

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN DATA SYSTEM

### **What Is It?**

The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the first national database of loan-level information on Title IV aid. NSLDS, which became operational in November 1994, contains data on the following aid programs:

- Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP);
- Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDLP);
- Perkins Loans (including National Direct, National Defense, and Income Contingent Loans);
- Federal Pell Grant Program; and
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (SEOG).

This data is provided to the system by guaranty agencies (FFELP), schools (Perkins Loans and SEOG), the FDLP servicer, and the Department of Education's (ED's) Title IV systems. In addition, lenders participating in the FFELP are required to submit specified data elements to their associated guaranty agencies for inclusion in the agency submissions to NSLDS. These requirements are detailed in this letter.

### **What Will NSLDS Do?**

The data in NSLDS will be used to perform a variety of functions ranging from replacing existing operational processes at schools and guaranty agencies (e.g., Student Status Confirmation Reporting, Financial Aid Transcripts) through providing a flexible, accessible, and comprehensive database of Title IV data that can be used for a wide range of research purposes.

### **Who Can Use NSLDS?**

Initially, NSLDS will be directly accessible to users at schools and guaranty agencies. Lenders may obtain data through the guaranty agencies with which they work. As the system matures and evolves, additional access requirements will be defined. ED's goal is to make the system as useful as possible to members of the community, within the performance and cost constraints associated with a large computer system serving an extensive user base.

### **What Is the Next Step?**

The attachment to this letter summarizes the minimum attributes each lender must be prepared to submit to its associated guaranty agencies. Lender reporting is required to commence July 1, 1995, so lenders should be analyzing data and preparing to meet these reporting requirements. If you have not already heard from your associated guaranty agencies regarding this requirement, you should contact them to determine specific format and reporting instructions.

### **Who Can Answer My Questions?**

Questions regarding NSLDS may be directed to the NSLDS Customer Service Center (CSC) between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern time. The CSC telephone number is:

1-800-999-8219

In addition, you may contact ED directly by calling or writing:

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