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Tip^{of} the Week

Visit TG's Virtual Default Conference at www.tgslc.org/DP_KBase for default prevention strategies you can implement on your campus today.

TG updates

AdvanTG Web™ makes exporting data simpler

Whether it's a loan response or a disbursement roster, one of the tasks most frequently performed using AdvanTG Web™ is exporting data. TG has incorporated the benefits of today's technologies into AdvanTG Web, making exporting data an easy process.

AdvanTG Web is updated by information received throughout the day and night from many different sources. This includes guarantee responses from TG Loans By Web™, other business partners, and TG's new hourly guarantee process.

A fail safe approach

To ensure that all the guarantee responses received are exported, use the *Export everything not previously exported* feature. The concept is simple and elegant. This feature ensures the customer (school or lender) will always export the data that's needed.

How does it work? Each record that is stored in the AdvanTG Web database has an indicator that is set once the record is exported from AdvanTG Web. Think of the indicator as a checkbox on a grocery shopping list. Once the laundry detergent is in the basket, its checkbox is marked off the list. This way only one box of detergent is purchased. Each time an export is performed, AdvanTG Web inspects this

indicator. If it is marked, the record is excluded from the export. This ensures that the file created includes every record received since the last export was performed.

Confirmation reports

To confirm which records were successfully exported, a method of validation is needed. In AdvanTG Web, most processes have corresponding reports that are generated to display the results. This is true with exporting as well. However, for exporting, these steps are done in reverse. First the report is run and then the data is exported. Continuing the grocery shopping analogy, the report would be AdvanTG Web's shopping list before it goes to the market (exports from the database).

More information

For more details on this process or on AdvanTG Web's new hourly guarantee process (see article in *Shoptalk Online* issue 277), contact a TG school consultant, refer to the AdvanTG Web User Guide or contact TG's Product Support Group at (800) 332-1455 or product.support@tgslc.org.

TG's Sunset Review report released

The initial phase of TG's review by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission (SAC) has been completed. The staff report, including findings and recommendations, concerning TG was published on October 18. The positive report has reaffirmed TG's commitment and ability to efficiently serve its customers, and to provide students and their families with higher education financing and awareness information to help them achieve their education and career goals.

The affirmative report prepares TG for the remaining steps in the Sunset Review process. The SAC will hold a public hearing in November, where public testimony can be offered. The commission will formally adopt the final report, with any changes, in December. Legislation to continue TG in its current form until September 1, 2017 then will be drafted for proposal during the 79th Texas Legislature, which convenes on January 11, 2005.

To view a copy of the SAC's report, visit www.sunset.state.tx.us/whatsnew.htm. To learn more about the Texas Sunset Review process, including how to offer testimony, visit TG's Sunset Review Web page on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/resources/sunset_review.cfm.

Trends and issues

College Board releases annual reports

The College Board recently released its annual reports on financial aid and college pricing. The reports show a rapid increase in financial aid and a smaller increase in tuition compared to last year.

Trends in student aid

In *Trends in Student Aid 2004*, the board reports that student aid reached more than \$122 billion in 2003-2004, an increase of 11 percent over the preceding year after adjusting for inflation. Excluding private loans, the total aid was \$111 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars, an increase of 9 percent over the preceding year. Over the last ten years, loan aid continues to outpace grant aid. Total aid has increased by 122 percent, with an increase in grant aid of 84 percent, and an increase in education loan volume of 137 percent. The increase in total aid volume is due in part to a rise in enrollment.

The report notes that while all forms of aid have increased, students are turning more to private loans to finance their college education. Grant aid grew by 6 percent in 2003-04, the volume of federal education loans increased by 13 percent, and alternative private loan borrowing rose by 43 percent in 2003-04.

Trends in college pricing

The board's annual report, *Trends in College Pricing 2004*, shows that a student attending a 4-year public school is actually paying less for tuition and fees than a decade ago. In 2003-04, the amount paid by students after receiving grant aid and education tax benefits was about \$1,300 per student for tuition and fees. However, this figure conceals the fact that in recent years a declining proportion of grant money is being awarded to the lowest income students.

Higher education benefits

The board's new report, *Education Pays*, documents the benefits of higher education for individuals and for our society as a whole. The report also attempts to provide a balanced picture of the successes and shortfalls of public and private investments in higher education. Some of the findings are:

- College graduates receive higher earnings across ethnic/racial groups than non-college graduates.
- College graduates are more likely than others to perform civic duties.
- Children of college graduates are more likely to attain higher levels of education.
- Gaps in participation in higher education across diverse groups continue to exist.

According to the board's *Education Pays*, "Over their working lives, typical college graduates earn about 73 percent more than typical high school graduates, and those with advanced degrees earn two to three times as much as high school graduates. In 2003, the average full-time year-round worker in the United States with a 4-year college degree earned \$49,900, 62 percent more than the \$30,800 earned by the average full-time, year-round worker with only a high school diploma."

More information

For more information on these reports go to the College Board's Web site at: www.collegeboard.com.

Mapping Your Future chat reminder...

Mapping Your Future will offer a chat event on loan forgiveness, discharge, and cancellation on Tuesday, November 9, 2004. The live event, scheduled for 6 p.m. (CST), provides a unique opportunity to receive guidance on loan forgiveness and the financial aid processes from student financial aid experts from across the country. The event is part of MYF's 2004-2005 chat lineup.

During this chat, your students and their families will learn more about the Stafford and Perkins loan forgiveness programs, including:

- Determining eligibility for loan forgiveness.
- Applying for loan forgiveness.
- Paying for college and general financial aid information.

Easy access

Joining the MYF chat events in 2004-2005 will remain as easy as ever — Internet access is all that's needed. Interested families and students simply visit mapping-your-future.org just before the chat and follow the chat link on the site.

MYF is a public-service Web site sponsored by TG and others in the financial aid industry to provide free college, career, financial aid, and financial literacy services for families, students, and schools.

Common Review Initiative update

Guarantors across the country are meeting this week in Austin, Texas for annual training on the Common Review Initiative (CRI), a collaborative effort to perform joint program reviews of large lenders using multiple guarantors. In a CRI review, guarantors required to review a particular lender combine resources to form a cross-guarantor team that performs the review.

on behalf of all participating guarantors required to evaluate the lender. The resulting review fulfills the regulatory requirements of 34 CFR 682.410(c)(1) with more efficiency and less redundancy for the affected guarantors, lenders, and servicers.

Many of the CRI reviews are conducted at servicer sites, where multiple lenders may be evaluated in the same visit. The lenders reviewed during such a visit are those required for review by at least four guarantors.

Developing CRI

In its first year of a 2-year pilot approved by the U.S. Department of Education, CRI has introduced helpful computer-based tools for guarantors to use on reviews, and also facilitated exchange of best practices within the cross-guarantor teams. There are currently 33 guarantors participating in this national initiative.

ED is also a participant in the CRI process, conducting a review of LaRS lender reporting activities related to federal interest and special allowance benefits.

So far, CRI reviews have been conducted at five lender or servicer sites this year: CFS/Suntech, MOHELA, Wells Fargo, ACS, and AES. More reviews are scheduled in 2005.

More information

Be on the lookout for more information on the CRI initiative at the upcoming NCHELP Fall Training Conference on November 14-17 in Baltimore, Maryland!

This, that, and the other

The average loan amount received by full-time undergraduates during 1989-90 was \$4,100; in contrast, the average loan amount received during 1999-2000 was \$6,200. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recently released a statistical overview of comparisons in undergraduate student aid.

The report, *A Decade of Undergraduate Student Aid: 1989-90 to 1999-2000* examines tuition rate increase compared to inflation and median household income, the increase in financial aid, and the impact of the 1992 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act on student financial aid.

For more information, visit ED's NCES Web site at www.nces.ed.gov.



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