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Tip^{of} the Week

Many students begin managing their finances for the first time when they start college. You can teach your incoming freshmen the basics of money management — including using credit cards wisely — with the help of *Adventures In Education* (AIE™). You'll find a variety of AIE's financial literacy resources [online](#).

Federal updates

President signs technical corrections bill to HEA

Last week, the President signed H.R. 1777 into law, making numerous changes to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (see *Shoptalk Online* edition [510](#) for details on the legislation). The changes found in H.R. 1777 are generally retroactive. They will be considered to be effective as of the date of enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), or August 14, 2008.

One of the changes of most urgency to schools is the acceleration of the exclusion of federal veterans education benefits from the definition of estimated financial assistance (EFA) for the Title IV student assistance programs. This exclusion was scheduled to take place beginning July 1, 2010; H.R. 1777 moves that date to July 1, 2009.

In an Electronic Announcement, ED provided guidance on this change that reads, in part:

“This exclusion applies to all federal veterans education benefits regardless of whether the benefits are received by the veteran, his or her spouse, or his or her dependent. As in the past, veterans education benefits are not considered as income in calculating the expected family contribution (EFC) for a student.

Many institutions have already packaged students for the 2009-10 award year. However, an institution must review 2009-10 award year financial aid packages for students receiving federal veterans education benefits to determine whether changes to any of the packages are necessary. That review may result in an increase in a student’s eligibility for a loan under the FFEL or Direct Loan programs.”

The veterans benefits affected by this change include, but are not limited to, the benefits under the following statutory authorities:

- Chapter 103 of title 10, United States Code (Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps).
- Chapter 106A of title 10, United States Code (Educational Assistance for Persons Enlisting for Active Duty).
- Chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code (Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program).
- Chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code (Educational Assistance Program for Reserve Component Members Supporting Contingency Operations and Certain Other Operations).
- Chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code (All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program, also known as the ‘Montgomery GI Bill—active duty’).
- Chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code (Training and Rehabilitation for Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities).
- Chapter 32 of title 38, United States Code (Post-Vietnam Era Veterans’ Educational Assistance Program).
- Chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code (Post-9/11 Educational Assistance).
- Chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code (Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program).
- Section 903 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1981 (10 U.S.C. 2141 note) (Educational Assistance Pilot Program).
- Section 156(b) of the ‘Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations and providing for productive employment for the fiscal year 1983, and for other purposes’ (42 U.S.C. 402 note) (Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors, also known as ‘Quayle benefits’).

- Chapter 3 of title 37, United States Code, related to subsistence allowances for members of the Reserve Officers Training.

For more information

Watch future editions of *Shoptalk Online* for further analysis of the legislation's affect on the federal student aid programs.

The complete Electronic Announcement regarding the treatment of veterans benefits is located on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site at

<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/070209FederalVeteransEducationBenefits.html>.

To access the text of H.R. 1777, go to THOMAS, the U.S. Congress Web site, at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. In the space for "Search Bill Summary & Status" enter "H.R. 1777," click on "Bill Number," and then "Search." On the resulting table, click on "Text of Legislation," then choose the link after item 4: "To make technical corrections to the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes. (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)[H.R. 1777.ENR]."

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

Remaining 2009-10 interest rates released

Two categories of interest rates were announced at the end of June, as mentioned in *Shoptalk Online* edition [506](#). Interest rates for older PLUS and SLS loans are based on the weekly average of the one-year constant-maturity Treasury yield for the last calendar week ending on or before June 26. Interest rates for the HEAL portion of Federal Consolidation loans are based on the 91-day Treasury bill (T-bill) auctioned for the quarter ending June 30.

PLUS and SLS

Following are the interest rates for older PLUS and SLS loans, which are effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010:

- 3.58 percent for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 1992, but before July 1, 1998.
- 3.73 percent for loans disbursed on or after July 1, 1987, but before October 1, 1992.

HEAL Consolidation

Following is the interest rate for the HEAL portion of Federal Consolidation loans:

- 3.18 percent for loan applications received on or after November 13, 1997.

More information

To access TG's annual interest rate chart for all applicable interest rates, visit www.tgslc.org/policy/intrates.cfm.

TG updates

TG's workshops for NASFAA conference to focus on financial literacy and student retention

Providing an education that equips students with tools to thrive during and after college is important to financial aid professionals. Enhancing that learning experience has become crucial as job markets change and world economies shift. TG is working to provide students and schools with support in key areas, including financial literacy and student retention.

TG's workshops for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) Conference 2009 throw a spotlight on some of these efforts. Be sure to attend TG's workshops during the NASFAA conference to learn about them. You'll leave with information that can bolster your financial literacy program and student retention efforts.

Here's an overview of each workshop.

- **Building a Successful Financial Literacy Program** (Monday, July 13, 10:45 a.m.–Noon): Participants will learn strategies for designing effective campus financial literacy initiatives, including setting goals, implementing each stage of a program, and measuring a program's success. Attendees will also hear about TG's financial literacy tools and services, such as the [Positive+Balance CommunitySM](#).
- **Engaging Faculty and Staff for Student Success** (Tuesday, July 14; 10:45 a.m.– Noon): Attendees will discover some of the underlying issues influencing student success and failure. They'll also study a model for student retention and persistence and hear what campuses across the country are doing to keep students on the path to graduation.

More information

To learn more about the conference, and to view a preliminary agenda, visit [NASFAA Annual Conference 2009](#). To learn more about TG's varied training offered through the TG Speakers Bureau, review the online training catalog at www.tgslc.org/speakers/basics.cfm.

Join TG in Chicago for its second financial literacy symposium of 2009

These days, college graduates face particular obstacles as they transition from student to full-time employee. Many are burdened by student debt; others struggle to find a job in a changing labor market.

A number of colleges provide services to help students shift from campus to career, including financial literacy programs that teach students valuable personal finance skills. This summer, TG has organized two symposiums for schools that focus on developing effective financial literacy initiatives for the college campus.

Successful Houston symposium

The first 2009 Financial Literacy Symposium took place in Houston on Monday, June 29. Guest speakers Kristy Vienne, director of Sam Houston State University's Student Money Management Center, and Mark Mielke, financial aid advisor at Texas A&M University, shared their experience in providing financial literacy education programs. Afterwards, participants divided into smaller groups where they asked questions and shared ideas on how to develop financial literacy initiatives to help students.

Upcoming Chicago symposium

School representatives who missed the Houston event can register to attend the second TG 2009 Financial Literacy Symposium to be held in Chicago on Tuesday, July 21. Guest speakers will include Bryant Anderson, director of student financial services at Illinois College of Optometry, and Janelle Wade, assistant director of student financial assistance at Loyola University Chicago.

According to TG's financial literacy segment manager Margie Harvey, the symposiums provide a unique opportunity for financial aid professionals in today's student loan climate. "In addition to learning about their colleagues' financial literacy initiatives, attendees can share ideas on how to teach students about personal finances," she said.

Register online

For more information about TG's 2009 Financial Literacy Symposiums, or to register to attend the Chicago event, visit *TG Online* at www.tgslc.org/training/literacy.

For questions

To learn more, contact Margie Harvey at (800) 252-9743, or send an e-mail message to margery.harvey@tgslc.org.

Last paper report on lender disbursements to mail this month

TG is adding more convenience to its disbursement reporting process, converting its paper-based system to a Web-based tool. The last paper Unreported Disbursement Report will be distributed the second week of July. Lenders will no longer receive the Unreported Disbursement Report from TG by mail.

Lenders can now access disbursement reports through TG's new Lender Disbursement Reporting (LDR) tool, available online.

To access to the new LDR

To begin using the new LDR, do one of the following:

- Log in to TG's AdvanTG Web™ as a super-user and follow these steps:
 1. Select "Institution Administration."
 2. Select your institution ID.
 3. Select "AdvanTG Web User ID Request form."
 4. Select "Create or Modify User ID."
 5. Under Access Level Request, select "Lender Disbursement Reporting Tool" and click Submit.
- Contact your TG lender consultant at (800) 252-9743.

To learn more

If you have questions about the new LDR tool, please contact TG's product support group at (800) 332-1455, or send an e-mail message to product.support@tgsic.org.

TG bulletin: Get the latest TG news — subscribe to TG Message CentralSM

If you're looking for a simple, online way to stay current with TG news, including processing schedule changes, conferences, workshops, and information about product enhancements, you'll find a great resource in TG Message CentralSM. TG Message Central delivers bulletins on the latest developments at TG right to your online e-mail inbox. Even better, TG Message Central offers you a convenient process for controlling what kind of information you receive from TG.

Great customer benefits

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- Offers an inbox (My Messages) for viewing messages;
- Supplies a way to choose message types;
- Includes a membership listing that enables networking with subscribers; and
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2. Review and select the Message Choice types.
3. Select Submit.
4. Log in.

To help you in your evaluation of TG Message Central, review the [online informational video](#). You can also learn more about TG Message Central by reviewing the [online presentation](#).

For questions

To learn more about TG Message Central, please contact TG's product support team at (800) 332-1455, or send an e-mail message to product.support@tgslc.org. You may also contact your TG account executive at (800) 252-9743.

Save the date for TG's upcoming industry webinars

If you haven't registered for TG's industry training webinar to be presented on July 16, there's still time. The webinar, scheduled from 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Central Time, will feature information on the latest legislative and regulatory changes.

This Federal Update session will provide information on recent activities that may affect the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and other federal student aid programs. Updates will be provided on various issues including federal common forms, *Dear Colleague/Partner* letters issued by the Department of Education, proposed and final federal regulations, and pending legislation.

Upcoming webinars

Please plan to join TG for the following training events:

- **IBR Basics** — August 20, 2009; 2 p.m.-3 p.m., Central Time

By now, many within the financial aid community have heard of Income-Based Repayment (IBR), the new student loan repayment plan that became available to FFELP and Direct Loan borrowers beginning July 1, 2009. IBR will benefit

certain borrowers by minimizing monthly payments and by providing loan forgiveness in some cases. Educating borrowers about this repayment plan and its benefits, through the loan counseling process and other information dissemination efforts, will prove to be the key to realizing IBR's full potential. This session provides a high-level introduction to the IBR plan, including how borrowers qualify for IBR, the forgiveness component of IBR, the benefits IBR provides to the borrower and the school, and ideas for educating borrowers about IBR.

- **Cash Management** — September 17, 2009; 2 p.m.-3 p.m., Central Time

Cash management is one of the more highly regulated areas of federal student aid administration. This session outlines the cash management rules, including the timeframes for the disbursement and delivery of funds; the handling of credit balances; and the notices a school must send to, as well as the authorizations a school must obtain from, its students and borrowers.

To register

Registration for the July 16 Federal Update webinar is currently available at www.tgslc.org/training/webinars/industry.cfm. Schedules for additional webinars will be published quarterly. Watch *Shoptalk Online* for notification of registration availability for future webinars.

This, that, and the other

Online learning enthusiasts just received some extra support for their case. The Department of Education released a meta-analysis of online learning studies conducted between 1996 and 2008. The analysis found that, on average, students of online learning performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction. The analysis also found that students of blended classes — courses which employed both fact-to-face and online learning — had an advantage over students of strictly face-to-face instruction. The Department's researchers used strict criteria to review studies, focusing on work that contrasted online to face-to-face conditions, measured student learning outcomes, used a rigorous research design, and provided adequate information to calculate an effect size. The report attributes much of the success in online learning to time and not to technology. Online learners who spent more time on task than students in the face-to-face condition generally found a greater benefit for their effort. To learn more, review the [Department's study](#) on the Web.



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