

**Verification  
2019-2020**

Bruce Honer, US Department of Education  
2019 PacFAA Spring Conference  
March 2019

Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Electronic Announcement: January 9, 2019**

- Signed copies of paper tax returns may be accepted in lieu of documents direct from the IRS
  - Schools may still opt to require IRS documents
  - *Preparer signature requirements still apply*
- IRS verification of non-filing is still required (except for dependent students), but a signed statement may be accepted if IRS documentation cannot be obtained
  - *Schools are not required to collect documentation of attempts to obtain IRS documents, unless conflicting information exists*

2

Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Amended Tax Returns: Part 1**

*Individuals who filed an amended tax return must submit the following documents to the institution:*

- If identified by IRS Request Flag 07, all *original* income and tax information is considered verified
- If not identified by IRS Request Flag 07, must obtain IRS Tax Return Transcript, or any other IRS tax transcript(s) that include all of the income and tax information required, or a signed paper copy of the original tax return

AND

3

Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Amended Tax Returns: Part 2

*Individuals who filed an amended tax return must submit the following documents to the institution:*

- a signed copy of IRS Form 1040X filed with the IRS
- If the amendment was not due to the filing of a 1040X (e.g., the IRS corrected the tax information directly), *IRS documentation of this is still required*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Identity Theft

Victims of IRS tax-related identity theft must submit...

- Statement signed and dated by tax filer indicating s/he was a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft and the IRS has been made aware;

AND

- An IRS Tax Return Database View (TRDBV) transcript
  - Tax filers who cannot obtain a TRDBV transcript may instead submit official IRS document(s) if they include all income and tax information required to be verified, or a signed copy of the paper tax return

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Tax Filing Extenders

*For those required to file a 2016 or 2017 Federal tax return, and who have been granted an extension of time to file by the IRS beyond the automatic six-month period, schools may accept...*

*Electronic Announcement: January 9, 2019*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Tax Filing Extenders: Signed Statement**

- A *signed statement* certifying that the individual:
  - Attempted to obtain non-filing verification from the IRS or other tax authorities and was unable to; *and*
  - Has not filed a Federal income tax return
- A list of the sources of any income, and the amount of income from each
  - If self-employed, the signed statement must also include the AGI and the amount of U.S. income tax paid

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Tax Filing Extenders: Other Documents**

- Copy of IRS Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return"
- Copy of the IRS's approval of an extension beyond the automatic six-month period
- Copy of IRS Form W-2 for each source of employment income received or an equivalent document

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Verification Changes: 2018-2019 and 2019-2020**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**2018-2019 Verification**

- Tax filing extenders must show proof of IRS extension beyond the automatic six-month period *plus...*
- *Dependent students* who are not required to file do not have to provide proof of non-filing

*Federal Register: May 5, 2017  
Dear Colleague Letter GEN-17-05*

10 Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**2018-2019 Verification**

- Amended tax return filtering question removed from the FAFSA
- Applicant or parent can use the IRS DRT to import information from their *original* return
- IRS Request Flag 07 will indicate whether there is an amended *tax return* on file
  - School must obtain documentation of the updated information and make any necessary corrections, regardless of verification selection (*conflicting information*)

11 Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**2019-2020 Verification**

- No changes to verification tracking groups
- ~~No changes to documentation requirements from 2018-2019~~

*Federal Register: March 28, 2018  
Dear Colleague Letter GEN-18-03  
Electronic Announcement, June 8, 2018:  
2019–2020 Verification Suggested Text*

12 Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Slide 10**

---

**CDM2** See January 9, 2019 EA  
Munier, Craig, 1/10/2019

**2019-2020 Verification:  
Data Elements and  
Documentation**

13 Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Verification Selection Groups**

- V1 – Standard Verification Group
- V2 – *Reserved*
- V3 – *Reserved*
- V4 – Custom Verification Group
- V5 – Aggregate Verification Group
- V6 – *Reserved*

14 Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**V1 Group: Tax Filers**

- Adjusted Gross Income
- U.S. Income Tax Paid
- Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions
- Untaxed Portions of Pensions
- IRA Deductions and Payments
- Tax Exempt Interest Income
- Education Credits

**Documentation:**

- IRS DRT;
- IRS tax transcript(s);
- Signed copy of paper tax return;
- Alternative documentation where allowed or required (e.g. amended returns, foreign returns, etc.)

15 Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Undocumented Non-Filers

*A parent or spouse who does not have an SSN, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), or Employer Identification Number (EIN) may submit...*

- A signed and dated statement:
  - Certifying that the individual(s) does not have an SSN, ITIN or EIN
  - Listing the sources and amounts of earnings, other income, and resources that supported the individual(s) for the appropriate year
- If applicable, a copy of IRS Form W-2 or equivalent document for each source of employment income

[Program Integrity Q&A Website \(DOC-Q29\)](#)

19 Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Non-IRS Tax Filers

*Tax filers who filed an income tax return with a taxing authority in a US territory (Guam, American Samoa, the US Virgin Islands) or commonwealth (Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands) or with a foreign central government, may submit a copy of a transcript of their tax information if available free of charge, or a signed copy of the applicable income tax return that was filed with the taxing authority.*

20 Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Non-IRS Non-filers

*If another tax authority can provide documentation similar to the IRS verification of non-filing, this should be provided. If such documentation does not exist, or if the individual is unable to obtain the documentation, the institution may accept a signed and dated statement including:*

- Confirmation the tax authority does not provide such documentation or that the individual was unable to obtain it
- Confirmation the individual has not filed and is not required to file a tax return, with a listing of the sources of income
- A copy of equivalent documents to the IRS Form W-2, for each source of income received by the individual

21 Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**V1 Group: All Applicants**

*Number in Household & Number in College*

**Documentation:**

- **Household size** – signed statement (name, age, relationship)
  - Not required for certain logical assumptions:
    - Dependent student household size reported is 2 and parent is unmarried or 3 if the parents are married or unmarried and living together
    - Independent student household reported is one and applicant is unmarried or two if the applicant is married
- **Number in College** – signed statement (name of household member attending at least half-time and eligible institution name)
  - Not required if reported number is one (student)

22

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**V4: Custom Group**

- High School Completion Status
- Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose

23

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**High School Completion**

- High school diploma; *OR*
- Final official high school transcript showing date diploma awarded; *OR*
- “Secondary school leaving certificate” for students who completed secondary education in foreign country and are unable to get a copy of the high school diploma/transcript

24

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### High School Completion

- Copy of the student's General Educational Development (GED) certificate or an official GED transcript that indicates the student passed the exam
- Transcripts of state-authorized examinations (e.g., HiSET, TASC) are acceptable documentation of high school completion only if...
  - The official transcript specifically indicates that a state has determined that the test results are considered by the State to meet its requirements of high school equivalency;                    *OR*
  - The official transcript includes language that the final score is a passing score

25 FederalStudentAid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### High School Completion

- Homeschooling
  - A secondary school completion credential for home school provided for under State law;

*OR*

  - Transcript, or the equivalent, signed by the parent or guardian, that lists the secondary school courses completed by the applicant and documents the successful completion of a secondary school education

26 FederalStudentAid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### High School Completion

- Academic transcript of a student who has successfully completed at least a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree
  - Associate's degree...*or no degree*
  - 60 semester hours/72 quarter hours
- Student excelled academically in high school and met all criteria to be admitted into a two-year degree program or higher

27 FederalStudentAid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### High School Completion

- If high school completion is successfully verified and documented in a prior award year, it does not need to be verified again in future years
- Form DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) may serve as alternative documentation of high school completion if it indicates the applicant has a high school diploma or equivalent
- An institution may not accept as alternative documentation an applicant's self-certification

28

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### High School Completion

*In rare cases where it is impossible for a refugee, asylee or victim of human trafficking to obtain documentation of secondary school completion in a foreign country, an institution may accept self-certification.*

*Program Integrity Q & A website: [FHD-Q2/A2](#)*

29

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose

*Students appearing in person must provide to a designated and authorized school official:*

- A valid unexpired US government-issued photo ID
- A signed statement of educational purpose, using language provided by ED

*Schools must maintain:*

- The date documentation was received
- The name of the institutionally-authorized individual that obtained the documentation

30

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose**

*Students who cannot appear in person may provide to the school a copy of the unexpired ID, and the original copy of the Statement of Educational Purpose that has been notarized in person.*

*The Statement of Education Purpose submitted must be the original notarized document. After review, the school may convert it to an electronic record.*

31 Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose**

*An unexpired valid government-issued photo identification is...*

...one issued by the US government, any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, American Samoa, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau

*Military and SNAP identification is not acceptable*

32 Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Verification Reminders**

33 Federal Student Aid PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## V4/V5 Tracking Results

- The V4 and V5 tracking process in FAA Access to CPS online, that began in the 2014-2015 processing year, continues through 2019-2020 *and indefinitely*
- Schools need to select the proper award year for which they are providing results

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## V4/V5 Tracking Results

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## V4/V5 Tracking Results

- **Whom to report:** Students for whom school received an ISIR with a verification Tracking Group of V4 or V5 *AND* for whom school requested verification documentation
  - Do not include students the *school* selected
- **When to report:** Within 60 days following the institution's first request for documentation
  - Changes to previously submitted verification results must be updated within 30 days

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### V4/V5 Tracking Results

1. Verification completed in person, no issues found
2. Verification completed remotely, no issues found
3. Verification attempted, issues found with identity
4. Verification attempted, issues found with high school completion
5. No response from applicant or unable to locate
6. *Issues with both identity and high school completion*

37

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Automatic Zero EFC

*For Automatic Zero EFC-eligible dependent applicants in Tracking Groups V1 or V5:*

- Parent AGI, if tax filers
- Parent income earned from work, if non-filers  
*AND*
- High school completion and identity/educational purpose (V5)

38

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Automatic Zero EFC

*For Automatic Zero EFC-eligible independent applicants in Tracking Groups V1 or V5:*

- Applicant and spouse AGI, if tax filers
- Applicant and spouse income earned from work, if non-filers
- Household size to determine if dependents other than a spouse
- High school completion and identity/educational purpose (V5)

39

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Additional Resources**

40 Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Additional Resources**

[Federal Student Aid Handbook](#)  
Application and Verification Guide

[Federal Regulations](#)

- 34 C.F.R. § 668 Subpart E (668.51 – 668.61)
- 34 C.F.R. § 668.16(f)

[Program Integrity Q & A Website \(Verification\)](#)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2009/integrity-qa.html>

[FSA Assessments: Activity 3](#)  
<http://ifap.ed.gov/qahome/qaassessments/fsaverification.html>

41 Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Thank you!**

[AskFed@ed.gov](mailto:AskFed@ed.gov)



42 Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND™

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---