

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**34 CFR Part 668****Student Assistance General Provisions**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On September 20, 1996, the Department of Education published in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for the Student Assistance General Provisions (34 CFR Part 668) addressing standards of financial responsibility (60 FR 49552-49574). The proposed standards would apply to all institutions that participate in a program authorized by title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (title IV, HEA programs).

On December 18, 1996, the Secretary published a notice in the Federal Register (61 FR 66854) reopening the comment period on particular parts of

the September 20, 1996 NPRM until February 18, 1997. On February 18, 1997, the Secretary extended the reopened comment period until March 24 to allow commenters to examine and comment upon new information that would be made available through meetings and other avenues (62 FR 7334).

The Secretary is extending the comment period for an additional 21 days. The Secretary is doing so to allow the higher education community to comment on additional information regarding the proposed ratio methodology, and to suggest possible revisions to that methodology.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments concerning this notice or the notice of proposed rulemaking should be addressed to Mr. David Lorenzo, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 23272, Washington, D.C. 20026, or to the following internet address: fin-resp@ed.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Lorenzo or Mr. John Kolotos, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 3045, ROB-3, Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (202) 708-8242. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

The additional information referenced above may be obtained from the financial responsibility section of the Department's web site at the following URL address: (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI>).

Dated: March 17, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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