



## Summary

This newsletter discusses enhancements to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) that we implemented in January 2009. The enhancements included those that were part of the final phase of the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (the ECASLA), Pub. L. 110-227 implementation and other system enhancements.

The ECASLA changes were implemented in phases. Phases I and II were completed August 17, 2008 and are discussed in [Newsletter 19](#). The final phase was completed on December 31, 2008 and included the following changes:

- Enhanced data match so the Central Processing System (CPS) can include additional Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant) and Direct Unsubsidized Loan data and flags in the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR)
- Updates to the aggregate close or equal to combined loan limit indicators for graduate and undergraduate borrowers
- New TEACH Grant oversight ad-hoc report capabilities

To further improve the financial aid community's ability to monitor federal student aid eligibility, the enhancements for the 2009-2010 Award Year also included the following changes:

- Updates to the NSLDS Web site and corresponding ISIR to always display the FFEL Stafford Unsubsidized (SU) loan with PLUS denial indicators
- Enhancements to the NSLDS Transfer Student Monitoring (TSM) alert processes
  - TEACH Grant and loan data are considered during the NSLDS transfer student monitoring processes
  - A customized monitoring duration updated and maintained by each school
  - A new Web page giving financial aid administrators (FAAs) the capability to re-populate the TSM list page with previously reported students
- The Transfer Student Monitoring/Financial Aid History (TSM/FAH) processes and batch file layout changes from the November 21, 2008 document became effective.

**ISIR and NSLDS Updates**

**Additional NSLDS Data Elements Included on ISIR**

New for 2009-2010, when a student has any TEACH Grant data, NSLDS notifies the CPS using new flags and data elements that are included on the student's ISIR record layout. This helps FAAs identify the ISIR for an applicant whose Title IV aid eligibility is affected by TEACH Grant awards.

The following are the new TEACH Grant items and field numbers to identify the location on the ISIR's record layout.

<b>Applicant Level Data</b>	
NSLDS TEACH Grant Overpayment Flag (#348)	NSLDS Additional TEACH Grant Flag (#390)
NSLDS TEACH Grant Overpayment Contact (#349)	NSLDS TEACH Grant to Loan Conversion Change Flag (#378)
NSLDS TEACH Grant Loan Conversion Flag (#355)	NSLDS TEACH Grant Change Flag (#385)
NSLDS Aggregate TEACH Undergraduate/Post Baccalaureate Disbursement Amount (#371)	NSLDS Aggregate TEACH Graduate Disbursement Amount (#372)
NSLDS Aggregate TEACH Loan Principal Balance (#360)	NSLDS TEACH Loan Total (#368)

<b>Grant Level Data</b>
NSLDS TEACH Grant Loan Conversion Flag (#525, #536 and #547)

For additional information regarding these NSLDS data element changes and their placement in the ISIR record layout, see the *Overview* section of the *2009-2010 Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) Technical Reference*, posted on [the Federal Student Aid Download \(FSAdownload\) Web site](#).

NSLDS sends the three most relevant TEACH Grant award data elements to the CPS for inclusion on ISIRs. The grants are selected based on the highest Academic Year Level and most recently reported grant data from the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System.

If a TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, the Outstanding Principal Balance is reported separately from a borrower's aggregated unsubsidized amounts. In addition to TEACH Grant data, NSLDS continues to send the six most relevant loan data elements for inclusion on ISIRs.

## ECASLA Loan Limits and NSLDS

### Information Relating to ECASLA and NSLDS Combined Loan Limits

As part of the changes to the student loan programs made by the ECASLA, the annual loan limits for unsubsidized Stafford loans in both the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) programs increased for some (but not all) students, effective for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008. There were no changes to the annual loan limits for subsidized Stafford loans. The overall aggregate loan limits for all categories of undergraduate borrowers also increased, but the portion of subsidized Stafford Loans included in those limits remained unchanged.

The annual loan limit increases, shown below in bold italic, apply to any loan where the first disbursement is on or after July 1, 2008 and are considered when setting the appropriate aggregate Close or Equal to Undergraduate Combined Loan Limits.

Annual Loan Limits			
Academic Level	Base Sub/Unsub	Additional Unsub (Dependent, Excluding PLUS Denial)	Additional Unsub (Independent/ PLUS Denial)
1 <sup>st</sup> year undergraduate	\$3,500	<b><i>\$2,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,000</i></b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate	\$4,500	<b><i>\$2,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,000</i></b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> year and beyond undergraduate	\$5,500	<b><i>\$2,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$7,000</i></b>

We implemented updated NSLDS loan limit edits in phases. In Phase I, completed on August 17, 2008, we increased the NSLDS combined aggregate loan limit warning edits which affected the Exceeding Combined Loan Limit edits and amounts. In Phase II, completed on January 1, 2009, we increased the NSLDS combined aggregate loan limit warning edits which affected the Close or Equal to Combined Loan Limit edits and amounts. The following chart displays undergraduate aggregate loan limits and the amounts that trigger the "Exceeds Combined Loan Limit" and "Close or Equal to Combined Loan Limit" warning icons depending on the student's grade level and dependency status.

Undergraduate Aggregate Loan Limits					
Dependency Status	Academic Level	Subsidized Loan Limits		Combined Loan Limits	
		Exceeds Amount	Close or Equal to Amount	Exceeds Amount	Close or Equal to Amount
		 Exceeds Undergrad Sub Limit	 Close or Equal to Undergrad Sub Limit	 Exceeds Undergrad Comb Limit	 Close or Equal to Undergrad Comb Limit
Dependent	1	\$23,000	\$19,500	\$31,000	\$25,500
Dependent	2	\$23,000	\$18,500	\$31,000	\$24,500
Dependent	3-5	\$23,000	\$17,500	\$31,000	\$23,500
Independent	1	\$23,000	\$19,500	\$57,500	\$48,000
Independent	2	\$23,000	\$18,500	\$57,500	\$47,000
Independent	3-5	\$23,000	\$17,500	\$57,500	\$45,000

For additional reference, see Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-08, FP-08-07, posted on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](http://ifap.ed.gov) (<http://ifap.ed.gov>).

### NSLDS PLUS Denial Display

#### Information Relating to NSLDS Display of FFEL Stafford Unsubsidized Loan for PLUS Loan Denials

With the processing logic previously used, NSLDS stopped displaying the Additional Unsub warning icon and Additional Unsubsidized Code (P-PLUS loan denial) when a borrower changed from a dependent to independent student based on the current award year's ISIR dependency status information. Schools expressed concern when these previously displayed flags, which we will refer to as PLUS denial indicators, disappeared. New for 2009-2010, the NSLDS Web site and corresponding ISIR will always display the FFEL Unsubsidized (SU) loan with PLUS denial indicators.

**Reminder:** FFEL Unsubsidized PLUS denial indicators are not reported by schools to NSLDS to display and send out to the respective data providers and end users. Instead, NSLDS calculates these flags when conditions for a borrower's loans give the appearance that an additional unsubsidized loan was awarded due to a PLUS loan denial.

### TEACH Oversight Web Report

We have developed a new NSLDS TEACH Oversight Summary Report (TEACH1) to provide FAAs with a list of students who have received TEACH Grants and whose grants have been converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans (TEACH), D8 loan types. Navigate to the "Report List" on the Report tab of the [NSLDS Professional Access Web site](#) to request this new report on an ad-hoc basis.

The following illustration shows the parameters required for the TEACH Oversight Summary Report.

START HERE  
GO FURTHER  
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

NSLDS Menu Aid Enroll Org Report Tran

Report List | Web Report List

Logged on as: JIM-SCHOOL ONLINE USERID FOR DRC from GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

ID: TEACH Type: --Select--

Name: TEACH OVERSIGHT SUMMARY REPORT

Report Parameters

OPEID: 00144500

BEGINNING AWARD YEAR: 2008 CCYY

ENDING AWARD YEAR: 9999 CCYY

PROGRAM TYPES: ALL X

Sort By: --Select--

Output Medium: SAIG

Submit

The following is an example of the TEACH Summary Oversight Report.

1

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (AS AMENDED)

REPORT ID: TEACH1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DATE: 01/02/2009  
PAGE # : 1 NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM (NSLDS) TIME: 15:48:28  
TEACH GRANT/LOAN OVERSIGHT SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT PARAMETERS: OPEID : 00123400  
BEGINNING AWARD YEAR : 2009  
ENDING AWARD YEAR : 2009  
PROGRAM TYPES : TEACH GRANTS AND LOANS  
REGION CODE : 2

SORT SEQUENCE: SSN

STUDENT ----- AGGREGATE TOTAL INFORMATION -----  
SSN: NAME: BIRTH DATE: TEACH Grant Undergraduate Disbursements: \$14,000  
999-08-4321 TERRY L ANDERSON 01/31/1975 TEACH Grant Graduate Disbursements: \$14,000  
Direct Unsubsidized Loan (TEACH) OPB: \$ 20,000

TEACH GRANT DETAILS: -----  
Award Attend Tran Award Disb. Latest Acad. Current Current Life Circum. Conversion  
Year OPEID # Amount Amt. Disb. Dt Lvl. Award ID Status Status Dt Type/Date Date  
-----  
2009 00144500 01 \$14,000 \$14,000 08/20/2008 5 12345678909001445001 AS 08/02/2008 EP 09/01/2008 09/30/2008  
2009 00144400 01 \$14,000 \$14,000 08/20/2008 6 12345678909001444001 AS 08/02/2008 EP 09/01/2008 09/30/2008

DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN (TEACH) DETAILS -----  
Loan Approved Total Latest OPB OPB Loan Loan Loan Per Loan Per  
Date Amount Disb Disb Dt Date Amount Stat. Stat. Dt Beg Date End Date Award ID  
-----  
07/01/2008 \$20,000 \$20,000 09/01/2008 10/01/2008 \$10,000 RP 10/01/2008 07/01/2008 05/01/2009 12345678909001445001  
07/01/2008 \$20,000 \$20,000 09/01/2008 10/01/2008 \$10,000 RP 10/01/2008 07/01/2008 05/01/2009 12345678909001444001

STUDENT ----- AGGREGATE TOTAL INFORMATION -----  
SSN: NAME: BIRTH DATE: TEACH Grant Undergraduate Disbursements: \$ 4,000  
999-08-4999 YPSILANTI L COBRUTHERS 10/30/1970 TEACH Grant Graduate Disbursements: \$ 0  
Direct Unsubsidized Loan (TEACH) OPB: \$ 0

TEACH GRANT DETAILS: -----  
Award Attend Tran Award Disb. Latest Acad. Current Current Life Circum. Conversion  
Year OPEID # Amount Amt. Disb. Dt Lvl. Award ID Status Status Dt Type/Date Date  
-----  
2009 00199800 01 \$4,000 \$4,000 08/20/2008 5 12345678909001998001 AS 08/02/2008

Depending on the parameters used, the report includes the student's information and aggregate totals, TEACH Grant details, Direct Unsubsidized Loan (TEACH) details, and Totals by Program Type located at the end of the report for the time frame selected. The user specifies the beginning and ending award years (for example, 2008 for award year 2007-2008), program types, and SSN or Last Name for the sort order.

<p><b>Transfer Student Monitoring Alerts: TEACH Grant Data</b></p>	<p><b>TSM Alert Triggers for New Grants</b></p> <p>New for 2009-2010, we have updated the NSLDS monitoring alert process to incorporate TEACH Grants and TEACH Grants converted to loans. Through this process, NSLDS monitors changes made by other schools to TEACH Grants and alerts the informing school.</p> <p>Changes made to any one of the following data elements will trigger an alert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award Amount</li> <li>• Amount Paid to Date (Disbursement Amount)</li> <li>• Latest Disbursement Date</li> </ul> <p>If a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, then NSLDS treats the Direct Unsubsidized Loan (TEACH), D8 loan type, like other loans held by the borrower.</p> <p>The alert process continues to send schools an alert e-mail notification and the alert data through Web Only or Web and Batch. Schools designate the alert method on the School Transfer Profile page setup.</p>
<p><b>Transfer Student Monitoring Changes</b></p>	<p><b>Schools Can Customize Monitoring Duration</b></p> <p>New for 2009-2010, we have updated the NSLDS Transfer Student Monitoring process to allow schools the flexibility to customize their transfer student monitoring duration time period. Previously, the monitoring time period for all schools was set for 90 days. As of January 1, 2009, each school can designate a monitoring duration that best fits its transfer student monitoring methodology.</p> <p>The default value is 90 days, but it can be changed to a value between 30 and 120 days. This designated number of days is then used by NSLDS to monitor all the students placed on a school's Inform list beyond the Enrollment Begin Date. After a student's Enrollment Begin Date plus the number of monitoring duration days has passed, the NSLDS monitoring process ends.</p> <p>The illustration below shows where FAAs can designate the monitoring duration.</p>

Menu Aid Enroll Org Report Tran

Transfer Monitoring List | Monitoring Alert Review | Transfer Monitoring Re-Populate | School Transfer Profile

Logged on as: FAA-FIRST LASTNM from TEST COLLEGE 3

### School Transfer Profile Update

First Name: FAA\_TM\_FIRS

Last Name: FAA\_TM\_LAST

Title: TSM PROFILER

Phone: 703-555-1212 Ext:

E-Mail: TSM\_groupemail@test3.edu

Inform: Designated Batch

SAIG Mailbox for School, Servicer or Central Administration Office (Optional):

Is this your Servicer for Transfer Monitoring?  (Check for Yes)

**Monitoring:** Designated Monitoring Time Period

Monitoring Duration(# of Days): 90

Alert:  Web Only  
 Web and Batch File

SAIG Mailbox for School, Servicer or Central Administration Office:

Servicer/Non-Servicer Batch Alert Method: -Select-

Last Update By: FAA-FIRST LASTNM on 01/07/2009

Submit

## Schools Can Re-populate Transfer Monitoring List

New for 2009-2010, a new Web page enables an FAA to re-populate a school's TSM list page of those students previously added to the Inform process and used during a prior monitoring period. This allows the school to select and update students online, so the FAA can continuously add from one monitoring time period to another. The illustration below shows the Search/Retrieval Options page.

START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID

NSLDS National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

Menu Aid Enroll Org Report Tran

Transfer Monitoring List | Monitoring Alert Review | Transfer Monitoring Re-Populate | School Transfer Profile

Logged on as: FAA-FIRST LASTNM from TEST COLLEGE 3

Name: TEST COLLEGE 3  
OPEID: 01003100

### Transfer Monitoring Re-Populate

Search/Retrieval Options

Sort By: SSN

Last Name Begin: End:

SSN Begin: End:

Previous Enrollment Begin Date Begin: (MMDDCCYY) End: (MMDDCCYY)

Previous Monitor Begin Date Begin: (MMDDCCYY) End: (MMDDCCYY)

Retrieve

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (AS AMENDED)

FOIA | Privacy | Security | Notices WhiteHouse.gov | USA.gov | ED.gov

The Re-Populate Transfer Monitoring List page displays the records retrieved in the Search/Retrieval process. Update both the Enrollment Begin Date and Monitoring Begin Date fields and click either "Check All" to apply them to all records on the list, or the checkboxes to the left of the gray numbers to apply the dates to

specific records. The illustration below shows where to enter dates and the selected rows to update.

The screenshot displays the NSLDS interface for updating transfer monitoring records. At the top, it identifies the user as 'FAA-FIRST LASTNM' from 'TEST COLLEGE 3'. The main section is titled 'Re-Populate Transfer Monitoring List' and shows a table of records. Each record includes a checkbox, SSN, Name, DOB, Enrollment Begin Date, and Monitoring Begin Date. Red boxes in the original image highlight the date input fields for rows 1 through 9. A 'Submit Checked Rows' button is located below the table. The page footer includes links for FOIA, Privacy, Security, Notices, WhiteHouse.gov, USA.gov, and ED.gov.

After selecting the rows, click the “Submit Check Rows” button to add the updated records to the Transfer Monitoring List page.

## 2009-2010 Transfer Student Monitoring and Financial Aid History

### TSM/FAH Summary of Changes

The Transfer Student Monitoring/Financial Aid History batch file and report layouts have been updated for the 2009-2010 Award Year. To allow for additional data elements, we expanded the size of the record layouts from 260 to 360 bytes. Attributes were updated or added to the TSM Alert/FAH detail batch record layout for the record types outline below.

Record Type 1–Aggregates, Perkins and Flags added data as follows:

- TEACH Grant Converted to Loan Flag, field positions 261-261
- TEACH Loan OPB, field positions 262-267

- TEACH Loan Total, field positions 268-273
- Aggregate Total TEACH Grant Undergraduate Disbursement Amount. field positions 274-279
- Undergraduate % Eligibility Used, field positions 280-286
- Undergraduate Remaining Amount, field positions 287-292
- Aggregate Total TEACH Grant Graduate Disbursement Amount, field positions 293-298
- Graduate % Eligibility Used, field positions 299-305
- Graduate Remaining Amount, field positions 306-311
- TEACH Grant Data Change Flag, field positions 312-312
- TEACH Grant Aggregates Change Flag, field positions 313-313
- TEACH Loan Aggregate Change Flag, field positions 314-314
- Filler, field positions 315-360

Record Type 4—Grant Payment updated or added data as follows:

- Updated 12 different entity attributes and definitions to account for TEACH grant data
- Added TEACH grant converted to loan flag, field positions 204-204
- Added TEACH grant conversion date, field positions 205-212

Record Type 5—Loan Detail updated or added data as follows:

- Updated Contact Type attribute description, field positions 120-122
- Added Award ID, field positions 221-241

Updated TSM/FAH specifications and a complete description of changes can be found in [the \*Transfer Student Monitoring/Financial Aid History Processes and Batch File Layouts for 2009-2010\* \(dated November 21, 2008\) posted on the IFAP Web site.](#)

**Note:** We have used the error codes listed below since January 1, 2009; however, they are currently not included in section 4.4 of the 2009-2010 file layouts document. We will include the following error codes in the next release of the file layouts document:

#### 4.4 Error and Warning Codes Legends

##### *Error Codes Legend*

<b>Field Number</b>	<b>Error Code</b>	<b>Description</b> (helpful hints)
104	<b>005</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Servicer not authorized</b> (contact Customer Service to get your servicer code)
104	<b>033</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>TG Number not valid for School/Branch</b> (Ensure you are sending the TRNINFIN file with the School OPE-ID code from the TG# as the one signed up for the Financial Aid History/Transfer Student Monitoring NSLDS batch service on fsaweberoll)
104	<b>035</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>User not authorized</b> (Ensure you are enrolled for the Financial Aid History/Transfer Student Monitoring NSLDS batch service on fsaweberoll before submitting your TRNINFIN file from the TG# designated on the sign up process)

<sup>(1)</sup> modified description

<sup>(2)</sup> new error code

#### Customer Service Reminder

Please remember to keep your NSLDSFAP ORG contacts current and always list at least a Primary Contact's e-mail address for your organization.

The NSLDS Customer Service Center at 800/999-8219 is available Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. (ET). You can also contact Customer Service by e-mail at [nslds@ed.gov](mailto:nslds@ed.gov).