



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

### FOIA Service Center

July 5, 2023

Emily Santora  
Student Defense  
1701 Rhode Island Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: FOIA Request No. 22-03691-F

Dear Emily Santora:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated September 20, 2022, and received in this office on September 21, 2022. Your request was forwarded to Federal Student Aid (FSA) search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following: “For borrowers who have been identified as eligible for a TPD discharge through the SSA Process to date (i.e. borrowers who have “matched” through the SSA Process), documents sufficient to show: Since the SSA Process started in 2016, the total number of borrowers who have been positively identified as eligible for a TPD discharge.

a. Of those borrowers who have matched through the SSA process, the total number who have received a TPD discharge, and the total dollar value of their discharged federal student loan debt.

b. Of those borrowers who have matched through the SSA process, the total number who have not received a TPD discharge, and the total dollar value of their outstanding federal student loan debt. The total number of SSA matches for whom the Department does not have a valid address on file. The total number of SSA matches whose SSA match notification letters have been returned to sender.

For borrowers who have been identified as eligible for a TPD discharge through the VA Process to date (i.e. borrowers who have “matched” through the VA Process), documents sufficient to show: Since the VA Process started in 2018, the total number of borrowers who have been positively identified as eligible for a TPD discharge.

a. Of those borrowers who have matched through the VA process, the total number who have received a TPD discharge, and the total dollar value of their discharged federal student loan debt. Of those borrowers who have matched through the VA process, the total number who have not received a TPD discharge, and the total dollar value of their outstanding federal student loan debt.”

FSA informed the FOIA Service Center that responsive data was located and compiled into a one-page document which is available for Public Access Link (PAL) download. The document is as follows:

➤ FSA Response 22-03691-F

You can access your PAL account or register for a PAL account at this link:

<https://foiaexpress.pal.ed.gov/app/PalLogin.aspx>

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department's FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation. They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Secretary U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7W104 Washington, DC 20202-4500	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	<a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	202-205-0733	202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	n/a

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf).

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)

Fax: 202-401-0920

Mail: Appeals Office  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W104  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Sincerely,

Michael Tobias  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the Secretary