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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!

Having Communication Problems? Help Has Arrived!

In late January 2016, Weber was pleased to release an enhanced portal through which our customers can communicate with our customer service team. Our primary vision for this support site is to increase visibility of requests to our customers as well our management team, so that we can ensure that each customer gets individualized attention and resolution. We are always looking to continuously improve our people and process to serve you better, and the release of this support site is part of that improvement. Access to this site is already available to each of our schools under their "VFAO Support" link on their VFAO site. We can be reached via this portal, directly via a support link [click here](#), by chat on the portal, by direct email [click here](#), and by phone at: 855-865-VFAO (8326) or fax at: 877-404-9586. When you reach out to us for assistance on any of these five channels, you will be put in contact with a member of the customer service team who will assist you in resolving your issue. When we have provided the support that you need, you will be given an opportunity to let us know that it was resolved to your satisfaction.

If you would like additional information on how you can use the VFAO support site in addition to our VFAO website reporting, please contact us by any of the means above for a personalized walk-through of the system based on your needs. We look forward to bringing you even more value on this site in the coming months by adding a knowledge base of information related to Title IV financial aid that can help you better serve your students. Please make sure that anyone involved in financial aid at your school has access to this page so that they can take full advantage of the information available to them using the VFAO site.

Please, always remember that if you are having any difficulties we want hear from you so that we can address the situation and either explain or make the appropriate adjustments.

MOBILE APPS AVAILABLE!

Android Users: [click here](#)





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

Question of the Month



Q: Do We Need W-2s for Verification Groups V1, V5, and V6 If the Total Earned Income Differs Between the Tax Transcript and the FAFSA?

A: Yes. According to the U.S. Department of Education (ED), this would represent conflicting information which needs to be resolved since the income earned from work on the tax transcript does not match the income earned from work reported on the FAFSA. Even though income earned from work is not a required item to verify for tax filers, the school should request W-2 forms from the parents in order to resolve the conflicting information and to determine if an update to each parent's income earned from work is necessary on the FAFSA or Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).
NOTE: Tax filers selected with Verification Tracking Flag V1, V5, or V6 are required to verify adjusted gross income (AGI) but not income earned from work. Verifying income earned

iOS Users: [click here](#)

Use: support.vfao.com to access the support desk from the apps

American Opportunity College Tax Credit Gets New Life

This is a key tax credit that helps families pay for college by providing up to a \$2,500 tax credit per year for each qualifying student for up to four years. In the latest round of negotiations the Congress has extended these tax credits until 2018.

The AOTC allows parents and students to receive a tax credit of up to \$2,500 for college expenses, based on certain income limits, and replaced the smaller Hope credit. The expanded credit will benefit almost 10 million families on an annual basis who will receive an average credit of \$1,900.

Please remember this tax credit is done by the students and their families as they file with the IRS and has nothing to do with the Title IV financial aid process. **Also please remember that to claim this credit, students need a 1098T from your school for the immediate prior tax year.**

Helpful Hint: Dropping A Student Is Easy on SURE, Impossible on a Payment List

This message is to assist our valued clients in the proper method to use when they wish to drop and withdraw a student. We frequently experience financial aid officers marking a student as dropped when they are approving a payment list. The disbursement on the list and all future disbursements will be canceled, but the student will still be listed as enrolled. This causes frustration and it is thought that the Weber payment representative did not drop the student as instructed on the payment list.

Higher Education Institutions do not typically process student enrollment information in the same system or even office that processes payments – Weber works in the same way. To update disbursement information, it is communicated on payment lists or refund forms. To update enrollment information, the enrollment information is communicated via the SURE system.

To drop a student the SURE system must be used. The reason for this process is that the SURE system is used by institutions to make any necessary changes in a student's status. When a SURE entry is made the system ensures that we have captured the necessary information, including status effective date. More importantly when a change is made in SURE the adjustment to the student's status is placed in the Enrollment Reporting system and is reported to NSLDS in the next reporting cycle for the institution. This meets the Department of Education's requirement for Enrollment Reporting.

Weber Spring Workshops...Coming Soon!

from work is only required for nontax filers in V1, V5, or V6. A dependent student with Verification Tracking Flag V1, V5, or V6 turns in a married, filing jointly parent Tax Return Transcript (they did not use IRS Data Retrieval) and the **total** of earned income from work for each parent on the FAFSA does not match the **total** earned income field on the tax transcript (which does not break it down by parent).

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

-Helen Keller

REMINDER: DID YOU SEND YOUR MONTHLY BANK STATEMENT?

It's almost time for the annual Weber Spring Workshops. The dates/locations for our 2016 workshops are:

Greenville, SC: April 10th - 11th
NEW! Webinar: April 13th - 14th
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL: April 28th - 29th
 Lexington, KY: May 15th - 16th
 Riverside, CA: May 19th - 20th
NEW! Webinar: May 24th - 25th

We will be sending out more information for our 2016 workshops very soon. We hope to see you all there!

ED Announces Change to Unusual Enrollment History Selection

Beginning January 1, 2016, ED began monitoring FAFSA applicants' enrollment history separately for their undergraduate and graduate receipt of Title IV aid. This will prevent a student from being selected for UEH monitoring simply because of enrollment at other institutions prior to becoming a graduate student. To minimize the graduate student issue for the remainder of the 2015-2016 FAFSA cycle, this change will be applied to both the new 2016-2017 FAFSA cycle and to the on-going 2015-2016 FAFSA cycle.

While, as noted **ED believes it is important to have the changed UEH selection criteria apply to the on-going 2015-2016 FAFSA cycle, institutions are reminded that any change in a student's UEH status results in "NSLDS Post-screening" where ED creates and sends to institutions new ISIRs showing the changed NSLDS data.** Therefore, some institutions will receive system-generated 2015-2016 ISIRs for students as a result of this post-screening where the UEH value changed from '2' or '3' to 'blank'.

Institutions may choose whether or not to review these ISIRs. In some instances a review might result in the elimination of the need for the institution to resolve a UEH status from an earlier ISIR transaction. To make it as easy as possible for institutions to manage these ISIRs, the ISIRs were:

- Produced on one specific date – **January 22, 2016** – and no other ISIRs produced as a result of NSLDS post-screening will be produced on that date.
- Sent in SAIG Message Class 'IGSG16OP'

The updated ISIRS:

- Have a Transaction Data Source value of '5N'
- Have a Post-screening Reason Code value of '24'

See the complete electronic announcement at the following link for complete details:

To read the EA for January 20, 2016
 (General) Subject: Change to Unusual Enrollment History Selection
[click here](#)

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