



## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

**For:**

Not-For-Profit COSTEP (NFPCOSTEP)

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### **Federal Student Aid**

**U.S. Department of Education**



**1. System Information. Describe the system - include system name, system acronym, and a description of the system, to include scope, purpose and major functions.**

<b>Information System Name</b>	<b>System Acronym</b>	<b>Operator of the System (on behalf of Federal Student Aid)</b>
Not-For-Profit COSTEP	NFPCOSTEP	Campus Partners

The Not-For-Profit Council for South Texas Economic Progress (NFPCOSTEP) system is operated by Campus Partners to support Federal Student Aid (FSA) and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) Not-For-Profit Loan Servicing Processing operations. Operational capabilities of the system include borrower account management, loan conversion/de-conversion, interim/repayment servicing, payment posting, deferment and forbearance processing, borrower correspondence, call scheduling, collection, skip-tracing and correspondence history files.

The NFPCOSTEP system communicates with the internal FSA platforms, borrowers, other loan servicers, third-party data providers, consumer reporting agencies, guarantors and government agencies (as permitted by the Federal Privacy Act of 1974). Channels of communication include U.S. mail, telephone calls, a secure borrower website, secure email and secure data transfer links.

NFPCOSTEP subcontracts with Campus Partners to manage the NFPCOSTEP system. Campus Partners is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the NFPCOSTEP system.

**2. Legal Authority. Cite the legal authority to collect and use this data. What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and/or agreements regulate the collection of information?**

The Higher Education Act of 1965, As Amended, Section 441 and 461 Title IV, Section 401.

**3. Characterization of the Information. What elements of personally identifiable information (PII) are collected and maintained by the system (e.g., name, social security number, date of birth, address, phone number)? What are the sources of information (e.g., student, teacher, employee, university)? How is the information collected (website, paper form, on-line form)? Is the information used to link or cross-reference multiple databases?**

The NFPCOSTEP system collects and maintains the following PII data pertaining to borrowers/co-borrowers/co-signers/students:

- Full name
- Maiden name
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Bank account numbers
- Student Loan Account number
- Driver's license number and state
- Alien registration number
- Date of birth



- Home address
- Home, work, alternate and mobile telephone number
- Financial information
- Email address
- Employment information
- Related demographic data
- Medical information (to the extent required for purposes of certain deferments and discharge requests)
- Borrower loan information including: disbursement amount, principal balance, accrued interest, loan status, repayment plan, repayment amount, forbearance status, deferment status, separation date, grace period and delinquency status.

The information is obtained from the student/borrower, co-borrowers, co-signers, references provided by the borrower, educational institutions, financial institutions, employers, U.S. Department of Education (DoED), the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and external database (e.g., Directory Assistance, consumer reporting agencies, skip-trace vendors, U.S. Military, commercial person locator services and U.S. Department of the Treasury).

The information is collected via the following channels:

- Phone calls with customer service agents
- Entries via the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) service
- Incoming correspondence (e.g., via U.S. mail, email, etc.)
- Entry via the Borrower Portal Web site (<https://COSTEP.MyEdLoan.com>)
- Bulk file transfer from third-party data providers as required, secure data transmission from DoED applications, such as: NSLDS and Debt Management Collection System (DMCS), etc.
- Secure data transmission from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The information is used in connection with loan processing and servicing activities, such as identity verification and authentication during online account creation and telephone calls, verification between internal databases within the NFPCOSTEP system and data exchange with external trading partner databases such as:

- Consumer reporting agencies
- Lending institutions and other loan servicers
- Directory Assistance
- National Change of Address (NCOA) system
- Educational institutions.

- 4. Why is the information collected? How is this information necessary to the mission of the program, or contributes to a necessary agency activity? Given the amount and any type of data collected, discuss the privacy risks (internally and/or externally) identified and how they were mitigated.**



The information is necessary to uniquely identify borrowers and to service their student loans on behalf of Federal Student Aid. The NFPCOSTEP database assists in tracking information pertinent to the borrower as well as information needed to process and service student loans throughout the loan life cycle. Collection of this information protects Federal Student Aid's fiscal interest by supporting timely and full repayment of loans and enables NFPCOSTEP to assist borrowers with managing their loans. The information is also needed to determine borrower eligibility for entitlements such as deferments, forbearances, discharges and to locate borrowers in cases of invalid addresses and/or telephone numbers. The servicing of student loan functions entails the following:

- Verifying loan detail
- Mailing of forms for loan forbearance, deferment and repayment option modifications
- Mailing/emailing of statements of account
- Mailing of change of address inquiries
- Verifying identity for account management
- Identifying and verifying borrowers during loan conversion/de-conversion
- Scheduling due diligence calls
- Issuing loan discharge and forgiveness claims and correspondence
- Maintaining and preparing loan and account history records and reports
- Planning for audit and program review
- Optimizing internal processes
- Providing information to track refunds/cancellations
- Transmitting loan information to FSA loans central processing platform via DoED applications such as NSLDS, DMCS and Total and Permanent Disability System (TPD).

Privacy risks would result from a breach of NFPCOSTEP's and Campus Partner's security safeguards as implemented on the NFPCOSTEP system, which could compromise the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information. The most likely method of breach would be through unauthorized access that would enable an adversary to disclose, damage the integrity of, or prevent the availability of information. Another type of risk would be a man-made or natural disaster destroying the data center or place of business.

Key Risk Mitigation Measures include:

- Physical security, such as guards, access badges and security cameras protect against unauthorized access to component facilities
- Unauthorized access to the system itself is addressed by network intrusion detection systems, firewall/firewall log monitoring, malware detection and removal software, Virtual Private Networks (VPN) and encryption at the perimeter
- All external electronic transmissions used to receive or send PII data are encrypted
- To protect unauthorized access to NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners employees, audit logs are maintained and reviewed at regular intervals and NFPCOSTEP system access is restricted by limiting the access based on the principle of least privilege



- Unauthorized system use by NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners employees is subject to strict penalties
- All NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners personnel are required to obtain government security clearance, to read and acknowledge the Rules of Behavior and to complete an initial security training and awareness course as well as periodic refresher training
- All NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners infrastructure is located in facilities that leverage appropriate environmental controls
- NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners maintain appropriate systems for redundancy and failover
- Borrower accounts accessed via the IVR or customer service call centers require appropriate authentication
- Borrower accounts accessed via the secure website require multi-factor authentication
- NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners maintain incident response, disaster recovery and business recovery plans to minimize impact of any failures/outages from man-made or natural disasters
- NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners require annual security training for all employees and implement security controls as mandated by the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). Implementation of these controls and associated risks and mitigation is reflected in required security documentation. Additional information regarding risk mitigation and security safeguards is provided in Section 11.

**5. Social Security Number (SSN). If an SSN is collected and used, describe the purpose of the collection, the type of use, and any disclosures. Also specify any alternatives that you considered, and why the alternative was not selected. If system collects SSN, the PIA will require a signature by the Assistant Secretary or designee. If no SSN is collected, no signature is required.**

The SSN is the unique identifier for Title IV programs and its use is required by program participants and their trading partners to satisfy borrower eligibility, loan servicing and loan status reporting requirements under law and regulations. Trading partners include the Department of Education, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), institutions of higher education, national credit bureaus, lenders and servicers.

The NFPCOSTEP system uses the SSN for the following functions:

- To verify identity and determine eligibility to receive a benefit on a loan (such as deferment, forbearance, discharge or forgiveness)
- As a unique identifier in connection with the exchange of information between the NFPCOSTEP system and its trading partners (e.g. educational institutions, financial institutions, loan services and consumer reporting agencies) that is performed in association with the servicing of the loans
- As a data component for submission of loan data to DoED NSLDS and Tax Form 1098-E data to the IRS
- To locate the borrower and to report and collect on the loans in case of delinquency or default.



NFPCOSTEP assigns a unique account number to each borrower that is used to communicate with the borrower in lieu of the SSN. The borrower has the option to use NFPCOSTEP's system account number in place of the SSN during the identification process when communicating with NFPCOSTEP and interacting within the NFPCOSTEP system. In the event the borrower chooses to use the SSN, the NFPCOSTEP system uses the SSN for the following functions:

- To verify borrower identity when establishing an online account with the NFPCOSTEP system. Once the account is created, the borrower receives a User ID and password, which are used for future authentication when using the NFPCOSTEP system borrower portal
- To identify borrowers who call into the IVR or customer service call center.

This unique account number is not an accepted identifier with trading partners or third-party data platforms that interface with the NFPCOSTEP system; the SSN is required for these types of transactions.

- 6. Uses of the Information. What is the intended use of the information? How will the information be used? Describe all internal and/or external uses of the information. What types of methods are used to analyze the data? Explain how the information is used, if the system uses commercial information, publicly available information, or information from other Federal agency databases.**

The information is collected and maintained to enable NFPCOSTEP to perform Federal Student Aid business related to student loans and is necessary to adequately service and ensure successful collection of loans.

The NFPCOSTEP system will employ the information to support the following capabilities:

- Support for its student loan servicing function. Operational capabilities include loan conversion/de-conversion, interim/repayment servicing, payment posting, deferment and forbearance processing, letter generation, call scheduling, collection, skip-tracing, claims and correspondence history files
- Provide three major forms of account management and customer access for borrowers. The NFPCOSTEP system currently provides a secure website where the borrower can access account information and conduct specific loan transactions. The borrower can also place calls for self service via the IVR or to live customer service agents where the full range of loan services is provided. Finally, the borrower can also mail in forms and other correspondence to the NFPCOSTEP system.

External uses of the information include:

- Reporting to consumer reporting agencies for purposes of credit reporting
- Reporting to Directory Assistance to verify telephone numbers
- Exchanging information held by the NSC and educational institutions for purposes of educational data and address verification



- Exchanging information held by the U.S. Postal database for purposes of checking the validity of zip codes entered and validating address updates
- Exchanging information with skip-trace vendors for purposes of verifying/obtaining updated borrower contact information
- Providing information to NSLDS, which is used by educational institutions for purposes of determining eligibility for programs and benefits
- Exchanging information with person locator services which may be used during skip-tracing and collections activities in order to locate the borrower or collect payments.

The data can be analyzed by system processes and by NFPCOSTEP and Campus Partners employees. Specific methods used include manual calculations and analysis of data using desktop query tools and SAS (Statistical Analysis System).

**7. Internal Sharing and Disclosure. With which internal ED organizations will the information be shared? What information is shared? For what purpose is the information shared?**

In accordance with requirements set forth by DoED, the NFPCOSTEP system shares information with DoED to allow it to administer the Direct Loan Program. DoED may disclose information contained in a record in an individual's account in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. NFPCOSTEP shares information with:

- Federal Student Aid and its agents or contractors
- National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)
- Debt Management Collection System (DMCS)
- Total and Permanent Disability (TPD)
- Common Origination and Disbursement System (COD)
- Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG).

Please refer to Section 4, which describes what information is shared, for what purpose the information is shared, the risks to privacy for internal sharing and disclosure and how the risks are mitigated.

**8. External Sharing and Disclosure. With what external entity will the information be shared (e.g., another agency for a specified programmatic purpose)? What information is shared? For what purpose is the information shared? How is the information shared outside of the Department? Is the sharing pursuant to a Computer Matching Agreement (CMA), Memorandum of Understanding or other type of approved sharing agreement with another agency?**

All information described in Section 3 hereof may be shared.

NFPCOSTEP will be required to interface and share information with the following non-Department of Education systems and government entities:

- Internal Revenue Service (including Adjusted Gross Income requests, waiver image processing and 1098E/1099)
- U.S. Department of Treasury ("Treasury") (including Lockbox, Electronic Development Applications vendor, Pay.gov, Remittance Express, Integrated Professional Automation Computer and Ca\$hLinkII)



- United States Postal Service (to obtain updated contact information).

NFPCOSTEP may be required to interface and share information with the following non-governmental entities:

- Educational institutions (to coordinate the management of the loan with the educational institution's financial aid office)
- Direct Loan servicers and other servicers (in connection with conversion or de-conversion of loans to/from the NFPCOSTEP system)
- Independent auditors (SSAE16, FSA auditors)
- National consumer reporting agencies (to obtain updated contact information and enrollment status)
- Person locator services (to obtain updated contact information)
- Other parties as authorized by the borrower (employers, references)
- NCOA (to obtain updated mailing address information)
- Optional support vendors (to provide services to the NFPCOSTEP system in connection with NFPCOSTEP servicing of DoED loans).

NFPCOSTEP does not share the information with any external entities except to process and service the borrower's loans and as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974. The information is only shared as required to complete Federal Student Aid business related to the student loans. Information shared outside of the Department of Education is shared through secure encrypted transmissions and email.

Sharing of information with Federal government agencies will be pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) and/or pursuant to other contractual or regulatory requirements. Sharing of information with certain other entities (consumer reporting agencies, independent program participants, etc.) will be pursuant to contractual or regulatory requirements or through sharing agreements between the applicable entities and the Department of Education.

See response to Section 4 hereof to review the risk to privacy from external sharing and disclosure and how the risks are mitigated.

Additionally:

- All information is protected by multi-factor authentication and monitored by automated and manual controls
- Data is housed within Campus Partners' sub-contractors' secure data center facilities
- All data is encrypted or otherwise secured, as appropriate, as it moves between the NFPCOSTEP system and DoED systems, government systems, schools, guaranty agencies, lenders, servicers, independent auditors, private collection agencies, national consumer reporting agencies, the United States Postal Service, person locator services, NCOA and any approved entity.



**9. Notice. Is notice provided to the individual prior to collection of their information (e.g., a posted Privacy Notice)? What opportunities do individuals have to decline to provide information (where providing the information is voluntary) or to consent to particular uses of the information (other than required or authorized uses), and how individuals can grant consent?**

A privacy notice/policy is presented to the borrower via the following channels:

- Pursuant to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, DoED's privacy notice is sent to the borrower by letter or email upon purchase of the loan by DoED and on an annual basis thereafter for the life of the loan
- A privacy notice is provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and on the FAFSA online application website ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))
- A privacy policy is also posted on NFPCOSTEP's secure borrower portal website (<https://COSTEP.MyEdLoan.com>)
- In order to establish an online account on the NFPCOSTEP system secure borrower portal website, the borrower must agree to the Terms of Service which incorporates the privacy policy by reference and link.

We will send a written Privacy Notice to borrowers, which is included in their Welcome Package, when they initially convert to the NFPCOSTEP system and annually thereafter.

In order to establish an online account on the NFPCOSTEP secure borrower Web site, the borrower must agree to the terms of service, which incorporates the privacy policy by reference and link.

The borrower has the opportunity to decline to provide information to the NFPCOSTEP; however, providing certain information is required in order to (i) communicate with the NFPCOSTEP through its secure borrower Web site or the NFPCOSTEP's customer service call center, or (ii) receive certain benefits on a loan (such as deferment, forbearance, discharge, or forgiveness).

NFPCOSTEP does not use the information except to process and service the borrower's ED loans and as permitted by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We reserve the right to change our Online Consumer Information Privacy Policy. Any changes to our Online Consumer Information Privacy Policy will be reflected in the updated version displayed at our corresponding website.

**10. Web Addresses. List the web addresses (known or planned) that have a Privacy Notice.**

<https://COSTEP.MyEdLoan.com/app/COSTEP/privacy>

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**11. Security. What administrative, technical, and physical security safeguards are in place to protect the PII? Examples include: monitoring, auditing, authentication, firewalls, etc. Has a C&A been completed? Is the system compliant with any federal security requirements?**



The NFPCOSTEP system has implemented the following groups of technical and operational security controls:

Campus Partners monitors and controls communications at the external boundary of the network and at key internal end-points within the system and only connects to external networks or information systems through managed interfaces consisting of boundary protection devices arranged in accordance with the agencies' security architecture.

#### Campus Partners Controls

Campus Partners utilizes the following boundary protection devices:

- **Multiprotocol Label Switch (MPLS) VPN Network** - Campus Partners has a router that connects with the remote servicers over an MPLS VPN connection. Access to the connection, both ingress and egress, is protected by firewall ACLs. Encryption is used to secure communications that both originate and are destined from Campus Partners to the remote servicers
- **Remote VPN** – Campus Partners has configured its VPN to prohibit split tunneling and by default VPN connections leaving the Campus Partners network are denied
- **Network Routes** – Campus Partners utilizes routes on network devices to control traffic flow to and from managed interfaces
- **Network Segmentation** – Campus Partners' network architecture is designed to segment users on their own network segment, separate from servers. Also, application and database servers are segmented as well
- **Firewalls** – Campus Partners employs stateful firewalls to prevent unauthorized users from accessing Campus Partners internal resources. The firewalls are configured with an implicit deny rule for all traffic that is not explicitly allowed
- **Email Gateway** – Campus Partners employs a secure email gateway, which monitors, deletes and quarantines email containing spam and viruses and also monitors PII data that is sent insecurely
- **DMZ** – Publicly accessible information systems are located within Campus Partners DMZ and separated from Campus Partners internal network
- **Content Filter** – The Campus Partners content/URL filtering device blocks access to inappropriate content and social media websites. Users receive a block page when trying to access these sites
- **Intrusion Protection System (IPS)** – Campus Partners maintains a current industry standard intrusion protection monitoring system that protects its infrastructure against suspicious activity, which could be an attack or unauthorized attempt to access data. Campus Partners actively monitors the intrusion monitoring system and is notified of high risk events via alerts to their mobile devices. Campus Partners Incident Response Plan has escalation procedures to notify FSA personnel in the event of a security breach. Attack alerts are sent to Security Staff 24x7x365 via mobile devices and email. In addition, these devices are configured to automatically detect critical attacks and take immediate automated action to block the attacking system(s). Traffic passing between internal and external systems is severely locked down to minimize the possibility of exploitation or compromise



- **Data Leakage Protection (DLP)** – Campus Partners currently has a DLP solution in place to protect PII.

#### NFPCOSTEP & Campus Partners Controls

Other operating policies include regular security and patch updates, a centrally monitored configuration management plan, database backup and operations redundancy/failover guidelines and disposal of key operating assets.

Physical access to Campus Partners' facilities is secured by computer-based networked security system. Individually programmed access cards enable employees and authorized entities to access the facilities. Video images from all cameras are continuously captured and digitally recorded and stored for a minimum of thirty days. Visitors entering the facilities must provide a valid form of photo identification and sign in and out using the visitor log at the security desk. Visitors are escorted from the security desk to and from their destination by the business unit they are visiting.

All personnel accessing the NFPCOSTEP system are required to obtain a government security clearance and complete federal security awareness training as well as periodic refresher training.

A Contingency Plan and Incident Response Plan are maintained.

These controls are buffered by security policies that include significant event recording and audit.

In accordance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), the NFPCOSTEP system is scheduled to conduct an independent Security Assessment in December, 2012 as the first step toward obtaining a FISMA Authorization to Operate (ATO) for DoED Title IV Student Financial Aid Servicing contract.

The NFPCOSTEP system is compliant with the following Federal Standards and Guidelines:

- Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA)
- Privacy Act of 1974
- E-Government Act of 2002
- Federal Information Security Controls Audit Manual (FISCAM)
- Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) on IT Security
- NIST SP 800-30, Risk Management Guide for Information Technology Systems, July 2002
- NIST SP 800-34, Rev. 1, Contingency Planning Guide for Federal Information Systems, May 2010
- NIST SP 800-35, Guide to Information Technology Security Services, October 2003
- NIST SP 800-37, Rev. 3, Guide for Applying the Risk Management Framework to Federal Information Systems, February 2010



- NIST SP 800-40, Procedures for Handling Security Patches, November 2005
- NIST SP 800-41, Guidelines on Firewalls and Firewall Policy, September 2009
- NIST SP 800-42, Guidelines on Network Security Testing, October 2003
- NIST SP 800-44, Rev. 2, Guidelines on Security Public Web Servers, September 2007
- NIST SP 800-45, Rev. 2, Guidelines on Electronic Mail Security, February 2007
- NIST SP 800-47, Security Guide for Interconnecting Information Technology Systems, August 2002
- NIST SP 800-50, Building an Information Technology Security Awareness Program, October 2003
- NIST SP 800-53, Rev. 3, Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems, August 2009
- NIST SP 800-55, Rev. 1, Performance Measurements Guide for Information Security, July 2008
- NIST SP 800-58, Security Considerations for Voice Over IP Systems, January 2005
- NIST SP 800-60, Rev. 1, Volume 1, Guide for Mapping Types of Information and Information Systems to Security Categories, August 2008
- NIST SP 800-60, Rev. 1, Volume 2, Appendices to Guide for Mapping Types of Information and Information Systems to Security Categories, August 2008
- NIST SP 800-61, Rev. 1, Computer Security Incident Handling Guide, March 2008
- NIST SP 800-64 Rev. 2, Security Considerations in the Systems Development Life Cycle, October 2008
- NIST SP 800-65, Integrating IT Security into the Capital Planning and Investment Control Process. January 2005
- NIST SP 800-70, Rev. 2, National Checklist Program for IT Products: Guidelines for Checklists Users and Developers, February 2011
- NIST SP 800-77, Guide to IPsec VPNs, December 2005
- NIST SP 800-81, Rev. 1, Secure Domain Name System (DNS) Deployment Guide, April 2010
- NIST SP 800-83, Guide to Malware Incident Prevention and Handling, November 2005
- NIST SP 800-88, Guidelines for Media Sanitization, September 2006
- NIST SP 800-92, Guide to Computer Security Log Management, September 2006
- NIST SP 800-94, Guide to Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS), February 2007
- NIST SP 800-95, Guide to Secure Web Services, August 2007
- NIST SP 800-97, Establishing Wireless Robust Security Networks: A Guide to IEEE 802.11i, February 2007
- NIST SP 800-111, Guide to Storage Encryption Technologies for End User Devices, November 2007
- NIST SP 800-113, Guide to SSL VPNs, July 2008
- NIST SP 800-122, Guide to Protecting the Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information, April 2010
- NIST SP 800-123, Guide to General Server Security, July 2008
- NIST SP 800-124, Guidelines on Cell Phone and PDA Security, October 2008



Department of Education Policies:

- Department of Education Handbook for Information Technology Security
- Department of Education Handbook for Information Technology Security General Support System and Major Application Inventory Procedures
- Department of Education Handbook for Certification and Accreditation Procedures
- Department of Education Handbook for Information Technology Security Configuration Management Procedures
- Department of Education Handbook for Information Technology Security Contingency Planning Procedures
- Department of Education Information Technology Security Test and Evaluation Plan Guide
- Department of Education Incident Handling Program Overview
- Department of Education Handbook for Information Technology Security Incident Handling Procedures
- Department of Education Information Technology Security Training and Awareness Program Plan.

**12. Privacy Act System of Records. Is a system of records being created or altered under the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a? Is this a Department-wide or Federal Government-wide SORN? If a SORN already exists, what is the SORN Number?**

NFPCOSTEP is covered under the “Common Services for Borrowers” System of Records Notice (SORN), which was published as number 18-11-16 in the *Federal Register* on January 23, 2006 (71 FR 3503-3507).

**13. Records Retention and Disposition. Is there a records retention and disposition schedule approved by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for the records created by the system development lifecycle AND for the data collected? If yes – provide records schedule number:**

Per FSA, NFPCOSTEP will follow the FSA “Loan Servicing, Consolidation and Collections Records” records schedule. The ACS Tracking Number is OM: 6-106:L74.

**DoED Record Schedule:**

**Schedule Locator NO:** 075

**Draft Date:** 03/11/2009

**Title:** FSA Loan Servicing, Consolidation and Collections Records

**Principal Office:** Federal Student Aid

**NARA Disposition Authority:** N1-441-09-16

**Description:**

These records document business operations that support the servicing, consolidation and collection of Title IV federal student aid obligations. These records relate to the post-enrollment period of student aid, including servicing of direct loans, consolidation of direct loans, managing and recovering defaulted debts assigned to the Department from Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and other lenders, rehabilitated loans and any other type of Title IV student aid obligation.



This schedule provides a common disposition for records that comprise a variety of material and media, including but not limited to demographic and financial data on individual borrowers; institutional data on schools, guarantors, lenders, private collection agencies; records of financial transactions, payments, collections, account balancing and reconciliation and reporting; records pertaining to customer interactions and related correspondence and documents.

As these records may be maintained in different media formats, this schedule is written to authorize the disposition of the records in any media (media neutral). Records that are designated for permanent retention and are created and maintained electronically will be transferred to NARA in an approved electronic format.

**DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a. Record Copy  
**TEMPORARY**
  - Cut off annually upon payment or discharge of loan. Destroy/delete 15 years after cut off.
- b. Duplicate Copies Regardless of Medium Maintained for Reference Purposes and That Do Not Serve as the Record Copy  
**TEMPORARY**
  - Destroy/delete when no longer needed for reference.

**ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS:**

Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS)  
Direct Loan Consolidation System (DLCS)  
Conditional Disability Discharge Tracking System (CDDTS)  
Debt Management and Collection System (DMCS)  
Credit Management Data Mart (CMDM)

**IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE:**

Follow the disposition instructions in DoED 086 for system software; input/source records; output and reports and system documentation. Original signed paper documents required for legal purposes must be kept for the full length of the retention period, even if an electronic version has been captured in the information system.

**ARRANGEMENT / ANNUAL ACCUMULATION:**

**PREVIOUS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY:**

**SPECIFIC LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended

**SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS:**

Privacy Act 18-11-05 Title IV Program Files



Privacy Act 18-11-08 Student Account Manager System  
**BUSINESS LINE:** Loans