

TO: Secretary Paige
FROM: COO Terri Shaw
RE: FSA Weekly Report
DATE: September 30, 2002

THE WEEK AHEAD

System Integration Checkpoint: On September 30, FSA senior leadership is conducting a checkpoint review of the current status of FSA's System Integration efforts. This checkpoint will assess the priorities, schedules, and estimated costs and benefits of each individual initiative, as well as review how each relates to the overall mission and objectives of FSA and the Department. This review will also provide necessary information to prioritize the FY03 System Integration initiatives.

FY02 Budget Closeout/Planning FY03: FSA Budget Support staff are working to complete the budget close-out process for FY02. September 30, of course, is the last day of the federal fiscal year. FY03 obligation plans for each FSA area will be reviewed and prepared for entry into the Department's planning system so funds can be allotted when EDCAPS is available for FY03 processing.

GAO Review of IRS Data Sharing: On September 30, GAO staff are scheduled to meet with FSA Analysis staff for an oral briefing on the inventory of FSA initiatives related to crosschecking or matching tax data.

Redesigned Financial Partners Portal: The redesigned Web portal is set to go live on September 30. The portal aggregates information and services that help our loan partners do their business with us. One new feature is the "Scorecard," which allows guaranty agencies (GAs) and lenders to view their own performance data—the same data we use—so they can closely monitor their performance. Version 2.0 will also provide additional access to NSLDS (the National Student Loan Database System) and FMS (FSA's Financial Management System). (Link: fp.ed.gov.)

Technology Update for Schools: FSA CIO is sponsoring a technology day for schools on September 30. The update is being held just before EDUCAUSE convenes in Atlanta. The Dean of Information Sciences and Technology at Pennsylvania State University is to be the keynote speaker at the update.

Redesigned Lender Reporting System: On October 1, the LaRS system (the Lender Reporting System) is to be released. LaRS is the culmination of the Lender Redesign project. It moves lenders from paper to electronic processes of reporting data. The system will, for example, replace the 799 billing form. LaRS was designed to increase FSA's ability to evaluate GA and lender performance. It is expected to increase data accuracy and make the data available faster.

KEY NEWS

Nothing to report.

Nothing to report.

RESOLUTION OF KEY ISSUES

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES

Nothing to report.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Not applicable.

POLICY DOCUMENTS

Nothing to report.

GRANT ACTIVITIES

ON THE HORIZON

FSA Administration: As soon as Oracle Federal Financials are available (after FY02's closeout and the beginning of FY03), FSA Administration will work with OCFO to complete a recompilation of unliquidated obligations. The process consists of reconciling Travel Manager (TM) and Oracle data on travel authorizations still in the system. The goal is to clean up all FY02 data that has been completed or canceled in TM but not in Oracle. This process should remove all incorrect obligations in Oracle.

OIG Audit of FSA Implementation of Oracle Federal Financials: OIG is expected to conduct an exit conference in mid-October and expects to have the draft report completed by the latter part of October.

OIG Address Audit: An entrance conference is scheduled for October 21. The objectives of this OIG audit are (1) to identify mailing addresses with excessive amounts of student aid awards and to analyze these occurrences for reasonableness and (2) to identify schools that have a high number of applicants with the same mailing address.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Karen Santos Freeman at 377-4001 with any questions.