

touchpoints/transactions within those journeys to collect feedback.

These results will be used to improve the delivery of Federal services and programs. It will also provide government-wide data on customer experience that can be displayed on www.performance.gov to help build transparency and accountability of Federal programs to the customers they serve.

As a general matter, these information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

USPTO will only submit collections if they meet the following criteria.

- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
- Information gathered is intended to be used for general service improvement and program management purposes;
- Upon agreement between OMB and the agency all or a subset of information may be released as part of A-11, Section 280 requirements only on performance.gov. Summaries of customer research and user testing activities may be included in public-facing customer journey maps or summaries.
- Additional release of data must be done coordinated with OMB.

These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency, its customers and stakeholders, and OMB as it monitors agency compliance on Section 280. These responses will inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on services will be unavailable.

Current Action: New Collection of Information.

Type of Review: New.

Affected Public: Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: Below is a preliminary estimate of the aggregate burden hours for this new collection. USPTO will provide refined estimates of burden in subsequent notices.

Average Expected Annual Number of Activities: Approximately five types of customer experience activities such as feedback surveys, focus groups, user testing, and interviews.

Average Number of Respondents per Activity: 1 response per respondent per activity.

Annual Responses: 2,001,550.

Average Minutes per Response: 3 minutes–60 minutes, dependent upon activity.

Burden Hours: USPTO requests approximately 101,125 burden hours.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

All written comments will be available for public inspection Regulations.gov.

Justin Isaac,

Acting Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Annual Notice of Interest Rates for Variable-Rate Federal Student Loans Made Under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Chief Operating Officer for Federal Student Aid announces the interest rates for Federal Direct Stafford/ Ford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans), Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/ Ford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans), and Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Direct PLUS Loan), Assistance Listing Number 84.268, with first disbursement dates before July 1, 2006, and for Federal Direct Consolidation Loans (Direct Consolidation Loans) for which the application was received before February 1, 1999. The rates announced in this notice are in effect for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Travis Sturlaugson, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street NE, 11th floor, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 377-4174 or by email: travis.sturlaugson@ed.gov.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans (collectively referred to as "Direct Loans") may have either fixed or variable interest rates, depending on when the loan was first disbursed or, in the case of a Direct Consolidation Loan, when the application for the loan was received. Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans first disbursed before July 1, 2006, and Direct Consolidation Loans for which the application was received before February 1, 1999, have variable interest rates. For these loans, a new rate is determined annually and is in effect during the period from July 1 of one

year through June 30 of the following year.

Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2006, and Direct Consolidation Loans for which the application was received on or after February 1, 1999, have fixed interest rates that apply for the life of the loan.

This notice announces the interest rates for variable-rate Direct Loans that will apply during the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Interest rate information for fixed-rate Direct Loans is announced in a separate notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Interest rates for variable-rate Direct Loans are determined in accordance with formulas specified in section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)). The formulas vary depending on loan type and when the loan was first disbursed or, for certain Direct Consolidation Loans, when the application for the loan was received. The HEA specifies a maximum interest rate for these loan types. If the interest rate formula results in a rate that exceeds the statutory maximum rate, the rate is the statutory maximum rate.

Variable-Rate Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans

For Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans with first disbursement dates before July 1, 2006, and for Direct PLUS Loans with first disbursement dates on or after July 1,

1998, and before July 1, 2006, the interest rate is equal to the lesser of—

(1) The bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury bills auctioned at the final auction held before the June 1 immediately preceding the 12-month period to which the interest rate applies, plus a statutory add-on percentage; or

(2) 8.25 percent (for Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans) or 9.00 percent (for Direct PLUS Loans).

For Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans with first disbursement dates on or after July 1, 1995, and before July 1, 2006, the statutory add-on percentage varies depending on whether the loan is in an in-school, grace, or deferment status, or in any other status. For all other loans, the statutory add-on percentage is the same during any status.

The bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury bills auctioned on May 31, 2022, is 1.139 percent, rounded to 1.14 percent.

For Direct PLUS Loans with first disbursement dates before July 1, 1998, the interest rate is equal to the lesser of—

(1) The weekly average 1-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, for the last calendar week ending on or before the June 26 preceding the 12-month period to which the interest rate applies, plus a statutory add-on percentage; or
 (2) 9.00 percent.

The weekly average of the one-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of

the Federal Reserve System, for the last calendar week ending on or before June 26, 2022, is 2.83 percent.

Variable-Rate Direct Consolidation Loans

A Direct Consolidation Loan may have up to three components, depending on the types of loans that were repaid by the consolidation loan and when the application for the consolidation loan was received. The three components are called Direct Subsidized Consolidation Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Consolidation Loans, and (only for Direct Consolidation Loans made based on applications received before July 1, 2006) Direct PLUS Consolidation Loans. In most cases the interest rates for variable-rate Direct Subsidized Consolidation Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Consolidation Loans, and Direct PLUS Consolidation Loans are determined in accordance with the same formulas that apply to Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans, respectively.

Interest Rate Charts

Charts 1 and 2 show the interest rate formulas used to determine the interest rates for all variable-rate Direct Loans and the rates that are in effect during the 12-month period from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Chart 1 shows the interest rates for loans with rates based on the 91-day Treasury bill rate. Chart 2 shows the interest rates for loans with rates based on the weekly average of the one-year constant maturity Treasury yield.

CHART 1—DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS, DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS, DIRECT SUBSIDIZED CONSOLIDATION LOANS, DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED CONSOLIDATION LOANS, DIRECT PLUS LOANS, AND DIRECT PLUS CONSOLIDATION LOANS
 [Interest rates based on 91-day Treasury bill]

Loan type	Cohort	91-day T-bill rate 05/31/22 (%)	Add-on (%)		Maximum rate (%)	Interest rate 07/01/22 through 06/30/23 (%)	
Subsidized, Unsubsidized.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/98 and before 07/01/06.	1.14	1.70 (in-school, grace, deferment).	2.30 (any other status).	8.25	2.84 (in-school, grace, deferment).	3.44 (any other status).
Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/98 and before 10/01/98; or Application received before 10/01/98 and first disbursed on/after 10/01/98.						
PLUS	First disbursed on/after 07/01/98 and before 07/01/06.	1.14	3.10		9.00	4.24	

CHART 1—DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS, DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS, DIRECT SUBSIDIZED CONSOLIDATION LOANS, DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED CONSOLIDATION LOANS, DIRECT PLUS LOANS, AND DIRECT PLUS CONSOLIDATION LOANS

[Interest rates based on 91-day Treasury bill]

Loan type	Cohort	91-day T-bill rate 05/31/22 (%)	Add-on (%)		Maximum rate (%)	Interest rate 07/01/22 through 06/30/23 (%)	
PLUS Consolidation.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/1998 and before 10/01/1998; or Application received before 10/01/98 and first disbursed on/after 10/01/98.						
Subsidized Unsubsidized, Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/95 and before 07/01/98.	1.14	2.50 (in-school, grace, deferment).	3.10 (any other status).	8.25	3.64 (in-school, grace, deferment).	4.24 (any other status).
Subsidized Unsubsidized, Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation.	First disbursed before 07/01/95.	1.14	3.10		8.25	4.24	
Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation, PLUS Consolidation.	Application received on/after 10/01/98 and before 02/01/99.	1.14	2.30		8.25	3.44	

CHART 2—DIRECT PLUS LOANS AND DIRECT PLUS CONSOLIDATION LOANS

[Interest rates based on weekly average of one-year constant maturity Treasury yield]

Loan type	Cohort	Weekly average of 1-year constant maturity treasury yield for last calendar week ending on or before 06/26/22 (%)	Add-on (%)	Maximum rate (%)	Interest rate 07/01/22 through 06/30/23 (%)
PLUS PLUS Consolidation	First disbursed before 07/01/98	2.83	3.10	9.00	5.93

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087 et seq.

Richard Cordray,
Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

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