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Introduction

This document is intended for Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) staff and postsecondary schools ONLY, and not for distribution to students.

The purpose of this guide is to explain PA State Grant Program communications to students with incomplete PA State Grant records and to provide Q&A materials regarding the PA State Grant Form (SGF) process. The text in the examples and the postcard design may be subject to change.

Incomplete notifications described in this document do not include PHEAA eligibility audit letters (such as Pennsylvania Domicile, Income Validation, etc.). PHEAA records all notifications to complete the PA State Grant record on the student’s activity with the “SGFNSTIO” action code. This is viewable by using the FC5S transaction. Schools may also refer to the Activity tab in Partner Interface.

PHEAA offers an electronic SGF for first-time PA State Grant applicants to complete needed data elements not included on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). PHEAA provides Pennsylvania residents a “one-stop shop” opportunity to connect directly from the FAFSA, including the FAFSA mobile application, to the SGF.

Internally, this is known as the State API (Application Program Interface). The Q&A portion of this document provides information regarding the API process as well as alternate communications utilized to inform students of their incomplete status.

Incomplete Notifications

An incomplete notification for PA State Grant purposes describes a communication informing students of missing data items required to determine eligibility. The Activity Type indicates what kind of notice a student received and is viewable on the Activity Log or FC5S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EW</td>
<td>Email notification to update the online SGF</td>
<td>• Must have at least one incomplete item that is collected via the SGF. For details, reference the State Grant Form User Guide located under “General Documents and Forms” at PHEAA.org/forms • May be sent multiple times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EI</td>
<td>Email notification to complete the paper Status Notice with a link to the dependent or independent PDF</td>
<td>• Dependency mismatch Federal vs. State • Professional Judgment processing for Federal purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ER</td>
<td>Email reminder that FAFSA items required for PA State Grant are incomplete</td>
<td>• Check Account Access for incomplete items • There may be a conflict of reported vs. required parental data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Email reminder for incomplete signatures</td>
<td>Signatures are incomplete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Signatures certify agreement to the Rights & Responsibilities content. Students are advised to keep a copy for their personal records.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PC            | A postcard inviting the student to complete the SGF online sent via U.S. mail | Encourages completion of SGF and is sent when:  
  • no response to previous emails; or  
  • invalid or no email; or  
  • an “opt out” of email is on file |
| FO            | A paper Status Notice sent via U.S. mail | • Conflict of reported vs. required parental data  
  • Can be sent by Customer Service as a result of recipient contact |

### I. Letters Sent in Lieu of an Incomplete Notification

**Note:** PHEAA is required to send students with incomplete records a notification so that they understand their status and have an opportunity to respond. However, PHEAA does not expect the return of questionnaires when students are ineligible for another reason, unless they are providing corrections or contesting the ineligibility reason(s). The activities in this table use the Letter (LT) activity type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Code(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>PHEAA Letter ID &amp; Other Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SGFNSTIO, SGBSNL12 (both with same date)</td>
<td>Informs the student of ineligibility due to a late application filing. Students who receive this letter are generally ineligible for consideration even if funds for late applicants become available. This is due to the fact that the date the FAFSA was filed is over 6 weeks past the deadline.</td>
<td>SNL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SGB03209 or SGB32R09 (Reject Version) | Requests clarification regarding with whom the student resides (to determine whose financial data is required). | 032/32R  
  This letter includes three documents:  
  • Lives With Clarification form;  
  • Lives With Clarification form instructions; and  
  • Rights & Responsibilities |
| SGBSSF09 or SGBSFR09 (Reject Version) | Requests information regarding the SSN of the parent/stepparent listed as Parent 1 on the FAFSA (item 030) or the employment status or signatures. | SSF/SFR  
  This can occur if:  
  • The student reports the same number for their own SSN and this parent;  
  • There is conflicting information with regard to with whom the student resides; or  
  • The SSN provided is invalid. |
| SGBSSM09 or SGBSMR09 (Reject Version) | Requests information regarding the SSN of the parent/stepparent listed as Parent 2 on the FAFSA (item 031) or the employment status or signatures. | SSM/SMR  
  This can occur if:  
  • The student reports the same number for their own SSN and this parent;  
  • There is conflicting information with regard to with whom the student resides; or  
  • The SSN provided is invalid. |
| SGBSSS09 or SGBSSR09 (Reject Version) | Requests information regarding the spouse's SSN (item 029) or the spouse's employment status or signature. | SSS/SSR  
  This can occur if:  
  • The student reports their own SSN as the spouse's SSN; or  
  • The SSN provided is invalid. |
### Action Code(s) | Description | PHEAA Letter ID & Other Information
--- | --- | ---
SGB25D06 or SGB25R09 (Reject Version) | Requests information regarding the number enrolled in college (item 010P). | 25D/25R
This letter includes the following document:  
- Family Size and Number Enrolled Clarification Form (Dependent Student) – B25D Form

SGB25I06 or SGB10R09 (Reject Version) | Requests regarding the number enrolled in college (item 010S). | 25I/10R
This letter includes the following document:  
- Family Size and Number Enrolled Clarification Form (Independent Student) – B25I Form

SGB0CS09 or SGBCSR09 (Reject Version) | Requests signatures. | 0CS/CSR

### A. Sample – Email – Type “EW”

**JOHN B. DOE**

This email is being sent to you because the information we received from your FAFSA indicates you may be eligible for a 2021-22 PA State Grant.

Applying is easy! Three simple steps is all it takes –

- Sign in or create a student account at [www.pheaa.org/sgf](http://www.pheaa.org/sgf).
- Provide basic information about your school and status.
- Read and agree to the PA State Grant Rights and Responsibilities.

Receipt of this communication or use of Account Access does not automatically qualify you for any financial aid or student grant award. Your PA State Grant eligibility may be subject to a review since the PA State Grant Program is a financial assistance program that is funded in whole or in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PHEAA is responsible for administering the PA State Grant Program and ensuring that the data provided by applicants meets the eligibility requirements.

If you have questions, please contact 1-800-692-7392. Do not reply to this automated email since the email box is unmonitored.

REFCDE: SGFNSTIO2021EW

### B. Sample – Email – Type “EI” With Dependent Status Notice Link

**JOHN B. DOE**

Your 2021-22 record in the PA State Grant Program is incomplete. To complete your record, securely log into Account Access:

[www.pheaa.org/signin](http://www.pheaa.org/signin)

A list of missing data will be presented. You cannot be considered for a 2021-22 PA State Grant until you provide all necessary information. If parental information is requested, you are considered to be a dependent student for PA State Grant purposes. You may also see ineligibility reasons, if applicable. To provide the missing data:

1. Access the form via the link below and print.
2. Use the list of questions in Account Access to complete the form.
3. Read and agree to the PA State Grant Rights and Responsibilities.


Receipt of this communication or use of Account Access does not automatically qualify you for any financial aid or student grant award. Your PA State Grant eligibility may be subject to a review since the PA State Grant Program is a financial assistance program that is funded in whole or in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PHEAA is responsible for administering the PA State Grant Program and ensuring that the data provided by applicants meets the eligibility requirements.

If you have questions, please contact 1-800-692-7392. Do not reply to this automated email since the email box is unmonitored.

REFCDE: SGFNSTIO2021EI

C. Sample – Email – Type “ER”

JOHN B. DOE

Your 2021-22 record in the Pennsylvania State Grant Program is incomplete. You cannot be considered for a 2021-22 PA State Grant until all necessary information is provided.

Please return to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa and complete any missing information on your 2021-22 FAFSA application. The data will be submitted to us automatically. Please allow several days for processing. If you do not reside with your parents due to extenuating circumstances and are unable to provide missing parental information, you should contact us for assistance.

You can view the current status of your PA State Grant on www.pheaa.org using the Secure Sign-In for Account Access.

http://www.pheaa.org/signin

Receipt of this communication or use of Account Access does not automatically qualify you for any financial aid or student grant award. Your PA State Grant eligibility may be subject to a review since the PA State Grant Program is a financial assistance program that is funded in whole or in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PHEAA is responsible for administering the PA State Grant Program and ensuring that the data provided by applicants meets the eligibility requirements.

If you have questions, please contact 1-800-692-7392. Do not reply to this automated email since the email box is unmonitored.

REFCDE: SGFNSTIO2021ER

D. Sample – Email – Type “EC”

JOHN B. DOE

We have received your 2021-22 PA State Grant Form but your PA State Grant Program record is incomplete due to missing signature(s).

To complete your application, please go to Account Access www.pheaa.org/sgf and follow the instructions on how to provide this information.

Receipt of this communication or use of Account Access does not automatically qualify you for any financial aid or student grant award. Your PA State Grant eligibility may be subject to a review since the PA State Grant Program is a financial assistance program that is funded in whole or in part by the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PHEAA is responsible for administering the PA State Grant Program and ensuring that the data provided by applicants meets the eligibility requirements.

If you have questions, please contact 1-800-692-7392. Do not reply to this automated email since the email box is unmonitored.

REFCDE: SGFNSTIO2021EC

E. Sample – Postcard – Type “PC”

Incomplete Notifications Q&A

Questions Related to the FAFSA® Link to the SGF

Q: Is there anything that students should know prior to filing the FAFSA and SGF?

A: Before completing the FAFSA and PA State Grant Form online, students should make sure that their computer's or device's pop-up blocker setting is off to avoid any issues with being successfully transferred from the FAFSA to the SGF.
If the pop-up blocker is turned on and the device provides a warning, similar to the one shown below, students should select “Allow.”

Q: How is the information regarding a state application presented to students?

A: Once students complete information on the “Student Demographics” section of the FAFSA and indicate Pennsylvania as their state of residence, the screen refreshes to display this information box. This alerts students of the opportunity to link to the PA State Grant Application upon completion of the FAFSA.

Q: What does the link to the SGF from the FAFSA look like?

A: From the FAFSA confirmation page, a link “Start your state application to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid” displays.
Q: What happens when the “Start your state application” link is clicked?

A: Upon clicking the “Start your state application” link, a message displays indicating to students that they will be redirected to the state agency’s website (Figure 1). Before selecting “OK,” students should minimize their web browser and make sure that the computer’s or device’s pop-up blocker setting is not turned on to avoid any issues with being successfully transferred to the SGF. Once the transfer is complete, the Getting Started page for the SGF displays (Figure 2). Students are transferred to the SGF for the academic year that matches the FAFSA year. Students may click “Continue” and complete the SGF (Figure 3). Please refer to the PA State Grant Form User Guide for more information.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
Q: Can students access the state API if they have already completed the FAFSA?

A: No. The FAFSA connection to the SGF is only available the first time that a student completes the FAFSA and is not available through the correction process.

Q: How do students apply for PA State Grant aid if they missed the direct link from the FAFSA confirmation page?

A: Students must wait 5 to 7 business days for PHEAA to receive and process the completed FAFSA information.

After successful transmission of the FAFSA information and creation of the PA State Grant record, students with incomplete records receive an email message directing them to complete the online PA State Grant Form. Please note that this email may direct students to the American Education Services (AES) website.

**Note:** If students apply during the first two weeks of October, they should expect a longer delay since PHEAA does not begin the SGF notification process until mid-October.

Q: What happens when students attempt to access the 2020-21 SGF via the FAFSA confirmation page after the April 1, 2021 student reconsideration deadline?

A: After April 1, 2021, students are not permitted to complete the SGF and are presented with the message indicating such. This message is necessary when the SGF is attempted to be accessed via the FAFSA since the FAFSA deadline is much later than the PA State Grant Program deadline.

Q: Should graduate students complete the SGF?

A: No. Only undergraduate students are eligible for PA State Grant aid. Therefore, students who provide their grade level “Continuing graduate/professional or beyond” or “1st year graduate/professional student,” are informed of their ineligibility and what action to take if this status was the result of incorrect information on the FAFSA.

Q: How long does it take before students are “timed out” of the SGF?

A: Students are given ten minutes of inactivity and are warned before being returned to the log-in screen.
Q: If students access the SGF from the FAFSA confirmation page and they are “timed out,” can they try again later?

A: Students who are timed out after accessing the SGF via the FAFSA confirmation page must wait for PHEAA to contact them in approximately 5 to 7 business days. This is the approximate amount of time it takes for PHEAA to receive the student's data from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), Central Processing System (CPS) and create the PA State Grant record.

Note: If students apply in the first two weeks of October, they should expect a longer delay since PHEAA does not begin the SGF process until mid-October.

Q: What can students expect to see in the Grant Status on Account Access immediately after submission of the SGF from the API (FAFSA link)?

A: Since PHEAA has not yet created a PA State Grant record, students receive a message confirming receipt of the SGF and notification to return back soon.

Questions Related to the SGF Presentment of Information That Was Selected on the FAFSA

Q: When are students presented with the financially independent version of the SGF?

A: If students meet any of the following conditions based upon responses to the 2021-22 FAFSA questions, they will be presented with the financially independent version of the SGF:

- were born before January 1, 1998
- are currently married
- are a veteran or are active duty military
- responded “yes” to having a dependent child or other dependent for whom they have and will provide more than one-half of the support through June 30, 2022
- indicated that they are/were an orphan or ward of the court

Q: Is it possible that PHEAA will not consider students financially independent after completion of the SGF?

A: Yes. Keep in mind that at the time of the transfer to the SGF from the FAFSA, there is no PA State Grant record. Once PHEAA receives the transmission of data from the USDE and creates the PA State Grant record, the students' responses are evaluated, and may processed as a dependent student for PA State Grant purposes or be placed in a review.

Q: What displays on the SGF if students select a college on the FAFSA that is not in the PA State Grant system?

A: Normally, the “Most Likely to Attend” question on the SGF pre-populates with the first-choice college and college state indicated on the FAFSA. When the college is not listed in the PA State Grant system, students
are presented with the “Change College” button instead. Upon clicking this button, students may select the state and “Not Listed” for the college name choice. This will allow students to free-form type the name of their college. Keep in mind that when students select “Not Listed,” the form is routed to PHEAA staff for review so it will take a little longer to process.

Q: What displays on the SGF if students hand-type their high school name on the FAFSA?

A: When students hand-type the name of their high school on the FAFSA, they should select the “Search” button to “lock in” the high school name and code. If students do not select the “Search” button, then they must select the high school name again on the SGF as illustrated below.
Q: What displays on the SGF if students select “Confirm” and choose from the list on the FAFSA?

A: When students select “Confirm” and pick a high school from the list on FAFSA, all high school information pre-populates on the SGF as illustrated below as long as the high school is also in the PA State Grant system.

If the high school is not in the PA State Grant system, the name of high school does not pre-populate and students must select “Not Listed” from the “High School” name field on the SGF. This selection allows students to hand-type in the name of their high school. PHEAA staff will verify that students satisfy the high school graduation requirement.
Q: What displays on the SGF if students select “GED,” “Home Schooled,” or “none of the above” when answering “What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2021-22 school year?” on the FAFSA?

A: The SGF pre-populates the type of diploma according to the response on the FAFSA. Please refer to the below illustrations for each of these selections.

When students select “GED certificate or state authorized high school equivalent certificate”...

![SGF Illustration]

The SGF pre-populates as follows...

When students select “Home schooled”...

![SGF Illustration]

The SGF pre-populates as follows...
When students select “None of the above”...

The SGF pre-populates as follows...

Questions Related to Completion of the SGF via Account Access (PHEAA's Student Portal)

**Q:** What is presented to students if they need to complete an SGF for both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Academic Years?

**A:** Until the April 1, 2021 student reconsideration deadline, students who have PA State Grant records that are incomplete for both years and require an SGF are presented with a choice.
Q: What is presented to students if they only need to complete an SGF for the 2021-22 Academic Year?

A: If students need to complete an SGF for only the 2021-22 Academic Year, they are taken directly into that year’s form for completion.

Q: What happens if a student’s record is incomplete due to a PHEAA review and they try to access the SGF?

A: When students' records are under review with PHEAA as indicated by a “PHEAA Correctable,” they are informed that their application is being reviewed and that we will contact them if further information is needed. This also occurs in the rare instances that there is an update error in their record that must be corrected by PHEAA staff.

In instances where there is more than one academic year incomplete or under review, the following is presented:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020-21 Record Status</th>
<th>2021-22 Record Status</th>
<th>What is Presented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>“Your application is being reviewed” message – 2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>No application</td>
<td>“We do not have any record of your FAFSA or we have not yet received your file” message – 2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>Incomplete but not under review</td>
<td>2021-22 SGF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>“We already have your Pennsylvania State Grant application information” message – 2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No application</td>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>“Your application is being reviewed” message – 2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete but not under review</td>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>2020-21 SGF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>“Your application is being reviewed” message – 2021-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: When might students receive the message, “We already have your Pennsylvania State Grant application information?”

A: Students will receive the message that we already have their application information in the following situations:

- When the current year PA State Grant record (2021-22) is complete; or
- When the prior year PA State Grant record (2020-21) is complete and the student connected to the SGF via the 2021-22 FAFSA. In these instances, students do not have to complete the SGF since their data from the prior year will be transferred once the FAFSA is received from the USDE.
- If students complete the SGF and still have a web browser tab open from the FAFSA and subsequently click “Start your state application” again, they will receive this message.
Q: When do students receive the message that we do not have any record of their FAFSA?

A: When students do not have a prior year PA State Grant record that is complete, do not use the FAFSA link to connect to the SGF, and we do not yet have a current year PA State Grant record, they are presented with the message below. If they already filed the FAFSA, it may take 5 to 7 days until the application information is transmitted to us by the USDE.

![Pennsylvania State Grant Form 2021-22](image)

Q: What message can students expect to see upon returning to Account Access after completing the SGF from the FAFSA?

A: Since there is a 3-5 day delay from the time students submits the FAFSA until PHEAA receives the transmission of data from the Federal Central Processing System (CPS), they are informed that we have received their information and to allow us time to process. Once we receive the FAFSA information and create the PA State Grant record, this message will be replaced with a revised status.

![Pennsylvania State Grant Form 2021-22](image)

Q: Why would students receive a message indicating, “Your Pennsylvania State Grant Form cannot be completed at this time” and to call Customer Service?

A: This message appears when there is a name mismatch in the Account Access authentication process.

![Pennsylvania State Grant Form 2021-22](image)
Signature Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the “Statement of Certification and Authorization?”

A: Providing a signature is an attestation that recipients understand the rights and responsibilities of accepting a PA State Grant award, along with PHEAA's use of the data provided. This is a legal document, a copy of which should be maintained by students or their parents. The Rights and Responsibilities Certification Document is available on the web at PHEAA.org/forms under General Documents and Forms.

Q: How is the signature received?

A: PHEAA is using the FAFSA signature to determine if the proper signatures have been submitted for PA State Grant purposes. In instances where it is not possible to gather the proper signatures from the FAFSA data, a wet signature is required for the PA State Grant Program.

Q: When do students still have to sign and return a wet signature to PHEAA?

A: Students who do not initially complete the necessary signatures on the FAFSA must return to the FAFSA and complete the missing signature(s). If this does not happen or is not possible, students must submit a “Pennsylvania State Grant Signature Request” page to PHEAA. For students who already have a PA State Grant record and log into Account Access, we are able to determine that there is a signature issue, and will provide the appropriate guidance. For students who link to the SGF from the FAFSA, we will not be able to communicate a signature issue until after we receive their FAFSA data from the USDE's CPS.

Q: What happens if renewal students have an incomplete FAFSA signature?

A: When renewal students are incomplete for the FAFSA signature only, their PA State Grant record will remain incomplete until they provide the FAFSA signature. In these cases, it is the student's responsibility to respond to notifications such as the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the USDE regarding their signature.

Q: Do students who completed the SGF prior to the online agreement process still have to sign and return the “Statement of Certification and Authorization” page?

A: No. Students who complete the necessary signatures on the FAFSA and who agree to the Rights & Responsibilities document online do not have to return any wet signatures to PHEAA. This includes students who completed the SGF prior to PHEAA implementing the online agreement process.

Q: Why are certain students emailed a link to the paper Status Notice on PHEAA.org instead of the SGF?

A: Students may be directed to complete the paper notice when the PA State Grant Program data and Federal data do not agree. These exception cases may be for one of the following reasons:

- Dependency Mismatch (USDE processed the student as independent and the student is dependent for PA State Grant purposes); or
- Dependency Override (the school has processed the student as independent and the PA State Grant Program has not); or
- The school has performed Professional Judgment; therefore, the data used for PA State Grant purposes does not agree with the data the school has used.

These students see the following message when logging into Account Access:

Pennsylvania State Grant Form 2021-22

Additional Information will be required before we can process your application. The State Grant Program uses criteria to determine your eligibility that may be different from federal and/or school-specific criteria. PHEAA will be contacting you by email or mail if additional information or other documentation is required to determine your eligibility.
Q: Students at my school complete the SGF in a classroom setting and may not be able to immediately print any documents. What should they do?

A: Students who want to print the confirmation PDF will have to save the PDF and email it to another computer or save it on a flash drive. The confirmation PDF will not be available once the students exit the application since the data and signatures will have been processed. Students should NOT use the confirmation PDF to submit corrections to PHEAA. Approximately 3-5 days after they submit the FAFSA, we will process the information and create a PA State Grant record. From that point forward, they may make enrollment changes using the “Update School Information” link within Account Access. For all other changes, they should be directed to PHEAA.org/corrections. Students who are directed to complete a “PA State Grant Signature Page” may either save the PDF and print it off immediately or may return to Account Access at a later time to print.

General Questions

Q: How can students submit corrections once the SGF is submitted?

A: Approximately 3-5 days after they submit the FAFSA, we will process the information and create a PA State Grant record. From that point forward, they may make enrollment changes using the “Update School Information” link within Account Access. For all other changes, they should be directed to PHEAA.org/corrections. Students should NOT use the confirmation PDF to submit corrections to PHEAA. This form explains the proper way to make corrections and warns students that we will not process corrections made on the confirmation PDF.

Q: How should students complete the high school section if they graduated from a Department of Defense high school?

A: These students must select “A Department of Defense High School” under the High School section of the SGF. This action will allow the PA State Grant record to be automatically approved for compliance with the PA State Grant Program's high school diploma requirement. Please note that the high school location state will be populated with “PA” in these instances regardless of where the high school is located.

Q: How should students complete the high school section if they graduate from a foreign high school?

A: These students must select “Other” under the High School section of the SGF. Students who graduated from a foreign high school are not eligible until documentation verifying that the PA State Grant Program high school graduation requirement is satisfied and submitted. Selecting “Other” will allow PHEAA to automatically send further information to the student which explains what documentation is required by PHEAA for eligibility. This is typically the letter identified as “0FH” or “FHR” which is logged on their activity once it is sent.
Q: What message do students receive if the PA State Grant record is inactive?

A: When the PA State Grant record is inactive, such as for undeliverable mail, they receive the message, “Your PA State Grant record status is not active on our system. Please call 1-800-692-7392 and speak to a customer service representative.”

Q: How should students navigate through the SGF?

A: Students should use the navigation buttons provided within the SGF. The application may not support navigation using the traditional browser buttons (Back and Forth arrow buttons). Using a web browser’s Back and Forth navigation buttons may result in students receiving an “Unexpected Error” which logs them out of the SGF.

Q: What happens once students submit the SGF if they accidentally exit using the browser's back button?

A: If students use the web browser’s back button after submission of the SGF, they are notified that the application was already submitted.

Q: Is the information in emails secure?

A: PHEAA safeguards students' security and does not transmit protected information via email. Their name will appear at the top of the message. However, they must use their secure sign-in to complete the SGF via Account Access.

Q: What happens if students provide an invalid email or opt out of the email process?

A: PHEAA mails paper Status Notices in cases where there is no email, the email is invalid, or students have elected to opt out.

Schools should encourage students to provide a valid email address. This can be verified by reviewing page 4 of FG59 (schools) or page 4 of FG0H (PHEAA staff).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Validity Indicator</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Opt out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Email previously unsuccessful or invalid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q: What is the address from which the emails originate?

A: Emails from PHEAA will originate from StateGrantsandSpecialPrograms2@pheaa.org. Students should be encouraged to add this to their address book to make sure these important emails do not move to their junk or spam folders.

Q: Other than first-time (non-renewal) students, who else may have to complete the SGF or Status Notice?

A: Renewal students who change enrollment may be required to complete the SGF. For example, students who have received a 2020-21 award at a community college and subsequently enroll at a business, trade, or technical school during 2021-22 are required to provide the program of study in order to determine PA State Grant Program eligibility. However, this information is not collected on the FAFSA.

Students who had originally filed an SGF but in a subsequent year are changing dependency status also need to complete a new SGF or paper Status Notice.
Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation’s leading student aid organizations. Today PHEAA is a national provider of student financial services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs.

PHEAA’s earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. As the only major federal loan servicer with a nonprofit public service mission, PHEAA devotes its energy and resources to help ease the financial burden of higher education for its primary stakeholders – Pennsylvania students and families.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing operations nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES). PHEAA operates its digital technology division as Avereo. For more information, visit PHEAA.org.

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**Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency**

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These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). The information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of printing.