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TG UPDATES

TG Launches AdvanTG Web™

TG is pleased to announce the release of AdvanTG Web™, a comprehensive, web-based loan management tool that allows schools to manage all aspects of their student loan portfolios through a single web interface. Nine public and private universities in Texas are already up and running on AdvanTG Web as of today, and more schools in Florida, Mississippi, and Texas will move to AdvanTG Web later this week.

One Sign On; One System

With AdvanTG Web, a single web portal takes the place of four separate software applications with four separate user interfaces. Customers can now use a single web interface to perform all transactions and processes available through TG’s AdvanTG™, TG Loans By Web™, Report Request/Distribution, and Real Time Access products. In addition, customers can conduct their student loan transactions easily from any location where they can securely access a web browser.

Notable Features

TG’s new tool offers integrated reporting capabilities as well as new importing options. Among its other notable features, AdvanTG Web allows schools and lenders to manage and centralize their transmission of alternative loan applications, thereby expediting the alternative loan certification process. In addition, AdvanTG Web can facilitate the disbursement of alternative loan funds through TG’s EFT process.

“We look for every opportunity to improve and simplify the financial aid process,” said Marcus Wilson, director of financial aid for Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. “With its CommonLine 4 and 5 compliancy and alternative loan capability, AdvanTG Web will provide us access to the widest possible range of student loan providers, programs, and processes—all in addition to the reliable customer service TG has consistently provided for over 20 years.”

Highlighted below are some of the most notable features of AdvanTG Web:

Open Application Allows Customers More Choices and Flexibility

- AdvanTG Web complies with industry standards for the transmission of loan and disbursement data (CommonLine versions 4 and 5), which ensures that TG customers can work with the widest possible range of student loan providers, programs, and processes—all from a single, simple web interface.
- Customers can enter application data directly into AdvanTG Web, or import application information from a mainframe or another CommonLine-compliant software package.
- Customers can submit change transactions for all types of loans, including those guaranteed by TG, those guaranteed by other FFELP guarantors, and alternative loans.

Web-Based System Frees Up Customers’ IT Resources

- AdvanTG Web is much easier for customers and TG to deploy. As a web solution, it works with a wider variety of hardware and peripheral equipment.
- Customers no longer need to install software, upgrades, or patches.
- Customers will find much less potential for conflicts arising from LAN-based software settings. Previously troublesome read/write issues will become a thing of the past.
- The need for advanced support from each customer’s IT resources is reduced significantly, as most technical issues will be handled by TG Customer Service consultants.
- AdvanTG Web alleviates the burden of data storage and security for school and lender customers. All loan processing information is stored safely, securely, and permanently on TG’s servers. Data backup and operations recovery processes ensure that customer data can be recovered in critical situations.

New Features Extend What Customers Can Do

- Integrated reporting capabilities.
- New importing options.
- Responses from service providers are posted automatically for customers as TG receives them.
- On-line help through the Support Knowledgebase includes a collection of frequently asked questions and answers.

Benefits Already Apparent

Several financial aid professionals who have been involved in beta testing AdvanTG Web are already expressing their delight.

Vernell Kaatz from Texas Tech University stated, “Being able to submit TG Loans By Web™ certifications with completed applications in batch mode was what sold us on AdvanTG Web.”

Sharon Saenz from Texas A&M University – Kingsville indicated that she is particularly pleased that her AdvanTG Web database is automatically updated. “I no longer need to do a send/receive to get my guarantees,” said Saenz, “So if we get really busy and are unable to do a send/receive, we will still have the responses to load into our system.”

Many other customers have expressed appreciation for AdvanTG Web's automated calculation feature for change transactions, and Ronda Beauchamp from Texas State Technical College – Waco commented, "I love that I can now modify a change transaction error for resubmission without having to re-enter data."

TG plans to begin beta testing AdvanTG Web for education lenders in the spring of 2003.

For More Information

An automated demo highlighting the features of AdvanTG Web is available online at http://www.tgslc.org/tgslc/st/st_advantgweb.htm. To get started using AdvanTG Web, or for a comprehensive overview of the features and capabilities, please call (800) 332-1455 or send an e-mail message to product.support@tgslc.org.

FEDERAL UPDATES

ED Extending Multi-Year Use of MPN to All U.S. Schools

In keeping with the generous spirit of the holidays, ED recently announced a broader Master Promissory Note (MPN) policy in Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) GEN-02-10. According to the new policy, all domestic schools will soon be able to use the multi-year feature of the MPN. Borrowers attending foreign schools will not be able to use the multi-year feature of the MPN, unless such a school is informed by ED that its borrowers may do so.

Currently, only borrowers attending four-year colleges and graduate or professional schools are able to receive loans for subsequent academic years based on a previously signed MPN. This provision has now been expanded to all schools in the United States that are participating in the FFEL and Direct Loan Programs, and applies to student borrowers who complete a Stafford MPN, as well as to parent borrowers who complete the soon-to-be-released PLUS MPN.

Effective Date

This expansion of the multi-year use of the MPN is effective beginning with any FFELP loan certified by a school on or after March 1, 2003, regardless of the period covered by the loan.

And there is further good news for two-year and proprietary schools. Their students may receive loans for subsequent academic years based on a previously signed MPN (even if that MPN was signed by the borrower before March 1, 2003). This enables borrowers with previously signed MPNs to take advantage of this new policy change as of its effective date. TG will provide additional information and training to schools new to the multi-year process this spring.

More Information

To access GEN-02-10, visit the Information for Financial Aid Professionals web site at www.ifap.ed.gov/dpceletters/Gen0210.html.

For additional information, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) MPN Task Force developed a set of Q&As in May 2000 dealing with Stafford Loan MPN processing and implementation. The Q&As are arranged by topics (e.g., lender, school, multi-year, etc.) in order to help you easily find answers to issues. To access these Q&As, visit www.tgslc.org/tgslc/forms/mpn/mpnqa.pdf.

Deadline Near for Electronic Cohort Default Rate Enrollment

In Edition 174, *Shoptalk Online* announced that starting with fiscal year (FY) 2001, ED will send out electronic cohort default rates (eCDRs) via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG). This process will launch in February 2003, when ED distributes the FY 2001 draft rates.

The deadline for schools to enroll in the eCDR notification process is rapidly approaching. Schools must sign up to participate in the eCDR process via the SAIG enrollment form (available at www.fsawebenroll.ed.gov) by December 31, 2002. Foreign schools are not required to complete the form, and will continue to receive hardcopy cohort default rate notifications.

More Information

For instructions on how to sign up for eCDR, visit the Information for Financial Aid Professionals web site at <http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1126eCDRDeadline123102.html>.

Closed School Corner

NEWLY REPORTED CLOSURES from the Postsecondary Educational Participants System (PEPS) and from the November 2002 Closed School Monthly Report supplied by the Department of Education:

TG SCHOOL ID#	SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL ADDRESS	UNOFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE	ED'S OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATE
01046100	Education America – Topeka Technical College	1620 NW Gage Blvd. Topeka, KS. 66618-2841	N/A	10/11/2002
02205302	Kerr Business College	3011 Hogansville Highway La Grange, GA. 30240	N/A	1/1/1996
02614902	Ultrasound Diagnostic School	5830 Ellsworth Ave #102 Pittsburgh, PA. 15232-1778	N/A	10/22/2002

TRENDS AND ISSUES

MYF Enhances Loan Consolidator Worksheet

Mapping Your Future (MYF), a public service web site providing college, career, and financial aid information and services, has enhanced its Loan Consolidator Worksheet (<http://mapping-your-future.org/features/dmconsolid.htm>), allowing borrowers to estimate consolidation costs with as many as 16 underlying loans. The worksheet also links to MYF's Loan Consolidation page (<http://mapping-your-future.org/paying/cnsltdte.htm>) so borrowers can find out more about the benefits and drawbacks of consolidation.

With the current interest rates on Federal Stafford and PLUS loans at an all-time low, higher numbers of borrowers are taking advantage of loan consolidation to lock in the low rates. Using MYF's Loan Consolidator Worksheet, borrowers can enter information about the loans to be consolidated and then determine the repayment period, interest rate, and total amount of the Consolidation loan. Borrowers can even print a standard repayment schedule based on these figures. The worksheet provides Consolidation loan interest rates by calculating in accordance with the Higher Education Act, the weighted average of the interest rates of the underlying loans, rounding up to the nearest 1/8th of one percent, not to exceed 8.25 percent.

MYF is sponsored by TG and other student loan guaranty agencies and supported by "Friends" members, which include lenders and servicers from around the country.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The December 4 issue of the *Legislative Report* provides updates on the appropriations outlook for the upcoming 108th Congress, a recent symposium on federal budgeting, and the agenda for the upcoming 78th Texas Legislature. Read the details at www.tgslc.org/tgslc/publications/lege_report/index.htm.

COMMON MANUAL

Common Manual Updates

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

Borrower Eligibility for Closed School and False Certification Loan Discharges

The *Common Manual* has been updated to clarify that a borrower may be eligible for closed school or false certification discharge of the entire loan if the borrower (or the student for whom a parent obtained a PLUS loan) received any part of the proceeds of a FFELP loan on or after January 1, 1986.

Affected Sections:	8.2.G, 8.2.H, ^{CCI} 8.2.G, ^{CCI} 8.2.H
Effective Date:	Retroactive to the implementation of the <i>Common Manual</i> .
Basis:	§682.402(d)(3)(ii)(A) and §682.402(e)(3)(ii)(A) as updated in the April 29, 1994, <i>Federal Register</i> .
Policy Information:	626/Batch 98
Guarantor Comments:	None.

PLUS Loan Limits

Common Manual policy has been revised to state that only Stafford loans are subject to annual and aggregate loan limits.

Affected Sections:	5.8.A
Effective Date:	Retroactive to the implementation of the <i>Common Manual</i> .
Basis:	None.
Policy Information:	627/Batch 98
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Third-Party Servicer Audits

The *Common Manual* has been revised to remove outdated information in subsection 3.8.B that addressed the period to be covered in an initial audit by a lender servicer. This dated information has been moved to appendix H.

Affected Sections:	3.8.B
Effective Date:	Third-party servicer audits submitted on or after June 1, 1997.
Basis:	None.
Policy Information:	628/Batch 98
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Exemptions from the Consequences of High Official Cohort Default Rates

The *Common Manual* has been revised to remove redundant information (*Common Manual* subsection 10.4.B, page 11, column 1, paragraphs 2 and 3) related to eligibility criteria and procedures for schools that qualify for relief from the consequences of high official cohort default rates. This information is being retained under the more appropriate subheading "Exemptions from Consequences of High Official Cohort Default Rates," in section 10.5.

Affected Sections:	10.4.B
Effective Date:	Cohort default rates calculated on or after July 1, 2001.
Basis:	§668.198
Policy Information:	629/Batch 98
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Three Year Rule

The *Common Manual* has been updated by deleting the term "Three Year Rule" and its definition from appendix G because the term is not used within the text of the manual.

Affected Sections:	appendix G
Effective Date:	Retroactive to the implementation of the <i>Common Manual</i> .
Basis:	None.
Policy Information:	630/Batch 98
Guarantor Comments:	None.

THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER...

CBS MarketWatch has again looked to TG for expert input on student loan issues. Shelia Dunlap, Assistant Vice President for TG Default Prevention, was featured in the recent CBS MarketWatch article “Consolidation game: Navigating the plethora of new student-loan lenders.”

The article, which originally ran December 2, is now archived online at <http://cbs.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?guid=%7B573BCEF0%2DB914%2D488E%2D86C7%2DA6928CDD21B3%7D&siteid=mktw>.

If you are not already a CBS MarketWatch member, you will be asked to complete a brief sign-up form to access the archived article. Site membership is offered free of charge.

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