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Smart Solutions

Give your borrowers a simple way to calculate their student loan payments. Direct them to the [Adventures In Education college loan calculator](#). Borrowers enter a loan amount, term, and interest rate, and click "calculate." The repayment calculator provides the monthly amount and offers an amortization table if requested.

Industry Update

ED corrects gainful employment guidance related to teacher certification programs

In an [electronic announcement](#) published on May 20, 2011, ED corrects gainful employment (GE) guidance provided in *Dear Colleague Letter GEN-11-10* as it relates to teacher certification programs at all types of schools.

GEN-11-10 stated that teacher certification programs, including both programs that result in a certificate awarded by the school and those where the school does not provide a certificate, but which consists of a collection of course work necessary for the student to receive a state professional teaching credential or certification, are considered to be GE programs subject to the new federal rules. TG shared this guidance with schools in *Shoptalk* edition [602](#).

This electronic announcement corrects the above guidance by stating that only teacher certification programs that result in a certificate awarded by a school are considered to be GE programs. This information will be helpful to schools as they identify which of their programs are subject to the new disclosure and reporting requirements this year.

Learn more

For more information on gainful employment program rules, visit [ED's Gainful Employment Information page](#) or [TG's Program Integrity Final Rules Web page](#) where all of the new regulatory requirements are explained. For questions, please contact TG's Customer Assistance team at (800) 845-6267, or send an email message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

ED announces availability of the *NSLDS Gainful Employment User Guide*

In an [electronic announcement](#) published on May 23, 2011, ED announced the availability of the *NSLDS Gainful Employment User Guide*, which provides an overview of the gainful employment (GE) requirements and explains reporting process in further detail. As a reminder, in *Dear Colleague Letter* [GEN-11-10](#), ED stated that schools would use the existing Enrollment Reporting Process in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) to report certain information about students who were enrolled in each GE Program during an award year.

The *NSLDS Gainful Employment User Guide* includes an overview of GE reporting requirements, a description of the Student aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) batch reporting process that will be used, and the three record layouts for GE reporting (fixed width format, comma-separated values format, and XML format). ED notes that an online reporting option in NSLDS will also be available later this year.

Access the guide and learn more

View the [NSLDS Gainful Employment User Guide](#) online. For more information on GE rules, visit [ED's Gainful Employment Information page](#). For additional guidance on the program integrity issues, including gainful employment, see [TG's Program Integrity Final Rules Web page](#). You can also contact TG's Customer Assistance team at (800) 845-6267, or send an email message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

TG Report

TG updates one-page summaries on Program Integrity final rules

On October 29, 2010, ED published final regulations on a collection of 14 topics intended to strengthen the integrity of the Title IV programs. To help schools understand and prepare to implement these rules, TG created an online resource — the [Program Integrity Final Rules Web page](#).

TG's Program Integrity Final Rules Web page includes a number of TG, ED, and industry resources. The ["TG Resources" page](#) provides a single-page summary of each of the 14 program integrity topics, along with more detailed summaries and visual aids where appropriate. Subsequent to publishing the final regulations, ED issued supplemental guidance on a number of these topics. These *Dear Colleague Letters* and electronic announcements can be accessed from the ["Department of Education Resources" page](#). TG has incorporated references to ED's recent guidance in the following one-page summaries:

- State Authorization
- Incentive Compensation
- Misrepresentation
- Definition of a "Credit Hour"
- Ability to Benefit (ATB)
- Gainful Employment—Reporting and Disclosure Requirements and New Programs
- Return of Title IV Funds—Taking Attendance
- Return of Title IV Funds—Programs with Modules or Compressed Courses

Clarification on disbursement of Title IV funds for books and supplies

In addition to updating the one-page summaries to reflect recent ED guidance, TG has updated the Disbursements of Title IV Funds for Books and Supplies summary based on questions we have received from schools.

The final regulations require that if a Pell grant-eligible student meets all requirements to receive Title IV funds at least 10 days before the start of a payment period, any Title IV credit balance funds up to the amount needed to obtain books and supplies are to be made available to the student by the 7th day of the payment period. The regulations provide that in determining whether a Title IV

credit balance exists, the school considers all Title IV funds that could be disbursed at least 10 days before the payment period.

This does not include first disbursements of Stafford loans subject to the federal delayed-disbursement rules for first-year, first-time borrowers. It does, however, include all Title IV funds that could be disbursed to a student at the beginning of the payment period, *even if those funds have not yet been received by the school to deliver to the student*. It is the student's eligibility to receive Title IV funds at that time, rather than the school's schedule for receiving or disbursing the funds, that determines the existence and amount of a Title IV credit balance for this purpose.

Additional information

TG will notify *Shoptalk* readers as additional guidance is published by ED and enhancements are made to TG's Program Integrity Final Rules Web page. For questions or assistance, please contact TG Customer Assistance at (800) 845-6267, or send an email message to cust.assist@tgslc.org.

TG enhances myTGSM portal for schools, lenders, and servicers

The myTGSM portal provides schools and other institutions with customized access to TG's tools and services, including default prevention and financial literacy resources. This past weekend, TG launched an enhanced version of myTG that helps simplify navigation and provides institutions with increased control over user rights. The following offers a brief summary of these enhancements:

- **Simpler navigation** — General navigation areas have been reorganized. The left-hand column on each page now contains user-specific tools and services, such as My Profile, which allows users to update contact information, change passwords, and view access permissions. The navigation bar running along the top links to TG's assorted services by category, such as default prevention and financial literacy.
- **User administrator role** — An institution's user administrator can now better manage user rights within myTG. An individual designated by the institution as a user administrator will be able to view a list of active users by institution as well as each user's permissions. Additionally, user administrators will be able to request new users, and update and delete existing user accounts from within myTG.
- **Privacy notices** — TG takes measures to safeguard the personal information of its customers. TG's [privacy policy](#), available online, outlines some of these measures. TG also offers [security tips](#) that customers can use to better protect

their information. A link to these security tips will be available in the footer of every page within myTG.

To learn more

If you have questions about the latest myTG enhancements, or would like to learn more about myTG, please contact your TG account executive at (800) 252-9743. You can also send an email message to relationship.management@tgsdc.org.

Five ways your borrowers can take charge of debt

This semester's graduates enter a job market gradually recovering from the 2008 recession. Given the slow recovery rate, borrowers are smart to be prepared for adversity. You can help by providing them some advice on ways to plan, economize, and safeguard credit. Below is a set of tips that can serve borrowers as they transition to career. Consider offering these during exit counseling or in subsequent communications via mail or email.

- **Stay organized** — Half the battle with any undertaking is staying on top of the details. In this case, that can mean keeping in one location — a file cabinet drawer? a large, expandable folder? — all the paperwork and correspondence from loan servicers. In the same vein, borrowers should maintain a log of their phone conversations with servicers and lenders, which can serve as a reminder or prompt if action is required. Staying organized can also mean bookmarking the [National Student Loan Data System \(NSLDS\) website](#), so that borrowers can know their repayment amounts and servicer contact information instantly.
- **Budget it before you spend it** — Borrowers sometimes jump several income brackets once hired. Graduates used to a student's Spartan existence may want to upgrade lifestyles without proper planning, that is, without setting a spending plan. Instead of buying heedlessly, which can leave them vulnerable to credit problems, borrowers should devise a simple spending plan of purchases compared to income. Given the volatile job market, they should also be prepared in case of emergency, say a layoff or protracted time looking for a job.
- **Pay the auto-debit way** — Making federal student loan payment automatic can offer several benefits: it can mean less paperwork to complete and manage each month; it can reduce or eliminate errors in payment given the computer-controlled debit process; and it can be slightly cheaper, since many servicers give a quarter percent reduction in interest rate for choosing the auto-debit payment method.
- **Pick the best repayment plan based on need** — The standard repayment plan is not always the best for some borrowers, given dramatic changes in income or a period of time without employment. In such cases, borrowers may

do well to consider [Income-Based Repayment](#) or another plan that takes into account fluctuations in salary.

- **Know your options** — [Loan consolidation](#) can help simplify repayment for borrowers by combining multiple federal student loans into one. However, consolidation can increase the total amount a borrower pays out by lengthening the repayment period. A borrower in financial straits should also be aware of the [deferment and forbearance](#) options.

To learn more

To find out more about TG's default aversion services, contact a TG account executive at (800) 252-9743, or send an email message to relationship.management@tgsdc.org.

***Adventures In Education* handouts help college-bound students make the most of summer break**

Laying the foundation for a successful college experience starts with smart preparation. That planning process can begin early in high school and last right through the final summer before freshman year. TG's [Adventures In Education](#) (AIE™), a college- and career-planning website, offers high school seniors a variety of resources for turning their summer break into an effective transition period to college. Here's a short summary of relevant resources, which you can print and offer in outreach efforts, or email directly to incoming students.

- **Moving planner** — AIE's two-page moving checklist helps students plan for all those major tasks (like connecting utilities) and incidentals (like getting food for your moving helpers).
- **Summer checklist** — This summary of tips for staying college-ready was drafted with all high school students in mind; however, advice on it (volunteer, set a summer reading list, budget for the fall) is appropriate for seniors also.
- **Campus visit checklist** — If students haven't visited their campus yet, this checklist prepares them to make the most of their visit with guidance on how to prepare ahead, which campus offices to visit, whom to meet with, and what to do on campus.
- **Seven credit card tips consumers should know** — This short primer on how to manage credit cards offers sound pointers (pay more than the minimum, set a limit on big purchases, limit yourself to one card) that students often don't hear unless they take a financial literacy class.

To learn more

Review [AIE's other assorted handouts](#), which offer short summaries, reminders, and checklists for the college-bound student or career-bound graduate.

TG closed for Memorial Day

TG will be closed next Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. TG will resume its normal hours of operation on Tuesday, May 31.

News Briefs

Teaching abstract, detailed subjects such as regulatory change offers its challenges. To engage students, TG trainers sometimes use a tool especially popular with audiences — a clicker, or remote device, for selecting answers to questions flashed on a screen. “Clicker workshops” — titled “Show What You Know” at conferences — are unique for combining an interactive and entertaining teaching approach with a technical topic. More colleges are recognizing the value of such an approach and tapping into the power of interactive teaching tools. Even better, they're getting results in the process. A [recent study](#) finds that devices such as clickers drive up class attendance and have a positive effect on test scores.



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