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Tip^{of} the Week

The July 2006 *Integrated Common Manual* is now available.

To access the ICM, visit *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated_online_manual.cfm

Federal updates

To Neg Reg or not to Neg Reg, that is the question

In last week's [edition](#) of *Shoptalk Online*, TG reported the publication of a *Federal Register* on August 9 that announced interim final rules for the FFELP and other federal student aid programs. In that *Federal Register*, ED stated that it would be "unnecessary and impracticable" to conduct negotiated rulemaking (a.k.a. Neg Reg) on those regulations.

A few days later, another *Federal Register* (available at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-13642.pdf>) announced the establishment of Neg Reg [which was to be expected for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant Programs], and stated that ED "anticipates having up to four negotiating committees based on the nature of the topics to be negotiated." These committees likely will include the following:

- One negotiating committee to focus on issues related to the ACG and National SMART Grant programs.
- A second committee to address issues related to the federal student loan programs authorized by Title IV, Parts B, D, and E of the HEA.
- A third committee to address other programmatic, institutional eligibility and general provisions issues. This committee could address issues related to HEA Title IV Parts A (except for ACG and National SMART Grants), C, G, and H (except Subpart 2), as well as HEA Title II, Section 208(b)(2).
- A fourth committee to address accreditation issues (Title IV, Part H, Subpart 2).

So, it looks like there is the possibility of Neg Reg on at least some of the interim regulations released for public comment in the August 9 *Federal Register*.

Woven into this process will also be the negotiation of modification to the regulations that may be suggested resulting from the final report of the Secretary's Commission on the Future of Higher Education (the report is expected to be released in mid-September). For more information about the Commission, see TG's [Legislative Reports](#) (the May 31, June 30, July 26, and August 10 editions).

ED may also elect to negotiate other regulatory issues that ED considers to be needed "to improve program administration and accountability."

Don't miss your chance to provide input to ED!

ED will hold four regional hearings from September through November for interested parties to discuss the agenda for the Neg Reg sessions; ED will also accept written comments. ED will consider information from the hearings during its process of finalizing committee structures and topics to be negotiated.

ED is also calling for nominees to be negotiators. Negotiators represent the various constituencies that will be affected by the regulations. Because the number of negotiators is limited, ED expects negotiators to represent broad-based constituencies to the extent possible.

The negotiations will likely occur in three meetings beginning in December 2006 and ending no later than March 2007. The first meeting typically involves organizational decision making and identification of the scope of the topics to be negotiated. The regulations that result from these Neg Reg sessions will be effective July 1, 2008.

More information

For more information on this Neg Reg notice, click on the link provided above or contact TG customer assistance at (800) 845-6267 or send an e-mail message to cust.assist@tgsic.org.

TG updates

Updated integrated regulations available on *TG Online*

TG is pleased to announce the availability of an updated integrated regulations compilation for our customers. The updated compilation incorporates changes from the interim final rules that were released on July 3, 2006 and August 9, 2006.

The integrated compilation allows users to see the language that has been stricken from the regulations as well as language that has been added. Additionally, each part, section, and appendix of the compilation has been bookmarked for easy searching capability. The updated version includes regulations parts 600 – Institutional Eligibility, 668 – Student Assistance General Provisions, and 682 – FFELP.

Accessing the bookmarked integrated regulations

To access this practical research tool, visit *TG Online* at:
<http://www.tgslc.org/resources/intreg.cfm>.

Questions

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

Using AIE™: Internet resources for higher education



The Internet Resources section of TG's recently redesigned public service Web site, *Adventures In Education* (AIE) is provided to point students, parents, and educators toward relevant and free college-planning and career-related resources.

You've probably heard from a student who received questionable information from a not-so-reputable online resource. Unfortunately, there are many companies out there today that will charge families money — sometimes a lot of money — for help with college preparation. The Internet Resources area of AIE is intended to provide helpful alternatives.

Facts about AIE's Internet Resources

AIE offers more than 200 listings that are categorized into nine specific topic areas:

- Get Homework Help
- Explore Careers
- Plan for College
- Choose Your College
- Apply to College

- Pay for College
- Manage Your Money
- Get Hired
- Read Publications

Customized information

AIE visitors are asked to select the appropriate audience type, such as middle school, high school, or counselor, at the top of the page. By selecting an audience type, the topic areas are customized to that particular audience. For example, middle school students won't see the "getting hired" topic area.

In addition, sites can be sorted by site name, by popularity, and by date of last update.

Each AIE Internet Resource listing contains:

- the name of the site (and, if appropriate, the name of the specific page),
- a brief description of the site,
- a link to the site, and
- the date we last updated the listing.

Visitors also can submit suggestions for additional links by selecting the "link submission form" on the Internet Resource page of AIE.

Learn more

To see for yourself how this AIE feature works, visit the *Adventures In Education* Web site at www.AIE.org. For questions or more information about the AIE Website, contact JD Hancock, AIE Web site director, at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4588, or send an e-mail message to jd.hancock@tgslic.org.

Trends and issues

Reminder: TG offers free telephone conferences on the interim final rules

Don't forget to participate in one of TG's free teleconferences coming up over the next several business days. Titled "A look at the new interim final rules," the teleconference is designed to provide TG's school and lender partners with a summary of the interim final rules, released on August 9, 2006. In an effort to provide flexibility to your already busy schedules, TG has scheduled two presentations to be held on:

- Thursday, August 24, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (CDT).
- Tuesday, August 29, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (CDT).

A brief question-and-answer session will follow each telephone conference. Participants may submit questions in advance of the events to viola.perez@tgscl.org.

To register

To participate in Thursday's teleconference, participants must pre-register with AT&T online by visiting www.att-rsvp.com or by telephone at (877) 471-4350.

When pre-registering for the August 24 telephone conference, please reference Conference ID number 839849.

When pre-registering for the August 29 telephone conference, please reference Conference ID number 839852.

The telephone conference is free of charge and open to participants from any institution.

Learn more

For more information about the event, visit www.tgscl.org/custfocus/teleconf.cfm or contact Viola Perez at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4507, or send an e-mail message to viola.perez@tgscl.org.

Tips to prepare for the 2006-07 conference season (Part 1 in a series)

It's that time of year again when school financial aid offices gear up for the fall conference season. Whether you are attending a local conference or your state or regional association conference, you may be wondering what you can do to prepare for and gain the most value from a conference. With budgets only allowing for one or two people from your office to attend, you may want to know how to collect information to bring back to the office so that your entire staff benefits from your attendance.

Like you, TG team members are looking forward to spending time with colleagues and brushing up on the latest industry trends and developments. To help you get a step up on your participation at these conferences, *Shoptalk Online* is offering a three-part series on valuable tips to make the most of your attendance. In this first installment, we focus on planning before you attend.

If you haven't yet started planning for an upcoming conference, visit TG's Events Calendar on *TG Online* at www.tgscl.org/abouttg/calendar.cfm to find when your state or regional association is meeting or learn more about another conference you may be interested in attending. First up on TG's Events Calendar is next month's

conference of the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA) in Bonita Springs.

Prepare an outline of attendance objectives

Create a brief list of things you want to learn or objectives you want to achieve at the event. This list should include people you want to meet, organizations you want to understand, or processes or policies about which you need guidance. If a particular event does not cover a topic of interest, ask around. Association conferences offer a rare opportunity to have one-on-one contact with a wide variety of industry experts.

Share your plans with colleagues

Tell all of your office mates, even those in related function areas, that you will be attending the event. They may have specific requests for information or provide you with the names of contacts that could be beneficial. If possible, share a brief agenda of the topics to be covered, in case someone needs information that will be provided at the conference.

Make appointments early

Chances are that the people you most need to talk to will have time to meet with you, but ask early. If a person's time is in high demand, consider scheduling a "group" lunch with colleagues who may have other topics to discuss. This way, your contact may be more willing to join you, meet your colleagues, and focus on your topics or needs.

Prepare a "conference survival" kit

Buy or obtain a sturdy, multi-pocket organizer folder. To assemble your kit, include your itineraries, event mailings, maps, travel confirmations, a supply of business cards, and other items that you will need for your attendance. Keep this folder handy on your desk before the event, and drop in notes as you think about your tasks and to-do items. When it's time to go, grab your folder, secure it in your portfolio or briefcase, and you're ready for travel!

Upcoming event information

For a listing of association conference dates around the nation, visit the Events Calendar on *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/abouttg/calendar.cfm.

Question of the week

Q: Is a Grad PLUS loan borrower subject to entrance counseling?

A: No. Currently, the regulations in 34 CFR 682.604(f)(1) stipulate that only a first-time Stafford loan borrower is subject to entrance counseling prior to the first disbursement of the loan. To find out more information regarding entrance counseling, see the *Common Manual* subsection 4.4.B.

The latest *Integrated Common Manual* is available for download at http://www.tgslc.org/resources/integrated_online_manual.cfm.

Do you have a question?

If you have a question that needs an answer, feel free to *Ask TG™*. *Ask TG* is TG's online query tool for borrowers, schools, and lenders. *Ask TG* includes a database of frequently asked questions about financial aid, student loan processing, and TG's products and services. To submit a question to *Ask TG*, visit <http://tgslc.custhelp.com>.

This, that, and the other

The cost of higher education looks like it's climbing again, according to an August 17 article on *CNNMoney.com*.

While the final trend figures for the fast-approaching 2006-07 academic year are still being compiled, students can expect about a 5 percent increase in both tuition and fees, says Carl Buck, vice president for college funding for the college information firm Peterson's.

Last academic year, the median annual tuition for a four-year private college crept up 5.7 percent to \$16,950, according to an annual college cost survey by Peterson's. And that doesn't include room and board and other fees that can easily push the cost of a private college education above \$22,000 a year.

Even students attending a public university in their home state paid 6.3 percent more for tuition in 2005-06, or \$4,224 per year.

A preliminary survey of 10 schools varying in geography and size conducted by *CNNMoney.com* reveals that the cost of everything from tuition to books to room and board is on the rise for the upcoming academic year.

To read the article in its entirety, visit

http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/17/pf/college/college_costs/index.htm



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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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