



## United States Department of Education

Office of the Secretary

FOIA Service Center

December 1, 2023

Sarai Chaidez  
Policy Associate  
Student Defense  
1701 Rhode Island Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: FOIA Request No. 23-02349-F

Dear Sarai Chaidez:

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 July 21, 2023, and received in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) FOIA Service Center on July 24, 2023. You requested the following:

“ Student Defense hereby requests that the Department produce the following within twenty business days:

For borrowers who have been identified as eligible for an automatic TPD discharge through the SSA Process (i.e. borrowers who have “matched” through the SSA Process since the automatic TPD regulation went into effect in 2021), documents sufficient to show:

1. Since the automatic TPD regulation (announced in August 2021) went into effect, documents sufficient to show the total number of borrowers who have been positively identified as eligible for an automatic TPD discharge pursuant to the SSA Process.
2. Since the automatic TPD regulation (announced in August 2021) went into effect, documents sufficient to show the total number of borrowers who have received an automatic TPD discharge pursuant to the SSA Process, and the total dollar value of their discharged federal student loan debt.
3. Since the automatic TPD regulation (announced in August 2021) went into effect, documents sufficient to show the total number of borrowers who have been identified as eligible for an automatic TPD discharge pursuant to the SSA Process but who have not received an automatic TPD discharge, and the total dollar value of their outstanding federal student loan debt.

Note: For each of these requests, in lieu of documents Student Defense would accept a chart or description providing the requested information.”

Your request was forwarded to Federal Student Aid. The Department has identified one page that is being released in full.

The page is 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf)

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)

Fax: 202-401-0920

Sincerely,

*Sandra Lewandowski*  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the Secretary