



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOIA Service Center

August 14, 2023

Emily Santora  
Student Defense  
1701 Rhode Island Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: FOIA Request No. 22-03611-F

Dear Emily Santora:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated September 8, 2022, and received in this office on September 9, 2022. Your request was forwarded to the Federal Student Aid office to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following:

1. “The total number of borrower defense applications filed from August 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022, broken down by institution;
2. The total number of borrower defense applications granted between August 1, 2022 and August 31, 2022, broken down by institution;
  - a. Of the granted applications, the total number that received monetary relief, broken down by institution.
  - b. Of the granted applications, the total dollar amount discharged, broken down by institution.
3. The total number of borrower defense applications denied between August 1, 2022 and August 31, 2022, broken down by institution.
4. The total number of borrower defense applications pending decision as of August 31, 2022, broken down by institution.”

Available for Public Access Link (PAL) download is an excel spreadsheet responsive to your request. The documents provided pertain to:

- Borrower defense applications

You can access your PAL account or register for a PAL account at this link:

<https://foiexpress.pal.ed.gov/app/PalLogin.aspx>

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover the costs pertaining to your request. The Department has concluded that you fall within the category of “Other.” Please note that the Department has granted your request for a fee waiver; therefore, the Department has provided you with this information at no charge. The Department’s grant of a fee waiver does not infer or imply that you will be granted a fee waiver for future requests made under FOIA to the Department.

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department’s FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA

Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation. They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Secretary U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7W104 Washington, DC 20202-4500	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	<a href="mailto:robert.wehausen@ed.gov">robert.wehausen@ed.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:OGIS@nara.gov">OGIS@nara.gov</a>
Phone	202-205-0733	202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	N/A

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at [www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf).

E-mail: [EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov)  
Fax: 202-401-0920  
Mail: Appeals Office  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW,  
LBJ 7W104  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

If you have any questions, please contact the FSC at (202) 401-8365 or [EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov](mailto:EDFOIAMANAGER@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

*Tiffany Tucker*

Tiffany Tucker  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the Secretary