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Smart Solutions

Is your office creating Spanish-language materials on higher education and financial aid? Use the [English-Spanish Glossary](#) on *TG Online* to create more consistent publications that readers find both easy-to-understand and a good reference.

TG Report

TG's January industry webinar to focus on credit reports and student loans

Credit is vital for many of life's necessities, including buying a car or qualifying for a house mortgage. Unfortunately, many people don't understand the basics of credit or how banks and lenders determine creditworthiness.

TG's upcoming webinar — “The ABCs of credit reports and student loans” — offers some answers and emphasizes the importance of establishing and maintaining a good credit history. The webinar also describes how to obtain, read, and request a correction to a mistake on a credit report.



Variny Yim Paladino, an independent communications and financial education consultant, will lead discussion and respond to questions. Paladino serves as a regional director for the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy®, as well as a financial literacy trainer for Visa Inc. and a blogger for Money Wise Women. Paladino has written and blogged for other financial education websites including LifeTuner and Kwedit and collaborated on a book, *The Teen Girl's Gotta-Have-It Guide to Money*.

About the Jump\$tart Coalition

The nonprofit Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, which operates out of Washington, DC, is an association of 150 organizations that share an interest in advancing financial literacy among students from pre-kindergarten through college.

To register

To accommodate the schedules of TG's coast-to-coast customers, the one-hour webinar is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, at 10 a.m. and again at 3 p.m. Central Time. [Registration is available online](#). If you are unable to attend the scheduled broadcast, a recording will be available for viewing shortly after the event through TG's archived webinars.

Need support for your financial literacy effort? New video spotlights TG's resources

Many of today's college students are graduating with high debt and a limited understanding of financial concepts. The combination could potentially lead to financial trouble given the rough economy. TG aims to help with a financial literacy program that TG instructors can present directly to participants or train program administrators to present.

A new video offers an overview of the TG Financial Literacy Program, focusing on content, format, and the program's look. Designed for a broad audience, TG's financial literacy program consists of 10 presentations with accompanying workbooks and activities. Topics vary but, taken together, offer a foundation in the fundamentals of money management, from debt repayment to saving and investing.



How does a typical module connect with participants and keep their attention on abstract financial ideas? Each presentation tells a story. A road trip becomes a metaphor for creating a spending plan. A visit to a big-top circus turns into a lesson on saving and investing. Being stuck on a hypothetical desert island becomes the perfect way to distinguish needs from wants. The 15-minute length keeps the pace fast. The modules are visually inventive, and information is presented in easy-to-understand chunks.

TG's program is provided at no cost, and all modules have been developed with the help of professionals that have Accredited Financial Counselor certification from the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education.

Find out more

To [view TG's financial literacy video](#), visit the financial literacy pages of *TG Online* and click the link in the right column.

Give your students a budgeting boost with *Adventures In Education* "Cost of College" page

Books, gas money, rent, car insurance, computer fees, the occasional pizza — the list of a college student's perennial expenses can be quite lengthy, not to mention vary in cost, depending on location. To help students budget, TG's *Adventures In Education* (AIE™) supplies a set of Web resources, including a "Cost of College" page that itemizes typical college expenses. The page features a table breaking down costs by average tuition for certain school sectors (2-year public, 4-year private, and 4-year public), books and supplies, room and board, and more.

The page can help parents and students "ballpark" expenses as well as plan for purchases for their next college semester. Hyperlinks at the bottom supplement this information, offering a convenient connection to resources on the college payment process, types of aid available (grants, scholarships, etc.), the financial aid application process, and the need to match potential career earnings with desired lifestyle.

Find out more

Offer [AIE's Web resources on college budgeting](#) to your new or returning students and their parents.

TG closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TG will be closed next Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. TG will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, January 18.

Industry Update

Current special allowance rates: quarter ending December 31, 2010

For the quarter ending December 31, 2010, the average rate for three-month commercial paper (financial) was 0.26 percent. This rate is also used to compute the Participant Yield paid to ED on loans subject to the loan participation purchase program. For loans where the special allowance payment is based on the bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury Bills, the average rate during the quarter ending December 31, 2010, for 91-day Treasury Bills was 0.14 percent.

The FFELP special allowance rates for the most recent quarter are available on [TG Online](#).

Questions

For question, please contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267, or send an e-mail message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

Policy Resources

Latest IFAP postings

For the convenience of the financial aid community, ED assembles Title IV federal student aid guidance, resources, and information on its [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) website](#). Recent postings, listed by topic, include the following, presented alphabetically by category.

Common Origination and Disbursement (COD)

- [2011-01-07](#) — COD Processing Update

EDE Suite

- [2011-01-03](#) — Availability of EDE Express for Windows 2011-2012, Release 1.0

FFEL Special Allowance Rates

- [2011-01-06](#) — SAP for the Quarter Ending: December 31, 2010

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- [2011-01-10](#) — 2011-2012 Renewal FAFSA Reminders Begins on January 18, 2011
- [2011-01-04](#) — 2011-2012 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet in English and Spanish

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

- [2011-01-07](#) — Updated Record Layouts for NSLDS Exit Counseling Completion Results Report

Verification

- [2011-01-03](#) — 2011-2012 Verification Worksheets for Dependent and Independent Students

For more information

For questions about these notices, contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267, or send an e-mail message to cust.assist@tgsllc.org.

Ask the Policy Expert

Q.: Do federal regulations permit a school to e-mail exit loan counseling materials (within 30 days) to students who withdrew without notice in place of sending the materials via regular U.S. Postal Service?

A.: No, if a borrower withdraws without the school's knowledge, schools must ensure that exit counseling was provided through interactive electronic means or by mailing written materials to the borrower at his or her last known address. However, regulations do not require the school to send the materials using certified mail with a return receipt requested. A school must document in the student's file that the material was sent. [§682.604(g)(1); §685.304(b)(3); 2009-2010 FSA Handbook, Volume 2, Chapter 6, p. 2-78].

Do you have a question?

Feel free to *Ask TG™*. *Ask TG*, TG's online query tool for borrowers, schools, and lenders, offers a database of frequently asked questions about financial aid, student loan processing, and TG's products and services. To submit a question, visit tgsllc.custhelp.com.

News Briefs

Fans of plain English — and who isn't? — have reasons to cheer. Last October, President Obama signed into law the Plain Writing Act of 2010. The law requires that government agencies write documents in "plain language," which is described as writing that is "clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices." The law applies to all those government forms and documents which the general public wrestles with annually, or as needed, such as income tax forms, Veteran Administration forms, and applications of every sort for things like welfare relief and Medicaid. To anyone who has dipped into the labyrinthine pages of the *Federal*

Register, the law will strike a hopeful note. However, it should be noted that the new legislation doesn't specify any penalties in case agencies don't comply. For the interested, the government offers a [website](#) that explains the law, defines "plain language," and provides numerous examples of government prose rewritten to be concise, active, and more transparent.



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To ask questions about *Shoptalk*, please contact Communications at (800) 252-9743, ext. 4732, or send an e-mail message to communications@tgslc.org.

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