



May 21, 2014

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Management
Regulatory Information Management Services
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 2W220
Washington, DC 20202-4536

ATTN: FOIA Public Liaison

Dear FOIA Public Liaison:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. We request that electronic copies of documents submitted to Department of Education by institutions of higher education for the purposes of gaining or continuing eligibility for funding under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. To avoid necessitating any review regarding FOIA exemption 5 (deliberative process), we are requesting only the documents *as submitted by the institutions to the Department*. In addition, we are limiting the request to electronic documents to eliminate the need to copy or scan documents that may have been submitted in hard copy. The documents we request include the most recent (or a longer period if the “most recent” limitation necessitates work) of the following documents for all institutions of higher education:

1. The “**E-app**” or electronic “Application for Approval to Participate in Federal Student Financial Aid Programs.” The application is usually accessed by institutions at this link: <http://www.eligcert.ed.gov/>
2. The required **compliance audit**. It is our understanding that institutions generally submit audits through this portal: <https://ezaudit.ed.gov/EZWebApp/default.do>.
3. The required **financial audit**, generally submitted in the same manner as the compliance audit.

In order to understand how students with debt are faring by institution, we request information about student repayment rate status. We request:

1. An un-redacted file of the 2013 “Repayment Rate Calculations” that were released in advance of the 2013-2014 Negotiated Rulemaking for Gainful Employment. (Redacted file available here: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/heardrulemaking/2012/gainfulemployment.html>.) Please provide this information with institution name and OPEID number in a spreadsheet format compatible with Microsoft Excel.

In order to help to determine our status to assess fees, you should know that we are affiliated with a public interest group and this request is not for commercial use. We request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to us is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. If fees are necessary, please notify us if fees will exceed \$200. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please pass along our regards to Arne and the gang.

Sincerely,



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Robert Shireman
Executive Director
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