



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

### FOIA Service Center

July 29, 2021

Ms. Abigail Alannah Moats  
Intake & Digital Advocacy Manager  
National Student Legal Defense Network  
1460 Fuller St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009

RE: FOIA Request No. 21-02015-F

Dear Abigail Alannah Moats:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated June 25, 2021, and received in this office on June 28, 2021. Your request was forwarded to the Office of Financial Operations (OFO) and Federal Student Aid (FSA) to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following:

- A complete listing of all institutions with unpaid liabilities stemming from closures or compliance and enforcement actions,
- The amount of those liabilities, and
- The date on which the liabilities were assessed.

Effectively, this request is for the same report requested in our February 9, 2021, FOIA but with updated data. Further, the answers we provided in our February 16, 2021, response to the Department's February 10, 2021, request for clarification remain the same. Our answers were as follows:

- **Date Range of Record:** While we have requested a listing of all institutions with currently outstanding liabilities, please prioritize liabilities assessed over the last ten years.
- **Scope:**
  - o Our request includes all unpaid amounts owed to the Department. This includes fines and any other liabilities owed, including civil penalties, liabilities stemming from closures, and liabilities associated with any other compliance and enforcement actions (including program reviews and audit determinations).
  - o Our request is to include closeout audit, FAD, and FRPD liabilities outstanding from schools no longer in the program, such as closed school discharge liabilities. Our request also includes unpaid FAD and FRPD liabilities from institutions that are still participating in Title IV programs. Alternatively put, this request includes any instance in which the Department assessed a financial liability or other payment obligation that remains unpaid, whether or not the school is still in the program.

Available for Public Access Link (PAL) download are 106 pages of fully releasable documents responsive to your request. The documents provided are:

- 21-02015-F OFO

You can access PAL account at this link: <https://foiexpress.pal.ed.gov/app/PalLogin.aspx>

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover the costs pertaining to your request. The Department has concluded that you fall within the category of Other. However, 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. Because we were able to locate and process these documents at minimal costs, they are provided to you at no cost.

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation. They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4500	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	<a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	202-205-0733	301-837-1996; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	301-837-0348

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf).

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)  
Fax: 202-401-0920  
Mail: Appeals Office  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Sincerely,

**Sandra Lewandowski**  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosure