

# **APPENDIX B-2**

## Focus Group Notes: Initial Conceptual Design Work Group (Phase I)

Category	Source	Name	Description	Notes
1	FG	Common Student Identifier -- School Assigned	A field in the record that would allow schools to link a record to the ID used at their institution for cases where the student does not use their SSN. This can be a user defined field that is not utilized by the Department or may become part of the key to the student record linking the student to the institution and the transaction.	
1	FG	Common Student Identifier -- ED Assigned	A common identifier structure be used for each of the programs- to avoid the current situation where students have multiple identifiers and those identifiers cannot be corrected. Schools suggested an ED random generated ID that is used by the Department to identify the student in each program.	Also gives the ability for schools to correct the SSN if the student reported an incorrect SSN while maintaining the same identifier.
2	FG	Real-Time Access to Data -- Corrections	Ability for schools to make corrections to the student data in an on-line real-time mode to cut down on transaction processing time. Also allowing schools on-line access to view and correct transactional data for the origination and disbursement process.	Includes the ability to make corrections to the application data, resolve C-holds, perform data matches, etc.
2	FG	Real-Time Access to Data -- Correction Flag	Schools ability to set an "override flag" when they have resolved that data is correct.	Especially key when communicating origination/ disbursement data and receiving rejects for data the know to be correct or elements that have been degraded later in the process, but were correct at the institution
9	FG	Process Real-Time or Via Batch Transactions	Ability of schools to perform all of the transactions needed from application to funds draw in both a real-time and batch modality.	
1	FG	Earlier Start to PLUS Application Process	Allowing parents to apply for PLUS loan earlier in the process	Suggested either via FAFSA information or on ED website
1	FG	Access to PLUS Credit Check Results	Allowing schools to access results of credit check for PLUS application immediately and directly such that it could be used in initial packaging	
3	FG	Change to 90-Day Credit Check Timeframe	Allow for greater than 90-day expiration of PLUS credit check information to allow schools to utilize credit check data in packaging, but not process PLUS loan until determined wanted by the student	
3	FG	Net Corrections	Change format of corrections to be net adjustment required as opposed to new replacement value to allow for limitations to the consequences of sequencing errors	

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Category	Source	Name	Description	Notes
1	FG	MPN Flag	Flag on ISIR to indicate whether student has an MPN on file which would allow schools to easily determine whether or not a promissory note is necessary	
1	FG	MPN Data Compilation	Incorporate MPN data and signatures on FAFSA to eliminate need for separate MPN	
9	FG	Standardized Regulations	Coincide regulations for different programs to make them like	Examples: reporting timeframes, return of funds, notification requirements, reconciliation requirements
2	FG	Student Historical Access	Allow on-line access to view student history, but not current awards/ disbursements	Schools feel ownership over the current award year and want to ensure access to this information is limited to and controlled by the home school