

# nassgap

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All:

It was good to meet you all in DC at the NASFAA conference. I found the "An Industry Approach to Secured Customer Access through a Student Portal Account" session insightful. I'm intrigued about the ideas discussed at the session, and am particularly interested in how state grant agencies will be involved/represented in subsequent discussions.

As I mention after the session, state grant agencies collectively award over \$3.7 billion a year in state funded need and non-need based awards to student every year. Thus, the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) believes states need to be included in discussions related to proposed access protocols for providing students and other customers secure access to their data regardless of where the data is physically stored.

NASSGAP is interested in the Department's initiative to develop concrete business rules for the secured exchange of student financial aid and request that NASSGAP, on behalf of state grant agencies (most of whom are not loan guarantors), be involved in this process. That said, it is worth noting that NASSGAP is not a Washington based organization, and that our funds are limited. Consequently, NASSGAP is concerned about being priced-out of this public policy process if we have to pay substantial fees to join organizations, such as PESC, in order to participate. We are also concerned about travel-related costs that the organization might incur if a member would need to attend meetings in DC. I look forward to subsequent discussions regarding this matter.

Sincerely

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