

# Policies for the Office of Student Financial Aid

## Subject

Data Sharing (B-5)

*Office of Student Financial Aid/Scholarships*

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In compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's Privacy and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) current guidance, Northwestern State University does not release FAFSA-related data nor financial aid history to external entities or to internal entities not having a legitimate educational interest, even with a student's written authorization.

Language in the FUTURE Act to Section 494 of HEA 20 USC 1098h(c)(1)(B) and 20 USC 1098h(c)(4) overrides this guidance. The information in a complete unredacted ISIR upon request by applicant shall be provided to applicant by OSFA. Under these amendments, an applicant must provide written consent before an institution may redisclose an unredacted ISIR including any information disclosed under 26 USC 6103(l)(13) to a scholarship organization (including a Tribal organization) or to an organization assisting the applicant in applying for and receiving Federal, state, local, or Tribal assistance, that is designated by the applicant to assist the applicant in applying for and receiving financial assistance for any component of the applicant's cost of attendance at that institution. Furthermore, an applicant may select and designate another individual, such as an advisor or mentor, to participate in discussions pertaining to data on the FAFSA (including FTI). An eligible person is one receiving information to assist the applicant in applying for and receiving Federal, State, local, or tribal assistance.

The term "written consent" means a separate, written document that is signed and dated by an applicant, which-

- indicates that the information being disclosed includes return information [FTI] disclosed under section 6103(l)(13) of title 26 with respect to the applicant;
- states the purpose for which the information is being disclosed; and
- states that the information may only be used for the specific purpose and no other purposes.

Institutions must maintain these records of written consent obtained under the FUTURE Act for a period of at least three (3) years from the date of the student's last date of attendance at the institution and upon request must make such records available to the Department for review.