

MDHE DIGEST

Building Missouri's future... by degrees®

The Digest, an electronic newsletter produced by the Missouri Department of Higher Education, is intended for Missouri's financial aid officers, high school counselors and other secondary and higher education professionals interested in promoting student success and access to postsecondary education.

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MDHE

Missouri Department of Higher Education

Digest

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during an exclusive interview with The Clarion. Henderson said that in addition to the mailroom, the staff lounge is moving, and a new office for Auxiliary Services is opening. The refurbishments have affected the relocation of the staff lounge from the right side to the left side of the mailroom. It was also made smaller. According to Henderson, the lounge was well used a great deal by staff. Thus the downsizing of space. The Auxiliary Services office will move from the main mail room to the old staff lounge used to be. This will allow Sylvia Wilson, the Auxiliary Services director, to be closer to the mailroom. Henderson said Auxiliary Services was looking for a bigger area and

the size of the old ones at four feet wide. Resilient floor will be put in to benefit mailroom employees who stand most of the day. Henderson said the new mailroom will feature more light for the mailroom staff. He explained that being "downgrade" or partially underground due to the slope of the landscape outside, average light makes you feel like you're in a dungeon. "We're going to overdo it on the light."

Mailboxes are being replaced since some of the older ones did not work properly. The previous boxes were aluminum. The new ones will be brass. "It will look real nice; it will go with the antique nature of the university," Henderson said. In addition, the opening into the mailroom is much taller. Henderson believes this will allow mail to flow much better.

Even the finish on the new walls has been matched to the original finish. Henderson said, "It's going to look like it was always here." He added that they wanted the students to feel proud of the school just



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T
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mail postal service, overnight service as well as UPS services are offered through the mailroom. Any student, faculty or staff member can send mail through the mailroom.

The money for the renovation came from the Auxiliary Services budget. The mail-

pus include Dawson Hall where floors six and seven are under renovation due to a fire last semester. Also in Dawson Hall, life safety improvements will be made. Over the summer sprinkler systems will be installed on all floors. Henderson said the renovation is Auxiliary

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Missouri News

MDHE responds to USDE's Request for Proposals

On May 31, 2011, the U.S. Department of Education released a Request for Proposals from guaranty agencies for the Federal Family Education Loan Program. The RFP was published in [Federal Register Volume 76, Number 104](#) and invited guarantors to submit proposals for [Voluntary Flexible Agreements](#) designed to provide services such as [financial literacy](#) and [debt management](#) materials and workshops, [outreach services](#) for high school students and other consumer audiences, [training programs for financial aid officers](#) and other services historically provided by FFELP guarantors such as the Missouri Department of Higher Education .

Proposals were due Aug. 1, and the USDE recently published an [announcement](#) stating that 24 guaranty agencies responded with a total of 22 proposals. The announcement provides a list of the responding agencies, including the MDHE, involved in one or more of the proposals. Stay tuned to future issues of the *Digest* for more information as this process progresses.



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National News

By Robert Powell, MDHE policy analyst



Senate Hearing on improving For-Profit Higher Education

On July 21, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health Education Labor & Pensions held a roundtable discussion regarding possible policy solutions for improving For-Profit Higher Education. The hearing, led by Sen. Tom Harkin, involved various sectors of the industry including schools, trade associations, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and former Deputy Undersecretary of Education Robert Shireman. A video of the entire hearing, along with copies of the written testimonies, is available on the committee's [website](#).

Recent Dear Colleague Letters

Over the past month, the U.S. Department of Education has issued several Dear Colleague Letters covering various aspects of Title IV financial aid.

[GEN-11-13](#) released on July 13, 2011

GEN-11-13 provides information regarding the verification process for the 2012-2013 award year. On July 13, the USDE published in a [Federal Register](#) a list of the items that will need to be verified for that year's verification process. The DCL also discusses what would be considered acceptable documentation for this process.

[GEN-11-14](#) released on July 20, 2011

The USDE issued GEN-11-14 as a Q-and-A document covering the new regulatory Return to Title IV requirements. The new regulations, effective July 1, 2011, address withdrawals from module programs and whether a school is required to take attendance.

[GEN-11-15](#) released on July 26, 2011

GEN-11-15 reviews the authority that a financial aid officer has to perform a dependency override and gives several examples of possible situations where an override might be appropriate.

Volume 1 of the 2011-2012 FSA Handbook released

On July 21, the USDE released [Volume 1](#) – Student Eligibility of the 2011-2012 Federal Student Aid Handbook. Previous volumes of the 2011-2012 FSA Handbook can be found on the USDE's [IFAP](#) website.



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Default Prevention

There are no articles available at this time. For more information regarding default prevention tools and resources, please visit www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/studentloans/defaultprevention.php.



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Training & Events

Aug. 15 designated as host site application deadline for FAFSA Frenzy

Since May, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has been encouraging participation in its [2012 FAFSA Frenzy](#) program. With two business days remaining until site applications are due (**Monday, Aug. 15**), the MDHE is making a final call for participation. FAFSA Frenzy events make applying for financial aid easier by providing students and families with **free** help filling out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), which is required to apply for federal and most state financial aid.

The 2012 Missouri FAFSA Frenzy main event date is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 12. A back-up date of Sunday, Feb. 19, has been established in the event that inclement weather occurs on Feb. 12.

If your institution or organization is interested in hosting a FAFSA Frenzy site, you may select either the standard date and time or you may choose an alternate date.

- The standard event date and time is Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Normal site set-up time is about an hour, and event wrap-up may take an additional hour. Therefore, the site coordinator's total time commitment on the day of the event is about four hours.
- If you select an alternate date, be sure to indicate the date and time that your site will be open to the public and select an

alternate inclement weather date on your site application.

As in past years, Missouri's high school counselor and financial aid communities will be of critical importance to the success of FAFSA Frenzy. Additionally, special efforts are being made for the 2012 program to establish active collaborations between site coordinators and nearby YMCAs with teen/youth development programs, such as the [Young Achievers Program](#). The MDHE and [Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel](#) encourage high schools, postsecondary institutions and other organizations interested in hosting a FAFSA Frenzy event to complete the [FAFSA Frenzy Site application](#). Additionally, if you are interested in offering your facilities as a location but would prefer that someone from an outside organization act as the site coordinator, please email [B.J. White](#) (MDHE outreach services coordinator).

To date, the MDHE has received 57 [site applications for the 2012 event](#) and will continue to accept applications through Monday, Aug. 15. A training session for FAFSA Frenzy site coordinators will be held in Jefferson City on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

If you have any questions regarding FAFSA Frenzy/CGS in Missouri, you may contact [Julie Meyer](#), [Jessie McCoy](#) (MASFAP Early Awareness Committee co-chairs), or [B.J. White](#). Additional information may be found at MDHE's [FAFSA Frenzy Web page](#).



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2011 fall workshops and locations announced

Coming soon to a location near you, the Missouri Department of Higher Education's free, one-day workshops promise to deliver the latest information to help best serve college-bound high school students and current postsecondary students. Admission officers, high school counselors, financial aid officers, and other college access professionals are invited to attend. Online registration for the [MDHE's 2011 fall workshops](#) is scheduled to launch on **Thursday, Sept. 1**.

As in past years, these professional development trainings will be held in four locations:

September 20, 2011: St. Louis
[Crowne Plaza Hotel - St. Louis Airport](#)
11228 Lone Eagle Dr.
Bridgeton, MO 63044
(314) 291-6700

September 21, 2011: Columbia
[Courtyard by Marriott](#)
3301 LeMone Industrial Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 443-8000

September 28, 2011: Springfield
[Doubletree Hotel](#)
2431 N. Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, MO 65803
(417) 831-3131

September 29, 2011: Kansas City
[Adams Pointe Conference Center & Courtyard by Marriott](#)
1400 NE Coronado Dr.
Blue Springs, MO 64014
(816) 220-4400

In addition to presentations made by MDHE staff, guest presenters from the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and the Missouri Department of Economic Development will be on hand to discuss various employment issues during two sessions.

To better assist you in meeting your students' needs, the MDVR has requested that the MDHE accept questions prior to fall workshop sessions. If you have a question related to helping disabled students obtain and retain employment, please forward your inquiry to Lesley Hendrix, MDHE training services coordinator, at lesley.hendrix@dhe.mo.gov. All inquiries will be addressed by MDVR regional representatives during the MDHE's 2011 fall workshops.

As details unfold for fall workshop sessions, the MDHE will keep you informed by way of updates to the [Fall Workshops page](#) on dhe.mo.gov and e-communications. If you have not signed up to receive e-alerts from the MDHE, you may do so by completing the [MDHE's online e-subscription form](#).

We look forward to seeing you at this year's workshops.



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What's New

MDHE flagship publications now available to ship for 2011 fall semester

With the 2011-2012 school year just around the bend, the Missouri Department of Higher Education is pleased to roll out its latest versions of the *College Portfolio*, *Never Too Early* (previously titled *College Life*), *Online MDHE*, *Planning for Financial Success* and *The Source*.

Created specifically with Missouri students in mind, these go-to resources are among the top [MDHE publications](#) ordered each year by [financial aid officers](#) and [high school counselors](#) and teachers. As enrollment at Missouri postsecondary institutions continues to climb, the MDHE expects the number of publications ordered will increase this year. The MDHE offers a variety of resources to help both future and current college students [plan and pay for college](#). Two examples of these resources include the *Planning for Financial Success* calendar and *The Source*.

For the college student who is diligently working to perfect his or her organizational skills, the *Planning for Financial Success* calendar includes stickers to help customize school deadlines and covers a broad range of [financial literacy](#) and money management topics:

- Living like a college student
- Creating a [spending and savings plan](#)
- Understanding your credit report
- Financing your education
- Mastering money management

- Taking charge of your finances

To meet the needs of students who have yet to make the transition from high school to college, the MDHE encourages counselors to order the new and improved version of *The Source*. A resource designed to help answer questions about grants, scholarships and loans, *The Source* presents information in a format that is easy for parents and students to comprehend.

The MDHE currently offers these publications to Missouri citizens free of charge. To place an order for any of the resources referenced above, please log on to the [MDHE website](#) and complete the [online Publication Order form](#).

Inquiries regarding MDHE publications may be sent to info@dhe.mo.gov.

2011-2012 Federal School Code list released

Earlier this month, the updated version of the [2011-2012 Federal School Code List](#) of Participating Schools was made available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website.

The Federal School Code List contains unique codes assigned by the U.S. Department of Education for schools participating in the [Title IV federal student aid programs](#). Students interested in continuing their education beyond high school use these codes to indicate which postsecondary schools will receive information reported on the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#). The Federal School Code List of Participating Schools is only available electronically as a PDF or Microsoft Excel file.



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The Missouri Department of Higher Education encourages financial aid officers and high school guidance counselors to download and print a copy of the updated 2011-2012 Federal School Code List to assist students who are planning to take college courses during the fall 2011 or spring 2012 semesters.

If you are a postsecondary institution participating in the Title IV aid programs and you need to update your FSC information, go to [the Electronic Application for Approval to Participate in the Federal Student Financial Aid Programs \(E-App\)](#) website, located at <http://eligcert.ed.gov>. Click on “Update your Federal School Code Addresses which are used by the FAFSA” on the left side of the page under the “Other Features” section.



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Compliance Q&A

Provided by the MDHE compliance staff

Question:

Our institution has a policy that allows a student to give authorization for an FSA credit balance to be held and applied to the next academic year. Is this compliant?

Answer:

No, per 34 CFR 668.164(d), a school may only use FSA funds to credit a student's account for current year charges or for prior award year charges not exceeding \$200. No exception is made for subsequent year charges even if the student gives authorization. 34 CFR 668.165(b)(5)(iii) states that regardless of a student's authorization, a school must pay any FSA credit balance by the end of the loan period or last payment period of the award year.

Sources:

[34 CFR 668.164\(d\)](#)
[34 CFR 668.165\(b\)\(5\)\(iii\)](#)
[2010-2011 Federal Student Aid Handbook, Vol. 4, Pages 4 -19](#)



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Staff News

There are no updates to report at this time.



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Financial Literacy

Economic Tidbit

Back-to-school shopping season gets an early start; consumers must remain budget conscious

Provided by the MDHE default prevention team

Interested in saving some of your hard-earned cash this back-to-school season? Jason Alderman, vice president of Visa's Practical Money Skills for Life, explains how you can get the items you need without breaking the bank.

Even though experts are saying the recession is over, there is no denying that consumers have become more frugal. As the back to school shopping season begins – occurring earlier than in past years – the notion of staying focused on a budget must apply. While families spend on what they need, parents must also work with their children to determine what they really don't need.

To help families navigate through back to school shopping, Visa offers parents and students free access to an award-winning money management program called Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com). The program comes complete with an array of interactive resources, games and calculators, including a “Back to School Budget Calculator” which gives students hands on experience when it comes to preparing and sticking to a budget. The site also features an allowance calculator designed to help parents get a better grip on their kids' spending habits.

Available to discuss tips on how parents can use back to school shopping as an opportunity to lay the foundation for helping their children develop sound money management habits early in life is personal finance expert and the Senior Director of Visa's Global Financial Education Programs, Jason Alderman. Some tips include:

- Set a realistic back to school budget before you go shopping.
- Have your kids prepare a budget with you.
- Take a print out of your estimated budget with you when shopping and have your child enter in all of the actual expenses.
- Encourage children to follow the budget. Stress that getting a more expensive item might mean sacrificing something else.
- Encourage kids to consider ways to cut costs and manage cash flow, like clipping coupons, looking for sales, or buying supplies each semester.
- Teach your kids to comparison shop to avoid impulse buying or paying for overpriced items.
- Differentiate between “needs” and “wants.” Encourage children to contribute their own money to fill the gap between what they “need” and what they “want.”
- Tell kids that if they come in under budget, you will split the savings with them.
- Continue the budgeting lesson by starting kids with an ongoing monthly budget.