



United States Department of Education
Office of Federal Student Aid
National Student Loan Data System

**New Release of NSLDS Perkins DataPrep for PC, Version 3.1
Technical Update PK-2004-01**

January 30, 2004

This information is intended for the person in your organization responsible for working with the NSLDS. Please forward to the appropriate person.

What's New for Perkins DataPrep, Version 3.1

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the availability of NSLDS Perkins DataPrep, Version 3.1 (Perkins DataPrep). This release incorporates the following updates:

- *Downloading*—Beginning with this version, Perkins DataPrep is available at www.fsadownload.ed.gov. This method replaces the distribution of the Perkins DataPrep on CD-ROM.
- *Operating System*—This new version of Perkins DataPrep, Version 3.1, is fully compatible with Windows 2000 and Windows XP Professional operating systems.

(This new version of Perkins DataPrep is *not* compatible with Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows NT. If you are using Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows NT, you can only use the previous version of Perkins DataPrep and cannot take advantage of the enhancements to Perkins DataPrep as listed below.)

- *Software Enhancements*
 - Perkins DataPrep has been changed to copy the sort and selection files to the current directory when Perkins DataPrep software is loaded on the PC for the first time.

- Perkins DataPrep has been enhanced to process and display the Conflict Value and Date of Loan Status fields in the Load Process Detail Error Report. NSLDS recently added these fields to the Load Process Error Data File to help schools resolve errors.

You can download the new Perkins DataPrep software at www.fsadownload.ed.gov. On the Perkins DataPrep download page, in the Documentation area, you can click either the Cover Letter or the Installation link to read step-by-step instructions on how to download Perkins DataPrep, Version 3.1.

For complete details on how to use the Perkins DataPrep software, you can access the Perkins Data Provider Instructions at www.ifap.ed.gov. If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact the NSLDS Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or email at nsldscoe@raytheon.com.

If you have any questions, please contact the NSLDS Customer Service Center at (800) 999-8219 or e-mail nsldscoe@raytheon.com.