



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

September 30, 2008

Dear Grantees, Payees, and e-Grants Users:

The U.S. Department of Education is in the process of moving its data processing facilities. During the transition period commencing 3:00 PM EST on Friday, November 21, 2008 and ending Monday, December 1, 2008 at 6:00 AM EST, the G5 Grant Management System will be unavailable for all activities, including payment drawdowns. We are providing this early notice to enable you to plan accordingly, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have on your operations.

You will find guidance describing how recipients of grants and assistance may draw funds during this transition period on the G5 Web site (www.G5.gov). The guidance includes Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) procedures for States and certain State institutions of higher education and procedures for grant and Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs that are not subject to CMIA. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service (FMS), which is responsible for oversight of the CMIA, concurs with these procedures.

In a forthcoming electronic announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site (www.ifap.ed.gov), FSA will provide guidance regarding the operational impact on Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System processing of financial data. This guidance, which FSA plans to post in early October 2008, will assist schools in ensuring the availability of funds for draw down prior to the outage period. Please monitor the IFAP Web site for the forthcoming guidance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the G5 Hot Line at 1-888-336-8930. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this period of transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny A. Harris".

Danny A. Harris, Ph.D.
Deputy Chief Financial Officer