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FEDERAL UPDATES

Closed School Corner

The ID numbers now used in Closed School Corner are the OPE School ID numbers instead of the TG School ID numbers.

NEWLY REPORTED CLOSURES

OPE ID#	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL ADDRESS	UNOFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE	ED'S OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE
03445400	Expert Solutions Technical College	1200 S. Sherman #100 Richardson, TX 75081	12/30/01*	N/A
02154200	International Beauty School	2700 Northwest 79 th Miami, FL 33147	N/A	04/14/89 08/16/90**
00755300	Michigan Career Institute	14520 Gratiot Ave. Detroit, MI 48205	N/A	07/14/95

* This date was provided by Expert Solutions Technical College as the date it ceased to continue to provide education.

** The main campus of International Beauty School (a.k.a. North Miami Beauty School) at 5460 W. 16th Ave., Hialeah, FL 33012 (021542000) ceased to provide education effective 04/14/89). The unauthorized additional location (02154201) at 7900 Northwest 27th, Miami, FL 33147 ceased to provide education effective 08/16/90.

TG UPDATES

The New and Improved ICM

The *Integrated Common Manual* (ICM) has recently undergone a transformation of sorts. But to open it up, you would never know the difference—immediately, that is.

New Features

The ICM, which integrates and highlights monthly changes to the *Common Manual*, is available on *TGWorks Online* at www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated_online_manual.htm. It looks basically the same as it has since TG first posted it on its web site in 2000. New text is still underlined and deleted text is still shown in strikethrough. However, it has some enhancements:

- The Summary of Changes at the beginning of the manual now links directly to each revised section of the manual, making it easier to quickly review the effect of the latest policy changes.
- The manual's index, tables of contents, and all links are now updated each month to reflect the integration of new policy changes. No more inactive links on revised pages!
- Change bars in the margins make it easy to spot even the most minor revisions.
- New running headers at the top of each page list section numbers and titles, making it possible to identify your location within the manual on pages without major headings.

New Filename

Previously, when you downloaded the ICM, the PDF was called "IntComMan.pdf." But now, the PDF is titled "ICM1201.pdf." The reason for the change is that since the ICM is updated monthly with new policy changes that have been approved, the date of the last update will be imbedded in the title. That way, you'll know you have the most recent version of the ICM available for your research.

This may cause you one small extra step each time you download the monthly version of the ICM. Previously, when you downloaded "IntComMan.pdf," your computer may have asked you if you wanted to save over the existing file (since it had the same name). Now, since each monthly version will have a different name, you can either archive the previous month's version (and impress your colleagues and auditors alike) or simply send it to the old recycle bin every time you download the new ICM. That's it!

If you wish to bookmark the new ICM in your web browser, be sure to use the following URL: www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated_online_manual.htm. Any bookmarks containing the old filename "IntComMan.pdf" will need to be updated.

More Information

For more information about the new and improved ICM, contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267 or send an e-mail message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

The Early FAFSA Gets the Funds

As higher education industry participants, you know how important it is for students to apply for admission and financial aid as early as possible. With a record number of freshmen enrolled at many of the nation's colleges and universities last fall, and another bumper crop expected for fall 2002, that urgency has never been more apparent. With support and cooperation from the community, TG has developed awareness efforts, resources, and publications (see details below), that encourage students to apply early for admission and financial aid to ensure that they receive full consideration from potential schools.

“It’s always important to apply as soon as possible,” said Jacob Fraire, TG’s Assistant Vice President for Educational Alliances and Partnerships. “But because of the baby boom echo, we’re anticipating increased competition for selective college admissions and for those financial aid programs that are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.”

FAFSA Time

Although the college admission process varies from school to school, the federal financial aid process always begins with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on paper. The form, which gathers information necessary to determine eligibility for federal aid, may be submitted for processing any time after January 1, 2002.

College-bound students sometimes assume they have to wait until they have been accepted to a specific college before they can apply for financial aid, but that is not the case.

“We encourage students and families not to delay the financial aid application process,” said Fraire. “The FAFSA allows students to select up to six different colleges to receive their financial aid information. Students don’t have to know exactly which college they will be attending to complete the FAFSA. In fact, right now is a good time to get started.”

Helpful Resources

TG offers numerous resources to help students and families understand the college admission and financial aid processes:

- "Applying for Financial Aid: The FAFSA Process," a free, annual satellite teleconference that provides step-by-step instructions for completing the FAFSA. This year's broadcast is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Central Time). Tapes of the program are also available in English or Spanish. Information on how and where to view the broadcast is available at www.adventuresineducation.org/NEWS/index.htm;
- *Adventures In Education* (www.AIE.org), which includes checklists and updates on preparing for and applying to college, an overview of the financial aid process, and information for students and families in English and Spanish;
- Informative publications, including *Your Future* (available in English and Spanish), a guide to help students make decisions about financing their education; and
- The Texas Financial Aid Information Center, available toll-free at (877) 782-7322, which is staffed by English- and Spanish-speaking counselors who can answer questions about financial aid. The Center is a joint effort between TG, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

TRENDS AND ISSUES

Loan Forgiveness Chat Draws Huge Public Response

The questions from student loan borrowers came fast and furious during the January 10 Loan Forgiveness Chat on *Mapping Your Future* (MYF)—with at least 70 questions submitted within the first 10 to 15 minutes. MYF is a public service web site providing college, career, and financial aid information and services.

Online Archive

More than 300 questions and answers from the chat have been archived online at <http://mapping-your-future.org/services/chatqa.cfm?E=20020110&title=January%2010,%202002>.

Here are a few examples of the questions you'll find answered in the archive:

- How can you get a student loan forgiven?
- What can I do about my loan since I have been declared disabled?
- I was interested in the loan forgiveness program. I never finished school and I am now a daycare provider in my home and was wondering if my loans could be forgiven if you haven't graduated.
- My husband and I both want to be teachers and coaches. My specialty is Secondary Math and his is Secondary History. I was curious if there were any options for these fields as far as getting loans forgiven.

Because of the large volume of questions submitted, the chat, originally scheduled from 2 to 3:30 p.m. CST, was extended and users were allowed to remain in the chat room into the early evening. Counselors continued answering questions throughout the evening and responding to follow-up questions by e-mail. Visitors were able to view responses as they were posted during the chat.

More Information

Mapping Your Future has scheduled additional chats in 2002. See <http://mapping-your-future.org/services/chatnight.htm> for a list of topics and dates.

COMMON MANUAL

Common Manual Updates

Note: Current *Common Manual Updates* (Updates) and the *Integrated Common Manual* (ICM) are available on *TGWorks Online* at www.tgslc.org/tgslc/schools/integrated_online_manual.htm. By posting Updates and the ICM online, TG offers its customers access to new policies shortly after the *Common Manual* Governing Board approves them.

Glossary Definition of "Week"

The *Common Manual* has been updated to align the glossary definition of "Week" with language pertaining to a "week of instruction" included in subsection 4.1.C. of the manual.

Affected Sections:	Appendix G
Effective Date:	A "week of instruction" as determined by the school on or after July 1, 2001.
Basis:	§668.8(b)(2) and (3).
Policy Information:	Reference 549
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Penalties for Due Diligence Violations and Gaps

The *Common Manual* has been revised to ensure consistency between subsections that address the cure of a loss of guarantee. Some *Common Manual* cites already correctly identify that a loss of a loan's guarantee occurs if there is a gap of 46 days or more. Subsections 8.8.C. and ^{CCI}8.8.C., however, incorrectly state that the loss of guarantee occurs if there is a gap of 46 days or more and one or more violations. The revised policy amends these two subsections, and states that the earliest unexcused violation date is the 46th day (or 61st day in the case of a transfer) following the date of the last collection activity that started the gap.

Affected Sections:	8.8.C., ^{CCI} 8.8.C.
Effective Date:	Retroactive to loans on which the first day of delinquency on the oldest outstanding due date is after July 1, 1996.
Basis:	§682 Appendix D; DCL 96-L-186/96-G-287, Q&A #68 and #69.
Policy Information:	Reference 551
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Applying for a Stafford Loan

The *Common Manual* has been updated to state that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the only application a student may use to apply for a Stafford loan.

Affected Sections:	2.2.A.
Effective Date:	Retroactive to the implementation of the Master Promissory Note (MPN).
Basis:	HEA 432(m)(1)(c); §682.102(a)—as updated in the <i>Federal Register</i> dated November 1, 1999.
Policy Information:	Reference 552
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Consolidation Loan Applications

The *Common Manual* is being revised to delete all references to Consolidation loan forms other than the common Consolidation loan forms and to delete references to the differences between using the common Consolidation loan forms and other Consolidation loan forms. The new common Consolidation forms were issued by the Department in October 2000 in GEN-00-16 which allowed immediate use of the forms, but did not require the use of the forms for all Consolidation loan applications until January 1, 2002.

Affected Sections:	9.2, 9.3.B., 9.3.C.
Effective Date:	Consolidation loan applications signed by borrowers on or after January 1, 2002.
Basis:	DCL GEN-00-16/G-00-330/L-00-224.
Policy Information:	Reference 553
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Common Supplemental Claim Policies Implemented

Guarantors developed a common Supplemental Claim Form and related policies some time ago. While other aspects of the Common Claim Initiative (CCI) have been deferred to permit the development and implementation of electronic formats, the supplemental claim filing process is not currently being developed in the electronic arena. Guarantors believe significant efficiencies can be achieved by implementing the revised minimum supplemental claim amount and the common form. Common policy already permits the lender a 90-day period in which to file the supplemental claim, measured from the date the lender receives the claim payment. The *Common Manual* guarantors are implementing two new common policies related to supplemental claims, as follows:

- The lender may not file a supplemental claim for less than \$50. This amount may include principal, interest, or both.
- Lenders must submit the common Supplemental Claim Form to request claim payment increases.

Affected Sections:	8.6.D.
Effective Date:	Supplemental claim requests filed by the lender on or after July 1, 2002, unless implemented earlier by the guarantor.
Basis:	None.
Policy Information:	Reference 554
Guarantor Comments:	None.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

January 16, 2002, *Legislative Report*

The January 16 edition of TG's *Legislative Report* includes a summary of CBO's Monthly Budget Review, including outlays and revenue, a brief article about the President signing the remaining three appropriations bills, and an article about the first meeting of the Texas Joint Interim Committee on Private Activity Bonds. Read the entire *Legislative Report* online at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/publications/lege_report/2002/lr_020116.htm.

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER

The House of Representatives, which is in its first week of the second session, has scheduled a vote this Thursday, January 24, on S. 1762, also known as the 2003 interest rate fix bill. This bill was brought to a House vote at the end of the last session but failed to receive the two-thirds majority it needed to pass.

For more information about this issue, see the *Shoptalk Online* article titled "2003 Interest Rate Problem: The Problem and Possible Solution" from Edition 134. *Shoptalk Online* will keep you informed about the progress of this legislation.

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