

for school administrators on issues affecting the financial aid community

# accessupdate



## Exciting Plans Underway for 2008 Conference Program



Access Group invites you to “renew the spirit” at our 2008 Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Conference this November. Set in a beautiful landscape of mountains, rivers, and desert, the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort is the perfect setting to replenish the spirit and refine your focus on graduate financial aid.

Learn new ways of communicating with students and understanding the challenges they face. Gain insight into industry practices and discover how to thrive in the changing world of financial aid while you dedicate yourself anew to your profession.

### General Session Speakers Offer Inspiration and Insight

Access Group and the Planning Committee have already confirmed the following speakers:

**Howard Fineman**, Senior Washington Correspondent and Editor for *Newsweek*, will provide insight on the political environment and the incoming administration.

**Alison Levine**, Leader of the First American Women’s Everest Expedition and founder and president of DareDevil Strategies™, a consulting firm specializing in organizational effectiveness and team dynamics, will discuss leadership, teamwork, innovation and dealing with a changing environment.

**Brett Lief**, President of NCHELP, will deliver the industry update presentation.

Watch for more information about additional speakers!

### No Increase in Conference Fees

Access Group and the 2008 Conference Planning Committee are pleased to announce that, in this time of higher prices and rising costs, there will be no increase in the 2008 conference registration fee.

- Early bird registration .....\$550  
for registrations received by September 15
- Standard registration .....\$650  
for registrations received after September 15
- Thursday-only registration .....\$150
- Friday-only registration .....\$250
- Saturday-only registration .....\$300

The registration fee will cover all sessions, program materials and conference meals. (Friday evening’s meal will be on your own).

The hotel costs for the three nights of the conference are not included in the conference fee package; attendees will reserve and pay for all hotel room expenses directly through the hotel. The negotiated room rate at the conference hotel is \$169 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy.

Travel, as usual, will be at the expense of registrants or their institution.

### Watch for more details about this year’s event!

**November 20, 21, 22, 2008**  
**Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort**  
**Chandler, Arizona**

In the weeks ahead, look for exciting announcements about the 2008 conference program in *Access Update* and at [www.accessgroup.org/conf2008](http://www.accessgroup.org/conf2008).

**Look for your “Save the Date” postcard later this month!**

# Private Loan Processing: Answers to Your CampusDoor® Questions

As we approach peak season, we've received lots of questions from school administrators about processing our new private School-Certified Loan in association with CampusDoor. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions.

## Why do my students need to go to [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org) or call Access Group to apply for the private School-Certified Student Loan?

Whether students call us or go online to apply for a loan, by contacting Access Group first, we can help ensure that students are exhausting their federal loan funds first. Following their application for federal funds, students can then link directly to the CampusDoor site to apply for a private loan, or be transferred to a representative especially trained to assist our Access Group borrowers. In addition, by contacting Access Group first, we are able to track this year's private loan applications for future reference.

## Does the CampusDoor School-Certified Private Loan application accommodate all schools within a university?

Yes, CampusDoor can set up different schools within a university system in their application system. Currently, in the Web application process, the institution's name displays only at the university level and schools within the university do not appear in the school drop-down box on the first page. If your specific school processes loans differently than your overall university system, your school's name will display in the drop-down box at a later point in the application process. Access Group's account executives have requested a different profile for your school to accommodate your unique processing flow.

Please advise your students that as they continue through the online application process, they should see a listing for their specific school within the university.

## Recent Department of Education regulations state that there must be three non-affiliated lenders on a Preferred Lender List. Does that mean that Access Group and CampusDoor cannot be on the same list due to their association?

These DOE regulations apply only to federal loans and Access Group's association with CampusDoor is for the provision of private loans only. In addition, the term "affiliated" refers to companies owned or controlled by the same entity. Access Group and CampusDoor are not affiliated in any way.

## Is electronic signature available?

Yes, but it's being rolled out in two phases. In the first phase, a temporary provision that began on June 1, 2008, borrowers

receive a system-generated e-mail containing a link to the E-sign portal. Depending on when they applied for their loans, borrowers could receive the e-mail link within a few minutes after they applied, or at the most, up to four hours later. With the second phase of the process, borrowers will be able to E-sign as soon as they complete the application.

## Most schools prefer to receive a certification request only after the borrower has been approved for credit and signed the promissory note. Is this standard procedure with CampusDoor?

Yes, that's the only way CampusDoor can process a certification request. All of a borrower's obligations must be fulfilled before CampusDoor will notify a school of a pending loan.

## Is there a way for a school receiving a certification request to know if it is an Access Group loan in association with CampusDoor?

At this time, the school will not be able to differentiate Access Group certification requests from those of other lenders. However, according to CampusDoor, this functionality may be implemented some time in the future.

## What is CampusDoor's mailing schedule during peak season?

CampusDoor uses the same check mailing schedule all year. EFT/CDA disbursements take place Monday through Friday; paper checks are sent Monday, Wednesday and Friday by two-day UPS.

### CampusDoor Contact Information

#### For Access Group Borrowers – 866-930-1543

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. ET

#### Extended Hours: June 2 to September 30, 2008

Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. ET

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. ET

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

#### For Financial Aid Offices – 866-912-3326

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

West Coast Representative available until 6:00 p.m. ET

**CampusDoor® Lender Code:** 999444

**Private Guarantor Code:** C01

## Update on Postgraduate Loan Funding

As we enter the summer months, we want to provide you with an update on Access Group's funding for postgraduate loans.

At present, we are still in the process of selecting lenders for the coming year, and expect that it will be some time before that financing is available for our borrowers.

To make sure borrowers have the funds they need when they need them, we will be e-mailing prospective borrowers and advising those who need funds immediately to explore loan options through their financial aid office or through other lenders. For those borrowers who may not need funds as quickly, we will contact them as soon as our funding options are again available.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause you or your students during this difficult time and appreciate your patience.

If you have any questions, please contact your internal or external account executive.

## Update on Extended Repayment Release Benefit

In response to recent unrest in the financial markets and to ensure that all students have access to federal student loan funding, the Department of Education recently offered to purchase certain FFELP loans made for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Under the guidance issued on June 12, 2008, the Department has indicated that loans that carry borrower benefits other than payment of upfront fees and a 0.25% reduction for auto-debit payments will not be eligible for purchase. You can view the Department's guidance at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0612BorrowerBenefits.html>.

Although Access Group has not yet decided whether or not we will participate in this option, we want to keep as many of our alternatives open as possible. To do so, and in order to continue offering Federal Stafford and PLUS Loans for the coming year, we have decided that we must discontinue our Extended Repayment Release benefit for all Stafford and PLUS loans with signed applications on or after June 16, 2008.

Stafford and PLUS loan applications received and signed between November 1, 2007 and June 15, 2008 will remain eligible for the Extended Repayment Release benefit. We also will continue to offer the 0.25% interest rate reduction for auto-debit payment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your internal or external account executive.

## New Materials Now Available

Here are some new materials for you from Access Group:

### Poster – 2008-2009 Federal Loan Interest Rates

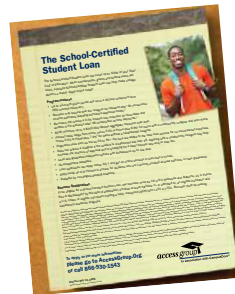
This poster reflects the new interest rates effective July 1, 2008, and will be mailed to your office. It is also posted as a PDF on our Web site. Go to the home page of [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org) and click "Interest Rates" at the top of the page.

### Chart – Federal Stafford/Direct Annual Loan Limits

This chart displays loan limits for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008. It will also be mailed to your office and is posted as a PDF at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org) in the FAA section under Loan Program Information.

### Fact sheet and rack card – The School-Certified Student Loan

You may order a supply of these informational materials about Access Group's private loan in association with CampusDoor® at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org).



## Ready for Entrance Counseling? We Can Help!

Access Group's online federal entrance counseling sessions comply with current federal requirements pertaining to first-time borrowers of Federal Stafford and/or Federal PLUS Loans. They are specifically designed for graduate and professional students.

You can choose the standard version, which contains only what is required by federal regulations, or opt for the expanded version, which includes information about credit and private loans. Go to eAccess to set up your school's preferences.

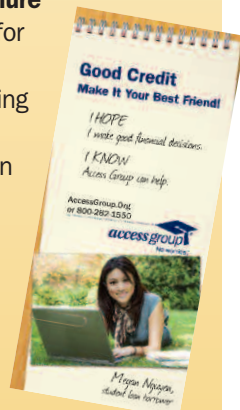
**Reminder:** Be sure to view the information in your school's preferences for necessary updates, especially the current level of borrower indebtedness and average monthly payment for your school. Reporting the average indebtedness by school is a regulatory requirement for entrance counseling. This information should be reviewed annually and can be updated through eAccess. Please contact your internal account executive if you need assistance.

### Order bookmarks for your students!

These colorful bookmarks direct students to our online entrance counseling session. Order at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org).

### New! Good credit brochure

This updated brochure for students discusses the importance of maintaining a healthy credit history and includes information on identity theft, credit scoring and credit resources. Order at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org).



## Private Loan Rates

Access Group's 2008-2009 School-Certified Private Loan in association with CampusDoor® is based on the Prime Rate index plus a per annum percentage margin.

Access Group's existing private loans are based on the 3-month LIBOR index plus a per annum percentage margin.

The current indexes for the second quarter 2008 (4/1/2008 – 6/30/2008) are:

- Prime: 5.250%
- 3-month LIBOR: 3.058%

Go to "Interest Rates" at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org) for current indexes, federal interest rates and an interest rate comparison calculator.

### Access Group, Inc.

5500 Brandywine Parkway  
P.O. Box 7430  
Wilmington, DE  
19803-0430

#### Toll-free lines:

**School Services**  
800-227-2151  
800-449-8204 (fax)

**Customer Contact Center**  
800-282-1550

**AccessGroup.Org**  
**NeedAccess.Org**

**Access Group**  
**Federal Stafford Loan**  
**and Federal PLUS Loan**  
**Lender Code: 808851**

**CampusDoor®**  
**Lender Code: 999444**

*To subscribe to an electronic version of this newsletter, e-mail your name and your school's name to your internal account executive or to [schoolservices@accessgroup.org](mailto:schoolservices@accessgroup.org).*

  
**access group**  
*The nonprofit graduate loan specialist*



### Deadline Extended for Scholarship Contest

Access Group has extended the deadline for entries in our "One Less Worry" scholarship contest to July 15. Please update any contest information that may be posted on your school's Web site.

We hope this extension gives current and entering law students more time to prepare and submit videos depicting their worries and concerns. The contest winner will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship. Go to [www.youtube.com/onelessworry](http://www.youtube.com/onelessworry) for details and official rules.

### Reminder: Check Your Online Lender Lists!

With the recent changes to our federal and private loan programs and in an effort to ensure the accuracy of all online lender information, please remember to check your online lender lists on a regular basis. If you have questions about Access Group's borrower benefits, please visit our Web site at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org) or contact your account executive team.

## Monthly Planner



### Celebrating Independence

Access Group offices will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Our Voice Response System will continue to be in service, as will eAccess and My Account at [AccessGroup.Org](http://AccessGroup.Org).

### Visit Us at NASFAA

Access Group will be on display at the 2008 NASFAA Conference July 6 – 9 in Orlando, Florida. We invite you to visit us at Booth 316 in the exhibit hall to learn more about our loan products and borrower services.

We also invite you to attend the Financial Aid Business Solutions Seminar to be presented by Access Group staff:

"Show Me the Money! Strategies for Helping Undergraduates Prepare Financially for Graduate/Professional School"

This seminar will be presented on:

- Monday, July 7 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 8 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please check your conference program book for room locations.

### Access Group staff also will be attending these upcoming events:

**June 25 – 29**

National Association of Advisors  
for the Health Professions  
Annual Meeting

Chicago, IL

**July 10 – 11**

Education Finance Council  
Mid-Year Meeting

Arlington, VA