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## THE WEBER REPORT

Weber & Associates, Inc. Newsletter

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Hello,

Welcome to The Weber Report. We are pleased to share with you important news and information to help you with your financial aid management. Thanks for the opportunity to share our expertise with you!

### R2T4 Alert

We send this alert to help you avoid audit findings and/or program review findings. The two most common errors discovered in the R2T4 calculations are:

1. Inadequate or erroneous documentation of the last date of recorded attendance (LDA) or in the case of clock hour school's inadequate documentation of hours earned at the time of withdrawal.
2. Incorrect calculation of the refund. This should not occur if you are using the R2T4 calculation tool Weber & Associates has provided.

Please consider this advice to help your institution avoid these errors with the R2T4 calculations.

### What's Going on With the U.S. Department of Education?

Basically, we wish we knew! Some of the events which frustrate all of us are listed below.

1. Any detailed policy questions which we normally send to a regional program officer now must filter through the Regional Office in Kansas City and then they must be sent to policy in Washington for approval and answer to the question.
2. New school approvals and approvals to the addition of new programs seemed to have slowed to a crawl. It is reported that approvals must come from Washington. This also seems to apply to the re-certification process.
3. As has happened with previous changes of administration it seems to take weeks and sometimes months for recently imposed regulations to be reviewed by the new administration.
4. When new cabinet leaders are confirmed by the Congress it takes weeks and sometimes months for them to get their team in

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place so that new policies can be made and for old more recent policies to be reviewed.

Fortunately the Weber & Associates team has many years of experience and knowledge as to reading the regulations and interpreting the Student Aid Handbook so we don't need to have many questions answered by anyone at ED. Sometimes situations arise when the answer is just not in the Handbook so we need to seek help. That help, now is sometimes delayed for reasons stated above.

So, hang in there, "this too shall pass".



For more information about how our financial aid processing and management services can help your institution, please contact us today.

Give us a call:  
888-857-8690

## Weber Good News Club!

Do you have exciting news happening at your school that you would like to share? Tell us your news and we will share your good news in our newsletter and will also share it on our social media accounts so others can read about your school! To get your good news shared please contact Harry Weber at: [click here](#) or Amanda Ellis-Johnson at: [click here](#). We look forward to sharing your news!

## News Release from Congressional Education and the Workforce Committee

Chairwomen Virginia Fox R-NC and Bobbie Scott D-VA and Senators Lamar Alexander R-TN and Patty Murray D-WA issued a joint press release that they and 39 additional members of the House and Senate have sent a letter to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos asking the department to take action to help alleviate complications for students impacted by the current outage of the Internal Revenue Service's Data Retrieval Tool (DRT).

On March 9, 2017, the U.S. Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a joint statement that the availability of the DRT was suspended due to "privacy concerns".

This has caused students selected for verification to obtain a tax transcript from the IRS which could be delayed because of tax season. When the number of students completing the FAFSA increases later this spring further delays could occur.

It would, in our opinion, be very simple to resolve if the Secretary would just issue a temporary Dear Colleague Letter stating that institution would be allowed to accept a copy of the family's IRS 1040, 1040EZ or other official copy of the student and family's tax information for a time designated by the Secretary until the IRS situation has been resolved. Hopefully that will happen. As we learn more you will be advised

## SURE

Weber has made many updates to the way we perform the Enrollment Reporting, so we would like to take this opportunity to detail how the enrollment reporting functions are an asset to your staff.

**Update Edits** – When a user makes a change to a student's record, the SURE system will check for any potential data issues with the information, to alert a user when they have entered information which could potentially result in a reporting error. These notes are available on the student's record when you open it to make an update.

**Program Enrollment Information** – We have enhanced the Program Enrollment reporting to allow the user to indicate the most up-to-date information on a student's program enrollment, especially if the student has been enrolled in more than one program at a location.

**Clearer SURE statuses** – Enables the user to more quickly identify which records need their attention first.

**Clearer Error reports** – The updated error report only shows text for errors that are identified on this report. This ensures that you have all the information that you need to resolve the errors and no extraneous error code information.

Weber Error Corrections – As much as we are able, if we can eliminate an error for a school because of information that we have, we update the data for the student.



## REMINDER: DID YOU SEND YOUR MONTHLY BANK STATEMENT?

**Assist with monitoring of NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Statistics** – if your school has granted Weber online NSLDS access to your school, we are also able to assist you in monitoring your Enrollment Reporting Statistics and can help to identify what errors seem to be causing any unfavorable numbers. Note: these errors are reported on your monthly error reports as well as on the SURE site, but identifying a pattern could help to identify what seems to be causing the most issues when statuses are updated, or not updated, depending on the individual situation. If you are unsure if you have granted Weber online NSLDS access in addition to the standard access to update your records via batch, please reach out the support team for assistance.

**NSLDS History** – The update history is available for both campus-level & program-level reporting information. This tab allows you to see the updates for a student's information and can identify their enrollment reporting pattern.

**Error reports on SURE site** – Your error reports are no longer emailed by an individual, but are available on your NSLDS Reports tab and can be viewed and downloaded.

**SURE notifications added to notification center** – You can choose who receives the NSLDS reporting notifications and can manage this information on a campus level, as needed.

**Detailed SURE information when submitting Start Form/Confirmation** – This will be released soon. Stay tuned for updates!

Helpful Hints for successful and easy enrollment reporting updates:

- **Timely Status Updates** – If you know that you have a group of students graduating, make sure you carve out enough time to update the students to the correct status on SURE immediately. Doing this will eliminate the biggest group of errors that we see here at Weber when we view the errors that occur most often for all schools
- **Update Program as well as campus information** – If you only update the campus information for a student, you will receive an error if it doesn't match with the campus information. Checking enrollment for both will ensure as few errors as possible.
- **Timely Withdrawal Reporting** – there are a host of reasons why you should be able to identify and report a student as withdrawn as soon as possible. Regarding enrollment reporting, you ensure that pending disbursements are sent to COD and that the student is reported in the withdrawn status the next time that Weber sends out that student record. This will keep you in compliance for the timely reporting of withdrawals. (Unrelated, but if the student withdrew after a payment period started, but before the end, remember to complete the Return to Title IV Funds calculation for that student and perform any refunds or post-withdrawal disbursement actions in a timely manner as well).

## Weber & Associates Emails...Are You Reading Them?



Please make a habit of reading Weber & Associates emails. Failure to do so may cause you to miss something important! If someone at your school needs to be enrolled to receive emails from Weber & Associates please submit a request through your VFAO Support Site.

We will be covering this topic in-depth in our annual Spring Workshop, which we are excited to offer at some key locations around the country, including our own Weber campus. For the second year in a row, we will also be offering Webinar sessions as well. The on-site and Webinar sessions are filling up quickly, please click here to reserve your seat!

For more information about the Weber Spring Workshop: [click here](#)

## U.S. Patent for the Virtual Financial Aid Office Originally Issued in 2014 Has Been Renewed

**"The Best Preparation for Tomorrow is Doing Your Best Today"**

*- H. Jackson Brown Jr.*

The application for the patent for the VFAO process originally submitted in 2001 and initially approved in 2014 has been renewed. This patent includes all of the processes involved with student interviews and processing of the student's financial aid in the VFAO process. So our processes are protected for another five years

## Gainful Employment Update

Many institutions are hopefully awaiting the new administration's decision regarding the continuation of the Gainful Employment regulations. As those institutions know, the reporting and appeal deadline for 2017 has been extended while the new Secretary of Education reviews the regulation. While the delay is itself may provide some sign of possible relief from the rule, *Inside Higher Education* reports that the Trump administration defended the rule in court on Wednesday March 29 "suggesting that it may not quickly roll back the regulation designed to crack down on programs graduating students unable to pay down higher student loan debt loads".

Weber & Associates will continue to monitor the Gainful Employment situation and provide reports as new news occurs.

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