UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Civil Action No. 20-2254 (RC)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

Defendant.

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's October 6, 2020 Minute Order, the parties, by and through their respective undersigned counsel, respectfully submit this Joint Status Report.

On August 17, 2020, plaintiffs National Student Legal Defense Network and American Oversight (collectively, "Plaintiffs") sued defendant U.S. Department of Education (the "Department") under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Plaintiffs' claim that their June 11, 2020 FOIA requests were for records related to the Federal Student Aid Chief Operating Officer's performance for Fiscal Year 2018, Fiscal Year 2019, and Fiscal Year 2020. Plaintiffs allege that the Department violated FOIA by failing to conduct a reasonable search for and withholding nonexempt records responsive to Plaintiffs' requests. The Department answered on October 5, 2020. On October 6, 2020, the Court ordered the parties to meet and confer and by October 20, 2020, submit a proposed briefing schedule.

The parties have met and conferred regarding Plaintiffs' FOIA requests. On October 16, 2020, the Department informed Plaintiffs that it had completed its search for records responsive to Plaintiffs' FOIA request and informed Plaintiffs that it had located 27 potentially responsive pages. On October 19, 2020, the parties conferred regarding the search and the Department

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provided Plaintiffs with its search terms. On October 20, 2020, the parties conferred again. The Department informed Plaintiffs that the documents located included the Fiscal Year 2020 performance agreement for the Federal Student Aid Chief Operating Officer, and Defendant produced that document in full. Plaintiffs note that the document produced was signed on September 17, 2020. The Department intends to complete its processing of the remaining pages potentially responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request by November 10, 2020.

Accordingly, the parties respectfully propose that the file another joint status report by November 19, 2020, including a proposed briefing schedule if the parties determine briefing is necessary. A proposed order is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for the United States of America

Dated: October 20, 2020

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Plaintiffs,

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 20-2254 (RC)

[PROPOSED] ORDER

UPON CONSIDERATION of the parties' October 20, 2020 Joint Status Report, it is

hereby

ORDERED that the parties shall file another status report on or before November 19, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

Date

Rudolph Contreras United States District Judge