

# STATE OF INDIANA

STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA



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**TO:** Indiana Higher Education Financial Aid Offices  
**FROM:** Kathi Graves, Director, Grants Division *KG*  
**RE:** The Order of Application of Aid  
**DATE:** December 15, 2011

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-377) was signed into action on January 4, 2011 by President Obama. The provisions included in the law directly impact the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana's (SSACI) policy guidance entitled, *The Order of Application of Aid Aug 2011*, as well as *NGSG-FTA Policy Guidelines Nov 2010.pdf*, both of which had previously been available inside the Information Files in SSACI's xGrads system.

Per Public Law 111-377, Section 102, effective August 1, 2011, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will only pay the net in-state tuition and fee charges after the deduction of any scholarship, or other Federal, State, institutional or employer-based aid or assistance (excluding loans, Title IV funds, and other forms of non-tuition based funding) that is provided directly to the institution and specifically designated for the sole purpose of defraying the costs of tuition and fees.

## Effects on SSACI's Order of Aid

With the changes made to the amount of tuition and fee charges that may be reported by a school to the VA, all tuition specific aid from SSACI (i.e. Frank O'Bannon Grant, Twenty-first Century Scholarship, National Guard Supplemental Grant, National Guard Extension Scholarship, Part-Time Grant Program, and Child of Certain Veterans and Public Safety Officers Supplemental Grant Program) must be applied *prior to* reporting the net in-state tuition and fee charges to the VA.

As *The Order of Application of Aid Aug 2011* has been removed from the Information Files in xGrads and is no longer applicable, please discontinue your institution's use of this document. A new guideline will be made available in January, and you will be notified as soon as it is posted to the Information Files in xGrads.

## Effects on SSACI's NGS - FTA Policy

As the VA is now mandating all tuition specific aid be applied prior to reporting the net in-state tuition and fee charges, SSACI's National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG) must be applied *before* any Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) funds that may be available to a member of the Indiana Army National Guard. SSACI was appropriated \$2.8 million for academic year 2011-2012; current projections indicate the use of approximately \$2.3 million will be needed to fund eligible recipients of NGS in the current academic year.

The *NGSG-FTA Policy Guidelines Nov 2010.pdf* has been removed from the Information Files in xGrads and is no longer applicable. As such, please discontinue your institution's use of this document. A new guideline will be made available and you will be notified as soon as it is posted to the Information Files in xGrads.

For a complete description of changes and directions for reporting to the VA, please reference the VA's website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). The VA's School Official's Handbook may be accessed directly at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/school-certifying-officials/sco-training-resources/handbook.html>.

Questions involving the effects on SSACI's order of aid, student eligibility, and processing of student awards may be directed to the Grants Division by phone at (317) 232-2355 or via e-mail to [CollegeFA@ssaci.in.gov](mailto:CollegeFA@ssaci.in.gov).