§ 685.100  The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

(a) Under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program (formerly known as the Federal Direct Student Loan Program), the Secretary makes loans to enable a student or parent to pay the costs of the student’s attendance at a postsecondary school. This part governs the Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loan Program, the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loan Program, the Federal Direct PLUS Program, and the Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Program. The Secretary makes loans under the following program components:

1. Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loan Program (formerly known as the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program), which provides loans to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The Secretary subsidizes the interest while the borrower is in an in-school, grace, or deferment period.

2. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loan Program (formerly known as the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program), which provides loans to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The borrower is responsible for the interest that accrues during any period.

3. Federal Direct PLUS Program, which provides loans to parents of dependent students and to graduate or professional students. The borrower is responsible for the interest that accrues during any period.

4. Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Program, which provides loans to borrowers to consolidate certain Federal educational loans.

(b) The Secretary makes a Direct Subsidized Loan, a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, or a Direct PLUS Loan only to a student or a parent of a student enrolled in a school that has been selected by the Secretary to participate in the Direct Loan Program.

(c) The Secretary makes a Direct Consolidation Loan only to—

1. A borrower with a loan made under the Direct Loan Program; or

2. A borrower with a loan made under the Federal Family Education Loan Program who—

(i) Is not able to obtain a Federal Consolidation Loan;

(ii) Is not able to obtain a Federal Consolidation Loan with income-sensitive repayment terms that are satisfactory to the borrower; or

(iii) Has a Federal Consolidation Loan that has been submitted by the lender to the guaranty agency for default aversion, and wishes to consolidate the Federal Consolidation Loan into the Direct Loan Program for the purpose of obtaining an income contingent repayment plan.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.)


§ 685.101  Participation in the Direct Loan Program.

(a)(1) Colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, vocational schools, and proprietary schools selected by the Secretary may participate in the Direct Loan Program. Participation in the Direct Loan Program enables an eligible student or parent to obtain a loan to pay for the student’s cost of attendance at the school.

2. The Secretary may permit a school to participate in both the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, as defined in 34 CFR part 600, and the Direct Loan Program. A school permitted to participate in both the FFEL Program and the Direct Loan Program may certify loan applications under the FFEL Program according to the terms of its agreement with the Secretary.