



October 13, 2016

The Honorable John B. King, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

The Honorable Ted Mitchell
Under Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary King and Under Secretary Mitchell:

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) extends its congratulations to the Department of Education for a successful roll-out of Early FAFSA and the implementation of prior-year (PPY) income. It has been a well thought-out and collegial process. The effectiveness of the Department's extensive campaign to publicize the changes and facilitate this initiative—one of the most substantial and significant changes to the Federal student aid system in decades—is evidenced by the record number of applications filed within the first few days of availability.

The Department is also working to ease the transition considerably by taking on the task of identifying and screening conflicting cross-year information, and setting reasonable parameters for institutional resolution. We thank the Department for listening to the financial aid community's concerns and partnering with us to ensure that implementation is undertaken in the best interest of students. While we have received scattered reports of students being incorrectly selected for conflicting information resolution, we understand that they represent a relatively small number of exceptions so far, and that the Department is working to correct any glitches; we appreciate your attention to ironing out any unforeseen challenges.

The community-wide partnership to affect these changes in an impressively short time from President Obama's initial announcement demonstrates that positive collaboration is still not only possible, but a valuable tool for supporting this nation's postsecondary students. NASFAA looks forward to continuing this work and furthering cooperative efforts to improve accessibility and success in higher education.

Sincerely,

Justin Draeger

President, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Cc: Lynn Mahaffie, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation
James Runcie, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid
Ajita Talwalker Menon, White House Special Assistant to the President for Higher Education
Policy, Domestic Policy Council

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