

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Service

Public Health

and
Bureau of Health Professions
Administration

Health Resources

Services

Rockville MD

20857
DEC 1 1989

To: Schools and Lenders Participating in the Health
Education
Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program

Subject: Recent Changes in the Resident Alien Card
School Policy Memorandum # 17
Lender Policy Memorandum # 89-15

The Department recently learned from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that any Resident Alien Card (Form I-551) issued on or after August 1, 1989, includes an expiration date. For a permanent resident whose status is not conditional, the I-551 will expire 10 years from the date of issuance. A student with an I-551 which expires 10 years from the date of issuance is eligible for a HEAL loan, since the permanent resident status is not conditional.

For a permanent resident whose status is conditional, in accordance with provisions of the Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendments of 1986 (IMFA), the I-551 will expire 2 years from the date of issuance. At that time, the applicant will be required to meet conditions set forth in the IMFA to obtain a new I-551. A student with an I-551 which expires 2 years from the date of issuance continues to be ineligible for a HEAL loan, since this reflects a conditional permanent resident status.

Since all I-551s issued on or after August 1, 1989, have an expiration date, schools and lenders must check the Class Code indicated on the I-551 to determine whether a permanent resident is eligible for a HEAL loan. A Class Code of "CR", meaning Conditional Resident, indicates that the applicant is ineligible for a HEAL loan. Applicants with any other Class Code are eligible for a HEAL loan, provided that they meet the other eligibility requirements.

Please contact Ms. Terri Ehrenfeld or Mr. Glenn King of the
HEAL. Branch on 301 443-1540 if you have any questions on
this policy memorandum.

Michael Heningburg
Director
Division of Student
Assistance