

Other School Requirements

In this chapter, we will discuss school requirements that are not directly related to student aid, such as fire safety, missing persons procedures, etc. Note that several of these requirements are also linked to the consumer information requirements in Chapter 6.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS [NEW]

Fire safety log **NEW**

FSA-eligible schools must maintain a log that records all fires in on-campus student housing facilities, regardless of whether the school has a police or security department of any kind. The fire log needs to include the nature, date, time and general location of each fire. A school must make annual reports to the campus community on these fires (see Chapter 6, “Providing Consumer Information”), and must annually submit a copy of the fire safety statistics to the Department.

Missing persons procedures **NEW**

A school that provides on-campus housing must establish a missing student notification policy for students who reside in on-campus housing that—

- informs each student that they have the option to identify an individual that the school can contact no later than 24 hours after the time the student is determined missing according to the school’s official notification procedures described below;
- provides each student a way to register confidential contact information in the event the student is determined to be missing for more than 24 hours;
- advises each student under 18 years of age (who is not emancipated) that the school must notify a custodial parent or guardian no later than 24 hours after the time the student is determined to be missing according to the institution’s official notification procedures; and
- requires the school to initiate the emergency contact procedures that the student designates if campus security or law enforcement personnel have been notified and determine that the student has been missing for more than 24 hours and has not returned to campus.

CHAPTER 4 HIGHLIGHTS

■ Safety Requirements

→ Fire safety

→ Missing persons

→ Other

■ Programs to prevent drug & alcohol abuse

→ Drug & alcohol abuse prevention programs

→ Drug-Free Workplace requirements

■ Anti-lobbying certification & disclosure

■ Reporting information on foreign sources & gifts

■ General requirements

→ Voter registration (in certain states)

→ GED preparatory program

Missing persons [New]

The requirements for a school to establish missing persons procedures do not provide a private right of action to any person to enforce a provision of the subsection or create a cause of action against any institution of higher education or any employee of the institution for any civil liability.

HEOA section 488(g) HEA section 485(j)

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Schools must also establish official notification procedures for a missing student who resides in on-campus housing that

- include procedures for official notification of appropriate individuals at the school that such student has been missing for more than 24 hours; and
- require that any official missing person report relating to such student be referred immediately to the school’s police or campus security department.

In instances where, upon investigation of the official report, the police or campus security department determines that the missing student has been missing for more than 24 hours, the department must contact the individual identified by the student as a contact. If the missing student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated the school must immediately contact the custodial parent or legal guardian of the student and, in cases where the preceding two scenarios do not apply to a student determined to be a missing person, the school will inform the appropriate law enforcement agency that the student is missing.

Other safety requirements **NEW**

Schools must have policies that encourage complete timely reporting of all crimes to the campus police and appropriate law enforcement agencies. A school must test emergency response and evacuation procedures annually.

PROGRAMS TO PREVENT DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE

There are two requirements that relate to preventing drug and alcohol abuse. Every school that participates in the FSA programs must have a drug and alcohol prevention program for its students, as described below. A school that receives Campus-Based funding must also have a drug prevention program for its employees.

Drug & alcohol abuse prevention program

Every participating school must certify that it has adopted and implemented a program to prevent drug and alcohol abuse by its students. Unlike the annual drug-free workplace certification discussed later in this section, a school certifies that on the date it signs the Program Participation Agreement, it has a drug abuse prevention program in operation that is accessible to any officer, employee, or student at the school.

The program adopted by the school must include an annual distribution to all students, faculty, and staff of information concerning drug and alcohol abuse and the school's prevention program.

A school must review its program once every two years to determine its effectiveness and to ensure that its sanctions are being enforced. **NEW** As a part of this biennial review, the school must determine—

- the number of drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities that occur on a school's campus, or as part of any of the school's activities and are reported to campus officials; and
- the number and type of sanctions that are imposed by the school as a result of drug and alcohol-related violations and fatalities on the school's campus or as part of any of the school's activities.

A school that does not certify that it has a drug prevention program, or that fails to carry out a drug prevention program, may lose its approval to participate in the FSA programs.

Drug-Free Workplace requirements for Campus-Based schools

A school that participates in the Campus-Based programs must take certain steps to provide a drug-free workplace, including—

- establishing a drug-free awareness program to provide information to employees,
- distributing a notice to its employees of prohibited unlawful activities and the school's planned actions against an employee who violates these prohibitions, and
- notifying the Department and taking appropriate action when it learns of an employee's conviction under any criminal drug statute.

Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

The FSA requirements are derived from the 1989 Amendments to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Acts of 1986 and 1988
See: Public Law 101-226

Drug-Free Workplace

Because a school applies for and receives its Campus-Based allocation directly from the Department, the school is considered to be a federal grant recipient, and as such is required to make a good faith effort, on a continuing basis, to maintain a drug-free workplace.

34 CFR Part 84

Also see the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 101-690)

Developing a drug prevention program

The regulations published in the Federal Register, August 16, 1990 offer a number of suggestions for developing a drug prevention program.

Measuring the effectiveness of a drug prevention program

The effectiveness of a school's drug prevention program may be measured by tracking:

- the number of drug- and alcohol-related disciplinary actions;
- the number of drug- and alcohol-related treatment referrals;
- the number of drug- and alcohol-related incidents recorded by campus police or other law enforcement officials;
- the number of drug- and alcohol-related incidents of vandalism;
- the number of students or employees attending self-help or other counseling groups related to alcohol or drug abuse; and
- student, faculty, and employee attitudes and perceptions about the drug and alcohol problem on campus.

A school's administrative cost allowance may be used to help defray related expenses, such as the cost of printing informational materials given to employees. The administrative cost allowance is discussed in *Volume 6 – Campus-Based Programs*.

The drug-free workplace requirements apply to all offices and departments of a school that receives Campus-Based funds. Organizations that contract with the school are considered subgrantees not subject to the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

Additional Sources of Information

The following resources are available for schools that are developing drug prevention programs.

- ***The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and Referral Hotline.***

Information and referral line that directs callers to treatment centers in the local community (1-800-662-HELP).

- ***The Drug Free Workplace Helpline.***

A line that provides information only to private entities about workplace programs and drug testing. Proprietary and private nonprofit but not public postsecondary schools may use this line (1-800-967-5752).

- ***The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.***

Information and referral line that distributes U.S. Department of Education publications about drug and alcohol prevention programs as well as material from other federal agencies (1-301-468-2600).

ANTI-LOBBYING PROVISIONS

Prohibition on use of FSA funds **NEW**

FSA funds may not be used to pay any person for attempting to influence

- a Member of Congress or an employee of a Member of Congress, or
- an officer or employee of Congress or any agency.

This prohibition applies to the making of a federal grant or loan, awarding federal contracts, and entering into federal cooperative agreements, as well as to the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

In addition, FSA funds may not be used to hire a registered lobbyist or to pay any person or entity for securing an earmark. Schools receiving FSA funds will have to certify their compliance with these requirements annually.

Campus-based disclosure

If a school that receives more than \$100,000 in Campus-Based funds has used nonfederal funds to pay a nonschool employee for lobbying activities, the school must submit a Disclosure Form (Standard Form LLL) to the Department. The school must update this disclosure at least quarterly and when changes occur.

The disclosure form must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or other individual who has the authority to sign on behalf of the entire school. A school is advised to retain a copy in its files.

Prohibition on use of FSA funds

HEOA section 119

Effective date: August 14, 2008

Anti-Lobbying Certification & Disclosure

Section 319 of Pub. L. 101-121, enacted October 23, 1989, amended title 31, United States Code, by adding a new section 1352, entitled "Limitation on Use of Appropriated Funds to Influence Certain Federal Contracting and Financial Transactions," commonly known as the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.

As a result of that legislation, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued interim final common regulations on February 26, 1990, for implementing and complying with the law. The Department of Education (ED) codified these regulations at 34 CFR Part 82, which is part of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR). 34 CFR Part 82

ACA may not be used for association membership

A school may not use its Administrative Cost Allowance to pay for its membership in professional associations (such as the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, etc.), regardless of whether the association engages in lobbying activities.

Where to report foreign gift information

Foreign gift, contract, and ownership or control reports must be submitted to the FSA School Participation Teams using FSA's electronic application (E-App) found at www.eligcert.ed.gov

Go to Section K, Question 71, and enter the appropriate information about the foreign gift, contract, or ownership and control, then go to Section L, to complete the signature page. You may then submit your report.

Foreign gifts references

Higher Education Act: Sec. 117
Recent reminder to schools of requirements for reporting foreign gifts.
DCL: GEN-04-11, Oct. 4, 2004.

Definitions

A *foreign source* is

- a foreign government, including an agency of a foreign government;
- a legal entity created solely under the laws of a foreign state or states;
- an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States; and
- an agent acting on behalf of a foreign source.

A *gift* is any gift of money or property.

A *contract* is any agreement for the acquisition by purchase, lease, or barter of property or services for the direct benefit or use of either of the parties.

REPORTING INFORMATION ON FOREIGN SOURCES & GIFTS

Federal law requires certain postsecondary schools (whether or not the school is eligible to participate in the FSA programs) to report ownership or control by foreign sources. Federal law also requires these postsecondary schools to report contracts with or gifts from the same foreign source that, alone or combined, have a value of \$250,000 or more for a calendar year.

Who must report

A school (and each campus of a multicampus school) must report this information if the school—

- is legally authorized to provide a program beyond the secondary level within a state,
- provides a program that awards a bachelor's degree or a more advanced degree, or provides at least a two-year program acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree,
- is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency, and
- is extended any federal financial assistance (directly or indirectly through another entity or person) or receives support from the extension of any federal financial assistance to the school's subunits.

Timing of submission

A school must report this information by the January 31 or July 31 (whichever is sooner) after the date of receipt of the gifts, date of the contract, or date of ownership or control. The January 31 report should cover the period July 1–December 31 of the previous year, and the July 31 report should cover January 1–June 30 of the same year.

Information to be reported

Using the E-App, you must report the following information in Section K, question 71:

- for gifts received from or contracts entered into with a foreign government—the name of the country and the aggregate amount of all gifts and contracts received from each foreign government,
- for gifts received from or contracts entered into with a foreign source other than a foreign government—the name of the foreign state to which the contracts or gifts are attributable, and the aggregate dollar amount of the gifts and contracts attributable to a particular country (The country to which a gift or a contract is attributable is the country of citizenship; or, if unknown, the principal residence for a foreign source who is a natural person and the country of incorporation, or if unknown, the principal place of business for a foreign source that is a legal entity.),

- in the case of a school that is owned or controlled by a foreign entity—the identity of the foreign entity, the date on which the foreign entity assumed ownership or control, and a description of any substantive changes to previously reported ownership or control, or institutional program or structure resulting from the change in ownership or control,
- for restricted or conditional gifts received from, or restricted or conditional contracts entered into with a foreign government—the name of the foreign country, the amount of the gift or contract, the date of the gift or contract, and a description of the conditions or restrictions,
- for restricted or conditional gifts received from or restricted or conditional contracts entered into with a foreign person—the citizenship (or if unknown, the principal residence) of that person, the amount of the gift or contract, the date of the gift or contract, and a description of the conditions and restrictions, and
- for restricted or conditional gifts received from or restricted or conditional contracts entered into with a foreign source (legal entity other than a foreign state or individual—the country of incorporation or, if unknown, the principal place of business for that foreign entity), the amount of the gift or contract, date of the gift or contract, and a description of the conditions and restrictions.

Any conditions or restrictions on the foreign gift must be reported in question 69.

Once you've entered the appropriate information about the foreign gift, contract, or ownership and control, then go to Section L to complete the signature page. You may then submit your report.

Alternative reporting

In lieu of the reporting requirements listed above:

- If a school is in a state that has substantially similar laws for public disclosure of gifts from, or contracts with, a foreign source, a copy of the report to the state may be filed with the Department. The school must provide the Department with a statement from the appropriate state official indicating that the school has met the state requirements.
- If another department, agency, or bureau of the Executive Branch of the federal government has substantially similar requirements for public disclosure of gifts from, or contracts with, a foreign source, the school may submit a copy of this report to the Department.

Restricted or conditional gift or contract

A *restricted or conditional gift or contract* is any endowment, gift, grant, contract, award, present, or property of any kind that includes provisions regarding

- the employment, assignment, or termination of faculty;
- the establishment of departments, centers, research or lecture programs, or new faculty positions;
- the selection or admission of students; or
- the award of grants, loans, scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial aid restricted to students of a specified country, religion, sex, ethnic origin, or political opinion.

Penalties

If a school fails to comply with the requirements of this law in a timely manner, the Department is authorized to undertake a civil action in federal district court to ensure compliance. Following a knowing or willful failure to comply, a school must reimburse the Treasury of the United States for the full costs of obtaining compliance with the law.

For additional information & alternative reporting

Contact the School Participation Team for your state. Contact information for these Teams is posted on the IFAP Web site, under "Help-Contact Information":

ifap.ed.gov

Voter Registration NEW

A school may satisfy the requirement to distribute mail voter registration forms electronically transmitting to each student a message containing an acceptable voter registration form or an Internet address where that form can be downloaded. The electronic message must be devoted exclusively to voter registration.

Schools must request voter forms at least 120 days in advance

In states where this condition applies, schools must request voter registration forms from the state 120 days prior to the state's deadline for registering to vote. This provision applies to general and special elections for federal office, and to the elections of governors and other chief executives within a state. If a school does not receive the forms within 60 days prior to the deadline for registering to vote in the state, it is not liable for failing to meet the requirement during that election year.

Students without high school diploma or equivalent: related topics

- Volume 1, Chapter 1: remedial coursework, ability to benefit tests as alternative.
- Volume 2, Chapter 1: Eligibility of schools enrolling students without high school diploma or equivalent.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Voter registration

If a participating school is located in a state that has not enacted the motor vehicle/voter registration provisions of the National Voter Registration Act, the school must make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to its students. (Schools in Puerto Rico are not subject to this provision because Puerto Rico is not a state under the National Voter Registration Act.)

The school must make the voter registration forms widely available to its students. It must individually distribute the forms to its degree or certificate seeking (FSA eligible) students.

Preparatory programs for students without high school diploma or equivalent

A school that admits students without a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent (except homeschooled students) must make available to its students a program that has proven successful in assisting students in obtaining the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma. For example such a program might assist a student in obtaining a General Educational Development (GED) test or a State certificate received by a student after the student has passed a State-authorized examination that the State recognizes as the equivalent of a high school diploma. Such programs include preparatory programs that are conducted by state and local secondary school authorities, as well as programs for which the school has documentation that statistically demonstrates success. The school must provide information about the availability of the preparatory program to affected students.

The program does not have to be provided by the school itself, and the school is not required to pay the costs of the program. The program must be offered at a place that is convenient for the students and the school must take reasonable steps to ensure that its students have access to the program, such as coordinating the timing of its program offerings with that of the preparatory program.

The law does not require a school to verify that a student is enrolled in a preparatory program or to monitor the student's progress in the program. A student admitted based on his or her ability to benefit who does not have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent is not required by law to enroll in a program, but the school may choose to make this an admission requirement.

A student may not receive FSA funds for the program although he or she may be paid for postsecondary courses taken at the same time as the preparatory coursework, including remedial coursework at the secondary level or higher