

From: nassgapexec-bounces@lists.onenet.net on behalf of Butler, Stephanie (ACPE) [stephanie.butler@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 6:24 PM
To: Executive Members of NASSGAP (nassgapexec@lists.onenet.net)
Cc: Wade, Leroy (Leroy.Wade@dhe.mo.gov); bob.k.brew@state.or.us; Garrison, Joshua (CHE); Mayo, Earl; Harrison, Katie; Brian Weingart; Foltyn, Carla (Treasury); Tim Phelps [Nassgapexec] FW: NASSGAP Audio Conference Follow-up
Subject:
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Just FYI....

From: Butler, Stephanie (ACPE)
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 11:51 AM
To: 'ted.mitchell@ed.gov' <ted.mitchell@ed.gov>; 'ajita_t._menon@who.eop.gov' <ajita_t._menon@who.eop.gov>; 'jeff.appel@ed.gov' <jeff.appel@ed.gov>; 'Yu_L_Shi@who.eop.gov' <Yu_L_Shi@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Ballmann, Frank (HESC) (frank.ballmann@hesc.ny.gov) <frank.ballmann@hesc.ny.gov>; Morrow, Ritchie (Ritchie.Morrow@nebraska.gov) <Ritchie.Morrow@nebraska.gov>
Subject: NASSGAP Audio Conference Follow-up

Good afternoon –

Thank you for meeting last week with members of the NASSGAP leadership team and NASSGAP member states impacted by the recent FAFSA school-list masking proposal. We found the audioconference opportunity to interact with you and with the larger team working on this issue to be very helpful.

NASSGAP is particularly gratified to learn that any action to mask or otherwise randomize the reporting of students' FAFSA school selection to their state grant agencies will be deferred to the 2018/2019 FAFSA year. This decision addresses the immediate needs of the states that rely on receiving the school information in the order listed by the student, and it also allows the states to focus on their activities supporting the early FAFSA initiative.

NASSGAP remains concerned that any masking or randomizing of the FAFSA school list provided to the state grant agencies will add unnecessary complexity and cost to the process of connecting students to state grant resources. As noted by one of our member states on the call, the impact of randomization directly counteracts the goals of the early FAFSA initiative. NASSGAP also notes that the planned randomization appears to be designed to address a hypothetical issue that has not, to our knowledge, been documented to create any problems or have any negative impacts on students. For these reasons, NASSGAP continues to advocate for not just deferring but fully cancelling the proposed change to the way information will be provided to the states.

Relative to the discussion of the early FAFSA initiative that was included in the call last week, NASSGAP applauds the Department's initiative, and the states are fully committed to supporting early FAFSA activities. We appreciate your interest in state early FAFSA outreach and in state postsecondary access and planning initiatives in general. We hope you will join us for the NASSGAP annual meeting, October 18-21 in Ft. Lauderdale, to hear directly from the states about their outreach activities. We would be pleased to develop a session specific to your interests in this area, if that would be of value to you and your team.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to NASSGAP if there is any additional information we can provide. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Department in support of our needy students. Again, on behalf of all our member states, thank you.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Butler, President
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Providers (NASSGAP)

