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for school administrators on issues affecting the financial aid community

access update

Our Mission . . .

to provide education financing to the broadest range of eligible students, positively influence education financing practices, and provide services valued by students and schools.

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NeedAccess.Org
Federal Stafford Loan
and Federal PLUS Loan
Lender Code: 808851

If you have questions regarding this or any other publication provided by Access Group, call 800-227-2151, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

To subscribe to an electronic version of this newsletter, send your name and your school's name to accessupdate@accessgroup.org.

Get Ready to Register for Our 2006 Conference

Access Group returns to paradise at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island for the 2006 Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference — and you're invited to join us! Registration booklets highlighting general and concurrent sessions, as well as instructions for registering, are on their way to you.

Again this year, Early Bird registrants receive a great discount on conference costs! To qualify for the discount rate of \$495 single-occupancy or \$375 double-occupancy, you must register online and your payment must be received by September 15.

Questions?

- Visit accessgroup.org/conf2006
- E-mail questions to conf2006@accessgroup.org
- Call your Account Executive at 800-227-2151



Access Group 2006
Graduate and Professional
Financial Aid Conference

November 16 – 19
The Ritz-Carlton
Amelia Island, Florida

We look forward to seeing you in Florida!

Labor Day Closing

Access Group offices will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 4. As usual, our Voice Response System will be in service, as will our online services on our Web sites.

Also in this issue:

- The 2006 Quick Reference Guide
- Payment Option Proves Popular


access group

Now in Print and Online: The 2006 Quick Reference Guide

Access Group's Quick Reference Guide is now available to help you and your staff during the busy loan processing season.

The Paper Version

We've already sent printed copies to your office, but you may order additional copies if needed. You may order the Guide through our online Materials Order Form at AccessGroup.Org. (Go to the "Financial Aid Administrators" section, then to "Resources for School Administrators," where you'll find a link to order materials.)

The Online Version

Each chapter of the online Guide is presented as a PDF file, with chapter titles and page numbers corresponding to those in the paper version of the Guide. The contents of each chapter are also listed to make it easy to find the information you need. To view a copy online, visit the "Financial Aid Administrators" section from our homepage and find the link for Reference Guide. You will need your eAccess login and password to view it.

The chapter titles are:

- Contact Information & Important Dates
- Access Group Federal Loans
- Access Group Private Loans
- Application Processing
- Disbursements
- eAccess — Online Services

We welcome your feedback about the Reference Guide so we can continue to refine and make it an even more valuable tool for you and your staff. If you have comments or suggestions, please share them with your Account Executive.



New Online Payment Option Proving Popular with Borrowers

A few months ago we reported that borrowers who are serviced by Access Group now have the ability to make payments online. We're pleased to announce that this initiative has been enthusiastically received by our customers, and now accounts for more than 20% of our payments. Our Web-savvy customers used this payment option immediately, with the first payment scheduled within an hour of the function coming online!

3-Month LIBOR for Third Quarter 2006

The current index effective for July, August, and September 2006 is 5.238%.

The interest rate charged on a borrower's private loan from Access Group will equal this index rate plus the per annum percentage margin applicable to the loan.

Reminder: The effective 3-month LIBOR rate is always available by clicking on "Interest Rates" from the home page of AccessGroup.Org. Borrowers can also check our Web site for information about LIBOR, which includes a 10-year comparative history of LIBOR, Prime, and T-bill rates. Our Interest Rate Comparison Calculator also helps students determine the lowest interest rate when comparing rates based on different indexes. Try it for yourself using the "Calculators" link from our home page.

Federal Loan Interest Rates

First disbursed on or after July 1, 2006:

- Federal Stafford Loans = 6.8%
- Federal PLUS Loans = 8.5%

First disbursed on or after July 1, 1998 and through June 30, 2006:

Federal Stafford Loans:

- In school, grace, deferment:
91-day T-bill (4.84%)
+ 1.7% = 6.54%
- In repayment, forbearance:
91-day T-bill (4.84%)
+ 2.3% = 7.14%

Federal PLUS Loans:

- 91-day T-bill (4.84%)
+ 3.1% = 7.94%