



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOIA Service Center

July 6, 2022

Ms. Isabel Tessier
National Student Legal Defense Network
1015 15th St NW #600
Washington, DC 20005

RE: FOIA Request No. 22-01877-F

Dear Isabel Tessier:

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 February 8, 2022, and received in the FOIA Service Center (FSC) on February 9, 2022. Your request was forwarded to the Federal Student Aid (FSA) to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following: Student Defense requests that the Department produce the following records within twenty business days of the date of this request:

- Documents sufficient to show all communications with any outside party regarding the assumption or imposition (regardless of the means) of personal liability for losses arising out of an institution's participation in the Title IV programs.

The Department can construe this request as seeking records dated January 2018 to present. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/1/2018 To 2/9/2022).

On February 24, 2022, you clarified your request as follows: We are asking for documents sufficient to show any communications regarding the assumption or imposition of personal liability. This could include a provision in a PPA where an individual is being required to assume liability, but it is not so limited. Our request does not relate to any specific school. Rather, we are looking for any communications regarding the assumption of a liability by (or imposition of a liability on) a human being.

Staff from FSA informed the FSC that after a search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your request.

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 of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation.

They can be contacted by:

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| Mail | FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4500 | Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001 |
| E-mail | robert.wehausen@ed.gov | OGIS@nara.gov |
| Phone | 202-205-0733 | 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448 |
| Fax | 202-401-0920 | 202-741-5769 |

Lastly, you have the right to appeal this determination. You must submit any appeal within 90 calendar days after the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right, or the deadline, to pursue an appeal. An 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 a copy of this letter, the initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in resolving your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf.

Appeals can also be submitted by:

E-mail: EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov
Fax: 202-401-0920
Mail: Appeals Office
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A
Washington, DC 20202-4500

If you have any questions, please contact the FSC at (202) 401-8365 or via email at EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

DeShawn Middleton
DeShawn Middleton
Government Information Specialist
Office of the Executive Secretariat