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Tip^{of} the Week

Helping your students to find a job is a great way to ensure successful student loan repayment. Have students and recent graduates check out www.JobGusher.com, TG's job search site designed for first-time job seekers and students looking for internships, part-time jobs, or seasonal work.

Federal updates

Current special allowance rates: Quarter ending December 31, 2004

The following rates apply for the quarter ending December 31, 2004:

- The average of the bond equivalent rates of the 91-day Treasury bills auctioned during the quarter ending December 31, 2004, is 2.06 percent.
- The average of the bond equivalent rates of the quotes of the three-month commercial paper (financial) rates in effect for each of the days in the quarter ending December 31, 2004, is 2.23 percent.

The FFELP special allowance rates for the most recent quarter are available at www.tgslc.org.

Questions

For questions about special allowance rates, contact TG customer assistance at (800) 845-6267, or send an e-mail message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

TG updates

Online registration now available for TG lender and servicer training

As highlighted in *Shoptalk Online* issue 286, TG is offering TG Lender and Servicer Training on Friday, January 28, 2005. The all-day training and support event is specifically geared to student loan lending and servicing professionals, and will include practical sessions on industry and professional development topics that will help you meet the rising expectations of your student borrowers.

TG's Lender and Servicer Training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Austin Marriott North, located near TG's Campus in Round Rock, Texas. Lunch will be provided courtesy of TG.

Register today

To register for this event, visit www.tgslc.org/lendertraining/. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the upcoming training program, please contact Viola Perez at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4507, or send an e-mail message to viola.perez@tgslc.org.

Common Manual

Common Manual updates

On December 16, 2005 guarantor representatives who serve on the *Common Manual* Governing Board approved several changes to the *Common Manual*. Details on these changes and a newly updated *Integrated Common Manual* incorporating the changes are now available online at www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated_online_manual.cfm. Following are summaries of the latest policy changes.

NSLDS Reporting

The *Common Manual* has been updated to remove specific references to the National Student Clearinghouse and to recognize that other entities may also offer the service of providing student enrollment status changes for schools.

Affected Sections:	4.8 Student Enrollment Status Reporting
	4.8.B Reporting Student Enrollment Status Changes to the Lender or Guarantor
	4.8.C National Student Clearinghouse
	9.1 Verifying Enrollment
	10.1.B Documentation Required for Authorized Deferment

Effective Date: Enrollment reporting by schools beginning February 1997.

Basis: None.

Policy Information: 807/Batch 117

Guarantor Comments: None.

Resolving Delinquency That Precedes Certain Forbearances

The *Common Manual* has been revised to state consistently that a lender may grant an administrative forbearance to resolve an outstanding delinquency that precedes any of the following:

- An administrative forbearance granted due to a military mobilization, a local or national emergency, or a natural disaster.
- A mandatory administrative forbearance granted due to exceptional circumstances—a military mobilization, a local or national emergency, or a designated disaster area.

Revised policy cross-references subsections 10.19.K and 10.21.B for information about forbearance eligibility associated with the aforementioned events, and enhances regulatory citations that support the policy language.

Affected Sections: 10.19.F Delinquency before a Deferment or Certain Forbearances

Effective Date: Administrative forbearance granted by the lender on or after July 1, 2003, unless implemented by the lender no earlier than November 1, 2002.

Basis: §682.211(f)(2); §682.211(f)(11); §682.211(i)(2).

Policy Information: 808/Batch 117

Guarantor Comments: None.

Endorsers of Delinquent Loans

The *Common Manual* has been revised to remove references to a “delinquent endorser” or an “endorser’s delinquency.” Instead, the manual consistently refers to the “endorser of a delinquent loan.”

Affected Sections: 11.4 Due Diligence Requirements
11.7.D Endorser Address Skip Tracing Requirements
11.8.B Endorser Telephone Skip Tracing Requirements

Effective Date: Retroactive to the implementation of the *Common Manual*.

Basis: §682.411(n).

Policy Information: 809/Batch 117

Guarantor Comments: None.

Exceptional Performer Definition

The *Common Manual* has been revised to include a general definition of "Exceptional Performer" in appendix G. The definition reads as follows:

Exceptional Performer:

A designation conferred upon a qualified lender, servicer, or guarantor by the Department of Education for an exceptional level of performance in servicing FFELP loans, if the lender, servicer, or guarantor requests such status and meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. See section 3.9 for more information.

Specific details regarding the eligibility criteria and benefits of such a designation are found in *Common Manual* section 3.9, "Exceptional Performer Designation."

Affected Sections: appendix G

Effective Date: Retroactive to the implementation of the *Common Manual*.

Basis: §682.415; DPL FP-04-04.

Policy Information: 810/Batch 117

Guarantor Comments: None.

Training brief explains how to find answers quickly

A new training brief from the *Common Manual* Policy Committee demonstrates how easy it can be to find the answers you are looking for in the *Common Manual*. You can view this and other training briefs on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/resources/cm_training.cfm.

We hope that you are finding the training briefs useful. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Michelle Anderson, senior policy advisor with TG and a member of the *Common Manual* Policy Committee, at michelle.anderson@tgslc.org or (800) 252-9743, ext. 4608.

The current version of the *Integrated Common Manual* is available on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated_online_manual.cfm.

Legislative update

The January 3, 2005 issue of TG's *Legislative Report* includes updates on legislation affecting higher education and student financial aid that will be under consideration by the 79th Texas Legislature, which convenes today; information on the filing of the concluding report of TG's review by the Texas Sunset Commission; and a congressional update that includes a final FY 2005 budget issued by the

Department of Education. Keep up with the latest developments by reading the full report on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/lege_report/index.cfm.



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To ask questions about *Shoptalk Online*, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4732 or communications@tgslc.org.

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