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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice—computer matching between the Department of Education and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100-503, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, a notice is hereby given of the computer matching program between the Department of Education (ED) (the recipient agency), and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Department of Justice (the source agency).

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a), as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1989, and OMB Circular A-130, the following information is provided:

1. Names of Participating Agencies

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

2. Purpose of the Match

The matching program entitled "Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) INS/ED" will permit ED to confirm the immigration status of alien applicants for, or recipients of, assistance as authorized by Title IV, section 484(a)(5), of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); 20 U.S.C. 1091(a)(5). The Title IV programs include: the Federal Pell Grant Program; the Federal Perkins Loan Program; the Federal Work-Study Program; the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program; the Federal Family Education Loan Program; the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program; the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program; and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs.

3. Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

The information contained in the INS data base is referred to as the Alien Status Verification Index (ASVI), and is authorized under the Immigration

Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), Pub. L. 99-603. ED seeks access to this database under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (section 484(g)); 20 U.S.C. 1091(g). The INS is authorized to confirm immigration status under the authority of section 103 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended.

4. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered

The records to be used in the match and the roles of the matching participants are described as follows:

Through the use of user identification codes and passwords, authorized persons from ED will transmit electronically data from its Privacy Act system of records entitled, "Federal Student Aid Application File (18-11-01)" to INS. The data will include the alien registration number and date of birth of the alien applicant for, or recipient of, Title IV assistance. This action will initiate a search for corresponding data elements in an INS Privacy Act system of records entitled "Alien Status Verification Index (JUSTICE/INS-009)." Where there is a match of records, the system will provide to ED the immigration status code of the alien applicant or recipient. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(p), ED will not suspend, terminate, reduce, or make a final denial of any Title IV assistance to such individual, or take other adverse action against such individual, as a result of information produced by such a match, until (1)(a) ED has independently verified the information; or (b) the Data Integrity Board of ED determines in accordance with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that (i) the information is limited to identification and amount of benefits paid by INS under a Federal benefit program; and (ii) there is a high degree of confidence that the information provided to ED is accurate; (2) the individual receives a notice from ED containing a statement of its findings and informing the individual of the opportunity to contest such findings by submitting documentation demonstrating a satisfactory immigration status within 30 days of receipt of the notice; and (3) 30 days from the date of the individual's receipt of such notice has expired.

5. Effective Dates of the Matching Program

The matching program will become effective 40 days after a copy of the agreement, as approved by the Data Integrity Board of each agency, is sent to Congress and OMB, unless OMB

objects to some or all of the agreement, or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

6. Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquires

Ms. Edith Bell, Management and Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Union Center Plaza, 830 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20002-5345. Telephone: (202) 377-3231. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

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Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1091(a)(5).

Dated: September 13, 2002.

James Manning,

Acting Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

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