COMPLIANCE UPDATE
By Kim Slote, policy analyst

FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

If you are a Financial Aid Administrator new to your position or you have often thought about becoming a FAA, it might be helpful for you to review session 31 Financial Aid Boot Camp for New Financial Aid Directors from the 2017 FSA Training Conference. This session offers a good overview of the full scope of responsibilities for a Financial Aid Administrator or Director. Even if you have been in your position as a FAA for a while, it is good to do a review to make sure nothing important is slipping through the cracks. The recorded session videos and associated PowerPoint presentations are located at the following links.

- 2017 FSA Training Conference Recorded session videos
  http://www.webcastregister.live/2017fsatc_records/registration_view_catalog_public.php
- 2017 FSA Training Conference PowerPoint Presentations

An important aspect of FAA duties is ensuring sensitive student data are well protected. With security breaches making headline news on a too frequent basis, it is imperative we all take cybersecurity seriously. Two sessions at the FSA Training Conference address these concerns. Session 30 What FAAs need to know about Cybersecurity Initiatives, Data Protection, Identity Theft and Cybersecurity Risk Management is ideal for FAAs and IT managers and provides information about how to protect your school’s student information. Information shared in this session includes:

- A brief overview of recent federal IT security initiatives and how they impact the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, and institutions
- Best practices for managing information and information systems to protect data, prevent identity theft, and provide security
- Identifying the difference between cybersecurity risk management and operational cybersecurity

Cyber threats are a certainty. It is not a question of “if,” but “when” and “how often” threats occur. Do you know when a breach has occurred? When should you report an incident to the USDE and what should you report? The presentation for session 37 Postsecondary Institution
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Data-Security Overview and Requirements defines data security, compliance requirements, and available tools. Additional information and resources are available at the following links.

- FSA Cybersecurity Compliance web page on IFAP
  https://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/Cyber.html
- Updated cybersecurity compliance frequently asked questions.
  https://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/011218UpdatedCyberComplianceFAQ.html