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# Integration Partner Transition *FSA Portals Briefing*

May 2004

# Project Overview

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- *Student Aid on the Web (SAOW)* is the Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid's (FSA) newest gateway to information about the availability of financial aid and the steps involved in planning for education beyond high school. One of the key goals of the site is to show users how access and affordable education beyond high school is and that funding for that education is available.
- The *Financial Partners (FP) Portal* was designed in close cooperation with many FSA partners in the financial aid community and is updated regularly with content that benefits the FSA FP community. Information, links, and publications provide FSA's customers with the most current information available.
- The *Schools Portal* is the single portal for the Schools community to access FSA.

# Project Owners

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	<b>Student Aid on the Web</b>	<b>Financial Partners Portal</b>	<b>Schools Portal</b>
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# Business Functions

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## Student Aid on the Web

- Single source of *free* information on choosing a career, selecting a school, and identifying resources to pay for higher education
- The MyFSA functionality allows users to store their information on the site if they choose
- Pre-population of the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Pre-population of on-line college admissions applications

## Financial Partners (FP) Portal

- Provides information about various FSA programs
- Provides central access point to other FSA systems including FMS, FP Data Mart, and NSLDS
- Provides current and active list of community members
- Online calendar and list of events

## Schools Portal:

- Provides a gateway to all of the FSA sites a school uses. It is staged to support the Single Sign On initiative, an initiative not yet realized.

# Relationship to FSA's Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal	Applicable to Project?	If yes, why?
Modernize & Integrate Systems	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Modernization of technical architecture and implementation of FSA standards.</li> <li>•The applications both leverage the current, open technology of the Integrated Technical Architecture (ITA)</li> <li>•Consolidated/integrated functionality</li> </ul>
Improve Program Integrity	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides central access to all relevant information, publications, FSA systems, and external sites</li> </ul>
Reduce Costs	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shares portlets and environments</li> <li>• Same Operating Partner</li> <li>• FSA performs content management</li> </ul>
Improve Products & Services	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Focus on better customer service to students and partners and better process to support FSA employees.</li> <li>•Improved functionality</li> <li>•Increased integration and access</li> <li>•Increased awareness</li> </ul>
Improve Human Capital	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSA performs content management</li> <li>• Increased collaboration with FSA customers and partners increases FSA's knowledge</li> </ul>

# Relationship to FSA's 'Big Picture'

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- The web sites fit into FSA's 'Big Picture' in several areas:
  - Providing core functionality to customers
  - Streamlining internal operations for content management
  - Built upon vision for Data Strategy
  - Leveraging proven technical architecture platform
- Web usage, services and web site consolidation analyses continue to be a focus of the Data Strategy effort.

# Delivery Process

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- The Students and Financial Partner Portals projects followed the standard FSA System Development Life-Cycle (SDLC) at the time of development and initial operations. This included the following:
  - SDLC Checklist for each phase
  - Requirements sessions and analysis
  - Standard deliverables (see Slide #9)
  - Production Readiness Review (PRR)
    - Documentation
    - Operational Readiness Review (ORR)
    - Formal presentation
    - Client and VDC Sign-Off

# Project Schedule

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- All three Portals are in operations mode.

# Project Deliverables

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- Students, Financial Partners, and Schools' deliverables during development and initial operations included the following:
  - Requirements Definition
  - Detailed Design Document
  - Test Plan, Scripts, and Results
  - Developed, Tested, and Accepted Solution
  - PRR Documentation
  - Stabilization and Transition Support Performance Reports

# Next Steps

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- All three Portals are currently in operations mode.
- Determine next steps as a result of Data Strategy analyses of web usage, services and web site consolidation.