance, by State grant agencies to determine the student's eligibility for State grants, and by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for tribal assistance. The Department notifies the applicant of the results of his or her application via the SAR. The Department provides the IHEs identified on the applicant's FAFSA with the ISIR, which indicates whether there are discrepant or insufficient information, school adjustments, or CPS assumptions that affect processing of the FAFSA. Other information in the system includes, but is not limited to: Secondary EFC (an EFC that is calculated from the full EFC formula and is printed in the financial aid administrator's (FAA) Information section of the ISIR), dependency status, Federal Pell Grant eligibility, duplicate SSN (an indicator that is set to alert ISIR recipients that two applications were processed with the same SSN), selection for verification, Simplified Needs Test (SNT) or Automatic Zero EFC (used for extremely low family income), CPS processing comments, reject codes (explanation for applicant's FAFSA not computing EFC), assumptions made with regard to the student's information due to incomplete or inconsistent FAFSA information, FAA adjustments including dependency status overrides, and CPS record processing information (application receipt date, transaction number, transaction process date, SAR Serial Number, Compute Number, Data Release Number (DRN), a four-digit number assigned to each application), National Student Loan Database System (NSLDS) match results, a bar code, and transaction source);

(6) Information that identifies aid applicant or aid recipient complaints, positive feedback, reports of suspicious activity, requests for assistance, requests for borrower defense relief, requests for PSLF reconsideration, or other inquiries. Such information includes, but is not limited to: written documentation of an aid applicant or aid recipient's complaint, request for assistance, request for relief under the borrower defense regulations, case tracking number, case appeal identifier, or other comment or inquiry; and information pertaining to the aid recipient's or the aid recipient's parent's student financial assistance program account(s) under title IV of the HEA, such as the aid recipient and the aid recipient's parent's name and Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). Information may include the name, address, and phone numbers of the aid recipient's counsel or representative, IHE(s), lender(s), secondary holder(s) or lender(s), guaranty agency(ies), servicer(s), and private collection agency(ies), if applicable, and may contain other loan-level information;

(7) Information provided and generated through customer interactions with contact center support via inbound and outbound channels (phone, chat, webform, email, customer satisfaction survey, fax, physical mail, social media platforms, digital engagement platforms, and controlled correspondence). Information includes, but is not limited to: chat transcripts, email communications, audio recordings of customer calls, and screen recordings of contact center support desktop during customer interactions;

(8) Loan discharge eligibility and verification information for use in determining whether a title IV, HEA debt/loan qualifies for discharge;

(9) Aid recipient's employer information to determine employer qualification for borrowers to receive discharge under PSLF; OIG fraud referral information; and customer support interactions including phone, chat, webform, email, fax, physical mail, and controlled correspondence;

(10) Information for collecting, processing, and storing user activity events from across the DCC IT system: campaign details, delivery details, email/SMS sent timestamp, transaction ID, Federal Account Number (FAN) ID, activity details, activity date, pages/URL accessed, user IP address, user-submitted materials, and user request details;

(11) Information needed to aid in the delivery of strategic and real-time communication to customers, including, but not limited to, first name, last name,

DOB, state of residence, email, phone number, mobile device ID, device data, FAFSA transaction data, uniform resource locator (URL), computer-related data, and customer communication preferences and user-activity (open or clicks) for email and SMS communications.

Note: This system of records also maintains information that is collected in this system and stored in other systems of records. The following information about individuals who apply for or receive a Federal grant or loan under one of the programs authorized under title IV of the HEA is collected in this system and stored in the "Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System" (18-11-02) system of records: applicant identifiers including applicant's name, SSN, and DOB; demographic information, including Federal tax information (tax return status, adjusted gross income, Internal Revenue Service exemptions, and tax year), and enrollment information; borrower's loan(s) information, including information about recipients of Direct Loans, FFEL Program loans, Perkins Loans, and FISL Program loans, such as the period from the origination of the loan through final payment, and milestones, including, but not limited to, consolidation, discharge, or other final disposition including details such as loan amount, disbursements, balances, loan status, repayment plan and related information, collections, claims, deferments, forbearances, and refunds; information about students receiving Federal grants, including recipients of Pell Grants, ACG, National SMART Grants, TEACH Grants, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants, and including grant amounts, grant awards, verification status, lifetime eligibility used (LEU), IASG eligible veteran's dependent indicator, Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship eligibility indicator, and the Pell Grant additional eligibility indicator; Pell Grant collection status indicator and overpayment collection information; promissory notes, Direct Loan Entrance Counseling forms, Federal Student Loan Exit Counseling forms, PLUS Loan Counseling forms, the Annual School Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA), Direct PLUS Loan Requests, endorser addendums, and counseling in the Direct Loan and TEACH Grant programs, such as the date that applicant completed counseling; PLUS Loan credit report information; applicant identifier information for an electronic request to repay a Direct Loan under an income-driven repayment plan and endorser/spouse information, such as the SSN, date that applicant completed the income-driven repayment plan application, and current loan balances; Electronic Direct Consolidation Loan borrower identifier information, such as the borrower's SSN, the date that borrower completed the Federal Direct Consolidation Loan application and promissory note, and current loan balances; and credit check decisions, credit appeals, credit appeal identifiers, and credit history information to support the credit appeal process. Further, information from the "Enterprise Data Management and Analytics Platform Services (EDMAPS)" (18-11-22) system of records is

accessible in the DCC IT system to: allow real-time updates to a customer's identifiers, demographic attributes, address, phone, and email contact details; update customer preference for receiving marketing information via text message; allow the Department and its contractors to identify customers who have completed a customer satisfaction survey; and enable the Department to contact borrowers who have been identified by the Department as potentially having fraudulent activity from a Third-Party Debt Relief (TPDR) company and are at risk of loan default. Information that is modifiable by the customer through *StudentAid.gov* are the following: name, DOB, address, phone number, and email address. The DCC IT system also sends the following information to the EDMAPS system for analytics and reporting: case information including complaints, and OIG fraud referral data. Information includes, but is not limited to: SSN, DOB, address, phone, and email. Additionally, information from Federal Loan Servicers' systems (covered by the "Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)" (18-11-16) system of records) is accessible on *StudentAid.gov* to allow customers to view their relevant Federal Loan Servicer information, payment information, loan information, and to make payments on *StudentAid.gov* as they would on the various Federal Loan Servicer websites. Finally, customers can use *StudentAid.gov* to update their contact information and access financial aid history that is stored in the "National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)" (18-11-06) system of records.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information maintained in this system of records is obtained from applicants, the parents of dependent applicants, and the spouse of married applicants for title IV, HEA program assistance, on the paper FAFSA, Portable Document Format (PDF) FAFSA, the online FAFSA form, and FAFSA by phone; the authorized employees or representatives of authorized entities (namely, IHEs, institutional third-party servicers, FFEL Program lenders, FFEL Program guaranty agencies, Federal loan servicers, State grant agencies, other Federal agencies, and research agencies); and from other persons or entities from which information is obtained following a disclosure under the routine uses set forth below.

The Financial Aid Administrators at IHEs designated by the applicant and IHEs' third-party servicers may correct the records in this system as a result of documentation provided by the applicant or by a dependent applicant's parents, such as Federal income return(s) (Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040), Social Security card(s), and Department of Homeland Security I-551 Permanent Resident Card.

This system maintains information added during CPS processing and

information received from other Department systems, including the NSLDS, the COD System, and the SAIG Participation Management System. The results of matching programs with Federal and non-Federal agencies are added to the student's record during CPS processing. The Department's present matching programs are with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify the SSNs of applicants, and dependent applicants' parent(s), and to confirm the U.S. citizenship status of applicants as recorded in SSA records and date of death (if applicable) of applicants, and dependent applicants' parents, pursuant to sections 428B(f)(2), 483(a)(12), and 484(g) and (p) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1078-2(f)(2), 1090(a)(12), and 1091(g) and (p)); with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to verify the status of applicants who claim to be veterans, pursuant to section 480(c) and (d)(1)(D) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(c) and (d)(1)(D)); with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to confirm the immigration status of applicants for assistance as authorized by section 484(g) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1091(g)); with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to enforce any requirement imposed at the discretion of a court, pursuant to section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, Public Law 100-690, as amended by section 1002(d) of the Crime Control Act of 1990, Public Law 101-647 (21 U.S.C. 862), denying Federal benefits under the programs established by title IV of the HEA to any individual convicted of a State or Federal offense for the distribution or possession of a controlled substance; and with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to identify dependents of U.S. military personnel who died in service in Iraq and Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, to determine if they are eligible for increased amounts of title IV, HEA program assistance, pursuant to sections 420R and 473(b) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1070h and 1087mm(b)).

During CPS processing, the Department's COD System sends information to this system for students who have received a Federal Pell Grant. The CPS uses this information for verification analysis and for end-of-year reporting. These data elements include, but are not limited to: Verification Selection and Status, Potential Over-award Project (POP) indicator, Institutional Cost of Attendance, Reporting and Attended Campus Pell ID and Enrollment Date, and Federal Pell Grant Program information (Scheduled Federal Pell Grant Award, Origination Award Amount, Total Accepted

Disbursement Amount, Number of Disbursements Accepted, Percentage of Eligibility Used At This Attended Campus Institution, and Date of Last Activity from the Origination or Disbursement table).

The CPS also receives applicant information from the Department's NSLDS system each time an application is processed or corrected. This process assesses student aid eligibility, updates financial aid history, and ensures compliance with title IV, HEA regulations. Some of this information appears on the applicant's SAR and ISIR. Title IV, HEA award information is provided to NSLDS from several different sources. Federal Perkins Loan information and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) overpayment information is sent from IHEs or their third-party servicers; the Department's COD System provides Federal Pell Grant and Direct Loan data; and State and guaranty agencies provide information on FFEL loans received from lending institutions participating in the FFEL programs. Financial aid transcript information reported by NSLDS provides aid recipients, IHEs, and third-party servicers with information about the type(s), amount(s), dates, and overpayment status of prior and current title IV, HEA funds the aid recipient has received. FFEL and William D. Ford Federal Direct Student Loan data information reported by NSLDS includes, but is not limited to: (1) Aggregate Loan Data, such as Subsidized, Unsubsidized; Combined Outstanding Principal Balances; Unallocated Consolidated Outstanding Principal Balances, Subsidized, Unsubsidized; Combined Pending Disbursements, Subsidized, Unsubsidized; Combined Totals; and Unallocated Consolidated Totals; (2) Detailed Loan Data, such as Loan Sequence Number; Loan Type Code; Loan Change Flag; Loan Program Code; Current Status Code and Date; Outstanding Principal Balance and Date; Net Loan Amount; Loan Begin and End Dates; Amount and Date of Last Disbursement; Guaranty Agency Code; School Code; Contact Code; and Institution Type and Grade Level; and (3) system flags for Additional Unsubsidized Loan; Capitalized Interest; Defaulted Loan Change; Discharged Loan Change; Loan Satisfactory Repayment Change; Active Bankruptcy Change; Overpayments Change; Aggregate Loan Change; Defaulted Loan; Discharged Loan; Loan Satisfactory Repayment; Active Bankruptcy; Additional Loans; Direct Loan Master Promissory Note; Direct PLUS Loan

Master Promissory Note; Subsidized Loan Limit; and the Combined Loan Limit. Federal Perkins Loan information reported by NSLDS includes, but is not limited to: Cumulative and Current Year Disbursement Amounts; flags for Perkins Loan Change; Defaulted Loan; Discharged Loan; Loan Satisfactory Repayment; Active Bankruptcy; Additional Loans; and Perkins Overpayment Flag and Contact (School or Region). Federal Pell Grant payment information reported includes, but is not limited to: Pell Sequence Number; Pell Attended School Code; Pell Transaction Number; Last Update Date; Scheduled Amount; Award Amount; Amount Paid to Date; Percent Scheduled Award Used; Pell Payment EFC; Flags for Pell Verification; and Pell Payment Change. TEACH Grant Program information includes, but is not limited to: TEACH Grant Overpayment Contact; TEACH Grant Overpayment Flag; TEACH Grant Loan Principal Balance; TEACH Grant Total; and TEACH Grant Change Flag. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants information includes, but is not limited to, Total Award Amount. The Department obtains from and exchanges information that is included in this system of records with IHEs, third-party servicers, and State agencies. These eligible entities register with the SAIG system to participate in the information exchanges specified for their business processes.

Additionally, for individuals who request assistance, directly or through a designated third party, from the Department, information is obtained from individuals (*e.g.*, borrowers), their counsel or representatives, or students or their parents (when the individual is a borrower and depending on whether the individual is a parent or student), Federal agencies, State agencies, IHEs, lenders, private collection agencies, guaranty agencies, accreditors, and from other persons or entities from whom or from which data is obtained following a disclosure under routine uses set forth below.

Note: Customer information that is retrieved from Federal Loan Servicers' IT systems (covered by the system of records notice entitled "Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)" (18-11-16)) is accessible through StudentAid.gov to provide customers with payment and loan information and to enable customers to make loan payments as they would on the various Federal Loan Servicer websites. Information that is collected in this system is stored in and retrieved from the COD System (covered by the system of records notice entitled "Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System" (18-11-02)) to allow: applicants and borrowers to submit Counseling (Entrance, Exit, Financial

Awareness Counseling, PLUS, TEACH Initial, TEACH Exit, TEACH Conversion), Master Promissory Note (MPN), Endorser Addendum, TEACH Agreement to Serve (ATS), Loan Consolidation, Income-Driven Repayment, PLUS Loan Request, and Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA) applications through *StudentAid.gov*; credit check decision, credit appeal, and credit history information to be viewable on *StudentAid.gov* to support credit appeal processing; users to view and search the PSLF employer database as retrieved from the COD System and provide updates to employers' information; and the PDF version of the PSLF/Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF) certification and application form that is generated from the PSLF Help Tool to be accessible. Information is also retrieved from the COD System to provide *StudentAid.gov* functionality for creating and updating customer records. The following information from the EDMAPS system is accessible in the DCC IT system: customer information that is retrieved to allow real-time updates to a customer's identifiers, demographic attributes, address, phone, and email contact details; SMS opt in/out information for customer communication preferences to opt in/out of receiving marketing information via text message; information for customers who have been identified by the Department and its contractors as having completed a customer satisfaction survey; information for borrowers who will be contacted by the Department because they have been identified by the Department as having potentially fraudulent activity from a TPDR company; and information on borrowers who have been identified by the Department and its contractors as being at risk for loan default.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

The Department may disclose information maintained in a record in this system of records under the routine uses listed in this system of records notice without the consent of the individual if the disclosure is compatible with the purposes for which the record was collected. These disclosures may be made on a case-by-case basis or pursuant to a matching agreement that meets the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act). Until June 30, 2023, Section 483(a)(3)(E) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(E)) restricts the use of the information gathered from the electronic version of the FAFSA to the application, award, and administration of aid awarded under title IV of the HEA, aid awarded by States, aid awarded by eligible institutions, or aid awarded by such entities as the Secretary may designate.

(1) *Program Disclosures.* The Department may disclose records from the system of records for the following program purposes:

(a) To verify the identity of the applicant, the spouse of a married applicant, and the parent(s) of a dependent applicant, to determine the accuracy of the information contained in the record, to support compliance with title IV, HEA statutory and regulatory requirements, and to assist with the determination, correction, processing, tracking, and reporting of program eligibility and benefits, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, local, or Tribal agencies;

(b) To provide an applicant's financial aid history to IHEs, guaranty agencies and State agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, and third-party servicers, including information about the applicant's title IV, HEA loan defaults and title IV, HEA grant program overpayments, the Department may disclose records to IHEs, guaranty agencies and State agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, and third-party servicers;

(c) To facilitate receiving and correcting application information, processing Federal Pell Grants and Direct Loans, and reporting Federal Perkins Loan Program expenditures to the Department's processing and reporting systems, the Department may disclose records to IHEs, State agencies, and third-party servicers;

(d) To assist loan holders with the collection and servicing of title IV, HEA loans, to support pre-claims/supplemental pre-claims assistance, to assist in locating borrowers, and to assist in locating students who owe grant overpayments, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

(e) To facilitate assessments of title IV, HEA program compliance, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies and IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, and local agencies;

(f) To assist in locating holders of loans, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, and local agencies;

(g) To assist in assessing the administration of title IV, HEA program funds by guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders in the FFEL Program, IHEs, and third-party servicers, the

Department may disclose records to Federal and State agencies;

(h) To enforce the terms of a loan or grant or to assist in the collection of loan or grant overpayments, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, and local agencies;

(i) To assist borrowers in repayment, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, and local agencies;

(j) To determine the relief that is appropriate if the Secretary grants a borrower defense to repayment discharge application, as well as to pursue repayment of the amount of such discharges against the IHE, the Department may disclose records to Federal, State, and Tribal agencies, accreditors, IHEs, lenders and loan holders, guaranty agencies, third-party servicers, and private collection agencies;

(k) To initiate legal action against an individual or entity involved in an illegal or unauthorized title IV, HEA program expenditure or activity, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

(l) To initiate or support a limitation, suspension, or termination action, an emergency action, or a debarment or suspension action, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, IHEs, third-party servicers, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

(m) To investigate and resolve complaints, inquiries, requests for assistance, requests for Federal student loan repayment relief and other relief under the borrower defense to repayment regulations, and to update borrower account records and to correct errors, the Department may disclose records to guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders participating in the FFEL Program, accreditors, IHEs, third-party servicers, private collection agencies, and Federal, State, and local agencies;

(n) To inform the parent(s) of a dependent applicant of information about the parent(s) in an application for title IV, HEA funds, the Department may disclose records to the parent(s);

(o) To identify the student as the correct beneficiary of the PLUS loan funds, and to allow the processing of the

PLUS loan application and promissory note, the Department may disclose records to the parent(s) applying for the parent PLUS loan;

(p) To encourage a student to complete a FAFSA or to assist a student with the completion of a FAFSA, the Department may disclose the FAFSA filing status of the student to an LEA, a secondary school where the student is or was enrolled, a State, local, or Tribal agency, or an entity that awards aid to students and that has been designated by the Secretary, as currently permitted by Section 483(a)(3)(E) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(E));

(q) To enable an applicant, at the applicant's written request, to obtain information from other Federal agencies' records that will assist the applicant in completing the FAFSA or income-driven repayment plan forms online, the Department may disclose information from this system of records to other Federal agencies, such as the IRS;

(r) To determine an applicant's eligibility for the award of State postsecondary education assistance and for the award of aid by eligible IHEs or by other entities that have been designated by the Secretary, as currently permitted by Section 483(a)(3)(E) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(E)), and to administer those awards, the Department may disclose information from this system of records to State agencies, eligible IHEs, and other entities designated by the Secretary that award aid to students, as currently permitted by Section 483(a)(3)(E) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)(3)(E)); and

(s) To help Federal, State, Tribal, and local government entities exercise their supervisory and administrative powers (including, but not limited to licensure, examination, discipline, regulation, or oversight of IHEs, Department contractors, guaranty agencies, lenders and loan holders, and third-party servicers) or to respond to aid applicant or recipient complaints submitted regarding the practices or processes of the Department and/or the Department's contractors, or to update information or correct errors contained in Department records regarding the aid applicant's or recipient's title IV, HEA program funds, the Department may disclose records to governmental entities at the Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels. These records may include all aspects of loans and grants made under title IV of the HEA in order to permit these governmental entities to verify compliance with applicable debt collection, consumer protection, financial, and other applicable statutory, regulatory, or local requirements. Before

making a disclosure to these Federal, State, local, or Tribal governmental entities, the Department will require them to maintain safeguards consistent with the Privacy Act to protect the security and confidentiality of the disclosed records.

Note: Some information that is maintained in this system of records is also maintained in other Department systems of records and, therefore, may be disclosed pursuant to the routine uses published in those other systems' system of records notices, including the "Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System" (18-11-02), "National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)" (18-11-06), and "Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)" (18-11-16).

(2) *Enforcement Disclosure.* In the event that information in this system of records indicates, either on its face or in connection with other information, a violation or potential violation of any applicable statute, regulations, or order of a competent authority, the Department may disclose the relevant records to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, State, Tribal, or local, charged with the responsibility of investigating or prosecuting that violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, Executive Order, rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto.

(3) *Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Disclosure.*

(a) *Introduction.* In the event that one of the parties listed in sub-paragraphs (i) through (v) of this routine use is involved in judicial or administrative litigation or ADR, or has an interest in judicial or administrative litigation or ADR, the Department may disclose certain records to the parties described in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this routine use under the conditions specified in those paragraphs:

(i) The Department or any of its components;

(ii) Any Department employee in their official capacity;

(iii) Any Department employee in their individual capacity where the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) agrees to or has been requested to provide or arrange for representation of the employee;

(iv) Any Department employee in their individual capacity where the Department has agreed to represent the employee; and

(v) The United States, where the Department determines that the litigation is likely to affect the Department or any of its components.

(b) *Disclosure to the DOJ.* If the Department determines that disclosure of certain records to the DOJ is relevant

and necessary to judicial or administrative litigation or ADR, the Department may disclose those records as a routine use to the DOJ.

(c) *Adjudicative Disclosure.* If the Department determines that it is relevant and necessary to judicial or administrative litigation or ADR to disclose certain records to an adjudicative body before which the Department is authorized to appear or to a person or entity designated by the Department or otherwise empowered to resolve or mediate disputes, the Department may disclose those records as a routine use to the adjudicative body, person, or entity.

(d) *Disclosure to Parties, Counsel, Representatives, and Witnesses.* If the Department determines that disclosure of certain records is relevant and necessary to judicial or administrative litigation or ADR, the Department may disclose those records as a routine use to the party, counsel, representative, or witness.

(4) *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Advice Disclosure.* The Department may disclose records to the DOJ or to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) if the Department determines that disclosure is desirable or necessary in determining whether records are required to be disclosed under the FOIA or the Privacy Act.

(5) *Contract Disclosure.* If the Department contracts with an entity to perform any function that requires disclosing records in this system of records to the contractor's employees, the Department may disclose the records to those employees. As part of such a contract, the Department shall require the contractor to agree to establish and maintain safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of the disclosed records.

(6) *Congressional Member Disclosure.* The Department may disclose the records of an individual to a member of Congress or the member's staff when necessary to respond to an inquiry from the member made at the written request of and on behalf of the individual whose records are being disclosed. The member's right to the information is no greater than the right of the individual who requested it.

(7) *Employment, Benefit, and Contracting Disclosure.*

(a) *For Decisions by the Department.* The Department may disclose a record to a Federal, State, or local agency, or to another public agency or professional organization, maintaining civil, criminal, or other relevant enforcement or other pertinent records, if necessary to obtain information relevant to a

Department decision concerning the hiring or retention of an employee or other personnel action, the issuance of a security clearance, the letting of a contract, or the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefit.

(b) *For Decisions by Other Public Agencies and Professional Organizations.* The Department may disclose a record to a Federal, State, local, or other public agency or professional organization, or the Department's contractor in connection with the hiring or retention of an employee or other personnel action, the issuance of a security clearance, the reporting of an investigation of an employee, the letting of a contract, or the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefit, to the extent that the record is relevant and necessary to the receiving entity's decision on the matter.

(8) *Employee Grievance, Complaint, or Conduct Disclosure.* If a record is relevant and necessary to an employee grievance, complaint, or disciplinary action involving a present or former employee of the Department, the Department may disclose a record from this system of records in the course of investigation, fact-finding, or adjudication to any party to the grievance, complaint, or action; to the party's counsel or representative; to a witness; or to a designated fact-finder, mediator, or other person designated to resolve issues or decide the matter.

(9) *Labor Organization Disclosure.* The Department may disclose records from this system of records to an arbitrator to resolve disputes under a negotiated grievance procedure or to officials of labor organizations recognized under 5 U.S.C. chapter 71 when relevant and necessary to their duties of exclusive representation.

(10) *Disclosure to the DOJ.* The Department may disclose records to the DOJ to the extent necessary for obtaining DOJ advice on any matter relevant to an audit, inspection, or other inquiry related to the programs covered by this system.

(11) *Research Disclosure.* The Department may disclose records to a researcher if the Department determines that the individual or organization to which the disclosure would be made is qualified to carry out specific research related to functions or purposes of this system of records. The Department may disclose records from this system of records to that researcher solely for the purpose of carrying out that research related to the functions or purposes of this system of records. The researcher must agree to establish and maintain safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of the disclosed records.

(12) *Disclosure to the OMB and Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for Federal Credit Reform Act (FCRA) Support.* The Department may disclose records to OMB and CBO as necessary to fulfill FCRA requirements in accordance with 2 U.S.C. 661b.

(13) *Disclosure in the Course of Responding to Breach of Data.* The Department may disclose records to appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when (a) the Department suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records; (b) the Department has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, the Department (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (c) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the Department's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.

(14) *Disclosure in Assisting another Agency in Responding to a Breach of Data.* The Department may disclose records from this system to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the Department determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (a) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or (b) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

(15) *Disclosure of Information to State and Federal Agencies.* The Department may disclose records from this system to (a) a Federal or State agency, its employees, agents (including contractors of its agents), or contractors, or (b) a fiscal or financial agent designated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, including employees, agents, or contractors of such agent, for the purpose of identifying, preventing, or recouping improper payments to an applicant for, or recipient of, Federal funds.

(16) *Disclosure to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).* The Department may disclose records from this system of records to NARA for the purpose of records management inspections conducted under the authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES:

Disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12): The Department may disclose the following information to a consumer reporting agency regarding a valid, overdue claim of the Department: (1) the name, address, taxpayer identification number, and other information necessary to establish the identity of the individual responsible for the claim; (2) the amount, status, and history of the claim; and (3) the program under which the claim arose. The Department may disclose the information specified in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12) and the procedures contained in subsection 31 U.S.C. 3711(e). A consumer reporting agency to which these disclosures may be made is defined at 15 U.S.C. 1681a(f) and 31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(3).

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

System records are paper-based and stored in locked rooms or electronic and stored on secured computer systems and in the cloud.

Paper applications are stored in standard Federal Records Center boxes in locked storage rooms at the contractor facility in London, Kentucky, and then moved to the NARA Federal Records Center listed in the "System Location" section above, where the records are stored until disposed.

Digitized paper applicant records, which include optically imaged documents, are stored on DADS (disks) in a virtual disk library, which is also electronic, in the computer facilities controlled by the Next Generation Data Center (NGDC) in Clarksville, VA.

Records that are collected in this system for applicants of Federal grants or loans are stored in the COD System for individuals who apply under one of the programs authorized under title IV of the HEA, including, but not limited to the: (1) Federal Pell Grant Program; (2) Federal Perkins Loans Program; (3) ACG Program; (4) National SMART Grant Program; (5) TEACH Grant Program; (6) Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Program; (7) Direct Loan Program, which includes Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans and Federal Direct PLUS Loans and Federal Direct Consolidation Loans; (8) FFEL Program; and (9) FISL Program.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

Records in this system pertaining to a title IV, HEA loan applicant, borrower, or grant recipient are indexed and retrieved by a single data element, or a

combination of the following data elements, to include SSN, name, DOB, the academic year in which the applicant applied for title IV, HEA program assistance, and case tracking number. These data elements are also used to retrieve information of title IV, HEA program applicants for and recipients of Federal grants or loans from the COD System (applicant information is collected in this system of records and stored in the COD System).

This system also uses a credit appeal identifier to retrieve credit appeal information from the COD System to support the credit appeal process.

Additionally, this system uses a combination of SSN, DOB, and name data elements to retrieve records from Federal Loan Servicers' systems (covered by the system of records notice entitled "Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)" (18-11-16)) to allow customers to access their relevant Federal Loan Servicer information, payment information, loan information and to make payments on *StudentAid.gov* as they would on the various Federal Loan Servicer websites.

This system also uses customer identifiers to retrieve customer information data from the EDMAPS system (covered by the system of records noticed entitled "Enterprise Data Management and Analytics Platform Services (EDMAPS) System" (18-11-xx)) to allow real-time updates to customer information and communication preferences; and for the Department and its contractors to identify customers who have completed a customer satisfaction survey in the DCC system; who may have potential fraudulent activity from a TPDR company; and who may be at risk for loan default.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

All records maintained in this system are primarily retained and disposed of in accordance with the records schedules listed below. The Department has submitted amendments to these records schedules to NARA for its review and approval.

(a) Department Records Schedule 051: FSA National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) (DAA-0441-2017-0004) (ED 051). (Records covered by ED 051 will not be destroyed until NARA-approved amendments to ED 051 are in effect, as applicable.)

(b) Department Records Schedule 052: Ombudsman Case Files (N1-441-09-21) (ED 052). (Records covered by ED 052 will not be destroyed until NARA-

approved amendments to ED 052 are in effect, as applicable.)

(c) Department Records Schedule 072: FSA Application, Origination, and Disbursement Records (DAA-0441-2013-0002) (ED 072). (Records covered by ED 072 will not be destroyed until NARA-approved amendments to ED 072 are in effect, as applicable.)

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

All users of the system will have a unique user ID with a password. All physical access to the data housed at system locations is controlled and monitored by security personnel who check each individual entering the building for their employee or visitor badge. The computer system employed by the Department offers a high degree of resistance to tampering and circumvention with firewalls, encryption, and password protection. This security system limits data access to Department and contract staff on a "need-to-know" basis and controls individual users' ability to access and alter records within the system. All interactions by users of the system are recorded.

In accordance with the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), as amended by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014, every Department system must receive a signed Authorization to Operate (ATO) from a designated Department official. The ATO process includes a rigorous assessment of security and privacy controls, a plan of actions and milestones to remediate any identified deficiencies, and a continuous monitoring program.

FISMA controls implemented are comprised of a combination of management, operational, and technical controls, and include the following control families: access control, awareness and training, audit and accountability, security assessment and authorization, configuration management, contingency planning, identification and authentication, incident response, maintenance, media protection, physical and environmental protection, planning, personnel security, privacy, risk assessment, system and services acquisition, system and communications protection, system and information integrity, and program management.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

If you wish to gain access to a record in this system, contact the system manager at the address listed above. You must provide necessary particulars

such as your name, SSN, and any other identifying information requested by the Department while processing the request to distinguish between individuals with the same name. Alternatively, to gain access to a record in the system, you may make a Privacy Act request through the U.S. Department of Education, FOIA Service Center at https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/request_privacy.html by completing the applicable request forms. Requests by an individual for access to a record must meet the requirements of the Department's Privacy Act regulations at 34 CFR 5b.5, including proof of identity.

Borrowers are able to access their financial aid history from NSLDS in this system. If you wish to gain access to other records in the NSLDS, please refer to the RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled "National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)" (18-11-06).

For title IV, HEA program applicants and recipients of Federal grants or loans, if you wish to gain access to such information about you from the COD System, please refer to the RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled "Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System" (18-11-02).

If you wish to gain access to the EDMAPS system information that is about you and accessible in this system, please refer to the RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled "Enterprise Data Management and Analytics Platform Services (EDMAPS) System" (18-11-xx).

If you wish to gain access to information in the Federal Loan Servicers' IT systems that is about you and accessible in this system, please refer to the RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled "Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)" (18-11-16).

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

If you wish to contest or change the content of a record about you in the system of records, provide the System Manager with your name, DOB, SSN, and any other identifying information requested by the Department while processing the request to distinguish between individuals with the same name. Identify the specific items to be changed and provide a written justification for the change.

To contest the content of a FAFSA record for the current processing year, send your request to the FOIA Service

Center listed in the Notification Procedures section. The application processing cycle lasts 21 months. For example, for the 2021–2022 award year, applications were accepted from October 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022.

Financial aid history from NSLDS is accessible in this system. To contest name and address records about you, provide the System Manager with your name, DOB, SSN, and any other identifying information requested by the Department while processing the request to distinguish between individuals with the same name. All other financial aid history records from NSLDS must be contested by following the CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES identified in the system of records notice entitled “National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)” (18–11–06).

For title IV, HEA program applicants and recipients of Federal grants or loans, if you wish to contest such information about you, please refer to the CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System” (18–11–02).

To contest information about you in a Federal Loan Servicer IT system, payment information, and loan information that is accessible in this system, please refer to the CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)” (18–11–16).

To contest the EDMAPS system information that is accessible in this system, please refer to the CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “Enterprise Data Management and Analytics Platform Services (EDMAPS) System” (18–11–xx).

Requests to amend a record must meet the requirements of the Department’s Privacy Act regulations at 34 CFR 5b.7.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

If you wish to determine whether a record exists about you in the system of records, contact the system manager at the address listed above. You must provide necessary particulars such as your name, SSN, and any other identifying information requested by the Department while processing the request to distinguish between individuals with the same name. Alternatively, you may make a Privacy Act request through the U.S. Department of Education, FOIA Service Center at https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/request_privacy.html by

completing the applicable request forms.

If you wish to submit a request for notification to determine whether a record exists about you in the COD System as a title IV, HEA program applicant or recipient of a Federal grant or loan, please refer to the NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System” (18–11–02).

Borrowers are able to access their financial aid history from NSLDS in this system. If you wish to submit a request for notification to determine whether a record exists about you in the NSLDS system of records, please refer to the NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)” (18–11–06).

If you wish to submit a request for notification to determine whether a record exists about you in a Federal Loan Servicer IT system, please refer to the NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)” (18–11–16).

If you wish to submit a request for notification to determine whether a record exists about you in EDMAPS system, please refer to the NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES section in the system of records notice entitled “Enterprise Data Management and Analytics Platform Services (EDMAPS) System” (18–11–xx).

Requests for notification about whether the system of records contains information about an individual must meet the requirements of the Department’s Privacy Act regulations at 34 CFR 5b.5, including proof of identity.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

None.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes the rescindment of the system of records notice entitled “Federal Student Aid Application File” (18–11–01):

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

Federal Student Aid Application File (18–11–01).

HISTORY:

The “Federal Student Aid Application File” system of records notice, was published in the **Federal**

Register at 64 FR 30159 (June 4, 1999), modified at 64 FR 72384, 72407 (December 27, 1999), modified at 65 FR 11294 (March 2, 2000), modified at 66 FR 18758 (April 11, 2001), modified at 74 FR 68802 (December 29, 2009), modified at 76 FR 46774 (August 3, 2011), modified at 84 FR 57856 (October 29, 2019), and is being rescinded by this notice.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes the rescindment of the system of records notice entitled “Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS)” (18–11–11):

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS) (18–11–11).

HISTORY:

The “Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS)” (18–11–11) system of records notice was published in the **Federal Register** at 83 FR 27587 (June 13, 2018). Prior to being covered by the CEMS system of records notice, records that are about individuals who have asserted defenses to the repayment of their Federal student loans, also known as “borrower defenses,” pursuant to the Department’s regulations at 34 CFR 685.206, were covered by the system of records notice entitled “Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)” (18–11–16), which was first published in the **Federal Register** at 71 FR 3503 (January 23, 2006), subsequently modified at 79 FR 54685 (September 12, 2014), and last modified at 81 FR 60683 (September 2, 2016). Prior to being covered by the CEMS system of records notice, records that are about individuals who requested assistance from the FSA Ombudsman were covered by the system of records notice entitled “Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman Records” (18–11–11), which was first published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 72384, 72399 (December 27, 1999) and then subsequently modified at 81 FR 12081 (March 8, 2016). The CEMS system of records notice is being rescinded by this notice.

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