February 16, 2006

Ms. Kim Shiflette  
Chair, Data Transport Workgroup  
USA Funds  
10475 Crosspoint Boulevard  
Suite 230  
Indianapolis, IN 46256-3323

Dear Ms. Shiflette,

Thank you for your submission (dated February 6, 2006) to the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) of the Data Transport Specification developed through the Data Transport Workgroup. As stated in your Letter of Intent from June 23, 2005, your objective is that the Data Transport Specification become an approved and recognized education standard.

Together, the National Council of Higher Education Loan Program’s (NCHelp) Electronic Standards Committee (ESC), PESC’s Standards Forum for Education, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admissions Officer’s (AACRAO) Standardization of Postsecondary Education Electronic Data Exchange (SPEEDE) Committee, and the entire education community have worked closely over the past few years to develop an objective, sound process for approving standards (see http://www.PESC.org/info/Policies-Procedures.asp). With the development work completed and submitted on February 6, 2006, the Data Transport Specification is now immediately ready for public comment period.

PESC will post all Data Transport documentation on its website on Friday February 16, 2006 and hold a 30-day public comment period. Comments will be submitted to the PESC office and routed to your attention to address and resolve within the Data Transport Workgroup and in cooperation with the Standards Forum’s Change Control Board (CCB). Once the public comment period is over and all issues are resolved, we will then present the Data Transport Specification for vote by PESC Members and for ratification by the PESC Board of Directors.

The work that you have and the Workgroup have completed marks a significant milestone in education. We encourage you to continue your leadership role in actively identifying areas where cost containment and improved customer service can be achieved through standards. Congratulations to you and the entire Workgroup for the time and effort you have put forth to improve the delivery and exchange of student data. You continue to reach significant milestones and the education community owes you thanks.

As always, I look forward to working with you and the education community. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Sessa  
Executive Director  
PESC

cc: PESC Board of Directors  
PESC Steering Committee  
Brian Allison, USA Funds