Financial Aid Bulletin October 10, 2014

LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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TOPICS: GO Grant File Format Changes

Beginning September 1, 2014, the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) removed the display of Social Security numbers (SSNs) from our Louisiana Award System's screens, reports and all of our outgoing file transmissions. To accommodate this change, we have modified many of our file formats.

For your convenience, LOSFA will continue to receive SSNs in the import file (e.g., payment requests). Once these files are received in our system, the SSN will be automatically encrypted.

LOSFA will only download files containing SSNs when an encrypted FTP process is used (e.g. payment and error roster). The file formats for these download files have been modified to include both the LOSFA ID and the SSN. For additional details regarding encryption processing and exchanging encryption keys, contact LOSFA's IT Operations department at Operations@la.gov.

Data downloads retrieved through the Award System – "Reports" tab will include the LOSFA ID, student's name and date of birth. These downloads will no longer include SSNs. To receive a file with SSNs, you must use the encryption method noted above.

The new file formats and field value definitions are included in the below referenced spreadsheets.

File: GO Grant File Formats_082014.xlsx includes the following worksheets:

- a. GO PayReq-with LOSFA ID This sheet defines the file format used when sending GO Grant payment requests when using the LOSFA ID.
- b. GO PayReq-with SSN This sheet defines the file format used when sending GO payment requests using SSN. This is the existing file format.
- c. GO Payment Roster-with LOSFA ID This sheet defines the file format for receiving the GO Grant Payment Roster within the LOSFA Award System Reports tab. This file format includes the LOSFA ID along with the student's name and birthdate.
- d. GO Payment Roster-with SSN This sheet defines the file format for receiving the GO Grant Payment Roster through an encrypted FTP process. This file format includes SSN and the LOSFA ID.
- e. GO Error Roster-with SSN This sheet defines the file format used when receiving GO Grant errors. This file is only available when transmitting using the encryption processing.

For additional information regarding this bulletin, contact Bonnie Lavergne, Special Programs Manager at bonnie.lavergne@la.gov or call 225-219-7714.