



June 8, 2015

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.

I request that a copy of the following documents (or documents containing the following information) be provided to me (identify the documents or information as specifically as possible):

- (1) I would like to obtain data on all higher education institutions that filed appeals after the decision of the U.S. Department to Education impose sanctions under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (Title IV) because of violation of the cohort default rate (CDR) thresholds.

In particular, I would like annual data for the years 1987 to present of: lists of the schools that were subject to sanction, schools that appealed these sanctions, the month/year the appeal was filed, the results of the appeal (*both failure and success*), and month/year of the release of the final decision.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am (select one):

- ☐ An individual seeking information for personal use.
- ☒ Affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, and this request is made for a scholarly purpose.
- ☐ Affiliated with a private corporation and seeking information for use in the company's business.
- ☐ A representative of the news media/press and this request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.
- ☐ Affiliated with a public interest group and this request is not for commercial use.

The maximum dollar amount I am willing to pay for this request is \$25.00. Please notify me if the fees will exceed \$25.00 or the maximum dollar amount I entered.

☒ I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me 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.

Specific explanation for waiver of fees (required if a waiver is requested):

Along with coauthors at the University of Maryland and University of Missouri, I am pursuing research on the behavior of sub-baccalaureate institutions. We are conducting a statistical study assessing whether the loss of federal student aid leads students to leave the for-profit sector in favor of public institutions. The paper will be published in a top economics journal and early versions will be made available to the public on our faculty websites. The question has important implications for current debates over the regulation of for-profit colleges. Thank you for considering my request!

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steph R. Cellini".

Stephanie Riegg Cellini
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Economics
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(202) 271-4795