

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Amy Hedrick, Policy Analyst

2021 FALL MASFAP CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN

[Registration](#) for the 2021 Fall MASFAP Annual Conference, to be held at The Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, MO November 8th through 10th, is open on the MASFAP website. Sessions include *10 Common Questions Schools Have About Federal Program Reviews, Mistakes You're Making with Your Policies and Procedures*, and *Pandemic Professional Judgments: Balancing Student Needs, Compliance, and Administrative Burden*. This year, conference registration is free and generous contributions will cover the cost of rooms; a reservation will still be required. After registering, attendees who plan to stay at The Lodge will receive a reservation link.

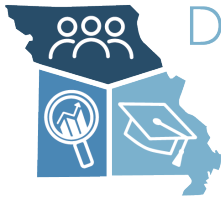
UPDATE ON USE OF “PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT” FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

An August 16, 2021 update to [Dear Colleague Letter](#) GEN-21-02, dated January 29, 2021, urges financial aid administrators to use unemployment documentation to adjust work income to zero and make other Adjusted Gross Income adjustments as necessary due to continuing high levels of unemployment. The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor are also partnering with states to inform Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients of funding opportunities and potential Pell Grant eligibility. Additional information about DE’s initiative to inform UI recipients about post-secondary funding opportunities is in an August 16, 2021 [press release](#).

2021–2022 HIGHER EDUCATION NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING – INTENT TO ESTABLISH RULEMAKING COMMITTEE PUBLISHED

The [Federal Register](#) (86 FR 43609) dated August 10, 2021 announced the intent to establish one rulemaking committee and one subcommittee for the 2021–2022 negotiated rulemaking session. The Affordability and Student Loans Committee will address: Borrower Defense to Repayment, Closed School Discharge, Total and Permanent Disability Discharge, False Certification Discharge, loan repayment plans, interest capitalization on federal student loans, mandatory pre-dispute arbitration and prohibition of class action lawsuits in institutions’ enrollment agreements, Pell Grant eligibility for Prison Education Programs (in the subcommittee), and Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

This year’s rulemaking will be held virtually, with the first session scheduled for October 4–8, 2021; two additional sessions will be held November 1–5, 2021 and December 6–10, 2021. The Prison Education Program Subcommittee will meet for three days each in October and November. The public is invited to observe, with the last 30 minutes of each day reserved for comments; however, viewers must register for each day and/or reserve a time to comment on the U.S. Department of Education’s [Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher Education 2021-22](#)



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webpage. Committee meeting times and meeting recordings and transcripts will also be posted on the webpage. Recordings and transcripts for the June 21–24, 2021 public hearing session are also available there as well.

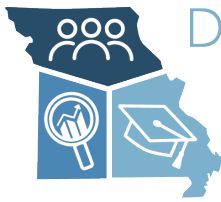
STUDENT LOAN PAUSE EXTENDED

A U.S. Department of Education [press release](#) dated August 6, 2021 announced the final extension of the student loan repayment moratorium to January 31, 2022. Originally set to end on September 30, 2021, “[t]he Department believes this additional time and a definitive end date will allow borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart. The Department will continue its work to transition borrowers smoothly back into repayment, including by improving student loan servicing.”

GUIDANCE & OPERATIONS

Federal Registers, Dear Colleague Letters, and Electronic Announcements regarding guidance and operational information for federal financial aid programs and award years.

- [2021–22 Supplemental Campus-Based Funds \(EA CB-21-11\)](#)
 - [2022–2023 Expected Family Contribution \(EFC\) Formula Guide \(EA APP-21-13\)](#)
 - [2022–20203 Expected Family Contribution \(EFC\) Formula Guide pdf](#)
 - [Third and Final Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2019–20 Award Year \(EA GRANTS-21-08\)](#)
 - [Second Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2020–21 Award Year \(EA GRANTS-21-07\)](#)
 - [Implementation of Return of Title IV Funds \(R2T4\) Regulations \(EA GENERAL-21-50\)](#)
 - [Volume 4 – Processing Aid and Managing FSA Funds \[2021-2022 Federal Student Aid Handbook\] \(EA GENERAL-21-48\)](#)
 - [July 1, 2021 – June 30, 22 FFEL Variable Interest Rate Notice \(86 FR 44000\)](#)
 - [July 1, 2021 – June 30, 22 Direct Loan Variable Interest Rate Notice \(86 FR 44005\)](#)
 - [July 1, 2021 – June 30, 22 Direct Loan Fixed Rate Notice \(86 FR 44000\)](#)
 - [Final 2022–23 FISAP Form, Instructions, and Desk Reference \(Updated Aug. 4, 2021\)](#)
 - [2022–2023 SAR Comment Codes and Text Guide \(EA APP-21-11\)](#)
 - [Fiscal Operations Report for 2020–21 and Application to Participate for 2022–23 Reporting Instructions and](#)
- [2022–23 FAFSA Preview Presentations \(EA APP-21-14\)](#)
 - [Federal Perkins Loan Program – Updated Guidance on Mandatory Assignment of Federal Perkins Loans in Default for More than Two Years \(EA GENERAL-21-53\)](#)



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[Additional Flexibilities Under the CARES Act \(EA CB-21-09\)](#)

INFORMATION & TRAINING

Federal Registers, Dear Colleague Letters, and Electronic Announcements regarding federal financial aid informational sessions, learning opportunities, and published reports.

- [2021 Virtual Federal Student Aid Training Conference – Agendas Now Available \(EA GENERAL-21-47\)](#)
- [Completing the 2022–23 FISAP Online Training Course \(DCL ANN-21-09\)](#)

SYSTEM UPDATES & SOFTWARE

Federal Registers, Dear Colleague Letters, and Electronic Announcements regarding federal student aid systems and software.

- [EDEXpress for Windows 2022–2023 Packaging Technical Reference \(EA EDESUITE-21-04\)](#)
- [2022–2023 Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System Guide \(EA APP-21-12\)](#)
- [2022-2023 Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System Guide \[PDF version\]](#)