Dear Michael,

The NCHELP Electronic Standards Committee (ESC) is pleased to submit the Common Record: CommonLine (CRC) data exchange standard to PESC with the objective that it become an approved and recognized education standard.

This submission is the culmination of a multi-year effort to create an XML-based data exchange standard for the origination processing of FFELP and alternative education loans. The development of CRC has followed best practices and PESC standards.

1. CRC was developed as a collaborative effort of a broad cross-section of the student loan industry. The team consisted of guarantors, lenders, servicers, schools, software vendors, and secondary markets.
2. The team was very interactive with the keepers of the core components. All data needs were resolved with the existing core components before any new data elements or valid values were decided upon. Existing components were used whenever possible. All additions or changes were incorporated into the core components and are included in the Registry and Repository.
3. The team employed the published PESC Technical Standards in the development of the CRC standard.
4. Very detailed documentation of the standard has been created. Links to the documentation are included in this document.

The current coordinated version of the standard is 1.0.6a. The documentation suite includes:

1. Implementation Guide – This documents the standard with data elements, valid values, edits, business rules, and defined data content for specific business processing events.
2. Schema – The CRC schema differs from the Core schema but has retained as much of the original core components structure as possible.
3. Instance Documents – Detailed examples of data files to meet specific processing events have been established so that analysts and designers can use them as a guide or analytical tool to determine how best to conform to the standard.
4. CRC Test Tool – The ESC Testing and Certification Advisory Team has created a testing tool that organizations can use to run their XML documents through to determine if their output conforms to the expected intent of the standard. This will ensure that it passes the schema and also applies many cross-functional, and relational edits important to the origination processing of education loans.
In addition, the ESC is sponsoring and managing a formal Beta Test of the standard with seven participants from the industry. The intent of the Beta Test is to achieve early awareness of any issues in the documentation or the Test Tool so that as additional organizations work toward their implementations they will be able to rely on the clarity of the documentation and the accuracy of the Test Tool.

I am attaching the business case document that includes a history of the development of the standard. Additionally, here are the links to the standards.

http://www.nchelp.org/elibrary/index.cfm?parent=1679

CRC Implementation Guide – PDF

CRC Schema

CRC Instance Samples

http://www.nchelp.org/elibrary/index.cfm?parent=310

CommonRecord: CommonLine Testing Tool

If you have any questions concerning the standard do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you. We look forward to the CRC standard proceeding through the PESC review and approval process.

Regards,

Bob King and Brian Allison

Robert L. King

Director, Industry Initiatives