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

FROM: DeChà Reid  
Senior Director, Financial Aid Services

DATE: January 12, 2022

RE: 2022 State Financial Aid Resource Updates, Reminders and Deadlines

## **Resource Updates**

### **Institutional Calendar**

The [Spring 2022 Institutional Calendar](#) was released on Dec. 16, 2021, and is posted on the Student Financial Aid Programs webpage à [Stay Connected](#). The calendar provides important deadlines, agency closures and alerts that are intended to help administrators plan activities throughout the year.

### **Education Benefits for Certain Survivors**

A [memo](#) to institutions on Dec. 16, 2021 about an important change to statute that impacts all of the public institutions in the state of Texas. During the 87th Special Legislative Session, the Education Benefits for Certain Survivors under [Texas Education Code \(TEC\), Section 54.354 \(a\)](#), was modified by House Bill 133, which was signed into law on Oct. 25, 2021. This bill amended the program's age restriction for eligible children from "younger than 18 years of age" to "younger than 25 years of age" on the date of death.

This statutory change will go into effect for costs charged to eligible students in Spring 2022 and forward; it is not retroactive. The program guidelines will be updated to reflect this change and training will also be provided to help support institutions with the administration of this program and to clarify this recent statutory change.

## Financial Aid Database (FAD) Manual - FY 2022

The [2021-22 FAD Manual](#) was distributed to institutions on Dec. 21, 2021 and is posted on the Student Financial Aid Programs webpage à [Program Resources](#). Changes that were included in the manual were the submission and deadline dates for each of the three cycles, the updated award amounts in the file layout and new edits that better align with the Texas Administrative Code. In addition to notifying institutions, the vendors were sent the updated manual and provided a summary of the changes that were included and what to expect in the coming year in relation to FADs.

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## *Reminders and Deadlines*

### State Grant Allocations in CBPass

The additional FY 2022 funding (under Strategy B.1.10) that was communicated in the final allocations for each grant program will be added in the grant payment portal (GPP) through CBPass to reflect the full allocation amount. While institutions can submit funds requests for the remaining original allocation amount, the additional amounts are not yet available. A formal notice will be sent to institutions once the funding amounts have been added and are available for request.

### GEER Closeout Report

On Dec. 9, 2021, Financial Aid Services sent a [memo](#) that included an Excel template and online submission form through "Smartsheet" for institutions to upload their Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Closeout report to the THECB. This final report is required from all public and private institutions that disbursed FY 2021 GEER state grant aid funding to students through the Toward EXcellence, Access and Success (TEXAS) Grant, Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) and Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) programs. Please note, this closeout report does **NOT** collect information for GEER Emergency Educational Grant (EEG) recipients which was collected in Feb. 2021.

The FY 2021 GEER - State Grant Aid (TEXAS Grant, TEOG, or TEG) Closeout Report is due by **Jan. 21, 2022**, which ensures compliance with Section 3.0 of the "Grant Agreement Using GEER Federal Funds," regarding the closeout reporting process. The recipients reported will be reconciled with the FY 2021 Financial Aid Database (FAD) report so please make sure to review the students and the dollar amounts carefully.

As a reminder, any interest earned on GEER funds must be remitted by the institution back to the THECB after all funds have been expended, per the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) under CDFA 84.425C. Institutions are required to use the [GEER Return of Funds Form \(RFF\)](#) when sending back both funds and interest. All sections on the RFF and the "Detailed Refund Explanation" need to be completed. While grant and interest refunds are reported together on the RFF, they have to be returned separately to the THECB.

### **TEG Engagement Report - FY 2021**

Private and independent institutions participating in the TEG program are **required** to have their operations of the program audited on an annual basis by an independent auditor or by an internal audit office that is independent of the financial aid and disbursing office. Each private/independent institution is required to submit a final report electronically to DeChà Reid at [DeCha.Reid@highered.texas.gov](mailto:DeCha.Reid@highered.texas.gov) by **April 15, 2022**. If the audit results in findings or recommendations, the institution must also submit a corrective action plan in addition to the final report.

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