



Summary

This Newsletter discusses recent enhancements to NSLDS for the 2008 award year starting on July 1, 2007.

The newsletter will focus on NSLDS changes including:

- Security measures implemented by NSLDS to ensure the confidentiality of student aid information
- The NSLDS e-mail address change from nslds@pearson.com to nslds@ed.gov
- Increased FFEL and Direct loan amounts for the 2007-2008 award year
- Changes to the NSLDS system for enrollment reporting when schools close, merge, or become ineligible for Title IV aid
- Access to the most recent version of the Transfer Student Monitoring User Guide on www.ifap.ed.gov
- NSLDS enhancements to display Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) and Loan Discharge Information
- Availability of a new NSLDS report for schools seeking to retrieve detailed student and loan program information
- Display changes on the NSLDS for Students Web site

NSLDS Security

Federal Student Aid (FSA) suspended web access to NSLDS for certain program participants on April 17, 2007 in order to conduct a thorough review of current users and the purposes for which access is used. All entities that have NSLDS access will notice changes to the database that have been made to better ensure that confidential information is only accessed by authorized persons and only for authorized purposes.

Beginning April 30, 2007, all users who log onto NSLDS are prompted with a box that contains text with several random letters and/or numbers. The user must correctly enter the information displayed in that box in order to receive authorization to continue into NSLDS:

User Access Verification

Enter the letters and numbers you see in this image. There are no ones, zeros, i's, t's or x's.
If you have difficulty viewing the current image, click the refresh button on your internet browser for a new image to display

This helps NSLDS detect and prevent automated users.

Users have three attempts to enter the information as it is displayed in the box. After the third unsuccessful attempt, the user's NSLDS access will be revoked.

Retrieving Students

Visually impaired users using screen readers will not be read the contents of the box. A script will instruct those users to call the Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219, for assistance.

ISIR Comment Code 138

An additional security measure was added to the NSLDSFAP Web site to increase the privacy of a borrower's Federal loan and grant information. All users accessing the Web site are now required to enter all three identifiers for a borrower – Social Security number (SSN), date of birth, and first name.

Before the requirement that all three identifiers be entered in order to view NSLDS information on the NSLDSFAP Web site, authorized school users were able to access a borrower's NSLDS data by entering only the student or borrower's SSN. School users may now find that having to enter all 3 identifiers makes the resolution of possible identifier errors on the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) more challenging. This is particularly true when a school user receives a Comment #138 on the ISIR, an indication that the FAFSA applicant's SSN was found in NSLDS but the system could not confirm that it belonged to the applicant. School users can be assisted in the resolution of these issues by contacting the NSLDS Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.

NSLDS E-mail Conversion

Effective June 18, 2007, the NSLDS e-mail address changed from nslds@pearson.com to nslds@ed.gov. Starting September 17, 2007, any e-mails sent to the nslds@pearson.com address will not be received and an "undeliverable" notice will be returned. Also, note that all NSLDS responses now come from nslds@ed.gov.

Increased FFEL and Direct Loan Limits

Passage of the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (HERA) increased some (but not all) Stafford Loan Limits in both the FFEL and the Direct Loan programs. The increases, shown below in bold italics, apply to any loan where the first disbursement is on or after July 1, 2007:

Academic Level	Base Sub/Unsub	Additional Unsub
1 st year undergraduate	\$3,500	\$4,000
2 nd year undergraduate	\$4,500	\$4,000
3 rd year and beyond undergraduate	\$5,500	\$5,000
Graduate/professional	\$8,500	\$12,000
Preparatory coursework (for enrollment in an undergraduate program)	\$2,625	\$4,000
Preparatory coursework (for enrollment in a graduate or professional program)	\$5,500	\$7,000
Teacher certification	\$5,500	\$7,000

Enrollment Reporting to NSLDS when Schools Close, Merge, or Become Ineligible for Title IV Aid

NSLDS User Guide for Transfer Student Monitoring Now Available

Aggregate loan limits were not changed as a result of HERA. For additional reference, see Dear Colleague Letter GEN-06-02, FP-06-01, posted on IFAP (www.ifap.ed.gov).

NSLDS has enhanced the way it manages enrollment information for schools that have been reported, through the Department's Postsecondary Education Participants System (PEPS), as closed, merged, or ineligible to participate in Title IV programs.

Schools that close, merge, or become ineligible must submit a final Enrollment Reporting Roster to NSLDS. Since the school no longer participates in the Title IV programs, no student should remain in an active enrollment status at that school. After a designated time period to allow the school to make the appropriate changes NSLDS has an automated process that will report a withdrawal status for students if the school fails to change enrollment status.

After receiving notification of a change from PEPS, NSLDS will run a weekly update process. For students that remain on a roster of a school that is no longer eligible, the enrollment status will be updated to an enrollment status of "W" (withdrawn). On the NSLDS Web site, students withdrawn through this process will have a Certification Method listed as "ED Authorized."

NSLDS is pleased to announce the release of the newest version of the NSLDS User Guide for Transfer Student Monitoring on the Web, dated June 2007. The guide is posted on IFAP (www.ifap.ed.gov) under the NSLDS Reference Materials, NSLDS User Documentation link. The User Guide provides instructions regarding the use of the functions available on the Tran tab on the NSLDS Financial Aid Professionals (FAP) Web site. It also guides users through Transfer Student Monitoring functions that are available on other tabs on the NSLDS Web site.

Changes to the User Guide include:

- Views of the updated, user-friendly Web pages that allow schools to complete all steps of the Transfer Student Monitoring process online.
- The addition of the Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants to the Grant History Page, which will allow users to see reported changes that may affect a student's eligibility for additional funds.
- Instructions for how schools, using the Report tab, may request the Transfer Student Monitoring Summary Report (Report ID SCH07B) in order to see data for students who were part of the school's Transfer Student Monitoring Process during a specific timeframe.
- A way for schools to designate a specific contact for Transfer Student Monitoring issues at their institutions using the Org tab.

If you have any questions about the User Guide for Transfer Student Monitoring on the Web, contact the NSLDS Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.

Teacher Loan Forgiveness/Loan Discharge Enhancements

NSLDS recently implemented enhancements to allow the reporting and display of Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) and Loan Discharge data on the NSLDSFAP Web site. Users will be able to identify a borrower who has qualified for the TLF program or had all or part of their loan discharged by viewing the appropriate web pages.

Teacher Loan Forgiveness List

	Full Time Teacher Of	Previously Applied	State	Amount	Paid Date
1	Elementary School	Yes	IA	\$2,625	02/02/2006
	GA: GA HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES 736				
	Lender: CITIBANK, NA ELT STUDENT LOAN CORP 8268				

A borrower's Loan Discharges will be identified by a blue symbol located to the left of the Loan Period label, on the Loan History Page, for each loan that has discharge information reported to NSLDS.

Loan Summary

SU - FFEL STAFFORD UNSUB		Status: PE as of 07/14/2006		Loan Detail	
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS - 00201500					
Guaranteed Amt:	\$4,000	Disbursed Amt:	\$2,000	OPB:	\$0
Loan Date:	06/07/2005	Sep. Loan Ind:	A	Loan Period:	08/22/2005 - 05/12/2006

Loan Discharge information and amounts are displayed on the Loan Detail page of the specified loan.

The TLF and Loan Discharge reported amounts are not used in calculating student aggregate.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the NSLDS Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219 or via email at nslds@ed.gov.

New Report: School Loan List (SCHLL1)

A new NSLDS report, *School Loan List (SCHLL1)*, has been created to assist schools in the retrieval of student and loan data for reconciliation of NSLDS loan reporting or auditing detailed student and loan program type information. Users can request a begin date and end date for specific loan program types. The report will select loans for a maximum of a 1 year time period. When selecting the student and loan to display, NSLDS will query the loan program type(s) associated with the requesting school's OPEID code where the Date of Guarantee/Loan Date falls between the begin date and end dates provided.

Output results include the student's first and last name, SSN, and date of birth. Loan information that will be displayed includes Loan Amount, Total Disbursements to Date, Loan Type, Loan Date, Loan Period Begin Date, and Loan Period End Date. Cumulative totals for the loans selected will be displayed at the end of the report.

The results are provided in a formatted report or in an extract file. The school specifies format and sort order when requesting the report. Extract file layouts are available at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov>. Users receive the processed data via the SAIG mailbox associated with the NSLDS User ID requesting this report. Additional hints for printing the report in Microsoft Word are available in the Report List Help Page.

Display Changes on the NSLDS Student Web site

Customer Service Reminders

This report contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII) about students and borrowers. It is your responsibility to take responsible steps to safeguard and protect the information from improper disclosure. Printed reports and all physical media containing student loan information must be clearly marked as containing Privacy Act Information and emphasize the penalties for unauthorized disclosure. Hard copies must be stored in a locked container in a limited or exclusion area. Electronic versions of the PII must be encrypted and authenticated if it is transported.

In June 2007, NSLDS made two minor changes to the NSLDS for Students Web site, www.nsllds.ed.gov. These changes were made to reduce confusion regarding the total columns and interest rates displayed by NSLDS.

- On the Financial Aid Review page, the totals section under the listed loans has been modified. Now, only the columns for the outstanding principal and outstanding interest will display total amounts.
- On the Detail Loan Information page, the Interest Rate field has been modified. The field will no longer display a numerical interest rate on a borrower's loan, only the indication that the rate is fixed or variable.

NSLDS has a specific customer service call center for users of the www.nslldsfap.ed.gov Web site; i.e., FSA professionals from schools, lenders, guaranty agencies, and state grant agencies. This center only addresses issues for schools and data providers and does not handle student calls. Students who are referred to the NSLDS Customer Service Center will be delayed in receiving resolution to their issues because they then must be referred to the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-4-Fed-Aid/ 1-800-433-3243. Please refer students to FSAIC and not the NSLDS Customer Service Center.

Also, NSLDS would like to remind all schools of the importance of maintaining current contact information on the NSLDS Web site (www.nslldsfap.ed.gov). This information is helpful to all users to ensure that the proper individual is contacted to resolve questions and concerns. From the Menu page, authorized users may navigate to the ORG tab to add or modify the name, e-mail address, and telephone number for the contacts at their institution. NSLDS recommends that schools identify the contact for all functional areas such as contacts for Enrollment Reporting, Transfer Student Monitoring, Overpayments, etc. At a minimum, each organization should have the Primary Contact information completed.

The NSLDS Customer Service Center at 1-800-999-8219, is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.