



ASSISTANCE ADVISOR

Summer 2016
Volume 4, Issue 3

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues:

HESAA is pleased to announce the NJCLASS Refi + program!

Due to recent favorable guidance from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), HESAA can now – for the first time – offer your alumni refinanced loans that are financed through the sale of tax-exempt bonds.

Through this program, graduates will be able to refinance NJCLASS loans, federal PLUS loans and other private loans if the borrower can provide school certification of the original loan amount. In order to be eligible for this program, borrowers must be in good standing with their current lenders and pass a debt-to-income ratio test that does not exceed 40%, inclusive of the payments on the newly refinanced loan. Students on the underlying loans must also have a New Jersey nexus. For example, they must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- current resident of New Jersey
- resident of New Jersey at the time they took out the original loan
- attended college in New Jersey.

This program will allow many borrowers to significantly reduce the interest rates on their existing loans. A complete list of the interest rates for the Refi + program and all NJCLASS loans is displayed in the loans section of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Charette, Esq.

Upcoming Events

The renovation of HESAA's Building 2 is complete, and the new conference room is open for business! Unless otherwise noted, HESAA meetings will resume at: HESAA, Building 2 Conference Room, 2 Quakerbridge Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08619

HESAA Student Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 9, 2016
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

HESAA Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 10:00 AM

HESAA 2015 Annual Report

“HESAA's Tomorrow, Here Today,” is available now. We are proud to announce that our 2015 Annual Report has been honored as a Bronze Stevie® Award Winner in the 2016 American Business Awards! To read the full report, please click the image.



Staff News

HESAA Employee Linda Quick Retires after 52 Years of Service!



Rarely does an employee have the opportunity or the inclination to serve the same employer for over half a century, but HESAA's Linda Quick has done precisely that, with admirable dedication. Ms. Quick was hired in 1964, at the age of seventeen, as the Clerk Stenographer for the NJ State Scholarship Commission, the precursor to HESAA. She retired on June 1, 2016, from her position as Administrative Assistant III, reporting to the Director of Grants and Scholarships.

Colleagues know Ms. Quick as the lively and bustling worker who always went above and beyond, capably and energetically handling a variety of projects. Her tasks ranged from

purchasing supplies to meticulously proofreading important documents for the Authority. Ms. Quick explains, "I pitched in wherever I saw a need. This was my second home and family."

As busy as she plans to be during retirement (even barrel racing on horseback!), Ms. Quick becomes wistful when contemplating daily life without HESAA. She reminisces, "The directors and supervisors I worked for were all fabulous. Likewise, my co-workers are a great bunch of people." On April 19, 2016, in a moving ceremony, the HESAA Board honored Ms. Quick with a well-deserved Board Resolution and a framed letter from the Governor.

Congratulations to HESAA CFO

HESAA's Chief Financial Officer, Gene Hutchins, has recently been elected to the position of Treasurer on the Board of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Resources (NCHER). NCHER represents a nationwide network of guaranty agencies, secondary markets, lenders, loan servicers, collection agencies, schools, and other organizations involved in the administration and servicing of federal and private education loans, as well as state grant and scholarship programs, college savings programs, and financial literacy and college debt counseling programs. Its members promote student access and choice for postsecondary education and training.

2016 Innovation in Financial Education Award

Every year, HESAA's Client Services team enthusiastically dedicates time and energy to serving the greater community through a variety of outreach efforts. Recently, HESAA was thrilled to learn that our Authority's hard work has been acknowledged and appreciated. On April 6, 2016, HESAA was invited to NASDAQ headquarters in New York City to receive the 2016 Innovation in Financial Education Award, jointly sponsored by NASDAQ and EverFi. Only thirty-five organizations across the U.S. were selected for this honor. André Maglione represented HESAA at the awards ceremony. He is seen in the picture below at Times Square, "the crossroads of the world," holding the prestigious award while standing beneath the illuminated HESAA banner.



Grants and Scholarships

New Deadlines for 2017-2018 for State Student Financial Aid

At the HESAA Board meeting on April 19, 2016, the Board discussed and subsequently approved new deadlines for 2017-2018 for State student financial aid. These modest deadline adjustments are designed to coordinate with upcoming federal changes to the FAFSA, such as the ability to file earlier, to use prior-prior year income, and to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to streamline completion of the form. Before making any revisions, HESAA staff reached out to the financial aid community for input and feedback, and they tailored their initial proposal to reflect the suggestions received. Additionally, HESAA is publicizing the new deadlines far in advance and to a wide audience so that there is no confusion. Furthermore, HESAA's upcoming Training Institutes for Secondary School Counselors will thoroughly cover this topic.

The revised deadlines offer a myriad of benefits to students, families, and institutions of higher education. First of all, they will help alleviate the yearly backlogs that occur after the start of the academic year as students scramble to complete their applications and respond to verification information requests. Moreover, earlier completion will allow students to commence their semesters with the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their aid is determined and in place.

Aid applicants will also have more time to file under the new deadlines. Renewal students will have six months instead of five months to file the FAFSA. Non-renewal students will have eleven months and two weeks instead of nine months to file.

The chart detailing the new deadlines can be found on the HESAA website or by clicking the image below. Furthermore, the following pages in our newsletter contain: a flyer reminding our campus colleagues about the new deadlines, helpful hints for determining if a student is a non-renewal or renewal student for FAFSA purposes, and a list of Training Institutes for Secondary School Counselors.



Training Tips

Did you know?



Xpress:

When uploading documents, please do not combine different students' documents in one upload. Student documents should be uploaded one student at a time. This will help HESAA staff process your documents faster.

HESAA State Questions:

Please remember that students cannot edit their answers to the state questions once they submit them to HESAA. If a student tries to edit a response, he/she will get a notice to contact his/her financial aid office. The financial aid office can then submit the change on behalf of the student.

TAG and EOF:

TAG-eligible students who enroll for fewer than twelve credits in the last semester of their final year of study AND were enrolled full time in the preceding term AND received a TAG payment in the preceding term are eligible to receive payment provided the institution considers the student to be enrolled full time. However, the amount of the award is adjusted based on the amount of tuition the student actually paid.

This change is reflected in regulations that were adopted by the EOF Board on May 6, 2016. After a sixty-day comment period, these regulations are expected to take effect for academic year 2016-2017.

JUST FILE!

HESAA Campaign to Bring Awareness of and Compliance with New AY 17-18 Deadlines



Every month all students who are currently receiving TAG and have not yet filed their 2017-2018 FAFSA will receive an email advising them to file the FAFSA by April 15, 2017. A student who has not filed will receive a total of 7 emails between October, 2016 – April, 2017.

Every month, all institutions participating in the TAG program will receive a list from HESAA of all their current students and an indicator as to filed versus non-filed status. This list will be provided starting in November, 2016 and every month through April 15, 2017.



HESAA will prepare a Q&A on prior-prior year and the new deadlines.



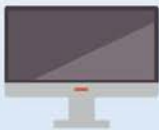
Prior-prior year will have a webinar for school counselors on Tuesday, June 7th 2016. Also, prior-prior year and the new deadlines will receive special focus during HESAA's upcoming Guidance Counselor Training Institute in the fall so new students are aware of the September 15th deadline.



HESAA encourages on-campus FAFSA Days and will provide literature and volunteer staff to assist.



HESAA University has added a class focused on this topic which will take place on August 1, 2016. This will also provide an opportunity for institutions to share and discuss their various outreach plans.



Information about the new deadlines will be prominently displayed on the HESAA website. Banner advertisements will run, as they do now, for the entire 30 day period immediately preceding the deadlines.



This August when students receive their Student Eligibility Notices and log onto the website to view their awards they will be prompted to file the FAFSA for the coming year to keep the awards and will be provided a link to an information page on the HESAA website regarding the 2017-2018 FAFSA filing process.

So You Think You Know What a Renewal Student Is and Isn't?

All students who received at least one Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) payment in 2016-2017 must file a 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the April 15, 2017 renewal student filing deadline.

Non-renewal students must file a 2017-2018 FAFSA by September 15, 2017 for aid for the fall 2017 and spring 2018 terms or by February 15, 2018 to be considered for aid for only the spring 2018 term.

Non-renewal students include:

- first-time students
- students not attending college during the 2016-2017 academic year
- students who applied for a TAG award for the 2016-2017 academic year but were not eligible
- students who qualified for a TAG award for the 2016-2017 academic year but did not receive payment because the award was cancelled by the school or by HESAA

April 15, 2017 deadline applies:

Example 1: Samantha received a TAG payment for the fall 2016 and spring 2017 terms. She must file a 2017-2018 FAFSA by April 15, 2017.

Example 2: Sally received a TAG payment to attend college for the fall 2016 semester but decided not to return for the spring 2017 semester. She is planning to return to college for the fall 2017 term. Sally must file a 2017-2018 FAFSA by April 15, 2017.

September 15, 2017/February 15, 2018 deadline applies:

Example 1: André will graduate from high school in June 2017 and plans to attend college during the 2017-2018 academic year. He must file a FAFSA by September 15, 2017.

Example 2: Johnny attended college during the 2015-2016 academic year and was a TAG recipient. Johnny is not going to attend college during the 2016-2017 academic year but plans to return to college in the fall of 2017. Johnny must file a 2017-2018 FAFSA by September 15, 2017.

Example 3: Mary is attending college during the 2016-2017 academic year and applied for a TAG award but did not qualify. Since she did not receive a TAG payment in 2016-2017, she must file a FAFSA by September 15, 2017.

Example 4: Dennis is attending a four-year college during the 2016-2017 academic year. He qualified for a TAG award but is not going to enroll full time so he will not receive a TAG payment. Dennis must file a FAFSA by September 15, 2017.

Example 5: Jennifer is a first-time student who plans to enroll for the spring 2018 term. She must file a FAFSA by February 15, 2018.

NJCLASS Interest Rates Released for 2016-2017

Effective June 1, 2016

New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)

Questions contact: André Maglione directly at (609) 588-4618

NJCLASS Refi + Program

Interest Rate	Credit Score
6.90% / 6.90% APR	670-719
5.70% / 5.70 % APR	720-779
4.90% / 4.90% APR	780 or higher

State of New Jersey – NJCLASS (New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students) For NJ residents attending an eligible in-state or out-of-state college/university or for out-of-state students attending a college/university in New Jersey

HESAA - NJCLASS Option (Student or parent as the borrower)	Maximum you can borrow	Interest Rate 2016-2017
NJCLASS 10 Year Fixed* Rate Start paying principal and interest while in school.	Up to cost of attendance, less other aid.	4.48% / 5.52% APR 3% fee**
NJCLASS 15 Year Fixed* Rate Start paying principal and interest while in school.	Up to cost of attendance, less other aid.	5.19% / 6.10% APR 3% fee**
NJCLASS 15 Year Fixed* Rate Pay interest only while in school.	Up to cost of attendance, less other aid.	5.19% / 6.20% APR 3% fee**
NJCLASS 20 Year Fixed* Rate Fully deferred, no payments while in school.	Up to cost of attendance, less other aid.	7.15% / 8.23% APR 3% fee**
NJCLASS 10 Year Variable*** Rate Current Rate	Up to cost of attendance, less other aid.	4.89% / 4.89% APR No administration fee.

See www.njclass.org for more information on full terms and conditions.

* The rates listed above are a reduced interest rate that NJCLASS offers for the first 12 monthly payments of principal and interest for the full deferral option in the Fixed Rate Program and for the first 48 monthly payments of principal and interest for all other fixed rate loans. This reduction assists borrowers in repaying more principal during these early months when the loan balance is highest. The result is a lower overall cost to the borrower. For Fixed Rate full deferral option loans, the rate steps up on the 13th month of repayment and for immediate repayment of principal & interest and monthly payments of interest only, the rate steps up on the 49th month of principal and interest payment. The interest rate increases by 0.75% and stays at that rate for the remainder of the loan. For Graduate/Professional loans, the 0.75% interest rate step up occurs in the 49th month of principal and interest payment for all repayment options.

** The 3% fee for the fixed rate loans is deducted from each disbursement and the net amount of the loan is disbursed to the institution and is included in the calculation of the APR.

***The 10 year variable rate option currently in effect is based on the 3 month LIBOR for 2/26/2016, published in the *Wall Street Journal* on 2/29/2016 which became effective on 5/1/2016. Rate is capped at 9.50%.

Compliance and Quality Assurance

Verification

HESAA reminds staff completing institutional verification that changes that do not affect State grant eligibility or the award amount need not be reported to HESAA. However, in these instances, the student files must contain evidence that the discrepant information reported on the student's FAFSA was resolved, as well as evidence that a calculation was performed to determine that the error(s) did not impact the State award value. See HESAA's *Grants & Scholarships Policy and Procedures Manual*, Chapter 8, Page 7.

Record Retention

HESAA's Audits & Quality Assurance department operates within the State of New Jersey's record retention schedules which require institutions to maintain approved grant and scholarship files for 7 years after the termination of the grant.

Please note that retention requirements vary for other types of financial aid information (loans, denials, etc.); other requirements range from 3-10 years. Retention schedules specific to community colleges and four-year institutions are maintained by the State Treasury Department's Bureau of Records Management Services and can be found at: <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/rms/retention.shtml>

Higher Education Trivia

“In 1887, Princeton University (then named the College of New Jersey) opened a sister college, Evelyn College for Women. When Evelyn College closed a mere decade later, Princeton shut its doors to women until 1969.”

Buffum, Joanna. “Higher Ed, High Ideals: Women's Colleges.” *New Jersey Monthly* Jan. 2016: 28-31.

HESAA Construction Project Nears Completion



Newly renovated HESAA conference room shines at recent HESAA Board meeting.



HESAA Board members enjoy ribbon cutting for Building 2's welcoming new entrance for public meetings.

Left to right: Maria I. Torres; Luis Padilla; Anthony Falcone, Board Chairperson; Fr. Michael L. Braden, S.J.; Corey Amon; Gabrielle Charette, Esq.; and Jean McDonald Rash.

Training Institutes for Secondary School Counselors

October 7, 2016 – Sussex County Community College
October 12, 2016 – Rider University
October 14, 2016 – Bergen Community College
October 17, 2016 – Stockton University
October 19, 2016 – College of Saint Elizabeth

October 21, 2016 – Rowan College at Burlington County
October 25, 2016 – Georgian Court University
November 1, 2016 – Rowan College at Gloucester County
November 4, 2016 – Seton Hall University

For times, exact locations, and registration, please visit: <http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/CounselorsRegistration.aspx>.

Contact Us

New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

4 Quakerbridge Plaza
P.O. Box 545
Trenton, NJ 08625-0545
www.hesaa.org
609-584-4480 (English and Español)

General Business Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HESAA Customer Care Line

609-584-4480 (English and Español)
Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional loan servicing hours

Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon

Grants and Scholarships

609-588-3300 x1338
www.njgrants.org

NJCLASS

609-584-4480
www.njclass.org



Your convenient way to send documents to NJ Grants and Scholarships and NJCLASS. Scan, upload, and send documents to HESAA via our secure connection.

School Liaison

609-588-3300 x1402

Fax Numbers

Servicing and Collections
Fax 609-588-7285

NJCLASS Loan Origination/Processing
Fax 609-631-6730

Email

clientservices@hesaa.org

Questions regarding loans held by HESAA, including NJCLASS applications or grants and scholarships

servicingandcollections@hesaa.org

Questions regarding servicing of loans held by HESAA

Postal Mail

For correspondence and application documents



HESAA Grants & Scholarships

PO Box 540
Trenton, NJ 08625-0540



NJCLASS Application Processing

NJCLASS Originations
PO Box 538
Trenton, NJ 08625-0538

Loan Servicing (correspondence only)

HESAA Servicing
PO Box 548
Trenton, NJ 08625-0548

HESAA Technical Support

For user ID, password, login, and registration issues
609-588-3315 or HelpDesk@hesaa.org

HESAA is the only State authority with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue education beyond the high school level. With roots dating back to 1959, HESAA's singular focus has always been to benefit the students we serve.