

**INFORMATION**  
**July 30, 2021**

**HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD**

**BOARD REPORT #22-04**

**SELECTIVE SERVICE**

OMB Control Number: 1810–0684.

Type of Review: An extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 51.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,173.

Abstract: This is a request for an extension without change for the 1810–0684 High School Equivalency Program (HEP) Annual Performance Report collection. The Office of Migrant Education (OME) is collecting information for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) which is authorized under Title IV, Section 418A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by Section 408 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)(20 U.S.C. 1070d–2) (special programs for students whose families are engaged in migrant and seasonal farmwork) and 2 CFR 200.328 which requires that recipients of discretionary grants submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) to best inform improvements in program outcomes and productivity.

Although the Education Department continues to use the generic 524B, OME is requesting to continue the use of a customized APR that goes beyond the generic 524B APR to facilitate the collection of more standardized and comprehensive data to inform Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) indicators, to improve the overall quality of data collected, and to increase the quality of data that can be used to inform policy decisions.

Dated: June 14, 2021.

**Juliana Pearson,**

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2021–12773 Filed 6–16–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Early Implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's Removal of Requirements for Title IV Eligibility Related to Selective Service Registration and Drug-Related Convictions

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes this notice, as required by the FAFSA

Simplification Act (Act), which was enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, of early implementation of the Act's removal of requirements for Title IV eligibility related to Selective Service registration and drug-related convictions.

#### **DATES:**

Effective date: June 17, 2021.

Implementation date: August 16, 2021.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Aaron Washington, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 2C182, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 453–7241. Email: [Aaron.Washington@ed.gov](mailto:Aaron.Washington@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department publishes this notice, as required by the Act, of early implementation of the Act's removal of requirements for Title IV eligibility related to Selective Service registration and drug-related convictions. A Dear Colleague Letter issued by the Department on June 11, 2021, providing information regarding the early implementation of the Act's removal of these requirements, including actions institutions must take as these changes are implemented in phases across award years 2021–2022, 2022–2023, and 2023–2024, is available in the Appendix of this notice.

**Accessible Format:** On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

**Electronic Access to This Document:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov). At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov).

Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

**Tiwanda Burse,**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management & Planning, Office of Postsecondary Education.

#### **Appendix—DCL ID: GEN–21–xx**

**Subject:** Early Implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's Removal of Selective Service and Drug Conviction Requirements for Title IV Eligibility.

**Summary:** This letter provides information about the early implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's removal of Selective Service and drug conviction requirements for Title IV eligibility, as well as actions that institutions must take as these changes are implemented in phases across award years 2021–2022, 2022–2023, and 2023–2024. Certain other aspects of the law being implemented are discussed in separate communications.

Dear Colleague:

On December 27, 2020, the *FAFSA Simplification Act* (Act) was enacted into law as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*. The Act makes many important changes to the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (HEA) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Two changes referred to by this DCL include amending Sec. 484 of the HEA to remove:

- The requirement that male students register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal student aid under Title IV of the HEA (Title IV); and
- Suspension of eligibility for Title IV aid for drug-related convictions that occurred while receiving Title IV aid.

Under the Act, the Department of Education (Department) may implement these changes by providing 60 days' notice in the **Federal Register**. The Secretary is issuing this notice in the coming days. Institutions may implement the changes as early as the date the **Federal Register** notice publishes. They must implement the changes no later than 60 days after the date of the **Federal Register** notice (implementation date). To make Title IV aid accessible to as many students as soon as possible, the Department of Education (Department) will implement these changes in three phases across three award years: The 2021–2022, 2022–2023, and 2023–2024 award years.

Other than statutory and regulatory requirements included in the document, the contents of this guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

#### **2021–2022 Award Year**

For the 2021–2022 award year, for which the FAFSA cycle has already begun, the Selective Service and drug conviction questions (as well as the option to register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA) will remain on the FAFSA. However, failing to register with the Selective Service or

having a drug conviction while receiving federal Title IV aid will no longer impact a student's Title IV aid eligibility.

For the 2021–2022 award year, institutions will still see Comment Codes 30, 33, or 57 for Selective Service issues and Comment Codes 53, 54, 56, or 58 for drug convictions. Each Comment Code will still include messaging that a resolution is required to regain eligibility for federal student aid. For Institutional Student Informational Reports (ISIRs) received on or after the implementation date, institutions must ignore the Comment Codes and the messaging requiring resolution and proceed to award and disburse aid to students if they are otherwise eligible. However, while recommended, institutions are not required to go back and reprocess, package, or award aid for ISIRs they received for the 2021–2022 award year prior to the implementation date unless requested by the student.

Federal Student Aid will be proactively sending emails to students who are associated with 2021–2022 ISIRs received prior to the implementation date and who were determined to be ineligible based on their answers to Selective Service and drug conviction questions informing them about the change in the law and their potential eligibility for Title IV aid. Emails will direct students to contact their institution's financial aid office.

#### 2022–2023 Award Year

For the 2022–2023 award year, we will enhance implementation of the removal of Selective Service and drug conviction requirements for federal Title IV eligibility. Similar to the 2021–2022 award year:

- The Selective Service and drug conviction questions (as well as the option to register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA) will remain on the FAFSA;
- Failing to register with the Selective Service or having a drug conviction while receiving federal Title IV aid will no longer affect a student's Title IV aid eligibility; and
- Institutions will still see Comment Codes 30, 33, or 57 for Selective Service issues and Comment Codes 53, 54, 56, or 58 for drug convictions, which institutions must ignore and may not use as a reason to deny Title IV aid to a student.

However, for the 2022–2023 award year, the Department will include language in the Comment Codes stating that no further action is necessary on the part of the student or the institution.

#### 2023–2024 Award Year

For the 2023–2024 award year, the Department plans to completely remove both the Selective Service and drug conviction questions from the FAFSA, as well as the option to register with the Selective Service via the FAFSA. We will also remove any associated Comment Codes and messaging that indicate a resolution is required for federal Title IV eligibility.

Questions about our early implementation of these provisions of the FAFSA Simplification Act should be referred to our Contact Customer Support outreach site within FSA's Help Center, located in the new Knowledge Center. To submit a question,

please enter your name, email address, topic, and question. When submitting a question related to this Dear Colleague Letter, please select the topic "FSA Ask-A-FED/Policy."

Thank you for your continued support of the Title IV federal student aid programs.

Sincerely,

Richard Cordray, Chief Operating Officer,  
Federal Student Aid.

Annmarie Weisman, Deputy Assistant,  
Secretary for Policy, Planning, and  
Innovation, Office of Postsecondary  
Education.

[FR Doc. 2021–12762 Filed 6–16–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER21–2117–000]

#### Little Blue Wind Project, LLC; Supplemental Notice That Initial Market-Based Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Section 204 Authorization

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced proceeding of Little Blue Wind Project, LLC's application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate tariff, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing protests with regard to the applicant's request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability, is July 1, 2021.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at <http://www.ferc.gov>. To facilitate electronic service, persons with internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room, due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (886) 208–3676 or TTY, (202) 502–8659.

Dated: June 11, 2021.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2021–12778 Filed 6–16–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2315–167]

#### Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- Type of Application:* Request for a temporary amendment of the reservoir drawdown limit.
- Project No.:* 2315–167.
- Date Filed:* May 28, 2021.
- Applicant:* Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.
- Name of Project:* Neal Shoals Hydroelectric Project.
- Location:* The project is located on the Broad River in Union and Chester Counties, South Carolina.
- Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).
- Applicant Contact:* Ms. Amy Bresnahan, Dominion Energy South

## Selective Service

On December 27, 2020, the *FAFSA Simplification Act* (Act) was enacted into law as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*. The Act makes many important changes to the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (HEA) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The requirement that male students register with the Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal student aid under Title IV of the HEA (Title IV); and Suspension of eligibility for Title IV aid for drug-related convictions that occurred while receiving Title IV aid.

**39.28(6)** The board may not provide any state financial assistance under this Subchapter to any person during the period that the person is required to register with the selective service system under 50 USC, Appendix, sections 451 to 473 if the person has not so registered.

## Verification

Effective July 13, 2021 and for the remainder of the 2021-22 FAFSA processing and verification cycle, ED is waiving verification requirements for most Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) information, except for identity/statement of educational purpose and high school completion status under verification tracking groups V4 and V5.

Institutions may apply the waiver to any applicant selected for verification for whom verification is not yet completed, e.g., if documents have been collected or requested, but verification has not been completed, or if an institution has not started the verification process. However, this does not exempt institutions from reviewing all documents for conflicting information concerning a student's eligibility, nor does it exempt institutions from resolving student eligibility-related c-codes.

Applicants will continue to be selected for verification by the Central Processing System (CPS) through the 2021-22 year, and the current messaging to selected applicants on the Student Aid Report (SAR) will remain.

Schools must continue to report a valid verification status code for every student selected for verification by the CPS. For applicants for whom the school is exercising the verification waiver, institutions should report an "S" (student is selected for verification but is exempt under an allowable exclusion). "Blank" is not an acceptable verification status code, except in cases where a student is selected after he or she is no longer enrolled at your institution.

ED has not yet released the 2022-23 verification items and acceptable documentation, so it is unknown if the current waiver will extend into the 2022-23 year.

"This has been an exceptionally tough year," [said](#) Richard Cordray, Chief Operating Officer of Federal Student Aid (FSA). "We need to ensure students have the most

straightforward path to acquiring the financial aid they need to enroll in college and continue their path to a degree. Targeting verification to focus on identity theft and fraud this aid cycle, ensures we address immediate student needs, continue to protect the integrity of the Federal Pell Grant Program, and reduce barriers to access for underserved students.”

Cordray also said that FSA would continue to evaluate potential long-term improvements that would make verification more equitable and prevent fraud.

According to FSA these changes will aim to alleviate some of the burden faced by financial aid administrators for the upcoming enrollment session.

By reducing the verification burden FSA is urging aid administrators to devote more resources to administering emergency relief funds, updating FAFSA information for students who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, and helping students learn about and access emergency financial aid grants provided under the [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund](#).