



**TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD**
Agency Operations and Communications
P.O. Box 12788 Austin, Texas 78711

***Sent on behalf of Ginger Gossman, Senior Director, Innovation and Policy
Development, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board***

LINDA BATTLES, M.P.AFF.
Deputy Commissioner
Agency Operations and
Communications/Chief
Operating Officer
512-427-6205
Fax 512-427-6127

TO: Financial Aid Advisory Committee
Directors of Financial Aid at Institutions of Higher Education

KEN MARTIN
Assistant Commissioner for
Financial Services/Chief
Financial Officer
512-427-6173
Fax 512-427-6169

DATE: September 24, 2018

CHARLES W. PULS, Ed.D
Deputy Assistant
Commissioner for Student
Financial Aid Programs
512-427-6365
Fax 512-427-6423

SUBJECT: Videos for SB 887 Webinars are Posted Online

ZHEN ZHEN SUN
Assistant Commissioner for
Information Solutions &
Services
512-427-6259
Fax 512-427-6447

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) hosted two webinars to assist institutions with implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 887. Videos for both of these events are now posted on our agency YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/user/TxHigherEd>.

TONIA SCAPERLANDA
Director
Human Resources
512-427-6193
Fax 512-427-6510

JOHN WYATT
Director
External Relations
512-427-6586
Fax 512-427-6127

June 4, 2018, 9:30–11:00 A.M.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9HOgWDaq1E>

This webinar featured staff from Indiana University (IU), the first institution in the nation to send students a debt letter to inform them about the amount(s) they borrowed and what they should expect to pay off their loans. SB 887 was modeled after Indiana's House Bill 1042, which scaled IU's initiative statewide. IU staff shared their experiences and addressed key questions from the field, for example: (1) How do you calculate a single interest rate and a single monthly repayment estimate for a 10-year repayment plan if the student has more than one loan, and each of these loans has different repayment terms and conditions? (2) What if the institution does not know the interest rate of a private loan? What interest rate should the institution assign to this loan? (3) Which data sources should institutions use to efficiently pull debt data? To accurately calculate student indebtedness? (4) What can institutions do to ensure that the electronic delivery of the student debt letter complies with FERPA? (5) What data systems did IU use to manipulate loan information for the purposes of generating student debt letters? What changes were made to those systems? All materials related to this webinar are posted on the event page, <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?ObjectID=FCB20CBF-078A-2725-D4EB539FABE9A66D>.

August 28, 2018, 10:00–11:30 A.M.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdiAs4L5ewA>

This webinar provided guidance on how to effectively communicate information presented in student debt letters required by SB 887. Staff from uAspire presented [research](#) co-conducted with the New America Foundation examining the accessibility and the transparency of financial aid award letters. *Even though the SB 887 is not an award letter, we believe the findings in this New America and uAspire report lend important insights into how institutions can effectively communicate debt information to students.* Sam Houston State University staff shared the process they developed to create a student-centered and student-accessible debt letter. All materials related to this webinar are posted on the event page, <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?ObjectID=A4BB4590-8F8C-11E8-AE230050560100A9>.

If you have any questions on these webinars, please contact Ginger Gossman at Ginger.Gossman@thecb.state.tx.us. If you have suggestions for future webinars to help with SB 887 implementation, please also contact Ginger Gossman.