

### Outreach Activities

The Department expects that, in addition to continuing their current default aversion assistance work, under a VFA, guaranty agencies will focus their efforts on borrower outreach and counseling, with a focus on options that will help borrowers return to good standing and access repayment programs and benefits that will promote successful long-term repayment on their loans. This will also include targeted outreach campaigns mutually agreed upon with the Department.

### Loan Transfers

To ensure that the guaranty agency can focus its efforts on loan counseling and consolidation, under the VFA guaranty agencies will adopt a schedule for transferring defaulted loans to the Department. The oldest loans will be transferred to the Department immediately after the effective date of the VFA, while newer defaults will be transferred after a set period if they are not otherwise successfully resolved, such as through consolidation, discharge, or pay off.

### Future Planning

To ensure long-term success and stability for the FFEL Program, all guaranty agencies that enter into a VFA with the Department will map their loan data and systems to at least one other guaranty agency acceptable to the Department. The goal is to ensure that a successor agency is ready to perform the agency's functions if the agency participating in the VFA becomes unable to meet its responsibilities. Each guaranty agency will also agree to keep the Department apprised of any significant changes in personnel or finances so that if a guaranty agency chooses to exit the program there is minimal disruption for borrowers and long-term loan servicing activities.

The terms of any VFA will be subject to applicable Federal, State, Local, and U.S. Territory laws and regulations, including any changes in the HEA (or other applicable laws) and the Department's regulations, unless waived or modified by the Secretary, and to any applicable administrative actions of the Secretary.

### Duration of the VFA

The Secretary expects that the VFAs will have a term of two years, subject to year-to-year renewals if the parties agree. The VFA will also provide that either party may terminate the agreement at any time by providing written notice to the other party, with provisions for sufficient notice before the effective date of termination.

### Agency Demonstrated Performance

The Secretary will select the agencies with which to enter into a VFA by identifying agencies that have the managerial and operational capacity to assume the responsibilities of the VFA. The Department expects to enter into VFAs with all or the vast majority of guaranty agencies.

A guaranty agency that ultimately enters into a VFA with the Secretary must have the capability to:

- Conduct meaningful high-touch borrower outreach.
- Successfully transfer defaulted loans to the Secretary within set periods.
- Map systems to a potential successor guaranty agency.

### Secretary's Oversight

The Secretary will conduct oversight and monitoring of the activities of guaranty agencies participating in the FFEL Program under a VFA to assess each agency's continuing financial viability and operational capacity to properly perform all FFEL Program guaranty agency responsibilities in accordance with the VFA. The Secretary will also conduct oversight and monitoring of the borrower outreach work and the transfer of defaulted loans. This oversight will include, at a minimum, requirements that the guaranty agency submit operational status reports, financial reports, and performance metrics on its loan portfolio.

### Letters of Request for a VFA

Guaranty agencies with agreements with the Secretary under section 428(b) and (c) of the HEA that wish to enter into a VFA under the terms outlined in this notice must submit an email indicating interest to [VFATeam@ed.gov](mailto:VFATeam@ed.gov) by the deadline in the **DATES** section of this notice.

The expression of interest notice must be submitted by the chief executive officer of the guaranty agency. The Secretary may request that the agency provide supporting or other documentation to assist the Secretary in making a decision regarding the agency's possible participation in a VFA.

**Accessible Format:** On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

**Electronic Access to This Document:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov). At this site you can view this document, as well as all other Department documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You also may access Department documents published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 1078–1.

**James Kvaal,**

*Under Secretary, Office of the Under Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2024–SCC–0096]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Federal Student Aid (FSA) Partner Connect System and User Access Management

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a new information collection request (ICR).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 30, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED–2024–SCC–0096. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the regulations.gov site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information

collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Manager of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 4C210, Washington, DC 20202–1200.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202–570–8414.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Federal Student Aid (FSA) Partner Connect System and User Access Management.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845–NEW.

*Type of Review:* A new ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private Sector; State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 48,600.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 10,196.

*Abstract:* This is a request for a new information collection. Federal Student Aid (FSA) Partner Connect will be replacing Student Aid internet Gateway

(SAIG) Enrollment via [fsawebenroll.ed.gov](https://fsawebenroll.ed.gov). SAIG Mailboxes will remain as the access point for electronically transmitting and receiving data. FSA Partner Connect System and User Access Management allows authorized entities, including postsecondary educational institutions, institutional third-party servicers, guaranty agencies and guaranty agency (GA) servicers, Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) lenders and lender servicers, federal loan servicers, and State Higher Education Agencies, to exchange data electronically with the U.S. Department of Education (Department). In order to participate, each entity must enroll for system and service access through FSA Partner Connect ([fsapartners.ed.gov](https://fsapartners.ed.gov)). The enrollment process enables the organization enrolling to create new users and select services to receive, submit, view, and/or update student financial aid data online and by batch using Department provided software EDconnect (PC-based software) or TDClient (client software for multiple environments). As authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); 20 U.S.C. 1070 *et seq.*, and in order to manage the Title IV, HEA assistance programs, the entities listed above may electronically transmit and receive data from the following FSA systems through SAIG Mailboxes by enrolling through FSA Partner Connect:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Processing System (FPS)

Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Online

Electronic Cohort Default Rate (eCDR) Appeals

Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) System

Digital Customer Care (DCC) Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Online

Access and Identity Management System (AIMS)

Financial Management System (FMS)

Additionally, entities may request access to eZ-Audit and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Systemic Alien Verification Entitlements (SAVE) Program through FSA Partner Connect to manage Title IV, HEA assistance programs.

Dated: July 25, 2024.

**Kun Mullan,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2024–16717 Filed 7–29–24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Nuclear Security Administration

#### Amended Record of Decision for the Continued Operation of the Nevada National Security Site and Off-Site Locations in the State of Nevada

**AGENCY:** National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Amended record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the United States Department of Energy (DOE), is issuing this amendment to the December 30, 2014, Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada National Security Site and Off-Site Locations in the State of Nevada* (DOE/EIS–0426) (SWEIS). In this Amended ROD (AROD), NNSA announces its decision to implement the actions and operations described in a 2024 Supplement Analysis (SA) to the earlier SWEIS. The SA assessed the potential environmental impacts of projects/changes that have occurred at the Nevada National Security Site (NNS) and off-site locations in the State of Nevada, since publication of the SWEIS and ROD, or are expected to occur within approximately the next five years. Based on the analysis, NNSA determined that the potential impacts associated with the actions and operations evaluated in the SA: would not be significantly different than impacts presented in the SWEIS; would not constitute a substantial change to the actions evaluated in the SWEIS relevant to environmental concerns; there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns; and no additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation is required at this time.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on this AROD or the SA, contact: Ms. Patricia Gallo, NEPA Compliance Officer, NNSA Nevada