

# Verification 2018-2020

Zack Goodwin, US Department of Education  
WASFAA Conference, Elkhart Lake, WI  
November 2018



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## Progress!

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019: Data Field Flags	2019-2020: Data Field Flags
V1	X	X	X	X	X
V2	<i>reported only</i>	<i>reported only</i>			
V3	X	<i>reported only</i>			
V4	X	X	X	X	X
V5	X	X	X	X	X
V6	X	X			



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



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### 2018-2019 Verification

- Tax filing extenders must show proof of IRS extension beyond the automatic six-month period
  - If the IRS did not approve additional time, income and tax data must be provided through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool or tax transcripts
- *Dependent students* who are not required to file do not have to provide proof of non-filing

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

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### 2018-2019 Verification

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

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### 2019-2020 Verification

- No changes to verification tracking groups
- No documentation requirement changes

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

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## 2019-2020 Verification: Data Elements and Documentation

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### Verification Selection Groups

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

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### V1 Group: Tax Filers

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

**Documentation:**  
• IRS DRT;  
• Tax return transcripts;  
• Alternative documentation where allowed (e.g. amended returns, foreign returns, etc.)

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## IRS Verification Documentation

*Electronic Announcement: February 23, 2017:  
Explanation of various IRS tax documents,  
including verification of non-filing*

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## Undocumented Parents/Spouses

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

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

*Program Integrity Q&A Website (DOC-Q29)*

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## Non-IRS Tax Filers

*Tax filers who filed an income tax return with a taxing authority in a US territory (Guam, American Samoa, the US Virgin Islands) or commonwealth (Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands) or with a foreign central government, must submit a copy of a transcript of their tax information*

- A signed copy of the applicable income tax return that was filed with the taxing authority is only acceptable if tax filers are unable to obtain a free copy of a tax transcript

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### Non-IRS Non-filers

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

[Program Integrity Q&A Website \(DOC-Q30\)](#)

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### V1 Group: All Applicants

*Number in Household & Number in College*

**Documentation:**

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

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### V4: Custom Group

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

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### High School Completion

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

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### High School Completion

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

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### High School Completion

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

*OR*

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

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### High School Completion

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

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### High School Completion

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

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### High School Completion

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

*Program Integrity Q & A website: FHD-Q2/A2*

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**V1 + V4 = V5**

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**Verification  
Reminders**

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**V4/V5 Tracking Results**

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

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### Automatic Zero EFC

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

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

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### Automatic Zero EFC

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

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

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### Identity Theft

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

- Statement signed and dated by tax filer indicating s/he was a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft and the IRS has been made aware;  
*AND*
- An IRS Tax Return Database View (*TRDBV*) transcript
  - Tax filers who cannot obtain a TRDBV transcript may instead submit official IRS document(s) if they include all income and tax information required to be verified

*Program Integrity Q & A website: Effective July 7, 2015*

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## Resources

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## Additional Resources

- [Federal Student Aid Handbook](#)  
Application and Verification Guide
- [Federal Regulations](#)
- 34 C.F.R. § 668 Subpart E (668.51 – 668.61)
  - 34 C.F.R. § 668.16(f)
- [Program Integrity Q & A Website \(Verification\)](#)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2009/integrity-qa.html>
- [FSA Assessments: Activity 3](#)  
<http://ifap.ed.gov/qahome/qaassessments/fsaverification.html>

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# Thank you!

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### We Appreciate Your Feedback

To ensure quality training we ask all participants to please fill out an online session evaluation:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZacharyGoodwin>

This evaluation tool provides a means to inform us of areas for improvement, and to support an effective process for listening to our customers.

Additional feedback about training can be directed to Mark Gerhard at [Mark.Gerhard@ed.gov](mailto:Mark.Gerhard@ed.gov).

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### ED Contacts: Chicago

#### Institutional Improvement Specialists

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### ED Contacts



#### Reach FSA

855.FSA.4FAA.....One number to reach 7 contact centers!

- eZ-Audit      School Eligibility Service Group
- COD            CPS/SAIG
- NSLDS        Nelnet Total & Permanent Disability Team
- G5

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