



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

Privacy, Information, and Records Management Services

June 9, 2014

Stephanie Riegg Cellini
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Economics
The George Washington University
805 21st Street, NW
Media and Public Affairs Building 601
Washington, DC 20052

RE: FOIA Request No. (14-00863-F)

Dear Ms. Cellini:

This is the final response to your request dated March 5, 2014, requesting information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Your request was received in the FOIA Service Center (FSC) on March 13, 2014, and was forwarded to the Office of Federal Student Aid within the Department of Education (the Department) for any responsive documents they may have.

You requested:

- (1) I would like to obtain data on the official Cohort Default Rate (CDR) of each postsecondary institution for the years 1987-1991. Currently, only 1992 and onward are available in "Archived Press Packages," on your website <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/DefaultManagement/press/>. I believe that data from the earlier years must be available because the average CDRs for these years are shown in a graph on your website:
(<https://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/defaultmanagement/defaultrates.html>).

I would like to obtain the school-level data for these early years (specifically, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991). I suspect that there may be earlier press packages containing Excel spreadsheets labeled something like: FY1991PressPackage.xls (or similar) for each earlier year. This would match the data we already have from 1992 forward.

If these data are not available electronically, paper copies of lists of schools and CDRs would suffice. Ideally, we need each school's id, name, address, type and control, and their 2-year cohort default rate (CDR) for each year.

- (2) I would like to obtain information on the schools that lost eligibility to disburse federal financial aid funds authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (Title IV) because of violation of the CDR thresholds. In particular, I would like the annual data for the years 1987 to present of: lists of the schools that were subject to sanction, schools that appealed these sanctions, and the results of the appeals (i.e., which schools actually got sanctioned).
- (3) I would like to obtain lists of institutions that lost Title IV eligibility for the period of 1980-present, including information on the year eligibility was lost and the reason why. I would appreciate for the reason why each institution lost eligibility to be described in detail, at least at the level of the categories listed in the Congressional Research Report RL33909 (dated March 9, 2007 and available at <https://opencrs.com/document/RL33909/>). That report categorized reasons for loss of institutional eligibility into the following groups: Closed; Voluntary withdrawal; Loss

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of accreditation; Expired eligibility; Does not meet financial responsibility; Does not meet administrative capability; Bankruptcy; Failed 90/10; Program Participation Agreement (PPA) revoked; No eligible program; Merged; Fraud; Does not meet requirements; Past performance issues; Significant program review findings; State licensure; Ownership change in process; and Other. The data in the paper was sourced as unpublished data from the U.S. Department of Education.

Enclosed with this letter is a CD containing 384 pages of fully releasable documents that are responsive to your request. In addition the information below regarding the 1989-2011 Subject to Sanctions document may be helpful to you:

- Appeal Data is not available for years 1989-1994.
- Sanction Description—Limitation, Suspension, or Termination of Title IV---- Reason Description—One CDR exceeding 40%: School did not lose program eligibility /referred to Administrative Action and Appeals Division for resolution.

Also, in reference to part 3 of your request, information can be found online at the following web link:

<http://ww2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/PEPS/dataextracts.html>

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover the costs pertaining to your request. The Department has concluded that you fall within the category “an all other use requester.” In a letter dated March 31, 2014, you were granted a fee waiver for the processing of this request. Therefore, the Department has provided you with this information at no charge. The Department's release of this information at no cost does not constitute the grant of a fee waiver, and does not infer or imply that you will be granted a fee waiver for future requests made under FOIA to the Department.

If you have any questions, please contact the FSC at (202) 401-8365 or EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Elise Cook
FOIA Public Liaison
FOIA Service Center

Enclosure