



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Dear U.S. Department of Education Grantees and Payees:

The U.S. Department of Education will be performing maintenance on the platform that hosts the G5 Grants Management System (G5 System or G5). This will require that the G5 System be unavailable for all activities, including the drawdown of payments, from 9:00 p.m. eastern standard time (EST), Wednesday, February 17, 2016, until 6:00 a.m. EST, Monday, February 22, 2016. This guidance gives early notice of this period of unavailability to enable you to plan accordingly. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

You will find guidance on the Welcome page for the G5 Web site, www.G5.gov, describing the recommended drawdown process in preparation for the shutdown period. The guidance describes Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) procedures for States and certain State institutions of higher education, as well as procedures for grant and Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs that are not subject to the CMIA. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, which is responsible for oversight of the CMIA, concurs with these recommended procedures.

In the forthcoming electronic announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site (www.ifap.ed.gov), FSA will provide guidance regarding the operational impact of this G5 System shutdown period on the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System used to process financial data. This guidance, which FSA plans to post in late January 2016, will assist schools in ensuring the availability of funds for drawdown prior to the outage period. Please monitor the IFAP Web site for the forthcoming guidance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the G5 Hot Line at 202-401-6238 or toll free at 888-336-8930. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this maintenance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Harris", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Danny A. Harris, Ph.D.

Chief Information Officer