



SPRING CONFERENCE

Kansas City, Missouri

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Session 5

NSLDS Tools for Determining Eligibility - New Ideas

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Agenda

- Setting the Stage
- CPS – New Options for Schools
- Prescreening – Responding to Schools Suggestions
- Monitoring Student Eligibility – Simplifying the Process
- Discussion

Note: Hold questions for discussion after presentation

Agenda

- **Setting the Stage**
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ISIR Processing/Prescreening

(Current Process)

- FAFSA completed by applicant and transmitted to CPS
- CPS conducts Prescreening match with NSLDS
- ISIR generated with relevant financial aid history flags, aggregates and limited detail records
- Immediately distributed to all schools listed on FAFSA
- Subsequent ISIRs contain refreshed financial aid history

Postscreening

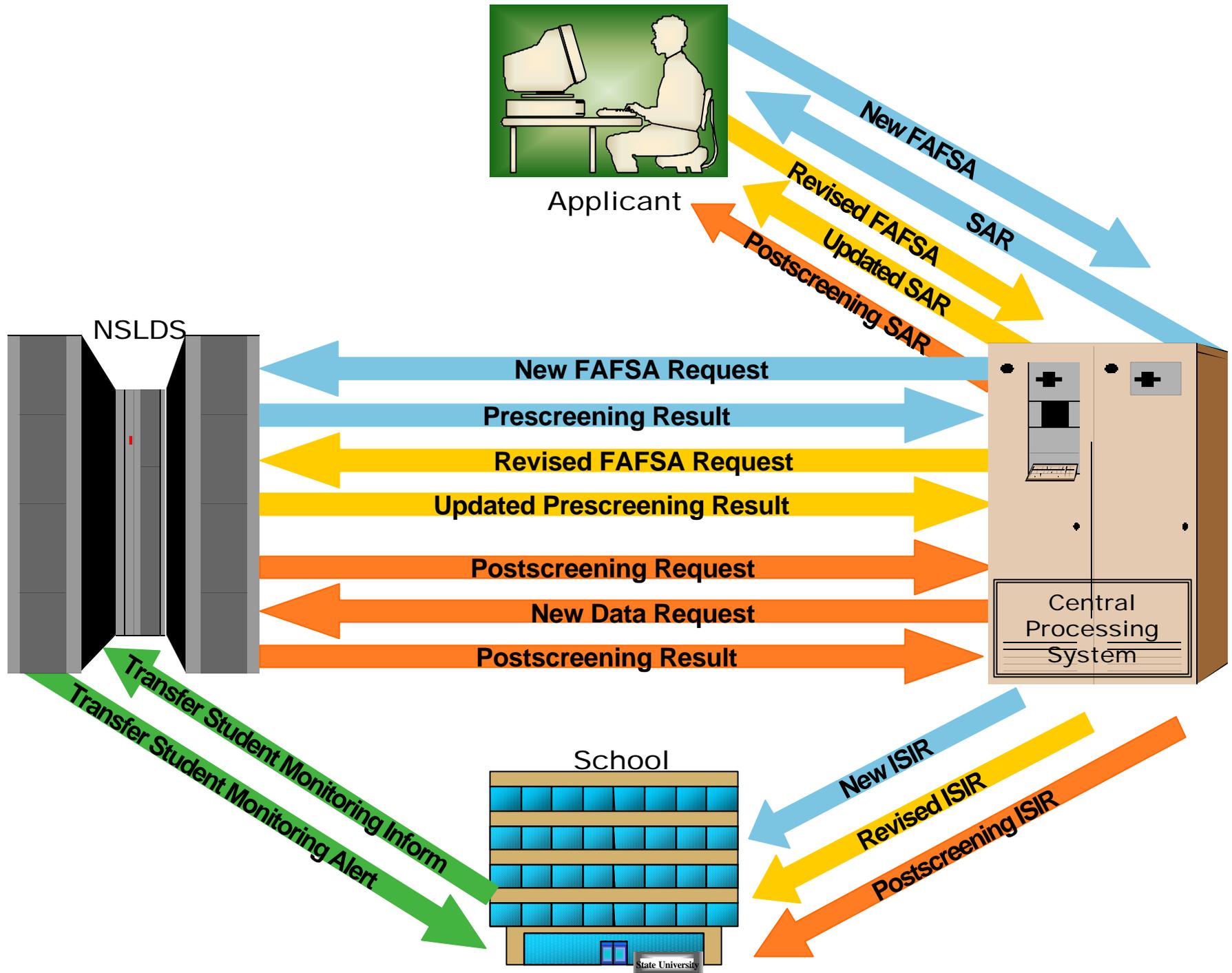
(Current Process)

- NSLDS receives new data daily from data providers depending on their load schedule
- Monitors changes in default, overpayment, disability, MPN and aggregate loan limit statuses
- Changes cause a new ISIR to be generated and distributed to all schools listed on FAFSA

Transfer Student Monitoring

(Current Process)

- Schools inform NSLDS who to monitor
- NSLDS monitors changes in disbursements, new or cancelled loans, and new or cancelled Pell Grants at other institutions
- Changes impacting eligibility cause a Financial Aid History (FAH) Alert to be sent to the school indicating an interest in the student
- Alerts distributed based on school selected options which can be changed at any time
- Email notice sent to school when Alerts are generated



Objectives

- Simplify the process
- Provide schools with options for receiving ISIRs and Financial Aid History
- Eliminate transactions/records not needed by school
- Implement XML
- Reduce cost to FSA and schools

Setting the Stage

- Question: What is the best way to get you the right financial aid history data, when you need it, in a format you choose?
- Focus sessions held at 2002 EAC conferences provided great ideas on improving the processes
- In early stages of defining changes – seeking more input from community
- Most changes would not be made before 2005-06 processing year at the earliest

Agenda

- ┆ Setting the Stage
- **CPS – New Options for Schools**
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CPS – Future ISIR Changes

- Conversion to XML format
 - Part of integration and modernization of FSA systems
 - Phased-in implementation beginning with 2004-05 processing year
 - Draft record layout using 2003-2004 ISIR issued end of February for comments

CPS – Future ISIR Changes

- Conversion to XML format
 - Initially (2004-05 processing year), schools will have option of receiving ISIRs in XML format or current fixed length flat file format
 - Process for schools to indicate choice will be set up prior to processing startup in January

CPS – Future ISIR Changes

- Schools designate when they wish to receive ISIRs
 - Continue to receive ISIRs automatically from CPS

or

- Draw down from new ISIR Datamart
 - Beginning at CPS start up or wait until later
 - Every transaction, latest transaction, specific transaction, etc.
 - All applicants or specified applicants

CPS – Future ISIR Changes

- Schools designate when they wish to receive ISIRs
 - Files would be downloaded from the Web
 - Process for schools to indicate choices will be set up prior to processing startup in January

CPS – Future ISIR Changes

- Schools designate when they wish to receive ISIRs
 - Possible options:
 - Date range
 - Specific SSNs
 - Transaction number
 - Application source
 - Grade level
 - Eligibility status
 - Institution code
 - Others?

CPS – Proposed Future ISIR Change

- Change to Financial Aid History data on ISIRs
 - Flags and comment codes would continue
 - Schools previously attended based on aid received would be added
 - Aggregates and detail information would be removed and sent directly to school by NSLDS

Impact

- Schools get choice when and how to receive ISIRs
- Schools have more control over data they receive
- Schools have less data to manage
- Will potentially require changes to school's business practices and systems
- Will potentially require changes to external software products (EDExpress, vendor software, etc.)

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Prescreening New Applicants

(New Ideas)

- Prescreening continues for initial FAFSA (new SAR/ISIR each year)
 - Default, overpayment, disability, MPN and aggregate flags distributed on first ISIR record sent to a school
 - Add schools previously attended, based on aid received
 - Aggregates, loan and Pell Grant detail records removed

Prescreening New Applicants (Cont) (New Ideas)

- Schools receive a complete Financial Aid History directly from NSLDS
 - Contains updated financial aid history flags if distributed at a different time than ISIR
 - Includes aggregate totals, loan and Pell Grant detail records
 - Add schools previously attended, based on aid received
 - Distributed based on school selected option

Subsequent FAFSAs

(New Ideas)

- Prescreening discontinued for subsequent FAFSAs
- No financial aid history flags on subsequent ISIRs sent to schools which previously received an ISIR
- Schools newly added to FAFSA would get financial aid history flags on ISIR
- NSLDS would alert schools of financial aid history changes affecting a student's eligibility (discussed below)

Financial Aid History

(New Ideas)

- New data, requested by Focus groups, added to FAH:
 - Student's ISIR identifiers
 - Schools attended based on aid previously received
 - New flag noting student got a loan in past year
 - Dependency status and academic level used to determine aggregate flags
- NSLDS generates FAH and distributes to schools based on their chosen option
- FAH changed to XML format

FAH Distribution Options

(New Ideas)

- School designates when they wish to receive FAH
 - Transmit FAH data (in a separate file) and ISIR data simultaneously
 - Transmit starting at a future date
 - Send only upon request from school
 - Never send – school will use NSLDSFAP
 - Other options?

Impact

- Schools get choice on when, how and to whom FAH is sent – can set/revise choices on Web
- Schools review full FAH data once per award year (not with every ISIR correction)
 - (Note: Alerts sent if there are relevant changes)
- Schools get complete financial aid history
- Single format for FAH data provided separately from ISIR
- NSLDS has latest dependency status to determine aggregate limits – reduces subsequent Alerts
- School's business processes and systems will need to be modified
- EDEXpress, third party software, and home built systems will need to be modified

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Monitoring

(New Ideas)

- Combine Transfer Student Monitoring (TSM) and Postscreening into a single monitoring process
- Retain TSM functionality with a few modifications
- Add Postscreening functionality to new monitoring process

TSM Functionality Modified

(New Ideas)

- School informs NSLDS of students to be monitored (Inform)
 - No longer need to add students who listed the school on the FAFSA
 - Can remove students for whom the school does not have an interest
 - Students can be added if school not yet included on FAFSA
- NSLDS monitors data received and determines which schools to Alert about changes in student eligibility (Monitor)
 - Alerts are not generated for data at same school except for defaults, overpayments, disability, MPN and loan aggregate changes

TSM Functionality Modified (cont) (New Ideas)

- NSLDS notifies school of relevant aid changes for a student (Alert)
 - To school(s) listed on FAFSA (and not removed by school)
 - To school(s) who added student to their monitoring list
- Provide convenient input and output options which can be changed on the Web at any time
- School notified via email when Alerts are generated for the school

Add Postscreening Functionality to New Process

(New Ideas)

- Defaults – new or cleared
- Overpayments – new or cleared
- Disability – change in status
- MPN changes for Direct Loans
- Loan aggregates – Subsidized and combined
 - New aid causes limits to be exceeded
 - New aid causes student to be near loan limits
 - Previously exceeded limits – now below limits

Monitoring Distribution Options

(New Ideas)

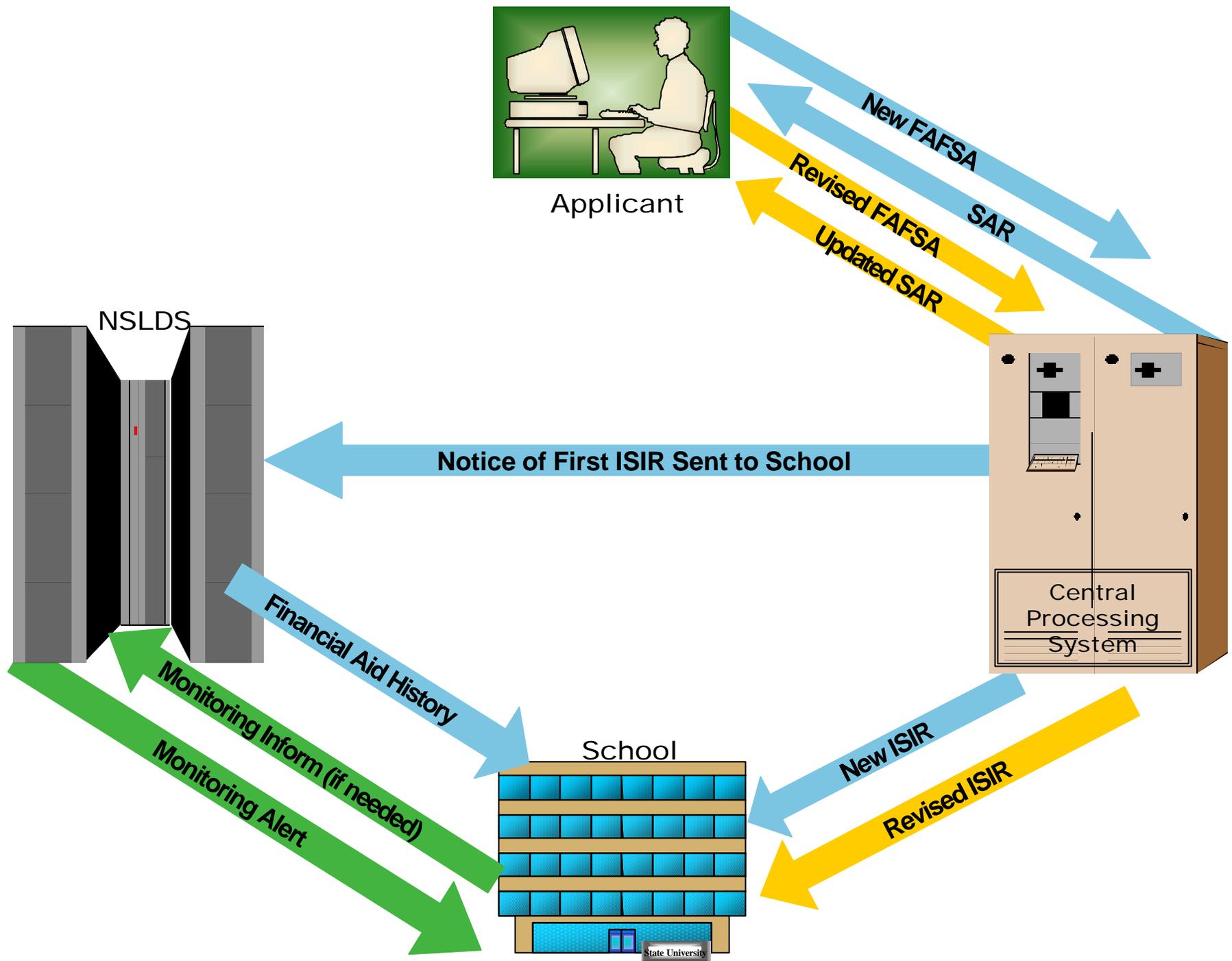
- Provide schools with options on what data to send with Alerts:
 - Full FAH history
 - FAH changes only
 - Limit loan and Pell Grant records to past 1 or 2 years
 - Limit loan and Pell Grant records to aid received at another school
 - Other options?
- Output provided in XML format

Impact

- Schools have more control over process
- There is less data to manage
- Schools get choice on what FAH data they receive – can set/revise choices on Web
- Alerts are not generated for data at same school except for defaults, overpayments, disability and loan aggregate changes
- Schools get one Alert to cover all FAH data issues
- Schools could notify NSLDS to stop monitoring students for whom they no longer have an interest
- Schools only have to Inform NSLDS of students who did not list their school on FAFSA or did not file a FAFSA (Note: School must have ISIR before awarding aid.)

Impact (continued)

- Postscreening ISIRs eliminated
- Alert format would be the same as Prescreening FAH output
- School's business processes may need to be modified
- EDEExpress, third party software, and home built systems will need to be modified



Discussion

- CPS – New Options for Schools
- Prescreening – Responding to Schools Suggestions
- Monitoring Student Eligibility – Simplifying the Process

Feedback Wanted

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