

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



Timothy A. Connell
PRESIDENT

TO: Financial Aid Officers
Student Loan Officers

FROM: Richard M. Hawkshead *RMH*
Vice President, Internal Audit and Compliance

DATE: October 31, 2008

SUBJECT: COMMON MANUAL, *Unified Student Loan Policy Bulletin 111*

The attached policy change summary has been prepared by the nation's guarantors in order to clarify, revise or correct existing policy contained in the Common Manual. The effective date of the provision is noted at the end of policy change.

Reference #1060 – Identity Theft

Reference #1061 – Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grant
Definitions

Reference #1062 – Common Review Initiative Update

If you have any questions about the attached bulletin, please contact Jessie Cooper at 770-724-9139 or jessiec@gsfc.org or me at 770-724-9012.

Attachment

The nation's guarantors provide the following summaries to inform schools, lenders, and servicers of the latest *Common Manual* policy changes. These changes will appear in the manual's next annual update. These changes will also be incorporated into the *Integrated Common Manual*. The *Integrated Common Manual* is available on several guarantor websites, and it is also available on *Common Manual's* website at www.commonmanual.org. Please carefully note the effective date of each policy change.

Identity Theft

The *Common Manual* has been revised to include identity theft in the list of circumstances under which a lender may be eligible for claim payment in the FFELP overview in Chapter 2. The *Common Manual* has also been revised to state that a borrower who has defaulted on his or her loan is eligible for a new FFELP loan if the defaulted loan has been discharged because the borrower is determined to be the victim of the crime of identity theft. In addition, the definition of the term "discharge" has been updated to include the crime of identity theft.

Affected Sections:	2.2.C Repayment 5.2.D NSLDS Data Match Appendix G
Effective Date:	False certification as a result of identity theft loan discharge claims processed by the lender on or after September 8, 2006.
Basis:	§682.402(e)(14).
Policy Information:	1060/Batch 152
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grant Definitions

The *Common Manual* has been updated to include glossary definitions for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (National SMART) Grant Programs.

The ACG is a federal need- and merit-based grant that is intended to encourage a student to complete a rigorous secondary school program of study. The National SMART Grant is also a federal need- and merit-based grant that is intended to encourage a student to major in one of the physical, life, or computer sciences; engineering; technology; mathematics; or a critical foreign language.

A cross-reference to the FSA Handbook was included in the new glossary definitions for the ACG and National SMART Grant Programs, and was added to the existing "Pell Grant" glossary definition.

Affected Sections:	Appendix G
Effective Date:	July 1, 2006.
Basis:	Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171); HEA §401A; 2008-09 FSA Handbook, Vol. 1, Chapter 6, p. 1-63.
Policy Information:	1061/Batch 152
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Common Review Initiative Update

The *Common Manual* has been updated by removing information about the Common Review Initiative from Appendix F and placing the information in Chapter 17, Program Review.

Affected Sections:	Chapter 17 Program Review Appendix F Common Review Initiative
Effective Date:	January 1, 2008.
Basis:	None.
Policy Information:	1062/Batch 152
Guarantor Comments:	None.