

Assignment and Liquidation Guide

Federal Perkins Loan Program

How to Use this Guide

The Federal Perkins Loan Program Assignment and Liquidation Guide (Guide) is a comprehensive publication that provides information and procedures on the assignment process of Federal Perkins, National Direct, and National Defense Loans (Perkins Loans) to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). It also provides schools information and procedures on liquidation and closeout of a school's Federal Perkins Loan Program fund.

This Guide is divided into two parts and includes appendices.

- **Part I** contains the assignment process instructions for schools that are **not liquidating**, but transferring older, defaulted loans to the Department
- **Part II** contains the liquidation process instructions for schools that **are liquidating** and closing out their Perkins Fund

Part I: Assignment Process

A school that is not liquidating its Perkins Loan Program but is assigning a loan or loans to the Department for any reason (e.g., mandatory assignment of loans in default for two or more years), with the exception of loans being transferred to the Department that have been approved for Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) discharge will find all the relevant information needed to do so in Part I: The Assignment Process. If you are transferring a loan through assignment to the Department due to TPD, please refer to the [TPD Perkins Loan Assignment Guide](#) for instructions which can be found on the Campus-Based Processing Information page on the Knowledge Center.

Part II: Liquidation Process

A school that is liquidating its Perkins Loan Program Fund will find the information on the complete process in [Part II: The Liquidation Process](#). A school that is interested in learning more about liquidation can find general information about liquidation beginning on [page 22](#). Schools may also find the appendix titled, Appendix B: [Quick Reference Guide](#) to Liquidation Process and Data Entry Details for COD, quite helpful. Appendix B is a quick reference guide to the complete liquidation process. The “quick guide” is an overview of the different steps under the Perkins liquidation process and explains how schools use the functionality of the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) website to complete each step of the liquidation process.

Part I: The Assignment Process

When and why assign loans to the Department?

A school may assign any Perkins Loans (non-defaulted or defaulted) to the Department at any time during the program year.

As part of the wind down of the Perkins Loan Program, the Secretary requires all institutions to assign to the Department all Perkins Loans that have been in default for more than two years. Assigning such loans to the Department does not mean a school is liquidating its portfolio and fund. Schools that plan to liquidate must electronically submit an intent to liquidate and close out the program through COD (again, for further information on liquidation, see Part II of this Guide). The Department strongly encourages schools to continue to review their portfolios on an on-going basis and continue to assign older, non-performing, defaulted loans to the Department per guidance posted on the [Campus-Based Processing Information page](#) on the Knowledge Center.

What does it mean to assign loans to the Department?

When a school assigns a loan to the Department and the loan is accepted for assignment, the school is transferring all rights and responsibility for servicing and collection on the loan to the United States government. The school relinquishes its rights to any share of amounts collected by the Department after a Perkins Loan is assigned to and accepted by the Department. All future payments will be made to the Department and the borrower will receive notification of the change of loan holder and where to send payments.

How are loans assigned to the Department?

Assigning Loans without Recompense

All loans that a school assigns to the Department are assigned without recompense. The Department will not reimburse the school's program Fund for the loans. All rights, authorities and privileges associated with the loan are transferred to the Department. The school is relieved of incurring additional expenses in attempting to collect on the loan. Any funds collected by the Department on these loans are the property of the United States government.

Reconciliation

A school must ensure that its loans are properly accounted for and updated on the National Student Loan Database System (NSLDS) at all times. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that the required reporting to NSLDS, including Perkins Loan account detail, is completed timely and accurately. Schools that use a third-party servicer must communicate the reporting requirements to their third-party servicer and ensure that the servicer complies with timely and accurate reporting. It is important for schools to understand that they are responsible for any non-compliance by the servicer.

If your school identifies an NSLDS reporting error(s), work with your third-party servicer to correct the error(s) and update NSLDS. If you are a self-reporting school and do not use a third-party servicer, make the corrections in NSLDS with your next monthly batch submittal, or by using the Perkins spreadsheet submittal tool on the [NSLDS Professional Access website](#).

The total amount of loans and number of borrowers on NSLDS should reconcile with the school's records, its third-party servicer records, and what is reported on its Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP).

Schools are encouraged to make use of the reports provided by NSLDS to verify the consistency of their records with those of NSLDS, rectify any inconsistencies, and update NSLDS as needed. It is

recommended that schools carry out this reconciliation process with NSLDS on a quarterly basis at the very least.

Perkins Portfolio Report (PRKPF1)

The Perkins Portfolio Report (PRKPF1) is a novel tool that enables users to access the complete portfolio of Perkins Loans for a specified 6-digit School Group Code. Users can organize the report by SSN, Last Name, First Name, or Loan Date. The report is available in both comma-separated values (CSV) and fixed width file formats. It is delivered via the SCHPOROP message class to the SAIG mailbox (TG Number) linked to the requesting FSA User ID.

What sets the Perkins Portfolio Report apart from other past NSLDS reports is its comprehensive listing of all Perkins loans a school has ever reported to NSLDS. This includes both closed loans (those that have been assigned, paid in full, cancelled, or otherwise retired) and open loans (those held by the school with an outstanding principal balance due).

The Portfolio Report can be utilized in the reconciliation process by filtering for school-held open loans and comparing these to a school report or third-party servicer report of the school's open loans. In the Portfolio Report, school-held open loans are identified by the term "SCHOOL" in the Loan Holder Type column, an Outstanding Principal Balance greater than \$0, and the absence of a Loan Status Code of DW. The open loans listed in the Portfolio report should correspond one-to-one with those in your school's or servicer's open loan report. Both the borrower data for each loan (such as name, SSN, and DOB) and the loan data (such as the total amount disbursed, the total outstanding principal balance, the period begin and end dates, and the loan status) should match. If discrepancies are found between your school or servicer report and the Perkins Portfolio Report, the school will need to identify the issues and update NSLDS to accurately reflect the school's open loan portfolio.

Perkins Extract By Parameters Report – REC001

The Perkins Extract By Parameters Report (formerly known as REC005) offers comprehensive data on student and Perkins loans that are currently open in your school's portfolio. It includes identifiers for each student (such as Social Security Number, First and Last Names, and Date of Birth) as well as detailed loan information (including Loan Amount, Total Disbursements to Date, Loan Type, Loan Date, Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance, and Loan Status).

Please note: To get a complete report of ALL of your school's open Perkins loans, you must combine the loans from a REC001 report with the Desired Loan Statuses of OPEN with the loans from a REC001 report with the Desired Loan Statuses of OPEN-PENDING TRANSFER.

Perkins Default Summary Report – PRKDF1

The Perkins Default Summary Report provides detailed student and Perkins loan information for loans that may meet the requirements for mandatory assignment to the United States Department of Education. The output produced includes student identifiers (SSN, First and Last Names, and Date of Birth), and loan information (Loan Amount, Total Disbursements to Date, Loan Type, Loan Date, Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance, and Loan Status).

Perkins Spreadsheet Submittal Template

The Perkins Spreadsheet Template can be downloaded from the Spreadsheet Submittal page on the NSLDS Professional Access Website. The Perkins Spreadsheet Submittal Template is one of the online reporting methods that a school or its designated servicer can use to report or correct data (such as Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance and Loan Status) to NSLDS. Utilizing the output produced from the Perkins Extract By Parameters (REC001) report, the user can populate the template with the data produced from the report and upload corrections to NSLDS online through the NSLDS Professional Access Website.

Your school can request NSLDS Reports from the [NSLDS Professional Access website](#). Detailed information on requesting reports, record layouts and format can be found on the [NSLDS User Resources page](#) on the Knowledge Center. Resources such as the Federal Perkins Data Provider Instructions, [Instructions for Using the Perkins Portfolio Report](#), and NSLDS Reports for Schools Guide can be found in this electronic library on the Knowledge Center.

Notify Borrowers

Prior to a school assigning a loan to the Department, the loan borrower(s) **must** be given at least a 30-day notice by email or mail. Occasionally, this notification results in payments from borrowers who have been unwilling to make payments in the past. If a payment is received, the school or its servicer must process that payment as normal and be sure to accurately reflect any payments received on the assignment form when it is prepared. If a payment is received after the school or servicer has sent the loan to the Department for assignment, the school or servicer recipient should deposit the payment immediately into its designated Perkins Fund bank account and await official notification of acceptance from the Department's Federal Perkins Loan Servicer - ECSI. The wording in this sample notification below may be used.

SAMPLE NOTIFICATION – DEFAULTED LOAN

[Date]

From: [School – Email/Address]

To: [Borrower Name]

[Borrower – Email/Address]

Dear Federal Perkins, NDSL, or Defense Loan Borrower:

At this time, the [\[school name\]](#) has decided to transfer your Federal Perkins (or NDSL or Defense) Loan to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) for collection. This letter is the last you will receive from the [\[school name\]](#). You must continue making your payments to [\[school name or servicer name\]](#) at this time.

Once the assignment of your Federal Perkins Loan(s) to the U.S. Department of Education is complete, you will receive notification from ECSI, the new [Federal Perkins Loan Servicer – ECSI](#). ECSI will provide information on where to send your payments as well as contact information for assistance.

Paper or Electronic Submission

Schools can elect to complete and submit assignments either manually by paper or electronically by using the Department's Perkins Loan Assignment System (PLAS), the web-based option which allows schools to send multiple loans in a batch process or one by one through an on-line, web-based form.

Access to PLAS

To use PLAS, the school must designate an individual who is already authorized and able to log in to Federal Student Aid (FSA) systems to act as the Primary Destination Point Administrator (DPA). The DPA can request access to PLAS for other users at the school. To obtain a PLAS security access form and learn more on using PLAS, visit <https://efpls.ed.gov/PLAS/>.

The DPA requesting access for the school will be required to provide their school OPEID, name, title, email address, phone number, and FSA two-factor authentication serial number. The form must be printed and signed by a supervisor. The signed form can then be either scanned and emailed to

plasaccess@efpls.ed.gov or mailed to:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
Attn: PLAS Access Requests
1200 Cherrington Parkway, Suite 200
Moon Township, PA 15108

NOTE: These procedures only provide an overview of PLAS. For more detailed information on how to use the system, please refer to the ECSI PLAS User Guide, which can be accessed at <https://efpls.ed.gov/PLAS/>. When a school signs up for PLAS, ECSI can assist with how to get started.

Required Documentation for Loan Assignments

Perkins loan assignments must include the following documentation. More detailed information about each of the documentation requirements are provided in subsequent sections below. **NOTE:** If a borrower has more than one loan being assigned, separate supporting documentation must be included for each loan.

- Assignment Manifest
- Perkins Assignment Form
 - Institutional Certification (OMB 1845-0048)
 - Borrower and Loan Information (OMB 1845-0048)
- Original Promissory Note or Perkins Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Repayment History
- Judgment Information (If applicable)
 - copy of notification letter sent by the school to the judgment debtor
- Bankruptcy Information (If applicable)

What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances

Assignment submissions of loans with missing or defective (e.g., incomplete, not signed) promissory notes, require approval by the Department. The school should explain the reason for requesting approval for a missing or incomplete promissory note and the school should affirm to the Department that it searched all its records, and the document does not exist for each loan it submits for assignment to the Department. The explanation **must detail the alternate documentation that is being submitted for review and** should be on a separate sheet of paper **submitted with the alternate documentation**.

The school should complete an assignment form for the assignment, include the explanation along with the supporting documentation that proves the borrower acknowledges the debt (evidence of payment, deferment, forbearance, cancellation requests, etc.), and provide additional documentation that would substantiate the debt made by the school, e.g., copies (front and back) of signed disbursement checks or vouchers.

The Department will review and evaluate the request and either approve the alternative documentation and allow acceptance of the loan or deny the alternative documentation. If the alternative documentation is denied, this will result in the assignment of the loan being rejected back to the school. Once denied, a school may not resubmit the assignment unless it can provide new, alternative documentation to be reviewed. Rejection may result in the school having to purchase the account(s). There may be instances where ECSI will contact a school and require additional documentation (unrelated to the approval for missing or incomplete promissory notes) before the loan can be assigned.

Perkins Loan Assignment Form

For manual assignment submission by paper, the official Perkins Loan Assignment Form (OMB-1845-
April 2024

0048 form) must be used. The assignment form and instructions are available on the [Campus-Based Processing Information page](#) on the Knowledge Center. Please read and follow these instructions carefully.

The Perkins Loan Assignment Form must be completed according to the form's instructions for every outstanding loan being assigned. Please read and follow these instructions carefully. For schools that utilize a third-party servicer for the assignment form completion, a servicer may use its system to populate the required assignment form information. Schools and servicers are not permitted to alter the official OMB 1945-0048 form (Assignment Form). Check with your servicer if you contract with them to complete the assignment form information.

A school is required to complete only one Institutional Certification page of the Perkins Assignment Form for each assignment submission package when using the paper assignment process. The Institutional Certification page must bear the original signature of the school official who is authorized to transfer the institution's assets. For schools that choose to utilize PLAS, an automated certification process is built into the online submission process.

The Borrower and Loan Information page of the Perkins Assignment Form should be completed for each loan included in the submission package. If submitting assignments electronically using PLAS, the borrower and loan information is completed online.

Assignment Manifest

Each submission package must include a manifest listing the accounts submitted. See Section C of the Institutional Certification page of the Perkins Assignment Form for detailed instructions on the contents and format of the manifest.

If using PLAS for assignment and submission online, the PLAS system will automatically generate this information and create the manifest for you, which will include the assignment's batch and sequence numbers. This manifest must be attached to the supporting documentation mailed to the Federal Perkins Loan Servicer, ECSI.

Separate or Bundled Loans:

- **Loans Made Prior to July 1, 2008:** If an account was bundled (more than one loan was initially reported to NSLDS as one loan), these loans should be listed on the manifest as one loan.
- **Loans Made On or After July 1, 2008:** Loans made on or after July 1, 2008 should have been reported to NSLDS individually and not combined or bundled with another loan(s). Loans made on or after July 1, 2008 must be individually submitted for assignment.

NOTE: Reporting loans on the manifest in the same manner as they were reported to NSLDS reduces the possibility of loan matching errors in NSLDS.

Original Perkins Promissory Note

Original Perkins promissory notes are required for all loans, if available. All promissory notes submitted for assignment must be valid legal instruments. The promissory notes must contain signatures, loan amounts, and dates for each loan period. Perkins Master Promissory Notes (MPNs) must contain the borrower's signature and the principal amount loaned must be substantiated by institutional disbursement records.

At some schools, audits and program reviews may have already identified defective or invalid notes (e.g., incomplete, not signed) for loans still held by a school in its portfolio. The school may still assign the loan by following the procedures below for assigning loans with missing or defective promissory notes. If no copy of a promissory note exists, follow the procedures as outlined above under the section titled, "What

to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances”.

Electronically signed promissory notes

If a school is assigning a Perkins Loan promissory note that was signed electronically, your school’s most recent audit must verify the extent to which your school’s electronic signature authentication process meets the Department’s Standards for Electronic Signatures in Electronic Student Loan Transactions. In addition, at the Department’s request, your school must provide an affidavit or certification regarding the creation and maintenance of the electronic records of the loan or loans assigned to the Department in a form that is admissible in a legal proceeding. Your school should be able to produce an exact replica of what the student originally signed. Your school may also be required by the Department to provide testimony by an authorized official of the school to ensure the admission of the electronic records of the loan in any legal proceedings. Your school must cooperate with the Department in all activities necessary to enforce the loan.

Missing original promissory note

If an original promissory note is missing, a “Certified True Copy” of the front and back of the promissory note may be submitted in lieu of the missing note.

A “Certified True Copy” of a promissory note

If the original promissory note is no longer available and only a photocopy exists, the photocopy (front and back) may be submitted with the following statement, signed by an appropriate institutional official such as the Controller or Vice President of Finance, appearing on the photocopy:

"Certified True Copy"

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original promissory note.

Signature:

Title:

Date:

If no copy exists and a school has extenuating circumstances for not having maintained a copy as required by statute (34 CFR 674.19), follow the procedures as outlined above under the section titled, What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances.

Multiple loans on one note

If a school has a National Defense Student Loan and a National Direct Student Loan on the same promissory note, or the promissory note includes more than one interest rate for the same borrower, or different individuals co-signed parts of the same promissory note, each loan must be treated as a separate loan even though the loans are on the same promissory note. In this situation, a school should make a certified true copy of the original promissory note (as previously instructed) and include the original promissory note with one loan and the certified true copy with the other loan(s).

Attach a clarifying statement with the certified true copy indicating that the original promissory note is attached to one of the borrower's other loans included in the assignment package. (Please specify Federal Perkins, Direct, or Defense Loan). A separate Perkins Assignment Form, along with supporting documentation, must be completed for each note with different terms.

With the exception of an MPN, any assignment where one promissory note represents two loans for any reason other than that described in the preceding paragraph may need to be escalated to the Department for approval prior to any acceptance of the loan or loans.

Repayment Records

A copy of the student's loan repayment history (financial profile of the account) must be provided. Such a repayment history includes a record of all payments made, on a payment-by-payment basis, how individual payments were applied (such as what portion of the payment was applied to principal, what portion was applied to interest, etc.), and requests for cancellation, forbearance or deferment, if available. Each payment history may also include total amounts for each of these areas of payment application. A key to interpret the repayment history should be provided as an attachment to any printout. Such a key will assist in the interpretation of every accounting transaction that appears on the repayment history.

Disbursement Records

Disbursement records, showing the amount and date of each disbursement of a borrower's Perkins Loans, may be needed to enforce a Perkins MPN. Disbursement records are required when assigning any loans made using a Perkins MPN.

Schools not liquidating or closing that assign defaulted loans are required to maintain disbursement records at the school for at least three years from the date the loan is canceled, paid-in-full, or otherwise satisfied.

Judgment Information (if applicable)

If a school has initiated legal action against a borrower as part of its collection efforts, the loans of that borrower cannot be assigned to the Department until the litigation is completed and a judgment is rendered for the institution and against the borrower or endorser or the judgment is denied. If the institution chooses to assign the loan immediately, the legal action will need to be withdrawn from the courts.

The Department does not accept assignment of loans for which the institution has obtained a judgment unless the institution transfers the original or a certified true copy of the judgment to the Department with the Perkins assignment form.

To make the judgment enforceable by the U.S. Department of Education as assignee, some states require the school, as holder of the judgment, to notify the court that rendered the judgment of the assignment. Other states have no such requirement. If unsure of the rules of the state, the school's attorney should contact the office of the court clerk to inquire about any such requirements.

If the state the judgment was entered in does not require that the judgment be assigned through the court, the following sample statement should accompany the judgment in order to affect the transfer:

Sample Statement

"All rights, title, and interest of the undersigned in this judgment are hereby assigned to the U. S. Department of Education. U. S. Department of Education shall have the exclusive right to enforce or release this judgment or any liens created thereby without limitation. Assignor/ [Name of School] certifies that it has complied with any applicable state requirements for the assignment of judgements."

Any judgment that is included as part of an assignment package must cite the interest rate and expiration date. In many states, judgment interest rates and expiration dates are set by state law and thus may not be contained within the individual judgment. If the interest rate or expiration date does not appear within a judgment submitted by a school as part of its assignment package, the school's attorney or the authorized official assigning the loan must provide this information in a separate signed statement. A copy of such a signed statement must be provided with each account.

NOTE: Prior to reporting judgment data on the Perkins assignment form, a school should prepare for its records a breakout of principal, interest, etc., from any judgment that combines these amounts, to what it

was at the time of the litigation, and then follow these remaining steps:

1. Enter the interest rate as assigned by the court into Item #19 "Applicable Interest Rate"
2. Enter all payments applied to principal (both before and since the judgment) into Item #29 "Principal Amount Repaid"
3. Enter all payments applied to collection costs provided by the judgment into Item #32 "Collection Costs Repaid"
4. Enter all payments applied to interest (both before the judgment at the interest rate of the note, and since the judgment at the interest rate provided by the judgment) into Item #33 "Interest Repaid"
5. Enter any litigation or court costs, if awarded by the court that do not represent principal, interest, or collection costs, into Item #36 "Collection Costs/Penalty/Late Charges"
6. Enter any reductions made by the court to the principal or interest sought into Item #29 "Principal Amount Adjusted" or Item #33 "Interest Repaid", as applicable.

If, for any reason, the amount of the judgment that the court awarded represents a reduction from the amount sought by the institution, and it is not clear whether that reduction stems from a reduction of principal, interest, or collection costs, etc. THE ACCOUNT MAY NOT BE ASSIGNED. Any account for which Section D ("Loan Information: Financial") does not reconcile with the amount of any submitted judgment less any subsequent payments WILL BE REJECTED.

If the amount of the judgment represents a combination of Perkins loan(s) and other institutional debts, the institution must provide the outstanding balance and interest rate of the Perkins Loan that was included in the judgment and the institution releases its claim on any unpaid institutional debts covered by the judgment when the institution assigns the judgment to the Department. **NOTE:** Section 484A (20 USC 1091a) deals with the statute of limitations for student loans and state court judgments on student loans. In 1991, the amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), eliminated the previous 7-year time limitation on the collection of student loans regardless of any other statute, regulation or administrative limitation. Thus, under section 484A, if a holder of a loan obtained a judgment on a student loan account, and the judgment expired 10 years ago—despite the expiration of the 10 years, the judgment could still be enforced and collected in the 11th year and thereafter. Section 484A(a) applies to all judgments not just state court judgments. For judgments that expired prior to April 9, 1991, the school does not have to assign rights of the judgment to the Department of Education. The school must transfer the rights to the Department for all active judgments

Bankruptcy Information (if applicable)

If a school receives notification that a bankruptcy petition has been filed prior to the time the school submits the loan to the Department, the account cannot be assigned until the court has ruled on the bankruptcy petition except in the case of a school that is liquidating or closing. If the school is not liquidating or closing, it cannot assign any account pending a bankruptcy decision by the court.

A school that is officially liquidating its program or is closing can submit an account for assignment pending a bankruptcy decision but must first **withdraw the proof of claim from the bankruptcy court to which the proof of claim was filed. This information may be verifiable through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system.** If you are unsure if a proof of claim was filed or unsure how to withdraw a claim with the bankruptcy court, you should consult with your school's attorney. Once the proof of claim has been withdrawn, the loan can be submitted for assignment to the Department. All documents related to the bankruptcy filing must be included in addition to any communication that confirms the proof of claim was withdrawn from the courts.

If the court rules that the loan can be discharged, the account should not be assigned and may be eligible to be written off the institution's records as a bankruptcy.

If the court rules that the loan cannot be discharged, the account is then eligible for assignment to the Department. All documentation supporting the court decision must be included with the assignment submission. This would include any documents received from or sent to the bankruptcy court. If you are unsure of the type of bankruptcy petition filed or the loan's eligibility for discharge, you should consult with your school's attorney.

If the institution has received documentation that the bankruptcy petition has been dismissed, the account is eligible for assignment. All bankruptcy and dismissal documents must be included with the assignment submission.

If the institution receives a petition for bankruptcy **after** the Department has accepted the loan for assignment, the notice must be forwarded to the ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer. See Appendix A, Information Sources for further information.

A discharge in bankruptcy prevents further enforcement of the obligation against the borrower. Any cosigner is still legally responsible for the debt. The institution must perform all due diligence requirements with respect to the cosigner prior to attempting assignment to the Department.

NOTE: See CFR 34, Section 674.49 of the Perkins regulations and Volume 6, Chapter 4 ("Bankruptcy discharge") of the Federal Student Aid Handbook for more specific information about bankruptcy.

Organize all Loans and Prepare for Mailing

All loans being packaged and submitted for assignment should be organized by borrower, in alphabetical order by last name, and paper- clipped or stapled. For example, a package of loans to be mailed should include:

- One school certification's page, completed and signed
- The manifest for all loans included in the packet according to the manifest instructions
- A completed Assignment Form-Borrower and Loan Information (OMB 1845), followed by the rest of the required loan documentation for each borrower listed on the manifest in the submission package. (For loans missing promissory notes, include written explanation and alternative documentation that meets the criteria as described above under the section "What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances.")

Mailing Instructions

Loan assignment packages should be double-packaged for protection and must be sent by SECURED MAIL (registered or certified, return receipt) to the Federal Perkins Loan Servicer (ECSI) at the below address. All paper documents required for the assignment process (e.g., original promissory notes, and if paper process—completed assignment forms, submission package manifest) **MUST** be included and in alphabetical order.

Send by registered or certified mail to:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
1200 Cherrington Parkway, Suite 200
Moon Township, PA 15108

How to Find Out the Status of Assignment?

Loans Accepted for Assignment

When manual paper assignments are accepted, the institution will receive a document identified as "**Perkins Load Database Report**" (**Acceptance Report or notice**) via email. The Acceptance Report is sent securely as an attachment from the email address productionprocessing@efpls.ed.gov. The subject line of the email is "Acceptance Report" and the body states that the attached is the acceptance

report for date of batch submission. A password is sent from the same email address separately in order to open the reports. This report provides borrower identification information, school identification information, and outstanding principal, interest and fees accepted for assignment by the Department. This is the official Acceptance Report notice and should be retained in the school's records. It is also important to ensure that schools that utilized a third-party servicer to complete monthly reporting to NSLDS be provided a copy of this information to properly update its system as well as make the reporting updates to NSLDS. Please refer to the section below regarding Loan Payments Received after Loan Assignment and how to process the payments.

Hard copies of the acceptance notifications (Perkins Loan Database Reports) may be sent to the school's address provided in the school's program participation agreement. The institution should ensure that its mail distribution staff becomes familiar with these notices and the offices to which they should be distributed.

NOTE: Schools that use PLAS for electronic submission can access information about accepted and rejected assignments through PLAS. These reports can be viewed on-line or printed from PLAS.

Loans Rejected for Assignment

For Perkins Loans rejected for assignment, the Department will provide the school with the reason(s) for rejection; if the school can resolve the issue(s) it may resubmit the loan for assignment. For most problems, this process may enable a school to correct the deficiencies and resubmit the rejected loans. The Department will work with the school to assist in resolving issues if possible. If it is not possible to resolve an issue, the loan may have to be purchased by the school.

How does a school purchase loans?

CFR 34, Section 674.50(g) of the Federal Perkins Loan Program regulations states that the Secretary may require that the school reimburse its program Fund for the entire portion of the outstanding principal balance (OPB) plus any accrued interest on a loan the Department determines is unenforceable.

IMPORTANT NOTE: SCHOOLS DO NOT SEND FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE LOANS! To purchase a loan, a school deposits the total due on the loan (outstanding principal plus outstanding interest) INTO ITS PERKINS FUND account. The school deposits cash into its Perkins Fund to purchase a loan just as it would deposit cash from a borrower paying on the loan. The only difference is that the cash comes from the school, not the borrower, when the loan is being purchased by the school. The federal government receives its share of the cash that the school deposited into its Perkins Fund to purchase loans when the school distributes the cash from the Fund (known as the annual Distribution of Assets process).

Reporting school-purchased loans on the FISAP

A school reports school-purchased loans on its FISAP in Part III, Section A the same as it would report funds it received from a borrower's repayment of a loan balance. The amount deposited into the program Fund to purchase the loans is reported in cash-on-hand (Field 1.1 or 1.2). The portion of the total cash deposited that is principal is reported as loan principal collected (Field 5) and the portion that is interest is reported as interest income on loans (Field 31).

What to Do About Loan Payments Received after Loan Assignment?

Before loan has been accepted

If the loan has been submitted but not yet accepted by the Department and the school receives a payment, the school or its servicer should deposit the funds immediately into its Perkins Program Fund

and await official notification of acceptance. As soon as possible after the school receives notification of acceptance of the loan, the institution must issue a check to the Department, including the borrower's full name, Social Security Number, and the type of loan and loan period to which the payment is to be applied so that the borrower records can be updated to reflect payment.

After loan has been accepted

Loan payments a school or its servicer receives from a borrower after the borrower's loan has been submitted to the Department for assignment and accepted by the Department are not to be sent to the Department through G6. These borrower payments must be forwarded to the Department's Federal Perkins Loan Servicer. Any payment the school or its servicer receives from a borrower after the borrower's account has been submitted to the Department for assignment and accepted by the Department, must be forwarded by secured mail (registered or certified, return receipt) as soon as possible, to:

U.S. Department of Education
ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
P.O. Box 6200-31
Portland, OR 97228

Courier services do not deliver to postal boxes. Each payment submission must clearly identify the borrower's full name, Social Security Number, and the type of loan to which the payment is to be applied.

Once an account is submitted for assignment, it becomes the property of the Department and will only be returned to the institution if the loan is rejected for assignment. Therefore, an institution should not contact the Department to request the return of a submission because a borrower has made a payment to the institution.

Collection Fees

Collection agency fees are not permitted to be deducted from payments received after account submission to the Department. These fees are the sole responsibility of the institution and may not be charged to the program Fund. The entire borrower payment must be forwarded to the Department.

Additional Important Assignment Information

Loan Balance of Less than \$25

An account may not be assigned to the Department if the total amount outstanding is less than \$25, unless the borrower has more than one loan (NDSL, Defense, Federal Perkins) that, when combined, total \$25 or more. The following are special instructions for assigning loans of different types of less than \$25 that, when combined, equal at least \$25:

- Complete the Borrower and Loan Information page of the Perkins Assignment Form for each loan,
- Package all loans (or supporting documentation for loans submitted electronically) for that borrower together, and
- Include a clarifying statement explaining that the combination of loans being assigned is equal to or greater than \$25.

Borrower with more than one loan to assign

If a borrower has more than one loan being assigned, separate supporting documentation must be included for each loan. To expedite the review process and reduce the number of rejected assignments,

the title of each required document in the assignment package (except for the original promissory note and the Perkins Assignment Form) should be included at the top of each document.

Items being submitted that require clarification

If there are items in the assignment submission package that need clarification or justification (for example, the school made a disbursement after the date the borrower ceased to be enrolled at least half-time), a written explanation should be included with that loan's documentation. Explanations concerning missing or defective promissory notes require approval by the Department see "What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances" section above in this document.

Who to Contact with Assignment Questions?

Issues with Specific Assignments

Questions pertaining to the status of your assignment submissions, or the correction of pending submissions, may be directed to:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer

Phone: 1-844-301-2620

Email: productionprocessing@efpls.ed.gov

To Check on Assignments Submitted

For an account that was submitted more than 60 days previously and a determination has yet to be received, the school should email productionprocessing@efpls.ed.gov. The email must include the student(s) name(s) and Social Security Number(s) in an encrypted file and should include the school's Name and OPEID.

NSLDS Reporting of Perkins Loans that have been Assigned and/or Purchased

Under provisions of the Higher Education Act, the Department's regulations, and related guidance, schools are required to confirm and report the enrollment status of students who receive Perkins Loans. **It is a school's responsibility to ensure the required reporting to NSLDS, which includes Perkins Loan account detail, is completed on time and accurately.** A school must complete its NSLDS reporting requirements in accordance with the instructions in the NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Guide and the Perkins Data Provider Instructions. **Schools that utilize a third-party servicer for billing, collecting, and reporting should communicate these requirements to their servicer and provide a copy of the Guide.**

Schools are required to update data on existing loans to NSLDS and must ensure that all outstanding Perkins Loans are properly reported to, accounted for, and updated in NSLDS. Schools should also accurately update NSLDS for any loans that have been accepted for assignment by the Department or that have been purchased by the school.

Reminders for NSLDS Reporting

- **Follow Data Provider Instructions:** NSLDS reporting instructions and all NSLDS reporting requirements are detailed in the latest NSLDS Federal Perkins Data Provider Instructions and Appendices found on the [NSLDS User Resources page](#) on the Knowledge Center.
- **Review Monthly Reporting and Process Error File Corrections Each Month:** All loans must be accurately reported to NSLDS on the monthly submittal date provided for the school; review

the **Perkins Loan Load Error File** delivered over SAIG in the message class, SLDERROP, which contains the details of any records that failed the NSLDS Load Validation Process; and correct the error conditions identified on the **Perkins Loan Load Error File** before creating the next monthly Extract File. Errors must be resolved and not rolled forward month after month.

- **Reconcile NSLDS with Servicer Records:** NSLDS needs to accurately reflect a school's Perkins loan portfolio. The loans in the servicer's records for each school must match NSLDS loan-for-loan, and the loans should have the same statuses and balances. Consequently, if NSLDS is not in agreement with the servicer's records, the school/servicer must determine the reason for each discrepancy and resolve the issues.
- **Transfer Code to be added after Loan is Officially Accepted for Assignment:** Servicers must wait until a loan is officially accepted for assignment by the Department before coding the loan with the transfer code (AE) as the Perkins loan status. When a loan is accepted for assignment by the Department (see *Loans Accepted for Assignment* section above), the loan needs to be updated in NSLDS with a specific transfer code (AE) by the existing loan holder to release it so the new loan holder can begin reporting on it. The AE transfer/loan status code puts the loan in a pending transfer status. Frequently, Perkins third-party servicers will prematurely code loans with the transfer/loan status code when the loan is submitted but not officially accepted by the Department for assignment. If a loan is not accepted by the Department, the loan remains in NSLDS in that pending status and still held by the school. **NOTE:** A loan should **not** be coded with the transfer code when it is **submitted** for assignment, only when it is officially **accepted** for assignment by the Department. See *Loans Accepted for Assignment* section above for details on official notification of acceptance.
- **Correctly Code School-Purchased Loans:** Loans that are purchased by the school must be reported to NSLDS and be coded with the loan status of UD or UC. School-purchased loans should not be coded as paid in full (PF) or any other status code other than UD or UC. (The servicer must wait until the school advises them to code loans as purchased by the school before doing so.)
- **Cease Reporting on School-Purchased Loans:** Once a loan status is successfully reported to NSLDS and accepted with UD or UC, the loan must not be reported on again. This applies to ALL loans that have a UD or UC loan status code regardless of whether the school or its servicer reported the UD or UC loan status or if the loan was reported as UD or UC by some other data provider. ANYTIME a loan has been reported and accepted on NSLDS with the is UD or UC loan status code, the school or its servicer must not report on it anymore.
- **Report Loans with Closed Status as a \$0 Balance:** When a closed loan status is reported for a loan, the outstanding principal balance must be reported as \$0. Please see the Perkins DPI appendix B, Table B-2 for open/closed reporting balance requirements.
- **Duplicate Loans:** Schools/servicers should take great care not to create duplicate loans in NSLDS and should routinely check NSLDS to ensure that duplicates do not exist. (Duplicates can occur when loans are reported with incorrect borrower or loan information, or when a loan amount is found to be in error and a new loan is created for the correct amount without cancelling or correcting the incorrect loan. **When loans are assigned to the Department, duplicate loan records can be created by different data providers responsible for reporting to NSLDS if the loan information on the assignment form does not match the loan information currently residing on the NSLDS system.**) **NOTE:** Refer to the Reconciliation section earlier in this Part for further information on utilization of NSLDS system reports to assist your school with identifying duplicate loan records.
- **'Assigned' in School's Servicer System:** If a school's servicer updates a loan in its own servicing system as "assigned" when the loan is first submitted for assignment to the Department, the servicer should be sure to change the "assigned" status if the loan ends up not being accepted by the Department for assignment. For Perkins Loans rejected for assignment, the Department will provide the school with the reason(s) for rejection; if the school can resolve the

issue(s) it may resubmit the loan for assignment. For most problems, this process may enable a school to correct the deficiencies and resubmit the rejected loans. (If the deficiencies cannot be corrected and the loan is ultimately rejected, the school may be required to purchase the loan.)

Reporting Loans Accepted for Assignment

Once a loan is officially accepted for assignment, the school or its servicer must update the loan in NSLDS to show that it is “transferred for assignment”. This is done by using the transfer code “AE” in Field Code #263. (This will release the loan and enable the Department to pick it up and report on it.)

When reporting loans as transferred to the Department with a loan status code of “AE”, the Date of Loan Status field (Field Code #262) should match the loan “certification date” used on the assignment form (Certification, Section B, Item 12) for the loan when it was submitted to the Department for assignment using the paper form. For schools using PLAS, this date would be the date the submission was made electronically.

IMPORTANT: Once the loan is reported with the “AE” transfer loan status code, the school or its third party servicer should not report on that same loan again.

A note about the transfer process in NSLDS: Although the loan transfer code uses the loan status code field (Field Code #263) on the data provider’s Database Extract File, this is NOT a valid loan status code and does not update the loan status code fields in NSLDS. Instead, it indicates that the loan was assigned, accepted, and is now in transit to the Department. The loan is officially transferred when the Department’s servicer successfully reports on the loan. If the previous data provider (the school or its third party servicer) reports the loan with a non-transfer loan status before the Department reports on the loan, NSLDS will assume that the transfer request was incorrect, and the loan would be retained by the previous data provider (the school or its third party servicer).

It is both the “AE” transfer loan status code with the correct “certification date” as designated on the assignment form as the Date of Loan Status, that when reported correctly during the update to NSLDS, allows for a seamless transfer of the loan from the school to the Department. Once notified of successful reporting, the school or its servicer must stop reporting the loan to NSLDS. Whoever does the reporting to NSLDS on behalf of the school should be familiar with these reporting requirements as well as the Perkins Data Provider Instructions posted on the [NSLDS User Resources page](#) on the Knowledge Center to ensure any errors that are reported are being corrected by the originating data provider.

Reporting Loans Purchased by the School

After the program Fund is reimbursed for any defaulted and/or non-defaulted unassignable loans that a school has purchased, the school must report these loans to NSLDS as “UC” (Non-defaulted Loan Purchased by School) or “UD” (Defaulted Loan Purchased by School). These status codes would be reported in the Loan Status field (Field Code #263).

Assignment Submission Checklist

Before You Get Started

- ✓ Identify the accounts to be assigned
- ✓ Recall loan(s) from any outside firms
- ✓ Ensure loans are reported in NSLDS and updated correctly
- ✓ Review files for required documents
 - Original promissory note or certified copy
 - Repayment record history
 - Disbursement records (required when assigning loans made with a Perkins MPN or in cases where the school is requesting review for alternate documentation)
 - Judgment or bankruptcy documents, if applicable
- ✓ Communicate with your third-party servicer, if applicable
- ✓ 30-day notification to borrower(s)

How to Assign

- ✓ Complete Federal Perkins Loan Program/NDSL Assignment Form (OMB 1845-0048). The form is in two parts:
 - One Institutional Certification page for each package submitted for assignment (an institutional certification page is not required on every individual loan presented for assignment, just one per batch of assignments)
 - One Borrower and Loan Information page for every loan submission
 - ✓ Submission Package Manifest (list of loans)
 - ✓ “Package” together assignment documents in alphabetical order by last name and submit
 - ✓ Send by registered or certified, returned receipt mail to:

[ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer](#)
[1200 Cherrington Parkway, Suite 200](#)
[Moon Township, PA 15108](#)
 - ✓ Receive notification of acceptance or rejection; address inquiries from ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
-

Part II: The Liquidation Process

What is Perkins Liquidation?

Perkins liquidation is the process through which a school ends participation in the Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program by:

- Assigning all outstanding Federal Perkins Loans, National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), and National Defense Student Loans (Defense Loans) in the school portfolio to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department)
- Liquidating the Perkins Revolving Fund (Fund)

The process of liquidating a school's Perkins Loan portfolio includes a review of the outstanding Perkins Loans to determine if the loans have been maintained and administered properly so they can be transferred to the Department through the assignment process.

All loans must be properly accounted for and updated in the Department's National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). Upon completion of assignment of outstanding loans, there should be no open loan statuses for any loans; all loans should be in one of the following closed loan statuses:

- Fully retired or otherwise satisfied, e.g., paid in full; or
- Purchased by the school; or
- Accepted for assignment by the Department and properly transferred to the Department

When schools rely on third-party servicers to handle the liquidation of their loan portfolio, it is crucial that they do not defer entirely to the servicer. Instead, schools must actively follow the outlined instructions in Part II of this document. Schools must electronically notify the Department of its intent to liquidate and close out the program through the COD system prior to transferring its loan portfolio to the Department (as prescribed in Step 1).

A school's Perkins Loan portfolio and program Fund is not considered liquidated until the school has received an **official letter of completion** from the Department. In order to receive an official letter of completion a school must complete all steps in the liquidation process.

When and why does a school liquidate its Perkins program?

A school must liquidate its Perkins Loan portfolio and program Fund, when the school:

- Voluntarily withdraws from participating in the Perkins Loan Program or Title IV programs;
- Is unable or unwilling to properly service its outstanding Perkins Loan portfolio;
- Has had its eligibility to participate in Title IV programs or the Perkins Loan Program terminated by the Department;
- Has not been approved by the Department for continued participation in Title IV or in the Perkins Loan Program during the school's recertification process; or
- Is closing

How long does it take to liquidate the Perkins portfolio and Fund?

Assigning Loans without Recompense

The length of time each school takes to liquidate varies and depends on the following:

- The size of the outstanding portfolio to assign
- Whether reconciliation is required between the FISAP data, school records and/or its reported NSLDS data
- When a school begins the process

It could reasonably take up to 180 days to 1) liquidate the remaining portfolio, 2) update and report to NSLDS, 3) return the federal share of remaining funds, and 4) submit final FISAP data. It may take additional time for some schools to complete a final audit and receive the official closeout letter from the Department.

NOTE: It is important that once a school begins the assignment and liquidation process, the process should be completed as expeditiously as possible. When a school notifies its borrowers of pending assignment to the Department, upon completion of the assignment form information, it must package the assignment documents together and submit the packages immediately following the 30-day notification period. A school that contracts with a third-party servicer to provide the appropriate assignment information or completed assignment forms must follow through with the submission process by having the required documentation ready to package and submit to the Department upon receipt of the assignment information from its servicer.

How does a school assess the size and status of its outstanding Perkins portfolio?

All schools that hold a Perkins portfolio are required to report the status of their Perkins Loan Program portfolio and Fund balance annually through the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) in addition to reporting the proper loan update information on its outstanding loans to NSLDS on a monthly basis. In addition to logging into COD and navigating to Perkins Liquidation screen and or NSLDS, schools can view a snapshot of their Perkins status on the school's dashboard by logging into FSA Partner Connect website under the School Financials section. Clicking on the Perkins tile at the bottom of the School Financials & Operations page will allow schools to see aggregate data for 1) open loan data as reported on latest FISAP, 2) open loan data as reported to NSLDS, compared with 3) loan assignment data.

Schools may find this information helpful when assessing whether or not to liquidate or once a school has begun the liquidation process. The aggregate information, which is pulled through COD from source systems, provides a snapshot of the schools Perkins loan data and is used by the Department to gauge movement on assignments to the Department and comparison between FISAP and NSLDS reported data.

NOTE: We highly encourage your school to utilize the reports available from the [NSLDS Professional Access website](#) to assess the status of your school's outstanding loan portfolio as reported to the Department.

STEP 1: REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS of INTENT to LIQUIDATE

Notify the Department of Intent to Liquidate (Intent and Closeout Form Phase 1 in COD)

A school must electronically notify the Department that it intends to liquidate and closeout its Perkins Program portfolio and Fund.

A school must submit its intent to liquidate electronically using the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System. To access the Perkins Liquidation page in COD, a school logs in to the [COD website](https://cod.ed.gov) (<https://cod.ed.gov>). From the School tab, click on Campus-Based at the bottom of the left navigation pane. Once directed to Campus-Based, click on Perkins on the left navigation pane, then click Perkins Liquidation Click on "Begin Liquidation Process" and follow the on-screen instructions. For further data entry instructions, please refer to Appendix B, Quick Reference Guide to Liquidation Process and

Notify Third-Party Servicers

At the beginning of the liquidation process, it is important that schools communicate with any third-party servicer the school employed for servicing its portfolio. A school's third-party servicer may be obligated or contracted to assist with the process of assignment, e.g., initial notification to borrowers, loan data for completion of assignment forms. It is also important that any outstanding loans be recalled from any outside collection or litigation firms.

If a third-party servicer is assisting a school with liquidation of its portfolio, the servicer must adhere to the assignment and liquidation process procedures as outlined in this Guide. Also note the Department has information pertaining to responsibilities and requirements for institutions of higher education that enter into contracts with third-party servicers under the [Third Party Servicer Topics](#) electronic library on the Knowledge Center. We encourage institutions to review the regulations governing an institution's use of third-party servicers at 34 CFR. § 668.2 (definition of third-party servicer), 34 CFR § 668.23, and 34 CFR § 668.25.

Notify borrowers

A school must notify borrowers of the pending assignment of their Perkins Loan(s) to the Department.

All borrowers with outstanding loans must be given at least a 30-day notice by mail or email. Occasionally, this notification results in payments from borrowers who have been unwilling to make payments in the past. If a payment is received, the school or its servicer must process that payment as normal and be sure to accurately reflect any payments received on the assignment form when it is prepared. If a payment is received after the school or servicer has sent the loan to the Department for assignment, the school or servicer recipient should deposit the payment immediately into its designated Perkins Fund and await official notification of acceptance from the Department's Federal Perkins Loan Servicer, ECSI.

The wording in this sample notification below may be used.

SAMPLE NOTIFICATION – LIQUIDATION

[Date]

From: [School – Email/Address]

To: [Borrower Name]

[Borrower – Email/Address]

Dear Federal Perkins, NDSL, or Defense Loan Borrower:

We are writing to inform you that [school name] intends to liquidate and closeout its Federal Perkins Loan Program. As part of this process, your Federal Perkins (or NDSL or Defense) loans(s) will be assigned and transferred to the U.S. Department of Education.

Once the assignment of your Federal Perkins Loan(s) to the U.S. Department of Education is complete, you will receive notification from the "Federal Perkins Loan Servicer - ECSI." ECSI will provide information on where to send your payments as well as contact information for assistance. You must continue making your payments to [school name or servicer name] until you receive the notification from the Department's Federal Perkins Loan Servicer, ECSI.

Third-Party Servicer Info

Third-party servicers must continue servicing loans that are in repayment. For loans that have been submitted for assignment to the Department, the servicer should continue to bill and collect from the borrower until the servicer has received information that the loan is officially accepted for assignment. It is important that schools ensure its servicer receives copies of all official Acceptance Reports timely.

If a loan has been submitted for assignment but not yet accepted, funds collected on a loan should be deposited immediately into the school's Perkins Fund and await official notification of acceptance by the Department's Federal Perkins Loan servicer, ECSI. As soon as possible after the school receives notification of acceptance of the loan, the school must forward the payment(s) along with borrower and loan information so that the borrower records can be updated to reflect payment. Borrower loan payments are not to be sent to the Department through G6. Payment must be sent must be forwarded by secured mail (registered or certified, return receipt) as soon as possible, to:

U.S. Department of Education
ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
P.O. Box 6200-31
Portland, OR 97228

Courier services do not deliver to postal boxes. Each payment submission must clearly identify the borrower's full name, Social Security Number, and the type of loan to which the payment is to be applied.

STEP 2: ASSIGN PERKINS LOANS (Transfer Outstanding Loans)

The Department expects schools to begin assigning all outstanding Perkins Loans to the Department within 45 days following the submission of Intent to Liquidate. Schools are required to complete Step 1 prior to submitting loans to the Department for reasons of liquidation and closeout.

What does it mean to assign loans to the Department?

A school may assign Perkins Loans (non-defaulted or defaulted) to the Department at any time during the program year. When a school assigns a loan to the Department and the loan is accepted for assignment, the school is transferring all rights and responsibility for servicing and collection on the loan to the United States government. The school relinquishes its rights to any share of amounts collected by the Department after a Perkins Loan is assigned to and accepted by the Department. All future payments will be made to the Department and the borrower will receive notification of the change of loan holder and where to send payments. When a school liquidates its Perkins portfolio, which may include Perkins Loans, NDSL and Defense loans, the school must assign all loans with outstanding balances to the Department for collection whether defaulted or non-defaulted.

Reconciliation

A school must ensure that all of its loans are properly accounted for and updated on NSLDS. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that the required reporting to NSLDS, including Perkins Loan account detail, is completed timely and accurately. Schools that use a third-party servicer must communicate the reporting requirements to their third-party servicer and ensure that the servicer complies with timely and accurate reporting. It is important for schools to understand that they are responsible for any non-compliance by the servicer.

If your school identifies an NSLDS reporting error(s), work with your third-party servicer to correct the error(s) and update NSLDS. If you are a self-reporting school and do not use a third-party servicer, make

the corrections in NSLDS with your next monthly batch submittal, or by using the Perkins spreadsheet submittal tool on the [NSLDS Professional Access website](#).

The total amount of loans and number of borrowers on NSLDS should reconcile with the school's records, its third-party servicer records, and what is reported on its Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP). Following the completion of the assignment process and updating of NSLDS, you must ensure that no loans remain open at the school in order to proceed to Step 3 in the process. Step 2 will not be updated to "Completed" in the COD system and you will not be able to proceed to Step 3 until all loans are properly accounted for and updated accordingly on NSLDS.

Schools should utilize the reports from the [NSLDS Professional Access website](#) to reconcile its records with those of NSLDS, rectify any inconsistencies, and update NSLDS as needed.

Perkins Portfolio Report (PRKPF1)

The Perkins Portfolio Report (PRKPF1) is a novel tool that enables users to access the complete portfolio of Perkins Loans for a specified 6-digit School Group Code. Users can organize the report by SSN, Last Name, First Name, or Loan Date. The report is available in both comma-separated values (CSV) and fixed width file formats. It is delivered via the SCHPOROP message class to the SAIG mailbox (TG Number) linked to the requesting FSA User ID.

What sets the Perkins Portfolio Report apart from other past NSLDS reports is its comprehensive listing of all Perkins loans a school has ever reported to NSLDS. This includes both closed loans (those that have been assigned, paid in full, cancelled, or otherwise retired) and open loans (those held by the school with an outstanding principal balance due).

The Portfolio Report can be utilized in the reconciliation process by filtering for school-held open loans and comparing these to a school report or third-party servicer report of the school's open loans. In the Portfolio Report, school-held open loans are identified by the term "SCHOOL" in the Loan Holder Type column, an Outstanding Principal Balance greater than \$0, and the absence of a Loan Status Code of DW. The open loans listed in the Portfolio report should correspond one-to-one with those in your school's or servicer's open loan report. Both the borrower data for each loan (such as name, SSN, and DOB) and the loan data (such as the total amount disbursed, the total outstanding principal balance, the period begin and end dates, and the loan status) should match. If discrepancies are found between your school or servicer report and the Perkins Portfolio Report, the school will need to identify the issues and update NSLDS to accurately reflect the school's open loan portfolio.

Perkins Extract By Parameters Report – REC001

The report titled "Perkins Extract By Parameters" (formerly known as REC005) offers comprehensive data on student and Perkins loans that are currently open in your school's portfolio. It includes identifiers for each student (such as Social Security Number, First and Last Names, and Date of Birth) as well as detailed loan information (including Loan Amount, Total Disbursements to Date, Loan Type, Loan Date, Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance, and Loan Status).

Please note: To get a complete report of ALL of your school's open Perkins loans, you must combine the loans from a REC001 report with the Desired Loan Statuses of OPEN with the loans from a REC001 report with the Desired Loan Statuses of OPEN-PENDING TRANSFER.

Perkins Spreadsheet Submittal Template

The Perkins Spreadsheet Template can be downloaded from the Spreadsheet Submittal page on the NSLDS Professional Access Website. The Perkins Spreadsheet Submittal Template is one of the online reporting methods that schools or its designated servicer can use to report or correct data (such as Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance and Loan Status) to NSLDS. Utilizing the output produced from the Perkins Extract By Parameters (REC001) report, the user can populate the template with the data

produced from the report and upload corrections to NSLDS online through the NSLDS Professional Access Website.

Detailed information on requesting reports, record layouts and information can be found on the [NSLDS User Resources page](#) of Knowledge Center. Resources such as the Federal Perkins Data Provider Instructions, [Instructions for Using the Perkins Portfolio Report](#), and NSLDS Reports for Schools Guide can be found in this electronic library on the Knowledge Center.

Paper or Electronic Submission

Schools can elect to complete and submit assignments either manually by paper or electronically by using the Department's Perkins Loan Assignment System (PLAS), the web-based option allows schools to send multiple loans in a batch process or one by one through an on-line, web-based form.

Access to PLAS

To use PLAS, the school must designate an individual who is already authorized and able to log in to the Federal Student Aid (FSA) systems to act as the Primary Destination Point Administrator (DPA). The DPA can request access to PLAS for other users at the school. To obtain a PLAS security access form and learn more on using PLAS, visit <https://efpls.ed.gov/PLAS/>.

The DPA requesting access for the school will be required to provide their school OPEID, name, title, email address, phone number, and FSA two-factor authentication serial number. The form must be printed and signed by a supervisor. The signed form can then be either scanned and emailed to plasaccess@efpls.ed.gov or mailed to:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
Attn: PLAS Access Requests
1200 Cherrington Parkway, Suite 200
Moon Township, PA 15108

For more detailed information on how to use the PLAS system, please refer to the ECSI PLAS User Guide which can be accessed here <https://efpls.ed.gov/PLAS/>. When a school signs up for PLAS, ECSI can assist with how to get started.

Required Documentation for Loan Assignments

Perkins loan assignments must include the following documentation. More detailed information about each of the documentation requirements are provided in subsequent sections below. **NOTE:** If a borrower has more than one loan being assigned, separate supporting documentation must be included for each loan.

- Assignment Manifest
- Perkins Assignment Form
 - Institutional Certification (OMB 1845-0048)
 - Borrower and Loan Information (OMB 1845-0048)
- Original Promissory Note or Perkins Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Repayment History
- Judgment Information (If applicable)
 - copy of notification letter sent by the school to the judgment debtor
- Bankruptcy Information (If applicable)

What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances

Assignment submissions of loans with missing or defective (e.g., incomplete, not signed) promissory notes, require approval by the Department. The school should explain the reason for requesting approval for a missing or incomplete promissory note and the school should affirm to the Department that it searched all its records, and the document does not exist for each loan it submits for assignment to the Department. The explanation **must detail the alternate documentation that is being submitted for review and** should be on a separate sheet of paper **submitted with the alternate documentation**.

The school should complete an assignment form for the assignment, include the explanation along with the supporting documentation that proves the borrower acknowledges the debt (evidence of payment, deferment, forbearance, cancellation requests, etc.), and provide additional documentation that would substantiate the debt made by the school, e.g., copies (front and back) of signed disbursement checks or vouchers.

The Department will review and evaluate the request and either approve the alternative documentation and allow acceptance of the loan or deny the alternative documentation. If the alternative documentation is denied, this will result in the assignment of the loan being rejected back to the school. Once denied, a school may not resubmit the assignment unless it can provide new, alternative documentation to be reviewed. Rejection may result in the school having to purchase the account(s). There may be instances where ECSI will contact a school and require additional documentation (unrelated to the approval for missing or incomplete promissory notes) before the loan can be assigned.

Perkins Loan Assignment Form

For manual assignment submission by paper, the official Perkins Loan Assignment Form (OMB-1845-0048 form) must be used. The assignment form and instructions are available on the [Campus-Based Processing Information page](#) on the Knowledge Center. Please read and follow these instructions carefully.

The Perkins Loan Assignment Form must be completed according to the form's instructions for every outstanding loan being assigned. Please read and follow these instructions carefully. For schools that utilize a third-party servicer for the assignment form completion, a servicer may use its system to populate the required assignment form information. Schools and servicers are not permitted to alter the official OMB 1945-0048 form (Assignment Form). Check with your servicer if you contract with them to complete the assignment form information.

A school is required to complete only one Institutional Certification page of the Perkins Assignment Form for each assignment submission package when using the paper assignment process. The Institutional Certification page must bear the original signature of the school official who is authorized to transfer the institution's assets. For schools that choose to utilize PLAS, an automated certification process is built into the online submission process.

The Borrower and Loan Information page of the Perkins Assignment Form should be completed for each loan included in the submission package. If submitting assignments electronically using PLAS, the borrower and loan information is completed online.

Assignment Manifest

Each submission package must include a manifest listing the accounts submitted. See Section C of the Institutional Certification page of the Perkins Assignment Form for detailed instructions on the contents and format of the manifest.

If using PLAS for assignment and submission online, the PLAS system will automatically generate this information and create the manifest for you, which will include the assignment's batch and sequence numbers. This manifest must be attached to the supporting documentation mailed to the Federal Perkins Loan Servicer, ECSI.

Separate or Bundled Loans:

- **Loans Made Prior to July 1, 2008:** If an account was bundled (more than one loan was initially reported to NSLDS as one loan), these loans should be listed on the manifest as one loan.
- **Loans Made On or After July 1, 2008:** Loans made on or after July 1, 2008 should have been reported to NSLDS individually and not combined or bundled with another loan(s). Loans made on or after July 1, 2008 must be individually submitted for assignment.

NOTE: Reporting loans on the manifest in the same manner as they were reported to NSLDS reduces the possibility of loan matching errors in NSLDS.

Original Perkins Promissory Note

Original Perkins promissory notes are required for all loans, if available. All promissory notes submitted for assignment must be valid legal instruments. The promissory notes must contain signatures, loan amounts, and dates for each loan period. Perkins Master Promissory Notes (MPNs) must contain the borrower's signature and the principal amount loaned must be substantiated by institutional disbursement records.

At some schools, audits and program reviews may have already identified defective or invalid notes (e.g., incomplete, not signed) for loans still held by a school in its portfolio. The school may still assign the loan by following the procedures below for assigning loans with missing or defective promissory notes. If no copy of a promissory note exists, follow the procedures as outlined above under the section titled, "What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances".

Electronically signed promissory notes

If a school is assigning a Perkins Loan promissory note that was signed electronically, your school's most recent audit must verify the extent to which your school's electronic signature authentication process meets the Department's Standards for Electronic Signatures in Electronic Student Loan Transactions. In addition, at the Department's request, your school must provide an affidavit or certification regarding the creation and maintenance of the electronic records of the loan or loans assigned to the Department in a form that is admissible in a legal proceeding. Your school should be able to produce an exact replica of what the student originally signed. Your school may also be required by the Department to provide testimony by an authorized official of the school to ensure the admission of the electronic records of the loan in any legal proceedings. Your school must cooperate with the Department in all activities necessary to enforce the loan.

Missing original promissory note

If an original promissory note is missing, a "Certified True Copy" of the front and back of the promissory note may be submitted in lieu of the missing note.

A "Certified True Copy" of a promissory note

If the original promissory note is no longer available and only a photocopy exists, the photocopy (front and back) may be submitted with the following statement, signed by an appropriate institutional official such as the Controller or Vice President of Finance, appearing on the photocopy:

"Certified True Copy"

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original promissory note.

Signature:

Title:

Date:

If no copy exists and a school has extenuating circumstances for not having maintained a copy as required by law (34 CFR 674.19), follow the procedures as outlined above under the section titled, What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances.

Multiple loans on one note

If a school has a National Defense Student Loan and a National Direct Student Loan on the same promissory note, or the promissory note includes more than one interest rate for the same borrower, or different individuals co-signed parts of the same promissory note, each loan must be treated as a separate loan even though the loans are on the same promissory note. In this situation, a school should make a certified true copy of the original promissory note (as previously instructed) and include the original promissory note with one loan and the certified true copy with the other loan(s).

Attach a clarifying statement with the certified true copy indicating that the original promissory note is attached to one of the borrower's other loans included in the assignment package. (Please specify Federal Perkins, Direct, or Defense Loan). A separate Perkins Assignment Form, along with supporting documentation, must be completed for each note with different terms.

With the exception of an MPN, any assignment where one promissory note represents two loans for any reason other than that described in the preceding paragraph may need to be escalated to the Department for approval prior to any acceptance of the loan or loans.

Repayment Records

A copy of the student's loan repayment history (financial profile of the account) must be provided. Such a repayment history includes a record of all payments made, on a payment-by-payment basis, how individual payments were applied (such as what portion of the payment was applied to principal, what portion was applied to interest, etc.), and requests for cancellation, forbearance or deferment, if available. Each payment history may also include total amounts for each of these areas of payment application. A key to interpret the repayment history should be provided as an attachment to any printout. Such a key will assist in the interpretation of every accounting transaction that appears on the repayment history.

Disbursement Records

Disbursement records, showing the amount and date of each disbursement of a borrower's Perkins Loans, may be needed to enforce a Perkins MPN. Disbursement records are required when assigning any loans made using a Perkins MPN.

Schools not liquidating or closing that assign defaulted loans are required to maintain disbursement records at the school for at least three years from the date the loan is canceled, paid-in-full, or otherwise satisfied.

Judgment Information (if applicable)

If a school has initiated legal action against a borrower as part of its collection efforts, the loans of that borrower cannot be assigned to the Department until the litigation is completed and a judgment is rendered for the institution and against the borrower or endorser or the judgment is denied. If the institution chooses to assign the loan immediately, the legal action will need to be withdrawn from the courts.

The Department does not accept assignment of loans for which the institution has obtained a judgment unless the institution transfers the original or a certified true copy of the judgment to the Department with the Perkins assignment form.

To make the judgment enforceable by the U.S. Department of Education as assignee, some states require the school, as holder of the judgment, to notify the court that rendered the judgment of the assignment. Other states have no such requirement. If unsure of the rules of the state, the school's attorney should contact the office of the court clerk to inquire about any such requirements.

If the state the judgment was entered in does not require that the judgment be assigned through the court, the following sample statement should accompany the judgment in order to affect the transfer:

Sample Statement

"All rights, title, and interest of the undersigned in this judgment are hereby assigned to the U. S. Department of Education. U. S. Department of Education shall have the exclusive right to enforce or release this judgment or any liens created thereby without limitation. Assignor/ [Name of School] certifies that it has complied with any applicable state requirements for the assignment of judgements."

Any judgment that is included as part of an assignment package must cite the interest rate and expiration date. In many states, judgment interest rates and expiration dates are set by state law and thus may not be contained within the individual judgment. If the interest rate or expiration date does not appear within a judgment submitted by a school as part of its assignment package, the school's attorney or the authorized official assigning the loan must provide this information in a separate signed statement. A copy of such a signed statement must be provided with each account.

NOTE: Prior to reporting judgment data on the Perkins assignment form, a school should prepare for its records a breakout of principal, interest, etc., from any judgment that combines these amounts, to what it was at the time of the litigation, and then follow these remaining steps:

1. Enter the interest rate as assigned by the court into Item #19 "Applicable Interest Rate"
2. Enter all payments applied to principal (both before and since the judgment) into Item #29 "Principal Amount Repaid"
3. Enter all payments applied to collection costs provided by the judgment into Item #32 "Collection Costs Repaid"
4. Enter all payments applied to interest (both before the judgment at the interest rate of the note, and since the judgment at the interest rate provided by the judgment) into Item #33 "Interest Repaid"
5. Enter any litigation or court costs, if awarded by the court that do not represent principal, interest, or collection costs, into Item #36 "Collection Costs/Penalty/Late Charges"
6. Enter any reductions made by the court to the principal or interest sought into Item #29 "Principal Amount Adjusted" or Item #33 "Interest Repaid", as applicable.

If, for any reason, the amount of the judgment that the court awarded represents a reduction from the amount sought by the institution, and it is not clear whether that reduction stems from a reduction of principal, interest, or collection costs, etc. THE ACCOUNT MAY NOT BE ASSIGNED. Any account for which Section D ("Loan Information: Financial") does not reconcile with the amount of any submitted judgment less any subsequent payments WILL BE REJECTED.

If the amount of the judgment represents a combination of Perkins loan(s) and other institutional debts, the institution must provide the outstanding balance and interest rate of the Perkins Loan that was included in the judgment and the institution releases its claim on any unpaid institutional debts covered by the judgment when the institution assigns the judgment to the Department.

NOTE: Section 484A (20 USC 1091a) deals with the statute of limitations for student loans and state court judgments on student loans. In 1991, the amendments to the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended (*HEA*), eliminated the previous 7-year time limitation on the collection of student loans regardless of any other statute, regulation or administrative limitation. Thus, under section 484A, if a holder of a loan obtained a judgment on a student loan account, and the judgment expired 10 years

ago—despite the expiration of the 10 years, the judgment could still be enforced and collected in the 11th year and thereafter. Section 484A(a) applies to all judgments not just state court judgments. For judgments that expired prior to April 9, 1991, the school does not have to assign rights of the judgment to the U.S. Department of Education. The school must transfer the rights to the Department for all active judgments

Bankruptcy Information (if applicable)

If a school receives notification that a bankruptcy petition has been filed prior to the time the school submits the loan to the Department, the account cannot be assigned until the court has ruled on the bankruptcy petition except in the case of a school that is liquidating or closing. If the school is not liquidating or closing, it cannot assign any account pending a bankruptcy decision by the court.

A school that is officially liquidating its program or is closing can submit an account for assignment pending a bankruptcy decision but must first **withdraw the proof of claim from the bankruptcy court to which the proof of claim was filed. This information may be verifiable through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system.** If you are unsure if a proof of claim was filed or unsure how to withdraw a claim with the bankruptcy court, you should consult with your school's attorney. Once the proof of claim has been withdrawn, the loan can be submitted for assignment to the Department. All documents related to the bankruptcy filing must be included in addition to any communication that confirms the proof of claim was withdrawn from the courts.

If the court rules that the loan can be discharged, the account should not be assigned and may be eligible to be written off the institution's records as a bankruptcy.

If the court rules that the loan cannot be discharged, the account is then eligible for assignment to the Department. All documentation supporting the court decision must be included with the assignment submission. This would include any documents received from or sent to the bankruptcy court. If you are unsure of the type of bankruptcy petition filed or the loan's eligibility for discharge, you should consult with your school's attorney.

If the institution has received documentation that the bankruptcy petition has been dismissed, the account is eligible for assignment. All bankruptcy and dismissal documents must be included with the assignment submission.

If the institution receives a petition for bankruptcy **after** the Department has accepted the loan for assignment, the notice must be forwarded to the ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer. See Appendix A, Information Sources for further information.

A discharge in bankruptcy prevents further enforcement of the obligation against the borrower. Any cosigner is still legally responsible for the debt. The institution must perform all due diligence requirements with respect to the cosigner prior to attempting assignment to the Department.

NOTE: See CFR 34, Section 674.49 of the Perkins regulations and Volume 6, Chapter 4 ("Bankruptcy discharge") of the Federal Student Aid Handbook for more specific information about bankruptcy.

Organize all Loans and Prepare for Mailing

All loans being packaged and submitted for assignment should be organized by borrower, in alphabetical order by last name, and paper- clipped or stapled. For example, a package of loans to be mailed should include:

- One school certification's page, completed and signed
- The manifest for all loans included in the packet according to the manifest instructions
- A completed Assignment Form-Borrower and Loan Information (OMB 1845), followed by the rest of the required loan documentation for each borrower listed on the manifest in the submission

package. (For loans missing promissory notes, include written explanation and alternative documentation that meets the criteria as described above under the section “What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances.”)

NOTE: For loans under **rehabilitation agreements**, if a borrower has made payment arrangements with the school for the purposes of rehabilitating a loan, the agreement must be attached to the supporting documentation for that loan submission in order for the Department to honor such agreement.

NOTE: For loans pending **bankruptcy**, if a liquidating school receives notification that a bankruptcy petition has been filed prior to the time the school submits the loan to the Department under liquidation, this would result in an automatic rejection from the Department, therefore, the loan packet needs to be identified and the school must follow the instructions under the section above titled, Bankruptcy Information (if applicable).

Mailing Instructions

Loan assignment packages should be double-packaged for protection and must be sent by SECURED MAIL (registered or certified, return receipt) to the Federal Perkins Loan Servicer (ECSI) at the below address. All paper documents required for the assignment process (e.g., original promissory notes, and if paper process—completed assignment forms, submission package manifest) **MUST** be included and in alphabetical order.

Send by registered or certified mail to:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
1200 Cherrington Parkway, Suite 200
Moon Township, PA 15108

How to Find Out the Status of Assignment?

Loans Accepted for Assignment

When manual paper assignments are accepted, the institution will receive a document identified as “**Perkins Load Database Report**” (**Acceptance Report or notice**) via email. The Acceptance Report is sent securely as an attachment from the email address productionprocessing@efpls.ed.gov. The subject line of the email is “Acceptance Report” and the body states that the attached is the acceptance report for date of batch submission. A password is sent from the same email address separately in order to open the reports. This report provides borrower identification information, school identification information, and outstanding principal, interest and fees accepted for assignment by the Department. This is the official Acceptance Report notice and should be retained in the school's records. It is also important to ensure that schools that utilized a third-party servicer to complete monthly reporting to NSLDS be provided a copy of this information to properly update its system as well as make the reporting updates to NSLDS. Please refer to the section below regarding Loan Payments Received after Loan Assignment and how to process the payments.

Hard copies of the acceptance notifications (Perkins Load Database Reports) may be sent to the school's address provided in the school's program participation agreement. The institution should ensure that its mail distribution staff becomes familiar with these notices and the offices to which they should be distributed.

NOTE: Schools that use PLAS for electronic submission can access information about accepted and rejected assignments through PLAS. These reports can be viewed on-line or printed from PLAS.

Loans Rejected for Assignment

For Perkins Loans rejected for assignment, the Department will provide the school with the reason(s) for rejection; if the school can resolve the issue(s) it may resubmit the loan for assignment. For most problems, this process may enable a school to correct the deficiencies and resubmit the rejected loans. The Department will work with the school to assist in resolving issues if possible. If it is not possible to resolve an issue, the loan may have to be purchased by the school.

What to Do About Loan Payments Received after Loan Assignment?

Before loan has been accepted

If the loan has been submitted but not yet accepted by the Department and the school receives a payment, the school or its servicer should deposit the funds immediately into its Perkins Program Fund and await official notification of acceptance. As soon as possible after the school receives notification of acceptance of the loan, the institution must issue a check to the Department, including the borrower's full name, Social Security Number, and the type of loan and loan period to which the payment is to be applied so that the borrower records can be updated to reflect payment.

After loan has been accepted

Loan payments a school or its servicer receives from a borrower after the borrower's loan has been submitted to the Department for assignment and accepted by the Department are not to be sent to the Department through G6. These borrower payments must be forwarded to the Department's Federal Perkins Loan Servicer. Any payment the school or its servicer receives from a borrower after the borrower's account has been submitted to the Department for assignment and accepted by the Department, must be forwarded by secured mail (registered or certified, return receipt) as soon as possible, to:

U.S. Department of Education
ECSE Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
P.O. Box 6200-31
Portland, OR 97228

Courier services do not deliver to postal boxes. Each payment submission must clearly identify the borrower's full name, Social Security Number, and the type of loan to which the payment is to be applied.

Once an account is submitted for assignment, it becomes the property of the Department and will only be returned to the institution if the loan is rejected for assignment. Therefore, an institution should not contact the Department to request the return of a submission because a borrower has made a payment to the institution.

Collection Fees

Collection agency fees are not permitted to be deducted from payments received after account submission to the Department. These fees are the sole responsibility of the institution and may not be charged to the program Fund. The entire borrower payment must be forwarded to the Department.

Additional Important Assignment Information

Loan Balance of Less than \$25

An account may not be assigned to the Department if the total amount outstanding is less than \$25, unless the borrower has more than one loan (NDSL, Defense, Federal Perkins) that, when combined, total \$25 or more. The following are special instructions for assigning loans of different types of less than \$25 that, when combined, equal at least \$25:

- Complete the Borrower and Loan Information page of the Perkins Assignment Form for each

- loan,
- Package all loans (or supporting documentation for loans submitted electronically) for that borrower together, and
- Include a clarifying statement explaining that the combination of loans being assigned is equal to or greater than \$25.

Borrower with more than one loan to assign

If a borrower has more than one loan being assigned, separate supporting documentation must be included for each loan. To expedite the review process and reduce the number of rejected assignments, the title of each required document in the assignment package (except for the original promissory note and the Perkins Assignment Form) should be included at the top of each document.

Items being submitted that require clarification

If there are items in the assignment submission package that need clarification or justification (for example, the school made a disbursement after the date the borrower ceased to be enrolled at least half-time), a written explanation should be included with that loan's documentation. Explanations concerning missing or defective promissory notes require approval by the Department see What to do if you have missing or defective documentation or other extenuating circumstances section above in this document.

Who to Contact with Assignment Questions?

Issues with Specific Assignments

Questions pertaining to the status of your assignment submissions, or the correction of pending submissions, may be directed to:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer

Phone: 1-844-301-2620

Email: productionprocessing@efpls.ed.gov

To Check on Assignments Submitted

For an account that was submitted more than 60 days previously and a determination has yet to be received, the school should email productionprocessing@efpls.ed.gov. The email must include the student(s) name(s) and Social Security Number(s) in an encrypted file and should include the school's Name and OPEID.

UPDATE NSLDS THROUGHOUT ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Under provisions of the Higher Education Act, the Department's regulations, and related guidance, schools are required to confirm and report the enrollment status of students who receive Federal Perkins Loans (Perkins). It is a school's responsibility to ensure the required reporting to NSLDS (which includes Perkins Loan account detail) is completed on time and accurately. A school must complete its NSLDS reporting requirements in accordance with the instructions in the NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Guide and the Perkins Data Provider Instructions. Schools that utilize a third-party servicer for billing, collecting, and reporting should communicate these requirements to its servicer and provide a copy of this Guide. For the purposes of Perkins liquidation and closeout, schools must ensure that all outstanding Perkins Loans are properly accounted for and updated in NSLDS—NSLDS must reflect that all borrower loan accounts for a liquidating school are retired, accepted for assignment by the Department, or purchased by the school.

Reminders for NSLDS Reporting

- **Follow Data Provider Instructions:** NSLDS reporting instructions and all NSLDS reporting requirements are detailed in the latest NSLDS Federal Perkins Data Provider Instructions and Appendices found on the [NSLDS User Resources page](#) on the Knowledge Center.
- **Review Monthly Reporting and Process Error File Corrections Each Month:** All loans must be accurately reported to NSLDS on the monthly submittal date provided for the school; review the **Perkins Loan Load Error File** delivered over SAIG in the message class, SLDERROP, which contains the details of any records that failed the NSLDS Load Validation Process; and correct the error conditions identified on the **Perkins Loan Load Error File** before creating the next monthly Extract File. Errors must be resolved and not rolled forward month after month.
- **Reconcile NSLDS with Servicer Records:** NSLDS needs to accurately reflect a school's Perkins loan portfolio. The loans in the servicer's records for each school must match NSLDS loan-for-loan, and the loans should have the same statuses and balances. Consequently, if NSLDS is not in agreement with the servicer's records, the school/servicer must determine the reason for each discrepancy and resolve the issues.
- **Transfer Code to be added after Loan is Officially Accepted for Assignment:** Servicers must wait until a loan is officially accepted for assignment by the Department before coding the loan with the transfer code (AE) as the Perkins loan status. When a loan is accepted for assignment by the Department (see *Loans Accepted for Assignment* section above), the loan needs to be updated in NSLDS with a specific transfer code (AE) by the existing loan holder to release it so the new loan holder can begin reporting on it. The AE transfer/loan status code puts the loan in a pending transfer status. Frequently, Perkins third-party servicers will prematurely code loans with the transfer/loan status code when the loan is submitted but not officially accepted by the Department for assignment. If a loan is not accepted by the Department, the loan remains in NSLDS in that pending status and still held by the school. **NOTE:** A loan should **not** be coded with the transfer code when it is **submitted** for assignment, only when it is officially **accepted** for assignment by the Department. See *Loans Accepted for Assignment* section above for details on official notification of acceptance.
- **Correctly Code School-Purchased Loans:** Loans that are purchased by the school must be reported to NSLDS and be coded with the loan status of UD or UC. School-purchased loans should not be coded as paid in full (PF) or any other status code other than UD or UC. (The servicer must wait until the school advises them to code loans as purchased by the school before doing so.)
- **Cease Reporting on School-Purchased Loans:** Once a loan status is successfully reported to NSLDS and accepted with UD or UC, the loan must not be reported on again. This applies to ALL loans that have a UD or UC loan status code regardless of whether the school or its servicer reported the UD or UC loan status or if the loan was reported as UD or UC by some other data provider. ANYTIME a loan has been reported and accepted on NSLDS with the UD or UC loan status code, the school or its servicer must not report on it anymore.
- **Report Loans with Closed Status as a \$0 Balance:** When a closed loan status is reported for a loan, the outstanding principal balance must be reported as \$0. Please see the Perkins DPI appendix B, Table B-2 for open/closed reporting balance requirements.
- **Duplicate Loans:** Schools/servicers should take great care not to create duplicate loans in NSLDS and should routinely check NSLDS to ensure that duplicates do not exist. (Duplicates can occur when loans are reported with incorrect borrower or loan information, or when a loan amount

is found to be in error and a new loan is created for the correct amount without cancelling or correcting the incorrect loan. **When loans are assigned to the Department, duplicate loan records can be created by different data providers responsible for reporting to NSLDS if the loan information on the assignment form does not match the loan information currently residing on the NSLDS system.** NOTE: Refer to the Reconciliation section earlier in this Part for further information on utilization of NSLDS system reports to assist your school with identifying duplicate loan records.

- **‘Assigned’ in School’s Servicer System:** If a school’s servicer updates a loan in its own servicing system as “assigned” when the loan is first submitted for assignment to the Department, the servicer should be sure to change the “assigned” status if the loan ends up not being accepted by the Department for assignment. For Perkins Loans rejected for assignment, the Department will provide the school with the reason(s) for rejection; if the school can resolve the issue(s) it may resubmit the loan for assignment. For most problems, this process may enable a school to correct the deficiencies and resubmit the rejected loans. (If the deficiencies cannot be corrected and the loan is ultimately rejected, the school may be required to purchase the loan.)

Reporting Loans Accepted for Assignment

Once a loan is officially accepted for assignment, the school or its servicer must update the loan in NSLDS to show that it is “transferred for assignment”. This is done by using the transfer code “AE” in Field Code #263. (This will release the loan and enable the Department to pick it up and report on it.)

When reporting loans as transferred to the Department with a loan status code of “AE”, the Date of Loan Status field (Field Code #262) should match the loan “certification date” used on the assignment form (Certification, Section B, Item 12) for the loan when it was submitted to the Department for assignment using the paper form. For schools using PLAS, this date would be the date the submission was made electronically.

IMPORTANT: Once the loan is reported with the “AE” transfer loan status code, the school or its third party servicer should not report on that same loan again.

A note about the transfer process in NSLDS: Although the loan transfer code uses the loan status code field (Field Code #263) on the data provider’s Database Extract File, this is NOT a valid loan status code and does not update the loan status code fields in NSLDS. Instead, it indicates that the loan was assigned, accepted, and is now in transit to the Department. The loan is officially transferred when the Department’s servicer successfully reports on the loan. If the previous data provider (the school or its third party servicer) reports the loan with a non-transfer loan status before the Department reports on the loan, NSLDS will assume that the transfer request was incorrect, and the loan would be retained by the previous data provider (the school or its third party servicer).

It is both the “AE” transfer loan status code with the correct “certification date” as designated on the assignment form as the Date of Loan Status, that when reported correctly during the update to NSLDS, allows for a seamless transfer of the loan from the school to the Department. Once notified of successful reporting, the school or its servicer must stop reporting the loan to NSLDS. Whoever does the reporting to NSLDS on behalf of the school should be familiar with these reporting requirements as well as the Perkins Data Provider Instructions posted on the [NSLDS User Resources page](#) on the Knowledge Center to ensure any errors that are reported are being corrected by the originating data provider.

Reporting Loans Purchased by the School

After the program Fund is reimbursed for any defaulted and/or non-defaulted unassignable loans that a school has purchased, the school must report these loans to NSLDS as “UC” (Non-defaulted Loan Purchased by School) or “UD” (Defaulted Loan Purchased by School). These status codes would be

reported in the Loan Status field (Field Code #263).

STEP 3: PURCHASE LOANS (if applicable) & SUBMIT CASH ON HAND (Intent and Closeout Form Phase 3 in COD)

After all assignments have been accepted and updates to NSLDS are complete, the Department records the total outstanding principal balance (OPB) plus any calculated interest required to purchase loans not assigned or rejected for assignment (if applicable). If there are no loans to be considered as a liability or the school has already accounted for purchasing any loans by adding cash to its Perkins Fund (deposited in bank account), the Department must first enter \$0 allowing the school to proceed in entering and submitting the Current Cash on Hand balance of its Perkins Fund to the Department through Phase 3 in COD.

A school will be required to purchase loans that the Department will not accept for assignment or that are unassignable to the Department due to lack of required documentation. Whether your school has loans that it must purchase or not, it must log into COD and navigate to Phase 3 of the Perkins Intent and Closeout Form to enter and submit its final cash balance of its Perkins Fund.

When is a school required to purchase loans?

The Department will not accept a loan for assignment if the promissory note is missing, unsigned (see exception for using a “Certified True Copy” under Missing Promissory section above) or could not provide acceptable, alternative documentation to the Department. All loans rejected for assignment by the Department will be returned and the school will be required to purchase this loan.

How does a school purchase loans?

Schools do NOT send funds to the Department to purchase Perkins loans. Schools purchase loans by depositing funds into the school’s own Perkins Fund account to be proportionally divided and distributed later during the annual Distribution of Assets process (or, in the case of a liquidating school, at the time the school liquidates its Perkins Fund).

If a liquidating school has not already deposited the funds needed to purchase unassignable loans into its Perkins Fund by the time it has finished assigning all other loans, the cost to purchase the unassignable loans will be included in the calculation of the school’s final cash asset.

CFR 34, Section 674.50(g) of the Federal Perkins Loan Program regulations requires that the school reimburse its Perkins Loan Revolving Fund for the entire portion of the outstanding principal balance (OPB) plus any accrued interest on a loan the Department determines is unenforceable. Do not send payment directly to the Department. Once the assignment of the outstanding portfolio to the Department is completed, the Federal portion of the total remaining cash asset must be calculated and will be required to be paid to the Department.

Any open loans that cannot be assigned for which the OPB plus interest was not previously reimbursed to the Fund and not reported previously on the FISAP as part of the school’s cash on hand amount will be assessed by the Department.

This assessed amount for the OPB plus interest must be included as part of the total cash asset during Phase 3 of the Intent and Closeout Form, which is the part of the online Perkins liquidation and closeout process within COD. Before a school updates any loan records in NSLDS to “purchased”, the Department will need to know the school is purchasing loans not yet reported as purchased, so the Department can

obtain the list of purchased loans from NSLDS prior to the update of the loan records. Once assignment of the portfolio is complete, the Federal share of the remaining program Fund will be calculated. Phase 3 of the online Intent and Closeout Form calculates the capital distribution of the remaining cash asset (the Federal and institutional shares of final cash), which would include any assessed liability for unassignable loans. The school will be required to pay the Federal share to the Department. See next step below for further detail.

Reporting school-purchased loans on the FISAP

A school reports school-purchased loans on its FISAP in Part III, Section A the same as it would report funds it received from a borrower's repayment of a loan balance. The amount deposited into the program Fund to purchase the loans is reported in cash-on-hand (Field 1.1 or 1.2). The portion of the total cash deposited that is principal is reported as loan principal collected (Field 5) and the portion that is interest is reported as interest income on loans (Field 31).

Reporting school-purchased loans on NSLDS

Once a loan has been purchased by the school, the Department transfers all of its rights, title and interest in the loan to the school for its own account. School purchased loans must also be properly updated on NSLDS. See section above on NSLDS reporting for further detail.

Please note: The current cash on hand amount entered into Phase 3 should not include any cash the school is holding in its Fund that was received from borrowers while their loans were pending assignment.

STEP 4: REMIT THE FEDERAL SHARE TO THE DEPARTMENT

If your school is required to repay a Federal share of its Perkins Loan Revolving Fund, the amount required and the instructions for repayment are provided in an official automated **Federal Share Owed letter**. The **Federal Share Owed letter** will be emailed to the school and posted on the school's Perkins Liquidation page on COD once the school enters and submits its current cash on hand balance into Phase 3 of the Intent and Closeout Form.

Returning the Federal Share to the Department

The U.S. Department of Treasury has mandated that all federal government agencies convert to using electronic payments. As a result, the Department will no longer accept checks. Any federal share of remaining capital should be refunded electronically via G6 (<http://g6.ed.gov/>), using the G6 Miscellaneous Refunds option. For specific guidance or for other options for returning Perkins Loan funds to the Department, refer to the "**Returning Perkins Funds**" instructions on the Campus-Based Processing Information **page** on the Knowledge Center. **NOTE:** Borrower payments are not to be sent to the Department through G6. Borrower payments must be forwarded to the Department's Federal Perkins Loan Servicer.

Calculation of Federal Share Amount

Schools can now refer to their latest submitted FISAP for the calculation of the federal and institutional shares that make up a school's Perkins Fund as each school's capital contribution shares are different. See Part III, Section F "Contributions to the Perkins Fund to find the federal share percentage of total net capital contributions" from the most recent submitted FISAP for calculated ratios.

How to estimate the Federal Share Amount

A school may **estimate** its federal share amount due by multiplying the “Federal share percentage of total net capital contributions” by the estimated total final cash asset. The total cash asset would be whatever the cash balance is in the Perkins account plus, if applicable, the total outstanding principal balance plus interest on loans that were not able to be assigned successfully to the Department. **NOTE:** Schools must utilize the Automated Federal - Institutional Distributional Share Calculator online in COD for the official federal share amount due. See Step 3 above.

STEP 5: SUBMIT FINAL FISAP DATA (Intent and Closeout Form Phase 4 in COD)

A school must submit final FISAP data. A school must continue to file its FISAP annually until all “final” activity has been reported. Final activity consists of assigning any remaining loans with outstanding balances to the Department or reimbursing the Fund for the purchase of any loans that are not accepted by the Department, and the distribution of the final Fund capital (current cash) has been made. **Schools that have yet to receive an Official Liquidation Completion letter from the Department must report Perkins data on their annual FISAP by the deadline.** Schools may be directed to report final FISAP data using Phase 4 of the Intent and Closeout Form, which is part of the online Perkins Liquidation process in the COD System.

Phase 4 of the online Intent and Closeout Form allows a school to submit final FISAP data at any point following completion of the final liquidation steps or activity, e.g., assigning and/or purchasing loans, distribution of final Fund capital and repayment of federal share of funds. Schools no longer have to wait to submit a complete FISAP to complete the process of liquidation if this is the only step left in order to finish the process and receive an official Liquidation Completion letter. By entering final data in Phase 4 of the Perkins Closeout Form, the school affirms that all Perkins Loans have been accounted for—**fully retired, purchased, or assigned**. The school also affirms that any remaining cash was properly repaid to the Department and to the school and that its Perkins Fund has been closed.

The On-line Intent and Closeout Form uses the same information as the FISAP, Part III, Section A or C.

1.1. Latest Cash on Hand in depository: By completing Phase 4, a school attests to the fact that any final capital has been distributed (federal and institutional shares removed and returned) and the Perkins Loan Revolving Fund is closed (this block is not editable).

28.3. Total FCC offset (repayments of FCC plus amount retained by school as reimbursement for cancellations): Report the CUMULATIVE amount (federal share) repaid to the federal government as distribution of excess or liquidated fund capital—through the submission of this data. For example, any final amount paid as required by the Federal Share Owed letter would be added to the amount reported on the most recently submitted FISAP in Section A, Field 28.3 (Repayments of fund capital to federal government), increasing the total and final amount being reported to the Department.

30.3 Repayments of fund capital to school: Report the CUMULATIVE amount distributed to the institution as excess or liquidated fund capital—through the submission of this data. For example, any final amount paid from the Fund to the institution would be added to the amount reported on the most recently submitted FISAP in Section A, Field 30.3 (Repayments of fund capital to the school), increasing the total and final amount being reported to the Department.

1. Borrowers whose loans are fully retired (including those purchased by school): Number of Borrowers column: Report the unduplicated, CUMULATIVE number of all past borrowers who, as of the submission of this data, have completely repaid their loans or had them canceled. Include:

- any write-off accounts with balances of less than \$25 (or less than \$50 if the borrower has been billed for two years),
- any loans discharged because the borrower was unable to complete a program in which he or she was enrolled due to the school's closing, and
- any loans purchased by the school because the loans were deemed unenforceable by the Department and were rejected for assignment

Amount Lent column: Report the total dollar amount lent to those borrowers.

1.2 **Amount of loans that have been purchased:** Of the loans included in 1 as fully retired, report the outstanding principal balance, all interest due, and any collection fees due on all loans you submitted for assignment that were not accepted and for which your school reimbursed the Fund, under Principal Amount column.

2. Borrowers whose loans were assigned and officially accepted by US Department of Education:

Report the total principal amount outstanding when the loans were assigned to and accepted by the Department. DO NOT include any unpaid penalty/late charges assessed the borrower on any loans assigned to the Department. Any payment your school might have received from such a borrower after the Department's acceptance of the assigned loan is not to be reflected in this report

STEP 6: PERKINS CLOSEOUT AUDIT

A Perkins closeout audit is required as part of the liquidation process. The school must schedule the Perkins closeout audit and provide a copy of the audit to the Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team when completed.

Brief Overview of the Perkins Audit Requirement

- Not-for-profit schools that qualify and report annually under the Single Audit Act, commonly referred to as the OMB A-133 audit, may elect not to have an independent Perkins audit done, and instead include the Perkins closeout audit with the school's regular annual compliance audit.
 - The Perkins Loan liquidation audit requirement is included in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement. The OMB Circular A-133 provides Single Audit guidance for Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Non-Profit Organizations and Part 5, Clusters of Programs includes Federal Perkins Loan Liquidation. For further information, visit the [Office of Management and Budget's website](#) for OMB circulars.
 - A school's auditors should be told that the Perkins closeout audit must be completed with the annual compliance audit to satisfy this requirement for closeout of Perkins
- Schools that do not report under the Single Audit Act must submit a letter of engagement for an independent audit within 45 days after the school ends participation in the Perkins program.
- A copy of the completed audit is to be emailed to the school's point of contact for the liquidation process at the Department or it can be emailed to perkinsliquid@ed.gov no later than 90 days after the school ends participation in the Perkins program. Schools that report under the Single Audit Act should submit with your next scheduled audit.

General Audit Requirements

34 CFR, Section 668.26 requires that a school submit a letter of engagement for an independent audit of all funds that the school received under the program to the Secretary within 45 days after the school's participation ends. A school's participation in the Perkins Loan Program is considered to have ended

once all outstanding loans in its portfolio have been fully retired, assigned and accepted by the Department, or purchased. The engagement for the independent audit shall include the requirements prescribed in this step of the liquidation procedures. The results of the Perkins Program Closeout Audit (closeout audit) must be submitted to the Department once a report is finalized. Institutions that are liquidating their Perkins Loan portfolio and program Fund must account for the program funds as outlined under these procedures.

Schools that qualify and report annually under the Single Audit Act, commonly referred to as the OMB A-133 audit, should consult with their auditor and refer to the information contained in the OMB Circular A-133 Single Audit guidance for Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Non-Profit Organizations and Part 5, Clusters of Programs includes Federal Perkins Loan Liquidation.

Specific Audit Requirements

The auditor will verify the information below and determine whether the institution has properly performed its end-of-participation responsibilities for the Perkins Loan Program. The results must be forwarded to the Department in a written report.

For an institution that ends its participation in the Perkins Loan Program, the institution is responsible for returning any unspent funds (34 CFR Section 668.14(b)(25)) and is required to perform the following end-of-participation procedures:

- a) notify the Department via COD of the intent to stop participating in Perkins (34 CFR Section 668.26(b)(1));
- b) purchase any outstanding loans left in its Perkins portfolios or assign them to the Department (34 CFR Sections 674.8(d), 674.17(a)(2), and 674.45(d)(2));
- c) inform the Department of how the institution will provide for the collection of any outstanding loans made under the program (34 CFR section 668.26(b)(4)); and
- d) maintain program and fiscal records of all Perkins funds since the most recent Fiscal Operations Report (FISAP) was submitted and reconcile this information at least monthly (34 CFR Section 674.19(d)).

AUDIT REPORT

Timing

The closeout audit report should be submitted to the Department within **90 days** of the end of the school's participation in the program. A school's participation is considered to have ended once all outstanding loans in its portfolio have been fully retired, assigned and accepted by the Department, or purchased. This time frame permits 45 days for the school to engage an independent auditor and an additional 45 days for preparation and submission of the audit report.

Schools that qualify and report annually under the Single Audit Act are not subject to the 90-day deadline if their audit is scheduled to take place at a later date. **However, schools should communicate to their auditors that they are liquidating and discontinuing their participation in the Federal Perkins Loan Program and will be required to provide a closeout audit.**

Reporting Program Activity

The audit report shall cover the school's Perkins program activities when it ends its participation in the program; in most cases this would be since the school's last reported FISAP and through the completed liquidation of its Perkins Loan portfolio and program Fund. The objective is to determine whether the school has properly performed end-of-participation procedures.

During the audit process, the auditor should verify that the institution has:

1. either purchased or assigned to the Department any Perkins Loans with outstanding balances;
2. purchased any outstanding, unassignable loans;
3. informed the Department of how the institution will provide for the collection of the outstanding school purchased loans made under the program;
4. maintained program and fiscal records for all transactions that occurred after the most recent FISAP was filed and reconciled the following information:
 - a. All loans for the total number of borrowers that make up the portfolio have been accounted for. This includes:
 - i. Retired loans, including loans purchased
 - ii. Loans assigned to the Department, including validation of the computed accumulated interest charged on the loans
 - b. Teacher, service, and other loan cancellation data in Section A and all of the data in Section C of Part III of the school's latest submitted FISAP
 - c. The Federal Capital Contribution (FCC)
 - d. The Institutional Capital Contribution (ICC)
 - e. Overall cash on hand or excess cash amounts. This overall cash on hand amount could include payment to the Fund for any loans the school has purchased.

IMPORTANT: Any data found to be inaccurate on the latest submitted FISAP must be corrected and re-submitted to the Department. The school can submit a change request through COD indicating it needs to amend the FISAP data for the purposes of liquidation

SFA Audit Guide

The SFA Audit Guide and subsequent procedures and letters providing further guidance can be found on the [Office of Inspector General's website](#).

Audit Report Submission

A school must send an electronic (.pdf) copy of the closeout audit or portion that contains the required Perkins closeout information to the school's Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team point of contact or to perkinsliquid@ed.gov. The subject of the email notification should include the name of the school and OPEID number.

OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION COMPLETION LETTER

Once the liquidation and closeout requirements are satisfied, an official letter of approval for liquidation completion and closeout will be issued to the school. The letter will be posted to the school's "Perkins Liquidation" page in COD. A school's Perkins Loan portfolio and program Fund is not considered liquidated until the school has received an official letter of completion from the Department.

Perkins Loan Liquidation Steps Checklist

There are several steps involved in the process of liquidation. The steps in the process are also tied to four phases in the Intent and Closeout Form, which is the Perkins Liquidation online process in COD. Steps that are tied to the online process in COD are identified below by the green dots. For further detail and process flow, refer to Appendix B: *Quick Reference Guide to Liquidation Process and Data Entry Details for COD*.

<p>STEP 1: REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS of INTENT to LIQUIDATE (<i>Intent and Closeout Form Phase 1</i>) First, submit the school's intent to liquidate using the electronic Intent and Close-out Form in COD. Next, notify your third-party servicer (if applicable) of your intent to liquidate; recall all loans from any outside firms that your school contracts with for billing, collection, litigation, and credit bureau reporting. Send notification of assignment to all borrowers with outstanding Perkins Loans. NOTE: Your Third-Party Servicer may be contracted to provide notification so be sure to verify with servicer.</p>	●
<p>STEP 2: ASSIGN PERKINS LOANS & UPDATE NSLDS Assign all outstanding Perkins loans to the Department either manually by paper or electronically by using the Department's Perkins Loan Assignment System (PLAS). Ensure all loans have been properly updated on NSLDS throughout the assignment process. NOTE: The next Phase of the online Intent and Closeout Form in COD (Phase 3) is not accessible to schools until FSA has reviewed progress of assignments and NSLDS reporting. See next step.</p>	
<p>STEP 3: PURCHASE LOANS (<i>If applicable</i>) & SUBMIT CASH ON HAND (<i>Intent and Closeout Form Phase 3 - Automated Federal - Institutional Distributional Share Calculator</i>) Once all loans are assigned, complete Phase 3 of the Intent and Close-out Form by entering the school's current cash on hand balance. As part of the Phase 3 in COD, any liability (purchased loans) will be calculated and entered into the Perkins closeout form by FSA if not already accounted for and remitted to the school's current cash on hand amount. FSA must enter an amount or \$0 prior to Phase 3 being open to the school allowing it to enter cash on hand. The system calculates this distribution of the final capital and communicates the Federal share amount owed to the Department.</p>	●
<p>STEP 4: REMIT THE FEDERAL SHARE TO THE DEPARTMENT Remit the Federal share owed to the Department. If your school is required to repay a Federal share of its Perkins Fund, the amount required from the school and the instructions for repayment are provided in the Federal Share Owed letter posted on the school's Perkins Liquidation page.</p>	●
<p>STEP 5: FINAL FISAP DATA (<i>Online COD: 5. Intent and Closeout Form Phase 4</i>) Once you have remitted the Federal share owed to the Department, complete Phase 4 of the Intent and Closeout Form by entering FISAP data that reflects the final close-out activities; this includes the cumulative repayment of fund capital to the Federal government, the cumulative repayment of fund capital to the school, the final cash on hand balance (which should be zero after the Federal/institutional split of the fund occurs), and the final, cumulative loan totals as indicated on the form. NOTE: Phase 4 will in COD will not open until receipt of Federal Share has been shown in COD.</p>	●
<p>STEP 6: PERKINS CLOSEOUT AUDIT The school must schedule the Perkins closeout audit and provide a copy of the audit report to the Department.</p>	●
<p>OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION COMPLETION LETTER When liquidation is complete, your school will receive an official Perkins Liquidation Complete Letter from the Department which will also be posted to the Perkins Liquidation Page on COD.</p>	

APPENDIX A: Contact Information

Borrower Contact Information

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer Borrower Contact Information

Borrower Payments should be mailed to:

U.S. Department of Education
ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
P.O. Box 6200-31
Portland, OR 97228

The Borrower Customer Service telephone number is 1-866-313-3797.

Borrowers wishing to satisfy their debts once their loans have been accepted for assignment should contact the Department's Borrower Customer Service Center.

Borrower Correspondence should be mailed to:

U.S. Department of Education
ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
P.O. Box 836
Moon Township, PA 15108

School Contact Information

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer School Contact Information

The School Customer Service telephone number is 1-866-313-4130.

The School Customer Service email address is clientsupport@efpls.ed.gov.

Address:

ECSI Federal Perkins Loan Servicer
1200 Cherrington Parkway, Suite 200
Moon Township, PA 15108

Perkins Loan Assignment System (PLAS) User Guide

Visit <https://efpls.ed.gov/PLAS/> to view or download the PLAS User Guide.

Perkins Loans and General Questions

Questions regarding the student financial aid award process, or questions concerning the management of student loans not held by the Department, should be directed either in writing or by phone to the School Participation Team serving your region.

Closed School Procedures

Questions concerning closed school procedures should be directed to the appropriate School Participation Team serving your region. Note that any closing school that holds a Perkins portfolio and Fund must liquidate by following the procedures outlined in this document.

Discrepancies between School Data and Department Data

The appropriate Federal Loan Servicer, e.g., ECSI, Debt Management and Collection System (DMCS) or

Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) Discharge servicer NelNet, should be contacted to resolve any discrepancies between institutional records and those of the Department pertaining to accounts that have already been assigned to the Department and accepted. This includes corrections to acceptance notices, bankruptcy notices, and any other general information on accepted accounts that an institution wishes to forward.

More specific questions pertaining to the procedures for assignment of accounts set forth in this document can be directed to: clientsupport@efpls.ed.gov.

Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP)

For questions about the FISAP form, contact the COD School Relations Center at 1-800-848-0978, or by email at CODSupport@ed.gov.

Perkins Loan Program Liquidation

For general questions about Perkins Loan Program Liquidation, contact the COD School Relations Center at 1-800-848-0978 or by contacting the Perkins Loan Portfolio and Liquidation Team at perkinsliquid@ed.gov.

Total and Permanent Disability Assignments

See the Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Assignment Guide for Instructions on Submitting Assignments of Perkins Loans to the Disability Servicer which can be found on the [Campus-Based Processing Information page](#) on the Knowledge Center.

All total and permanent disability (TPD) assignments should be sent to:

U.S. Department of Education
121 South 13th Street, Suite 201
Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 1-888-303-7818

APPENDIX B: Quick Reference Guide to Liquidation Process and Data Entry Details for COD Web

Appendix B is a “**quick guide**” to the liquidation process and data entry details for COD. It provides an overview of the different steps under the Perkins liquidation process and explains how schools’ use the functionality of the Perkins Liquidation web pages in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) website and associated phases of the online Intent and Closeout Form to complete each step of the liquidation process.

Schools access the Perkins Liquidation information and process through the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) website using their normal login procedures with COD User ID, Password, and Two-Factor Authentication.

Access

To access the Perkins Liquidation page in the COD website

- Log in to the COD website (<https://cod.ed.gov>)
- From the School tab, select Campus-Based Syst link from the left navigation menu
- Select Perkins Liquidation

The Perkins Liquidation Home Page

- provides a high-level explanation of the four phases of the Intent and Closeout Form and associated steps involved for a school to liquidate its Federal Perkins Loan Program portfolio and Fund
- provides active links to the Assignment and Liquidation Guide on the Knowledge Center allows schools to begin and follow through the process of liquidation
- is where official notifications can be found on liquidation

With each high-level step associated with the phases of the online Intent and Closeout Form, the system provides a visual representation of a school’s place in the process by indicating what is pending and what has been completed. In some phases, there is more than one step involved in completing that phase of the process. Some of the phases depend upon internal action to take n order must be opened within the system by FSA in order for a school to proceed

Phase 1. Intent and Closeout Form

When a school either decides or is required to liquidate its Federal Perkins Loan portfolio and Fund, the first step confirms its intent to liquidate to the Department electronically through the COD System. To start, click the “Begin Liquidation Process” button.

When a school clicks the “Begin Liquidation Process” button, a confirmation message is displayed. Clicking “Confirm Intent” confirms and submits the school’s intent to liquidate. Clicking “Cancel” returns users to the Perkins Liquidation homepage. Once the Intent to Liquidate is submitted, a timestamp is displayed with the user ID, the date and time that the Intent was submitted. A confirmation email is sent to the Financial Aid Administrator and Phases 2 and 3 of the form are displayed to the user.

Phase 2. Latest Reported FISAP Data

Phase 2 of the Intent and Closeout Form displays data from the school’s most recently submitted FISAP.

This section indicates the actual data from the FISAP that is used. If a school completes a change

request to correct any of its data on its most recently submitted FISAP or submits another annual FISAP, the new data will appear here in Phase 2.

NOTE: There is no action taken in Phase 2. Data is never submitted directly into Phase 2 of the Intent and Closeout Form. If the data displayed is incorrect, it must be corrected on the FISAP.

Phase 3. Automated Federal-Institutional Distributional Share Calculation

The Department monitors each school's progress in completing the Perkins Loan assignment process which includes the important steps of updating or reporting Perkins records to NSLDS. It is very important that schools communicate with their Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team point of contact at this step, or at the point which the school has finished assigning all the outstanding loans in its portfolio and updating NSLDS data. If your school does not know the Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team point of contact, you can send an email to perkinsliquid@ed.gov.

After all assignments have been accepted and updates to NSLDS are complete, the Department records the total outstanding principal balance (OPB) plus any calculated interest required to purchase loans not assigned or rejected for assignment (if applicable). If there are no loans to be considered as a liability or the school has already accounted for purchasing any loans by adding cash to its Perkins Fund, the Department will enter \$0 allowing the school to proceed to the next step in this phase of the process. This next step requires the school to enter and submit the Current Cash on Hand balance of its Perkins Fund.

Data entry on the closeout form is the same as when a school completes its FISAP. Schools cannot enter commas or decimal points; when entering a dollar amount, use whole dollars only, rounding to the nearest dollar. For example, report \$175 if the actual amount in your records is \$175.49. Report \$176 if the actual amount in your records is \$175.50.

The amount entered in the Current Cash on Hand Balance is checked against the previously reported Cash on Hand on the FISAP. If the amount is significantly less than previously reported, an edit is displayed at the top of the screen, and you are required to provide an explanation in the text box which is then displayed at the bottom of the Phase 3 section of the form.

NOTE: The character limit for the explanation is 3000 characters including spaces. If the explanation exceeds the character limit, the explanation is not saved, and the edit does not allow the entry for the Current Cash on Hand balance.

Upon entering the explanation and clicking the Submit button, a confirmation box is displayed. A school confirms the explanation and proceeds by clicking Yes, clicking No returns to the edit and explanation.

Once confirmed, the submission of the Current Cash on Hand is logged in the system under the Self-Service page detailing the user ID and the date and time of the submission, the Federal Share Owed the U.S. Department of Education is calculated and displayed. Phase 4 is displayed but not yet opened for data entry.

If there is a Federal Share of Liquid Capital Owed, an automated email is sent to the school and an official letter communicating the amount of the Federal Share of Liquid Capital Owed and instructions for remitting payment to the Department is posted to the school's Perkins Liquidation status page under Notifications.

Phase 4. Final Closeout

If there is no amount owed to the Department, or a school's receipt of the amount owed has been verified, the fields in Phase 4 will be made available for data entry. Be certain to communicate with your point of contact on the Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team so you may be advised on final steps.

This phase allows a school to submit final FISAP data at any point once the final liquidation steps or repayment of final capital have been completed. Schools no longer have to wait to submit data on an annual FISAP to complete the process of liquidation. Your Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team point of contact can assist in explaining next steps (completing Phase 4 and/or Part III on your annual FISAP submission).

When a school submits its data in Phase 4, the school affirms that any remaining cash asset was properly repaid to the Department and to the school and that the Perkins Fund has been closed. Repayments of fund capital to federal government (line 28.3) and school (line 30.3) should include the previously reported amounts plus any additional final payments made as a result of liquidation and closeout. The school also enters and affirms that all Perkins Loans have been satisfied (fully retired, purchased, or assigned and accepted).

The following provides further instruction on completion for each line item in Phase 4. Each line number and instruction for completion below correlates to the line item and instruction provided on the FISAP:

1.1. Latest Cash on Hand in depository: By completing Phase 4, a school attests to the fact that any final capital has been distributed and none remains in the Fund and the account is closed (*this block is not editable*).

28.3. Repayments of fund capital to federal government: Report the CUMULATIVE amount (federal share) repaid to the federal government as distribution of excess or liquidated fund capital—*through the submission of this data*. For example, any final amount paid as required by the Federal Share Owed letter would be added to the amount reported on the most recently submitted FISAP in Section A, Field 28.3 (Repayments of fund capital to federal government), increasing the total and final amount being reported to the Department.

30.3 Repayments of fund capital to school: Report the CUMULATIVE amount distributed to the institution as excess or liquidated fund capital—*through the submission of this data*. For example, any final amount paid from the Fund to the institution would be added to the amount reported on the most recently submitted FISAP in Section A, Field 30.3 (Repayments of fund capital to the school), increasing the total and final amount being reported to the Department.

1. Borrowers whose loans are fully retired (including those purchased by school): Number of Borrowers column: Report the unduplicated, CUMULATIVE number of all past borrowers who, as of the submission of this data, have completely repaid their loans or had them canceled. Include:

- any write-off accounts with balances of less than \$25 (or less than \$50 if the borrower has been billed for two years),
- any loans discharged because the borrower was unable to complete a program in which he or she was enrolled due to the school's closing, and
- any school purchased loans because these loans were deemed unenforceable by the Department and were rejected for assignment.

Amount Lent column: Report the total dollar amount lent to those borrowers.

1.2 Amount of loans that have been purchased: Of the loans included in 1 as fully retired, report the outstanding principal balance, all interest due, and any collection fees due on all loans you submitted for assignment that were not accepted and for which your school reimbursed the Fund, *under Principal Amount column*.

2. Borrowers whose loans were assigned and officially accepted by US Department of Education: Report the total principal amount outstanding when the loans were assigned to and accepted by the Department. DO NOT include any unpaid penalty/late charges assessed the borrower on any loans assigned to the Department. Any payment your school might have received from such a borrower after

the Department's acceptance of the assigned loan is not to be reflected in this report.

Upon entering the data and clicking the Submit button, a confirmation box is displayed. A school confirms the data entry and proceeds by clicking yes; clicking no returns user to Phase 4 without submitting data.

Once confirmed, a timestamp is displayed at the bottom of the Phase 4 fields that indicates that the Final Closeout Report was submitted, the user ID, and the date and time of the submission.

Closeout Audit

The final requirement for the Federal Perkins Loan Program Liquidation is the closeout audit. Specific instructions regarding the audit are provided in the Perkins Assignment and Liquidation Guide under STEP 6: PERKINS CLOSEOUT AUDIT, on page 38.

It is important that a copy of the school's closeout audit be emailed to either the school's point of contact or to perkinsliquid@ed.gov. Upon receipt by the Perkins Portfolio and Liquidation Team, the closeout audit will be reviewed.

Completion

Once the Department validates that the Perkins Liquidation is complete, a completion status will be logged in COD. An email will be sent to the school stating that liquidation has been completed. When the process is complete, the Department's official Perkins Liquidation Letter of Completion can be found on the school's Perkins Liquidation page under Notifications.

APPENDIX C: Assignment at a Glance

Required for ALL loans

	MANUAL Assignment Submission	ELECTRONIC Assignment Submission (PLAS)
Assignment Form	Complete Federal Perkins Loan Program/NDSL Assignment Form (OMB 1845-0048). The form is in two parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete one Institutional Certification page for each assignment submission package. Complete one Borrower and Loan Information page for each loan. 	Complete Federal Perkins Loan Program/NDSL Assignment Form (OMB 1845-0048) information online: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An automated certification process is built into the on-line submission process. Complete Borrower and Loan Information for each loan. Can be done one-by-one by data entry, or in batches by batch file upload
Assignment Manifest	Create an assignment package manifest to be submitted with each assignment package. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A manifest listing the loans being submitted for assignment must accompany each assignment package. Please see Section C of the Institutional Certification page of the Perkins Assignment Form (OMB 1845-0048) for detailed instructions on the contents and format of the manifest. 	A manifest will be created for you by the system. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This manifest will need to be attached to the hard copy original or certified true copy promissory notes and any supporting documentation mailed to ECSI.
Original Promissory Note	Provide a hard copy original or certified true copy promissory note for each loan.	Promissory note may be uploaded electronically. However, the hard copy original or certified true copy promissory note must be mailed in as well.
Repayment Records	Provide a copy of the student's loan repayment record history with each loan.	Upload or mail a copy of the student's loan repayment record history with each loan.

Required ONLY for the circumstances noted

Disbursement Records	Disbursement records are only required when an MPN is used.
Bankruptcy Documents	Please see the Bankruptcy Information section for further details and documentation requirements for loans involved in bankruptcy.
Original Judgment Documents	ONLY required if a school has taken or initiated legal action against a borrower. See Judgment Information section for documentation details.

Missing Documentation (See Procedures for requesting approval for missing, defective documentation, or other extenuating circumstances)