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TO: Directors of Financial Aid
Public or Private/Independent Institutions of Higher Education

FROM: DeChà Reid
Director, Financial Aid Services

DATE: Aug. 5, 2021

RE: Impacts of Federal Student Aid Changes on State Financial Aid Requirements

The Office of Student Financial Aid Programs (SFAP) would like to provide clarification on how the recent changes made by the Department of Education (ED) may impact state financial aid programs.

Selective Service and Controlled Substance State Requirements

On June 11, 2021, the Department of Education released a Dear Colleague Letter ([DCL ID: GEN-21-04](#)) addressing early implementation of two of the FAFSA Simplification Act's eligibility requirement removals. These removals include:

- The requirement that male students register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal student aid under Title IV of the HEA (Title IV); and
- Suspension of eligibility for Title IV aid for drug-related convictions that occurred while receiving Title IV aid.

In the most recent 87th Texas Legislative session, no changes were made to remove or modify the Selective Service Status requirement under Texas Education Code (TEC), [Section 51.9095](#) or the conviction of a felony or an offense of a controlled substance requirement included in the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant (TEC, [56.304\(b\)](#) and [56.305\(b\)](#)) and the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) (TEC, [56.404\(b\)](#) and [56.405\(b\)](#)) programs and thus **these two requirements to receive state financial aid remain in effect.**

Verification Changes for 2021-22

On July 13, 2021, the Department of Education released a Dear Colleague Letter ([DCL ID: GEN-21-05](#)) which announced changes to 2021-22 Verification Requirements. These changes were made to provide relief to students and institutions who have faced various challenges as a result of the ongoing national emergency.

Institutions may choose to apply this federal guidance to the state financial aid programs if a valid estimated family contribution (EFC) can be confirmed for calculating financial need for state awarding purposes.

For TASFA students, institutions have discretion to select students for verification according to consistently applied institutional policies. If a process is in place to calculate a valid EFC without verifying, institutions may continue to use that process.

For questions, please call Financial Aid Services at 844-792-2640 or [CONTACT US](#) (select "Financial Aid Question" as the Contact Reason).