

included specific references to the Federal Perkins Loan Program to eliminate any confusion.

Changes: The Secretary reverses the order of proposed paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (b)(2)(ii) and revises proposed paragraph (b)(2)(i) to clarify that the six consecutive monthly payments are to be incorporated as part of satisfactory arrangements to repay the loan balance, and that those arrangements are to be made in accordance with the individual title IV, HEA loan program. Proposed paragraph (d)(1)(ii) is revised to clarify that a student who receives a grant or Federal Perkins loan overpayment is to make arrangements, satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt, to repay the overpayment.

Section 668.36 Social Security Number Verification (Section 668.33 NPRM)

Comments: One commenter supported the change to proposed § 668.33(d)(3)(iii) which clarifies that the student bears primary responsibility for reporting corrected social security numbers to the Secretary. In addition, the commenter also expressed support for the change to proposed § 668.33(d)(4), which relaxes the prohibition from disbursing or certifying aid if the student fails to meet the institution's deadline for submission of a correct social security number. The commenter suggested that the Secretary provide similar "waiver" authority to institutions in regulations governing the other data matches.

Discussion: As explained in the discussion regarding the selective service match, the Secretary is amending regulatory sections governing data matches to consistently implement provisions of the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988. In particular, the revised provisions will clarify the Secretary's policy with respect to the 30-day due process standard and the setting of deadlines by institutions for students submitting documents in order to contest match results.

Changes: Proposed paragraph (b)(2) is revised to provide that the institution must give a student at least 30 days from the date the institution is notified of the results of the data match, or until the end of the award year, whichever is later, to produce evidence of an accurate social security number.

Section 668.37 Selective Service Registration (Sections 668.33(b) and 668.36 in NPRM)

Statement of Registration Status

Comments: One commenter requested a clarification concerning whether the

Statement of Registration Status may be necessary if the Selective Service data match does not confirm the student's status, or if some other statement is required. Two commenters suggested that proposed § 668.33(b)(1) be corrected to remove the unintended requirement that a student must provide evidence of exemption from the selective service registration requirement when the student's output document already confirms the student's exemption status. Another commenter requested that the model Statement of Registration Status be retained as an efficient way of collecting information concerning a student's exemption from selective service registration.

Discussion: The Secretary envisions no circumstances in which the Statement of Registration Status would continue to be required. If the student's claim to have registered with Selective Service is not confirmed by the Selective Service data match, the student bears responsibility for submitting evidence to the institution that he registered, or is exempt from registration. The institution may consult the *Federal Student Financial Aid Handbook* to determine if this evidence is valid, or it may require the student to obtain a Status Information Letter from Selective Service to further clarify the student's status. Instructions for interpreting Status Information Letters are also available in the Handbook. Given the thorough procedures in place for verifying evidence of registration or exemption, the Secretary does not wish to retain vestiges of an earlier system based primarily on self-certification, and would prefer to completely eliminate the Statement of Registration Status. The Secretary finds little validity to the commenter's concern that the regulations would require students, confirmed as exempt from registration requirements by the data match, to nevertheless provide evidence of exemption. The data match is designed to automatically screen out certain applicants who are clearly exempt from these requirements. An output document containing a message attesting to the applicant's exemption is quite sufficient to establish that "the student is not, or was not required to be, registered with Selective Service," as provided in proposed § 668.33(b)(2)(i).

Changes: None.

Selective Service Data Match

Comments: One commenter noted that the Secretary has changed proposed paragraph (b)(2) with regard to the time period for providing documentation of Selective Service registration status. As

currently worded, the student has 30 days from the date the institution is notified of the results of the data match or the end of the award year, whichever is later, to provide such documentation. The commenter noted that this language differs from § 668.33(b)(2), which does not provide the "end of the award year" option.

Discussion: In practice, the "end of the award year" option is not new. The institution can set its deadline for receiving documentation of Selective Service registration status on any date, as long as it allows the student the statutorily-required minimum of 30 days to produce the documents. By rephrasing the requirement in this manner, the Secretary is clarifying that institutions need not impose arbitrary deadlines that prevent the student from establishing eligibility later in the award year and receiving title IV, HEA assistance for that award year, if the institution's overall policy would not normally set such deadlines for all students. The Secretary is aware that the phrasing of this requirement is inconsistent among the various regulatory provisions governing the data matches, and will revise all applicable sections to resolve this inconsistency.

Changes: The Secretary is revising sections that govern data matches to include the requirement that the student must provide evidence of his or her eligibility, within 30 days from the date the institution is notified of the results of the data match, or until the end of the award year, whichever is later.

Subpart I—Immigration Status Confirmation

Section 668.133 Conditions Under Which an Institution Shall Require Documentation and Request Secondary Confirmation

Comments: Many commenters supported the Secretary's proposal to limit secondary confirmation requirements. Many also suggested that the Secretary should take the additional step of waiving collection of immigration status documents if the documents collected in a previous award year remain valid.

Discussion: The Secretary agrees with commenters who questioned the need for students to present immigration status documents in subsequent award years if they had been confirmed as eligible noncitizens in a previous award year. The Secretary cautions institutions, however, that some eligible noncitizen statuses are subject to expiration and that institutions should consult the student's file from that previous award year to determine if the