

COMPUTER MATCHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND  
THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

I. INTRODUCTION

The parties to this Computer Matching Agreement (CMA), the United States Department of Education (ED) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), enter into this CMA to carry out a matching program in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 and the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Amendments of 1990 (Privacy Act) (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) “Final Guidance Interpreting the Provisions of Public Law 100-503, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988” (54 FR 25818 (June 19, 1989)), and OMB Circular No. A-108, “Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act” (81 FR 94424 (December 23, 2016)).

This CMA covers the match of ED's Privacy Act system of records entitled “Aid Awareness and Application Processing” (18-11-21), and VA's Privacy Act system of records entitled “Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA” (58VA21/22/28). Persons who apply for assistance under the programs (Title IV, HEA programs) authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. § 1070 et seq.), are considered independent students if, among other factors, they are veterans. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the assertion made by applicants for Federal student financial assistance under Title IV of the HEA that they are veterans.

II. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

To receive assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs, an applicant must apply using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form for ED to calculate the applicant's “expected family contribution” (EFC), or “student aid index” (SAI) after implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act on July 1, 2024. An applicant for assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs is either a “dependent” or an “independent” student. The data collected from the FAFSA is maintained and processed in ED's Central Processing System (CPS) (for processing FAFSAs through award year (AY) 2023-24) and in ED's FAFSA Processing System (FPS) (for processing FAFSAs for AY 2024-25 and beyond). ED's Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) system is the system of records used to determine and validate applicant eligibility and the amounts and types of Title IV, HEA program assistance that an applicant will receive. For a dependent student, an EFC and a SAI are indices that reflect an evaluation of a student's approximate financial resources to contribute toward the student's postsecondary education for the academic year. For an independent student, an EFC and SAI are the amount the student and the student's spouse can reasonably be expected to contribute toward those costs. A “veteran,” as defined in section 480(c)(1) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. § 1087vv(c)(1)), is considered an “independent student” under the definition of that term in section 480(d)(1)(D) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. § 1087vv(d)(1)(D)).

Computerized access to VA's system of records entitled "Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA" enables ED to confirm an applicant's assertion of veteran status on the FAFSA for assistance under Title IV, HEA programs.

VA has the authority to assist ED to achieve effective services among ED programs and activities affecting veterans and their dependents under 38 U.S.C. § 523.

### III. JUSTIFICATION AND EXPECTED RESULTS

An audit report issued by ED's Office of Inspector General (OIG) in January 1997 concluded that numerous Title IV, HEA program recipients were falsely claiming veteran status as independent students. Such recipients thus erroneously obtained higher payments (or increased amounts) of Title IV, HEA program assistance when they only were qualified to receive lower payment amounts as dependent students. In conducting its study, OIG confirmed veteran status claims made by applicants on the FAFSA with VA.

As a result of this matching program, ED expects to eliminate the ability of applicants to incorrectly claim veteran status, thereby preventing improper payments to applicants who are not veterans. Matching computer records during application processing is the most efficient and expeditious means of obtaining the information needed to verify veteran status.

ED has conducted a Cost/Benefit Analysis (CBA) for this matching program. This analysis indicated that the estimated total costs to ED and VA are \$282,946 per 24-month processing year. The total benefits derived from conducting this match are estimated to be approximately \$75,109,260 per 24-month processing year. The detailed CBA is provided in Attachment 1.

### IV. RECORDS DESCRIPTION

A. Data will be matched from records covered by the following systems of records notices:

- (1) "Aid Awareness and Application Processing" (18-11-21) (data is stored and processed in the ED CPS for FAFSAs through AY 2023-24 and in FPS for FAFSAs from AY 2024-25 and beyond), last published in full in the *Federal Register* on June 15, 2023 (88 FR 39233), and available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/15/2023-12831/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>; and
- (2) "Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA" (58VA21/22/28), last published in full in the *Federal Register* on November 8, 2021 (86 FR 61858), and available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-11-08/pdf/2021-24372.pdf>.

The application match involves the automated transmission of selected Federal Student Aid applicant records via an overnight batch process, which occurs between VA and ED via a Connect: Direct transfer through a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) tunnel from a Connect: Direct secure server. Files come to the Connect: Direct secure server from the mainframe and are sent securely to VA. Return files from VA come back to the Connect: Direct secure server and are sent back to the mainframe. This process between the Connect: Direct secure server and the mainframe uses Tectia Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP), a secure protocol in accordance with the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 197 standard at a minimum of the 256 Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) level File Transfer Secure (FTS) supplied leased line from the ED Central Processing Virtual Data Center to the VA Austin Automation Center, located in Austin, Texas. ED provides the name, Social Security number (SSN), and date of birth of each applicant who indicates veteran status on the FAFSA. VA compares these data elements against the name, SSN, and date of birth of veterans. As a result of the match, VA assigns one of four values to the applicant records: (1) veteran status confirmed; (2) record found on database, but not a qualifying veteran; (3) record not found on database; or (4) record found on database, but applicant on active duty. VA then transmits applicant records back to ED on the FTS-leased line from the VA Austin Automation Center. An applicant whose veteran status is not confirmed will receive notice from ED on actions the applicant can take to resolve the possible conflict as described in Section VI (Verification and Opportunity to Contest Procedures) of this CMA.

B. Data elements used in the matching program:

- (1) “Aid Awareness and Application Processing” (18-11-21) (processed by ED’s CPS through award year AY 2023-24 and processed by ED’s FPS for AY 2024-25 and beyond) elements matched:
  - (a) First Name;
  - (b) Last Name;
  - (c) Date of Birth; and
  - (d) SSN.
- (2) “Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA” (58VA21/22/28) elements matched:
  - (a) First Name;
  - (b) Last Name;
  - (c) Date of Birth; and

(d) SSN.

VA will record a match if the SSN matches, and there is a match with the applicant's last name or date of birth, or both of these elements.

- (3) ED will disclose data from records in the CPS and FPS, which are covered by the system of records notice entitled "Aid Awareness and Application Processing" (18-11-21), which was most recently published in the *Federal Register* on June 15, 2023 (88 FR 39233). A copy of the published system of records notice is provided in Attachment 2.
- (4) VA will disclose data from records covered by the system of records notice entitled "Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA" (58VA21/22/28), which was most recently published in the *Federal Register* on November 8, 2021 (86 FR 61858). A copy of the published system of records notice is provided in Attachment 3.
- (5) Both systems of records notices contain an appropriate routine use provision permitting the disclosure and exchange of information pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(3). The routine use provisions are compatible with the purpose for which the information was collected, and also reflect that the disclosures are subject to computer matching. For VA, it is routine use 39 in the "Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA" (58VA21/22/28) system of records notice. For ED, it is routine use 1(a) in the "Aid Awareness and Application Processing" (18-11-21) system of records notice.

C. Number of records: Average of 1,784 queries per month for the applicant match.

## V. NOTICE PROCEDURES

ED agrees to provide each applicant for assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs, a notice of its intention to verify the applicant's eligibility for Title IV, HEA program assistance at the time of application by including notice of ED's intent to engage in computer matching in the FAFSA. ED agrees to provide general notice of the re-establishment of this matching program in the *Federal Register*.

## VI. VERIFICATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO CONTEST PROCEDURES

ED may not suspend, terminate, reduce, or make a final denial of any financial assistance or payment under Title IV of the HEA to an individual, or take other adverse action against such individual as a result of information produced by this matching program until an institution of higher education (IHE) participating in a program under Title IV of the HEA has asked the

applicant to produce evidence of veteran status or allows the applicant to file as a dependent student. Under the matching program, individual applicant records are matched at the time ED processes applications for Title IV, HEA program assistance. ED will only send the records of applicants who reported that they are veterans to VA for matching with the “Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA” (58VA21/22/28) system of records. As a result of an unsuccessful match (VA values 2, 3, or 4), ED will notify the applicant and the applicant’s IHE that VA has not confirmed the applicant’s veteran status via an application output document that ED will send both to the IHE (Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR)) and to the applicant (Student Aid Report (SAR) (FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) beginning in Award Year 2024-25)). If VA cannot confirm veteran status, the applicant must provide proof of veteran status to the IHE if that is the sole reason the student qualified for independent status. For an applicant whose veteran status is questioned, but who qualified as an independent student under criteria other than veteran status, no further action is required of the applicant.

The level of volume and speed of the system are important features of this matching program. The system is designed to yield match results from applicant data in a short time frame to ensure that applicants have information available to make informed decisions about the Title IV, HEA program assistance available at the IHEs where they have applied. In fact, during peak processing months, the efficiency of the match yields up to 359 applications per day. The applicant is determined to be the best source of information on the validity of the matching results. Consequently, ED’s notification process is highly automated and requires compressed verification procedures because it is not possible to intervene until after the output documents (the SAR/FSS and ISIR) are issued and the student is the best source for determining whether the results of the match are accurate. Individual applicants are required personally to resolve match discrepancies at the IHE that they plan to attend and from which they will receive Title IV, HEA program assistance. The OMB guidelines anticipate such a situation when they state: “It would be of dubious utility to apply the verification requirements equally to all matches and argue that a match that results in an adverse consequence of the loss of, for example, a tuition assistance payment should receive the same due process procedures as one that results in the loss of an Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payment or Food Stamp eligibility...” (54 Fed. Reg. 25818, 25827 (June 19, 1989)).

Furthermore, under the Privacy Act, ED may not suspend, terminate, reduce, or make a final denial of Title IV, HEA program assistance or take other adverse action against an individual as a result of the information produced by this matching program until, in pertinent part: (1) the individual receives a notice from ED containing a statement of ED’s findings and informing the individual of the opportunity to contest such findings, and (2) after the subsequent expiration of the 30-day notice period. To ensure that these requirements are met, when veteran status is not confirmed as a result of this matching program, ED will: (1) provide a SAR/FSS to the student (and will issue an ISIR to the IHE, which subsequently also may choose to provide notice to the student of the results of the match); (2) provide the student with a minimum of 30 days after the presentation of the SAR/FSS to contest the match; and (3) not take any adverse action against an individual as a result of the information produced by this matching program until the expiration of at least 30 days from the presentation of the SAR/FSS. The SAR/FSS will instruct the student to submit additional verifying information to document their veteran status to the IHE. The

results of this match do not preclude the applicant from receiving Title IV, HEA program assistance. The applicant must correct their FAFSA information, provide parental data if otherwise a dependent student, or document that they are a veteran as defined in the HEA. The IHE will assist the applicant in making any necessary corrections to receive Title IV, HEA program assistance at the IHE that they are attending. The applicant is the person who is best able to produce documents to verify veteran status, by, for example, submitting a copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). The applicant may also contact the VA Regional Office, or branch of service in which the applicant served, to obtain confirmation of veteran status. The IHE will inform the student whether the student is considered a veteran for purposes of Title IV, HEA program assistance after considering any additional information provided by the student.

## VII. RETENTION AND DISPOSITION OF MATCHED ITEMS PROCEDURES

- A. ED will retain all records with identifiable information received from the VA which are matched under this CMA in accordance with the requirements of ED Records Schedule 072, FSA Application, Origination, and Disbursement Records (DAA-0441-2013-0002) (ED 072). (ED has proposed amendments to ED 072, for the National Archives and Records Administration’s consideration and will not destroy records covered by ED 072 until such amendments are in effect, as applicable.)
- B. VA will use only those records of Federal student aid applicants who are identified as veterans. Input records transmitted by ED to VA are only retained by VA until the next business day’s input file is received by VA from ED, at which time the prior ED file is deleted from the VA system.

## VIII. SECURITY AND PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS

VA and ED agree to comply with the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, title III of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-347), as amended by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-283) (FISMA); the Privacy Act; related OMB circulars and memoranda, including Circular A-130, “Managing Information as a Strategic Resource,” (July 28, 2016) and Memorandum M-17-12, “Preparing for and Responding to a Breach of Personally Identifiable Information” (January 3, 2017); National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) directives related to cybersecurity (SP 800 series); and the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). ED’s CPS and COD systems, and the VA “Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA” (58VA21/22/28) system have a current Authorization to Operate (ATO) in accordance with FISMA. As of August 2023, ED’s FPS is undergoing the security authorization process and is expected to receive an ATO in December 2023. These laws, directives, and regulations include requirements for safeguarding Federal information systems and personally identifiable information (PII) used in Federal agency business processes, as well as related reporting requirements. Both agencies recognize and will

comply with the laws, regulations, NIST standards, OMB directives, and related guidance, including those published after the effective date of this CMA.

Specific security requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- At a minimum, data must be protected at the Moderate system certification criticality level according to Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 199, Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information, and Information Systems.
- All systems involved in this match have completed the security authorization process within the last three years, using the required NIST guidance, and have an active ATO with the appropriate signatures. Note: as of August 2023, FPS is undergoing the security authorization process and is expected to receive an ATO in December 2023.
- Electronic files are encrypted using the FIPS 140-3 standard, per the NIST Implementation Schedule, and, to the extent possible, are interoperable with ED's personal identity verification logical access control card (PIV LAC) for Government Employees and support contractors authorized to have an HSPD-12 card (HSPD-12 = Homeland Security Presidential Directive #12).
- VA and ED systems reside within a Trusted Internet Connection, per OMB memorandum M-08-05.

FISMA requirements apply to all Federal contractors, organizations, or entities that possess or use Federal information, or that operate, use, or have access to Federal information systems on behalf of an agency. VA and ED agree that they are responsible for oversight and compliance of their own contractors and agents. VA and ED each reserve the right to conduct onsite inspections of any contractor or agent in order to monitor compliance with FISMA regulations during the lifetime of this CMA.

Both Parties agree to secure PII received from the other party pursuant to this CMA in accordance with the Federal requirements that apply to the receipt and use of information subject to the Privacy Act and other applicable statutes.

The FISMA requires all agencies to report security incidents to a Federal incident response center. The center, U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), is located within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. All incidents involving confirmed or suspected breaches of PII must be reported to CISA within one hour of discovering the incident.

#### A. Incident Reporting

Both Parties agree to report incidents in accordance with their respective incident response plans, using established protocols. ED will report to its Office of the Chief

Information Officer (OCIO) in compliance with the instructions, standards, and procedures set forth in ED's Departmental Directive OCIO: 3-112 on Cybersecurity Policy. VA will report using VA Handbook 6500.2, Management of Data Breaches Involving Sensitive Personal Information. Upon detection of an incident related to this CMA, the agency experiencing the incident will promptly notify the other agency's System Security Contact(s) named in Section XIV of this CMA. If VA detects such an incident, then VA will notify ED's System Security Contacts in the order designated in Section XIV of this CMA, beginning with the Department of Education Security Operations Center (EDSOC), (202) 245-6550; [edsoc@ed.gov](mailto:edsoc@ed.gov).

If the Party experiencing the incident is unable to speak with the other Party's System Security Contact(s) within one hour or, if for some reason, contacting the System Security Contact(s) is not practicable (e.g., outside of normal business hours), then the following contact information shall be used:

VA:

- VA Cyber Security Operations Center (CSOC), [esd@va.gov](mailto:esd@va.gov); 855-673-4357

ED/FSA:

- EDSOC, (202) 245-6550; [edsoc@ed.gov](mailto:edsoc@ed.gov). VA will subsequently notify the CPS and FPS Information System Security Officers (ISSOs) and then the CPS and FPS System Owner's Primary Representatives, using their contact information, which is listed in Section XIV of this CMA.

If either VA or ED experiences a loss of PII provided by VA or ED under the terms of this CMA, they will also comply with the PII breach reporting and security requirements as required by OMB M-17-12, "Preparing for and Responding to a Breach of Personally Identifiable Information." ED and VA also agree to notify the security contact(s) for their agency named in Section XIV of this CMA as soon as possible, but no later than one hour, after the discovery of a breach involving PII. The agency that experienced the breach will be responsible for following its established procedures, including notifying the proper organizations (e.g., CISA), conducting a breach and risk analysis, and deciding the need for notice and/or remediation to individuals affected by the breach. If the agency's analysis indicates that an individual notice or remediation or both is appropriate, the agency that experienced the breach will be responsible for providing such notice or remediation or both without cost to the other agency.

## B. Application of Policies and Procedures

VA and ED will adopt policies and procedures to ensure that information contained in their respective records or obtained from each other is used solely as provided in this CMA. VA and ED agree to comply with these guidelines and any subsequent revisions.

## C. Onsite Inspection

Each agency participating in this CMA reserves the right to monitor compliance with FISMA, NIST, and OMB requirements and to make onsite inspections for purposes of auditing compliance, if necessary, during the duration or any extension of this CMA. Both agencies have the right to make onsite inspections for auditing compliance, if necessary, for the duration or any extension of this CMA. If either party elects to complete an onsite inspection, the auditing agency will provide the other agency advanced written notice of any onsite inspection and the parties will set a mutually agreeable date for such inspection.

#### D. Application of Policy and Procedures

VA and ED will adopt policies and procedures to ensure that each agency uses the information contained in their respective records or obtained from each other solely as provided in this CMA. VA and ED will comply with these guidelines and any subsequent revisions.

### IX. RECORDS TRANSMISSION SCHEDULING

ED's contractor will send a file to the VA each workday (Monday through Friday). Transmission of the file to VA should be completed by 3:00 a.m. Central Time (CT) daily. VA personnel will be notified if the transmission of the file will be delayed and will be given an approximate transmission time.

VA will process the file and return the data to ED as soon as possible, but no later than 4:00 p.m. CT the same workday.

Because Federal holidays may not always coincide with the non-Federal holidays of the ED contractor, the ED contractor will not submit a file of records for processing on Federal or non-Federal contractor holidays. The records for those days will be combined with the records for the following day's processing. The ED contractor's holiday schedule will be provided to VA prior to the beginning of the calendar year.

The ED contractor will contact the VA Computer Systems contact immediately if the transmission of the file to VA is delayed for any reason. VA's Business/Agreements contact will supply to ED and keep current the contact names and job titles of staff at the VA processing center who are knowledgeable of the VA and ED matching program. If VA does not receive the file by 8:00 a.m. CT, VA will not be responsible for processing the file by the 4:00 p.m. CT cut off the same day. VA will contact the ED contractor immediately if the processing of the file is delayed for any reason. ED's Business/Agreements contact will supply to VA and keep current the contact names and job titles of staff at ED's processing center who are knowledgeable of the VA and ED matching program. This will ensure 24-hour-per-day coverage in case problems with the data transfer occur.

### X. RECORDS USE, DUPLICATION AND REDISCLOSURE RESTRICTIONS

ED and VA agree that any information that ED receives from VA or that VA receives from ED pursuant to this CMA will only be used, as necessary, to verify the compliance statements of applicants for benefits under Title IV, HEA programs. The information may also be re-disclosed to support investigations or prosecutions based on fraudulent applications, which may arise in this connection, and may also be re-disclosed as required by law.

ED will re-disclose the responses received from VA in CPS and FPS, which are covered by ED's system of records notice entitled "Aid Awareness and Application Processing" (18-11-21), to ED's COD system (covered by ED's system of records notice entitled "Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System" (18-11-02)) to determine the amounts and types of Title IV, HEA program assistance that an applicant will receive. ED has determined that re-disclosure of VA's data to the COD System is essential to the conduct of the matching program. The system of records notice for the COD System (18-11-02) was last published in full in the *Federal Register* on June 28, 2023 (88 FR 41942), and is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/28/2023-13698/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>. ED's systems of records notices for the Aid Awareness and Application Processing and COD System may be modified during the effective period of this CMA in compliance with Privacy Act requirements.

## XI. RECORDS ACCURACY ASSESSMENT

The personal identification data being used in this matching program (SSN, name, and date of birth) that is covered by ED's Aid Awareness and Application Processing system of records notice is provided to ED by applicants for Title IV, HEA program assistance and, therefore, a high degree of accuracy in the information is achieved. Because this identifier information is derived from information personally reported by the applicant, it is estimated that the identifier information is at least 95 percent accurate. VA estimates, based on previous matching experience, that the accuracy of data matched within its "Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA" (58VA21/22/28) system is at least 99 percent accurate.

ED and VA have reviewed the records subject to this CMA, and they conclude that the records are being maintained to a standard of accuracy that will reasonably assure fairness in any eligibility determination made on the basis of the records.

## XII. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ACCESS

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (Comptroller General) may have access to all ED and VA records as necessary in order to verify compliance with this CMA.

## XIII. DURATION OF THE CMA

### A. Effective Date:

This CMA will supersede the current matching program between the parties. The duration of this CMA is estimated to cover the 18-month period from December 27,

2023, through June 26, 2025. However, the effective date of this CMA and the date when the match may begin shall be whichever date is the latest of the following three dates: (1) December 27, 2023; (2) at the expiration of the 30-day public comment period following ED's publication of notice of this matching program in the *Federal Register*, assuming that ED receives no public comments or receives public comments but makes no changes to the Matching Notice as a result of the public comments, or 30 days from the date on which ED publishes a Revised Matching Notice in the *Federal Register*, assuming that ED receives public comments and revises the Matching Notice as a result of public comments; or (3) at the expiration of the 60-day period following ED's transmittal of a report concerning the matching program to OMB and to the appropriate Congressional Committees, along with a copy of this CMA, unless OMB waives any of this 60-day review period for compelling reasons, in which case, 60 days minus the number of days waived by OMB from the date of ED's transmittal of the report of the matching program.

B. Duration:

This CMA will be in effect for an initial period of 18 months.

C. Renewal:

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(o)(2)(D) the Data Integrity Boards (DIB) of ED and VA may, within three months prior to the expiration of this CMA, renew this CMA for a period not to exceed 12 months if:

1. The matching program will be conducted without change; and
2. ED and VA certify to their DIBs that they have conducted the matching program in compliance with the original CMA.

D. Modification:

The parties may modify this CMA at any time by a written modification, agreed to by both parties and approved by the DIB of each agency.

E. Termination:

If either party does not want to continue this matching program, it must notify the other party of its intention not to continue at least 90 days before the end of the then-current period. The parties may terminate this CMA at any time with the consent of both parties. Either party may unilaterally terminate this CMA upon written notice to the other party, in which case the termination will be effective 90 days after the date of the notice, or later if so specified in the notice. In no event, however, may the termination of the CMA allow the CMA to extend beyond the time periods listed in paragraphs B and C, above.

#### XIV. PERSONS TO CONTACT

ED Contacts:

##### **Business/Agreement Issues**

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##### **Computer Matching Issues**

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##### **Security and Privacy Issues**

U.S. Department of Education Security Operations Center (EDSOC)  
Telephone: (202) 245-6550  
Email: [edsoc@ed.gov](mailto:edsoc@ed.gov)

Nina Colon, Information System Security Officer (ISSO)  
Central Processing System (CPS)  
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Michele Hawkins, Information System Security Officer (ISSO)  
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VA Contacts:

**Business/Agreement Issues**

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Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
Interagency Data Sharing & Military Operations (212C)  
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**Computer Systems/Systems Security**

John Brandt  
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Information System Security Officer (ISSO)  
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XV. SIGNATURES

**1. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

The undersigned are officials of VA and are authorized to represent their agency for purposes of this CMA.

**BETH MURPHY** Digitally signed by BETH MURPHY  
Date: 2023.09.14 11:12:03 -04'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Murphy, Executive Director  
Compensation Service  
Veterans Benefits Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NILIJAH CARTER** Digitally signed by NILIJAH CARTER  
Date: 2023.09.27 09:45:44 -04'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Nilijah E. Carter, Executive Director  
Pension & Fiduciary Service  
Veterans Benefits Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Data Integrity Board Review/Approval**

This matching program is limited to identification. There is a high degree of confidence that the information provided by both agencies is accurate. Because of this high degree of confidence and the applicant’s ability to contest an eligibility determination by document production or statement from a VA regional office, the VA DIB has determined that it is appropriate to compress the process of independently verifying the data that ED receives from VA and the process of providing the individual with the due process notice and opportunity to contest the finding of the matching program. The VA DIB has reviewed and approved this CMA.

As chairperson of the VA DIB, I hereby approve this CMA between ED and VA.

**JOHN OSWALT**  
**OSWALT** 2023.10.19  
14:25:58 -04'00'

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Oswalt  
Chair, Data Integrity Board  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### 3. U.S. Department of Education

The undersigned is an official of ED and is authorized to represent his agency for purposes of this CMA.

**RICHARD CORDRAY** Digitally signed by RICHARD  
CORDRAY  
Date: 2023.09.16 17:38:48 -04'00'

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Richard Cordray  
Chief Operating Officer  
Federal Student Aid  
U.S. Department of Education

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Date

### 4. U.S. Department of Education, Data Integrity Board Review/Approval

This matching program is limited to identification. There is a high degree of confidence that the information provided by both agencies is accurate. Because of this high degree of confidence and the applicant's ability to contest an eligibility determination by document production or statement from a VA regional office, the ED DIB has determined that it is appropriate to compress the process of independently verifying the data that ED receives from VA and the process of providing the individual with the due process notice and opportunity to contest the finding of the matching program. The ED DIB has reviewed and approved this CMA.

As chairperson of the ED DIB, I hereby approve this CMA between ED and VA.

**KEVIN HERMS** Digitally signed by KEVIN  
HERMS  
Date: 2023.10.20 11:34:35  
-04'00'

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Kevin Herms  
Senior Agency Official for Privacy  
Chair, Data Integrity Board  
U.S. Department of Education

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Date

Attachment 1:

2021-22 Cost Benefit Analysis for the Matching Program between the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Attachment 2:

Aid Awareness and Application Processing (18-11-21) - most recently published in the *Federal Register* on June 15, 2023 (88 FR 39233) and available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/15/2023-12831/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>;

Attachment 3:

Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records – VA (58VA21/22/28) - most recently published in the *Federal Register* at 86 Fed. Reg. 61858 (November 8, 2021).