



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-_____

January 1999

GEN-99-05

Dear Colleague:

This letter is a Year 2000 disclosure notice* on the 1999 – 2000 Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) Express software package.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) and National Computer Systems, the software development contractor for FAFSA Express, are pleased to inform you that the January 1999 release of the FAFSA Express, which can be downloaded from the ED web page or requested, is Year 2000 compliant. The Product will function accurately related to the processing of date data (including but not limited to, calculating, comparing and sequencing of dates) from, into, and between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including leap-year calculations, when used in accordance with documentation provided with the Product release, and when all third-party products used in combination with the Product properly exchange date data with it. Additional information on ED's Year 2000 activities can be found on its web page at www.ed.gov.


FAFSA Express' Year 2000 compliance was obtained through assessment, renovation, and testing, as well as the assessment, renovation, and testing of the Central Processing System (CPS). Year 2000 compliant Pentium personal computers (PCs), and an IBM 9672-R35 were used to test the following FAFSA Express functions:

Entering and Editing FAFSA's
Printing and Exporting FAFSA's

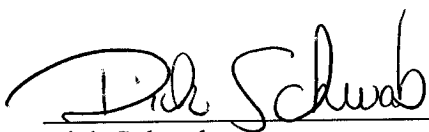
The functions listed above were performed with the system dates on PCs set to 12/31/1999, 01/01/2000, and 02/29/2000. The system date on the CPS mainframe was set to 02/29/2000.

Students use FAFSA Express to apply for Federal Student Financial Aid.

Sincerely,



Jerry Russomano
Director, Program Systems Service
Office of Student Financial Assistance Program
U S Department of Education



Dick Schwab
Vice President and General Manager
National Computer Systems
Government Services Division

Disclaimer: This statement does not constitute a warranty and is provided merely to facilitate users in planning for their transition to year 2000. This compliance means this software will not produce errors processing dates in connection with the century change to year 2000 when used with accurate data in accordance with its documentation, provided all other products (e.g., other software, firmware, and hardware) used with it properly exchange date data compliantly. The U.S. Department of Education and National Computer Systems assume no liability or responsibility for the use – or the consequences of the use – of this product.

***Statements made to you in the course of this letter are subject to the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act (P.L. 105-271). In the case of a dispute, this Act may reduce your legal rights regarding the use of any such statements, unless otherwise specified.**