

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Amy Hedrick, Policy Analyst

INVITATION TO PARTICPATE – SECOND CHANCE PELL ESI

[Electronic Announcement](#) GENERAL-21-46 announced the expansion of the Second Chance Pell experiment under the Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI) and called for a third round of letters of interest for the 2022 – 2023 academic year. The announcement followed the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which will reinstate Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated borrowers enrolled in certain prison education programs beginning July 1, 2023. Increased participation will provide the U.S. Department of Education with additional data to determine institutional needs for the reinstatement and “to learn more about how to effectively implement the new legislation and provide insight on how best to serve incarcerated students in the future.” Letters of interest must be submitted no later than October 28, 2021. Refer to this electronic announcement and the [Federal Register](#) (80 FR 45964) dated August 2, 2015 for additional information and submission guidance.

2021 – 2022 FAFSA[®] VERIFICATION REQUIREMENT CHANGES

[Dear Colleague Letter GEN-21-05](#) announced changes to the FAFSA[®] verification process due to the on-going

COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning July 13, 2021, for the remainder of the 2021 – 2022 FAFSA[®] processing and verification cycle, most FAFSA[®]/ISIR verifications will be waived except for those related to identity and fraud. The Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose and High School Completion Status under Verification Tracking Groups V4 and V5 will still require verification. Refer to the DCL for COVID-related verification flexibilities and further clarification. *Note:* Conflicting information concerning a student’s eligibility must still be reviewed. See [Electronic Announcement GENERAL-21-45](#) for 2021 – 2022 FSA Handbook Errata and Updates resulting from both the temporary verification waiver and the *FAFSA Simplification Act*.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS (PSLF) PROGRAM

The [Federal Register](#) (86 FR 40029) dated July 26, 2021 requested information on the PSLF program “to identify operational improvements” and “to inform determinations about technical improvements, borrower experiences, policy considerations, or other factors that should be considered to improve access to PSLF.” Comments must be received on or before September 24, 2021 and may be submitted via the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#) or by



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mail; mailed comments must be postmarked by September 24, 2021.

REPEAL OF SULA FAQ ON FSA KNOWLEDGE CENTER

FSA Partner Connect's Knowledge Center (formerly IFAP) has two sections for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the repeal of SULA – the 150% program length lifetime limit on Direct Subsidized Loans – that went into effect on July 1, 2021: [150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Repeal of 150% SULA \(R-\) Frequently Asked Questions](#). FAQs for additional topics are also available in the [Knowledge Center FAQs](#) section.

GUIDANCE & OPERATIONS

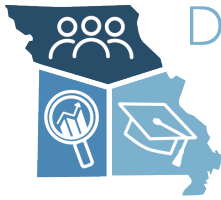
Federal Registers, Dear Colleague Letters, and Electronic Announcements regarding guidance and operational information for federal financial aid programs and award years.

- [Errata and Updates – Volume 1 and Application and Verification Guide \[2021-2022 Federal Student Aid Handbook\]](#) (EA ID: GENERAL-21-45)

- [2021–22 Federal School Code List of Participating Schools \(August 2021\)](#) (EA ID: APP-21-09)
- [2021-2022 Federal School Code List in Excel Format](#)
- [HEAL Program Information – Maximum HEAL Program Interest Rates for Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 2021](#) (EA ID: LOANS-21-07)
- [Federal Need Analysis Methodology for Award Year \(AY\) 2022-23 \(86 FR 38067\)](#)
- [Information about the Reallocation Process, the 2020–21 Campus-Based Reallocation Form, and the Process to Request Supplemental Federal Work-Study Funds for 2021–22](#) (EA ID: CB-21-08)
- [Additional 2019–20 Direct Loan Program Year Closeout Information](#) (EA ID: DL-21-05)
- [2022–2023 ISIR Guide](#) (EA ID: APP-21-07)
- [Guidance and Operational Information for TEACH Grant Regulatory Changes Effective July 1, 2021](#) (EA ID: GRANTS-21-06)

INFORMATION & TRAINING

Federal Registers, Dear Colleague Letters, and Electronic Announcements regarding



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federal financial aid informational sessions, learning opportunities, and published reports.

- [Training Workshops – 2021–22 Fundamentals Training Series \(DCL ANN-21-08\)](#)
- [Reminder: Maintaining Access to Federal Student Aid Systems for Professional Users \(EA ID: GENERAL-21-44\)](#)

SYSTEM UPDATES & SOFTWARE

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

- [2022-2023 Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers \(July 2021 Draft\) \(EA ID: APP-21-08\)](#)
- [COD System Operational Update – Reporting Deadlines and Reminders for CARES Act Relief, Coronavirus Indicator and R2T4 \(EA ID: COD-21-01\) \(Updated July 23, 2021\)](#)