



United States Department of Education

Office of the Secretary

FOIA Service Center

December 28, 2023

Abigail Alannah Moats
Intake & Digital Advocacy Manager
National Student Legal Defense Network
1701 Rhode Island Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

RE: FOIA Request No. 23-00062-F

Dear Abigail Alannah Moats:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated October 5, 2022, and received in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) FOIA Service Center on October 6, 2022. You requested the following:

“ Student Defense requests that, within twenty business days, the Department produce documents sufficient to show:

1. The total number of borrower defense applications filed from September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022, broken down by institution;
2. The total number of borrower defense applications granted between September 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022, broken down by institution;
 - a. Of the granted applications, the total number that received monetary relief, broken down by institution;
 - b. Of the granted applications, the total dollar amount discharged, broken down by institution;
3. The total number of borrower defense applications denied between September 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022, broken down by institution.
4. The total number of borrower defense applications pending decision as of September 30, 2022, broken down by institution.”

Your request was forwarded to Federal Student Aid. The Department has identified an Excel spreadsheet that is being released in full.

The pages are available for download via the Public Access Link (PAL). You can access your PAL account, or register for a PAL account, at this link:

<https://foiaexpress.pal.ed.gov/app/PalLogin.aspx>

Fees

There are no fees associated with processing this request. Therefore, any fee waiver request submitted for this FOIA request is not applicable.

Additional Assistance

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department, offers ombuds services, including dispute resolution, to assist FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Please note, OGIS's assistance does not replace the administrative appeal process described below. You may contact the FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS at:

FOIA Public Liaison
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7W104
Washington, DC 20202-4500
Email: robert.wehausen@ed.gov
Phone: 202-205-0733
Fax: 202-401-0920

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road, OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: OGIS@nara.gov
Phone: 202-741-5770 or 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal this decision, as well as decisions in any previous interim releases, with the Department by submitting an appeal to the address below, no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include a detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal. It should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal. You may submit your appeal by:

Mail: Appeals Office
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W104
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Online Form: www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf

Email: EDFOIAppeals@ed.gov

Fax: 202-401-0920

Sincerely,

Tiffany Tucker

Tiffany Tucker
Government Information Specialist
Office of the Secretary