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Agreement on the Use of Standards in
Electronic Exchanges Supporting Federal Financial Aid
Between
The US Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance
And
The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council

The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (SFA) of the US Department of Education share a goal of encouraging the use of common information technology standards by SFA and the schools, colleges, and universities participating in federal financial aid. To further this goal, they agree to:

1. Commit to support and use formal standards developed, approved, and maintained by accredited national and international standards-setting organizations.

2. Where applicable and appropriate or mandated, commit to use of federal electronic standards.

3. Where no formal standards yet exist, commit to use of relevant industry standards developed and maintained by industry organizations through open, collaborative processes with all stakeholders represented.

4. Where no standards exist and are needed, PESC commits to serve in the standards-setting role.

If there were a conflict or ambiguity in the standards or specifications that would apply in a specific instance, PESC commits to recommending a standard or specification to be used by the postsecondary education community.

Both PESC and SFA commit to encourage and promote active participation by the schools, colleges, universities, organizations and businesses in the postsecondary education community in standards-setting processes and to facilitate the adoption of these standards and specifications.

Agreed to by SFA:	Agreed to by PESC
Signature [signature]	Signature Lyneth G Bainbridge
Title CIO	Title Executive Director
Date 2/20/02	Date 2/26/02