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GOVERNOR



Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
GAfutures.org

Caylee Noggle
INTERIM PRESIDENT

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Subject: State Aid Eligibility Verification during the FFY 2019 Federal Shutdown

Dear Colleague:

In an effort to minimize the impact to students and families in Georgia, the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) is providing the following information detailing the process for verifying student eligibility during the FFY 2019 Federal Shutdown.

During the shutdown, some federal resources required to verify state aid student eligibility requirements, such as Selective Service registration, defaulted loan status, citizenship status, and others, may be unavailable. In such instances when eligibility verification is not possible, postsecondary institutions may continue to award and disburse state financial aid awards upon receipt of a signed statement from the student certifying his or her eligibility. [Here is a form](#) that your institution may use in such instances. Postsecondary institutions should maintain such documentation in the student's file and should verify the student's eligibility within 30 days of the federal resources becoming available. Postsecondary institutions relying on ISIR data should make note of the updated status once the ISIR is reprocessed, according to guidance issued by Federal Student Aid.

In no circumstance should a student be denied state aid when the student's eligibility cannot be verified as a result of federal resources being unavailable. However, if the student is later found to be ineligible for state aid after verification of eligibility is finalized, the institution must cancel the award/invoice, return the funds to GSFC, or request a refund due status for the student in accordance with program regulations. Funds associated with cancelled invoices that had been disbursed remain as a credit figure to be applied towards a future disbursement, until year-end reconciliation is completed. Alternatively, disbursed funds may be returned with the Return of Funds form. A refund due status may be requested in writing to GSFC; such status requires the student to repay the funds to the institution who then in turn remits the funds to GSFC.

GSFC anticipates no internal operational impacts during the shutdown and will continue to operate as normal. However, should you have other processing questions related to federal resource availability, please contact Pennie Strong, VP of Student Aid Services, at 770.724.9014 or via email at pennies@gsfc.org.

Sincerely,

Caylee Noggle
Interim President