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### Smart Solutions

The Program Integrity final rules encompass 14 separate topics. TG provides a [high-level overview of each of the topics](#), including a description of ED's objectives, program integrity principles, regulatory requirements, and the effective dates for these new provisions.

## Industry Update

### ED updates gainful employment rules

On August 3, 2011, ED published [electronic announcement #16](#) to advise schools that the Procedures for Institutional Notification to the Department of New GE Programs has been updated. These updates reflect how to report new GE programs using the Federal Student Aid's (FSA's) Application for Approval to Participate in the Federal Student Financial Aid Programs (E-App). The E-App system update is effective July 31, 2011. The procedures and a Notice Format for Intent to Offer an Educational Program are attached to the announcement.

On August 4, 2011, ED published [electronic announcement #17](#) to inform schools that the *National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Gainful Employment User Guide* has been updated. Schools should use this updated version to prepare their systems to submit the required GE information to ED. Chapter 3 of the guide now provides information about the NSLDS Professional Access online reporting option that will become available on September 26, 2011.

Also, the guide has been updated to include detailed instructions to assist schools with setting up the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox that will be used for GE employment batch reporting. This set-up functionality for batch reporting is available now on the NSDLDS Professional Access Web site, under the Enroll Tab. Further, the guide now provides updated information about the option to upload and submit GE data to NSLDS using the NSLDS Gainful Employment Submittal Template that was announced in [electronic announcement #14](#), published on July 28, 2011.

### **More Information**

For questions about reporting new GE programs, contact your state's School Participation Team. For technical questions about the NSLDS Gainful Employment User Guide, send an e-mail message to [nsldsge@ed.gov](mailto:nsldsge@ed.gov).

## **TG Report**

### **TG webinar to showcase how the TG Learning Center can supplement your financial literacy training**

The TG Learning Center offers students a kinetic learning experience that uses sound, motion graphics, and point-and-click interaction to teach a range of financial literacy concepts, from understanding credit to solving debt problems. Schools can manage student use of TG training and maintain a record of completed courses. They can also select training modules according to student need and combine modules with in-person presentations.

Register for an upcoming webinar on the TG Learning Center and learn how it can potentially save you training time and resources. Presenters will offer an overview of the TG Learning Center and detail how to use its many features, including student learning plans and tracking reports.

### **Register today**

Sign up to participate in the [TG Learning Center webinar](#), which will be offered on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Central Time; and on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Central Time.

## Peak season relief: The Texas Financial Aid Information Center can help answer student questions

If fall semester 2010 is any indication, enrollment will be up in fall 2011. That probably means more student and parent questions about financial aid for your office, greater foot traffic in your lobby, and more phone inquiries and emails to answer. The Texas Financial Aid Information Center can help by fielding requests for general information on financial aid, in case you need extra support this peak season.

Created in 1999 as a collaborative effort of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA ), and TG, the TFAIC is a free resource to Texas students and families. TFAIC representatives can provide information and answers in English and Spanish.

TFAIC call center representatives average more than 15 years experience in student financial aid and can supply students and parents with:

- Help understanding their award letter. TFAIC representatives can explain the costs and benefits of different types of federal and state financial aid and how the different programs work;
- Assistance with finding gap funding, including help with scholarship search resources or tips about what to look for and what to avoid in an alternative loan;
- Up-front information on repayment and loan forgiveness options associated with choosing teaching and other public service professions; and
- Guidance on borrowing wisely and the risks of over-borrowing.

TFAIC counselors can also provide free printed materials, telephone numbers, Web addresses, and other helpful resources relevant to your student's unique situation.

### **TFAIC availability**

TFAIC representatives are available by phone at (888) 311-8881 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Central Time, Monday - Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday.

## TG launches college comparison tool for mobile devices

High school students scouting out college prospects have a new tool to help record their impressions and gather useful information — TG's College Comparison Visit App. Designed for smartphones and other mobile devices, the application is available for download through TG's college and career website, *Adventures In Education* (AIE™).

To use the application, students create an account and enter basic information about themselves, such as location and current grade. They can then begin to request data by specific institution, or browse a list of schools by state.

The application displays public information gathered by the Department of Education for each school, including student demographics, the range of student G.P.A., and any test scores required during the college admissions process. Depending on the institution, the application also answers such common questions as: Is there open admission? Is campus housing available? How much is the school's application fee? Does the school have an ROTC program? What sports are available?

Not only does the application help students to narrow down their college choices, it also helps them record their impressions during campus visits. As they tour a campus, students can record notes about such things as residence hall life or class room attendance. Various prompts help students to capture other information. For example, the application will ask questions such as: Are there lots of bikes on campus? When you visited a class, what was the class size? How big were the dorm rooms? The application converts answers to these questions into an overall campus visit score. Students can then compare how they scored schools, as well as rank the schools they visit in order of preference.

### **Find out for yourself**

Learn more about the [web-based college visit comparison tool on AIE](#). Note that you will need a mobile device to use the application.

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## **News Briefs**

QR, or Quick Response, codes work like bar codes and are becoming just as common. The codes can be affixed to just about anything, from magazine ads to buildings. Once scanned by a hand-held device such as a smartphone with the right application, the codes can offer images or sound. QR codes serve as a marketing device for products, but they can also work as a flexible and interactive educational tool. For example, colleges can use them to teach a short history lesson on a campus building, act as a navigational marker on a campus tour, or provide extra reference in a library setting. Find out how colleges are putting QR codes to work in [this short \*Chronicle of Higher Education\* article](#). Note that some *Chronicle* content is available only to subscribers.



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