



F E D E R A L  
S T U D E N T A I D

*We Help Put America Through School*

accenture

*High performance. Delivered.*

---

# **Integration Partner Transition *CPS/FAFSA/ED PIN Briefing***

May 2004

# Project Overview

---

- The *Central Processing System (CPS)* is the system that receives, processes and distributes applicant aid eligibility data to students, schools, state agencies and other entities.
- The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* is used to apply for federal student financial aid, including grants, loans and work-study. It is also used by most states and schools to award non-federal student financial aid.
- A FAFSA can be submitted to CPS via paper form, electronically through FAFSA on the Web, or FAA Access to CPS online.
- *ED PIN* is the electronic identifier that provides access to personal federal student aid information on-line in various US Department of Education systems. The ED PIN website enables a user to apply for a PIN, request a PIN be sent, change a PIN, check PIN status, and update PIN information.

# Project Owners

---

- The CPS system is overseen by the Applications, School Eligibility and Delivery Systems (ASEDS), Application Processing Division (APD)
- APD is responsible for all FSA software and web products, as well as processing of Applicant data
- The prime vendor for the CPS contract is Pearson Government Solutions (PGS), Iowa City, IA

# Project Owners Cont'd

---

## Application Processing Division Management:

- Jeanne Saunders, Director
- Bill Leith, Deputy Director
- Sherlene McIntosh, Supervisory Management and Program Analyst
- Marilyn LeBlanc, Supervisory Management and Program Analyst
  - Project Managers:
    - Ida Mondragon – Mainframe Development Manager
    - Nina Colón – Web Development Manager
    - Ginger Klock – PC Development Manager

# Business Functions

---

- **CPS:**
  - FSA’s application processing system supports Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, to process each submitted Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - The information provided by applicants is used to calculate and report the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This EFC forms the basis for delivering student financial aid packages for a particular award year and is communicated to applicants and other delivery partners in the form of a Student Aid Report and an Institutional Student Information Record, respectively.
  - The Central Processing System (CPS) provides the necessary functions to process the FAFSA data and disseminate results to applicants, schools, state agencies and other student financial aid delivery partners. The CPS is also supplemented by other application processing systems which include the Image and Data Capture (IDC) facility for processing paper applications, FAFSA on the Web for applications completed using the Internet as well as student and financial aid administrator functions that are web based, EDEXpress software used by school financial aid administrators and the ED PIN system for electronic identification and access. CPS also interfaces with other internal and external business processes to service the student aid life cycle needs of aid recipients and delivery partners.
- **FAFSA:**
  - Application for Federal Student Aid required to determine EFC.
- **ED PIN:**
  - Identification and authentication solution for students and parents used by many FSA systems. The solution uses an individual’s SSN, first 2 characters of last name, date of birth and a PIN. The ED PIN also supports the FSA electronic signature process.

# Application Processing Data Flow

---

- Student/FAA completes FAFSA (paper; online) and submits to CPS
  - CPS accepts or rejects, then runs data through Federal Methodology calculations, resulting in Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). EFC is used by school to determine amount of Federal aid to award, based on law
  - CPS notifies student, and any schools listed by student, of the results
  - FAA or student corrects any field in error; returns to CPS. CPS generates another transaction to school and student
  - School makes award offer to student
- \*All paper sent to CPS is preserved via an Image and Data Capture (IDC) process
- \*Access to FAA Access to CPS online is controlled via the Participation Management System through the PIN authentication process.

# Annual Delivery Estimations

---

- Sep/Oct: 30 million paper FAFSA's printed for distribution to schools
- Nov/Dec: 7.5 million Renewal FAFSA notifications (for returning students) distributed
- 14 million Applications processed
  - 78% electronically
  - 22% paper
- 139,000 Web Applications processed on March 1, 2004 (peak)

# Other APD Products Related to CPS (Software)

---

- EDExpress for Windows
  - Applications (Import of ISIR's only)
  - Packaging
  - Global
  - Direct Loan
  - PELL Grant
- Direct Loan Tools
- Student Status Confirmation Report (SSCR)

## **Other APD Products Related to CPS (Web)**

---

- FAFSA on the Web
- Renewal FAFSA on the Web
- Corrections on the Web
- PIN Registration ([pin.ed.gov](http://pin.ed.gov))
- FAA Access to CPS Online
- IA Tools
- Return to Title IV Funds (R2T4)
- Participation Management (WebEnroll)

# Other APD Products Related to CPS (Support)

---

- FSATech listserv Customer Support (all technical issues)
- CPS/SAIG Customer Service Help Desk
- Documentation related to all products
  - Technical References
  - Help Text
  - Desk References
  - ISIR Guide
  - CPS Procedure Manual

# Relationship to FSA's Strategic Goals

---

Strategic Goal	Applicable to Project?	If yes, why?
Modernize & Integrate Systems	Yes	Integration of underlying systems/capabilities and modernization to reduce inefficiencies.
Improve Program Integrity	Yes	Better data for applicants and ability to integrate with other FSA processes.
Reduce Costs	No	N/A
Improve Products & Services	Yes	Focus on better customer service to students and parents.
Improve Human Capital	No	N/A

# Relationship to FSA's 'Big Picture'

---

- Underlying business functions initiate contact with customers and provide information for other FSA processes.
- Application was defined as a business capability in the Enterprise Target State Vision, with the following high-level functional capabilities:
  - Aid Awareness
  - Establish Person Record
  - Aid Eligibility Determination
- The ED PIN was defined as an enterprise shared function in the Enterprise Target State Vision.
- FAFSA will continue to serve as the application for Federal Student Financial Aid.

# Project Schedule

---

- APD is currently in Requirements phase for the 2005/2006 award year cycle
- The annual release of Application Processing functionality and ancillary products (CPS, FOTW, PIN Site) is January

# Project Deliverables

---

- CPS contract encompasses numerous secondary contracts broken out by functional area
- Project deliverables for the 04/05 Cycle
  - CPS Mainframe January 2, 2004
  - CPS Web Apps January 1, 2004
  - PIN Site January 1, 2004
  - DL Tools July 2004
  - R2T4 Web August 2004
  - IA Tool October 2004
  - PM/SAIG November 2003
  - EDExpress Modules
    - Apps January 2004
    - Packaging January 2004
    - Global February 2004
    - Direct Loan February 2004
    - PELL February 2004

# Next Steps

---

- The functionality served today by CPS, FAFSA and ED PIN is functionality defined within scope of the Front End Business Integration procurement to allow for a streamlined application, origination and disbursement process.