

Public comment receive from 60 day public comment notice for 1845-NEW,
Docket # ED-2022-SCC-0101 - Application to Participate in Federal Student Financial Aid
Programs (PEPS)

Email: rschultz@fatstaf.com

Organization: FATSTAF Third Party Servicing

It should be made clear what the requirements are to qualify for Participation in clear and easy-to-understand language at the very beginning of the process/application. It should also be required that schools submit proof of accreditation and state authorization prior to submitting the Application. If the schools have to submit that documentation prior to completing the Application, that will save the Department time and resources. Many schools don't realize that they have to be accredited before they can apply.

Response from Federal Student Aid

Thank you for taking the time to review the E-App and provide feedback. The E-App is used primarily by institutions currently participating in the Title IV programs. We provide separate instructions for schools wishing to participate for the first time, under the link "Information for Initial Applicants," where we identify the basic eligibility requirements, including state authorization and accreditation. Further, ED staff follows-up with schools that submit the *Questions to Start Initial Application* form to ensure they understand and meet the basic requirements. This data collection related to the current E-App has no planned change in this area. However, with the new E-App in development, we are working to add pre-screening questions so that process can be automated to require the institution to affirm that they meet the state and accrediting agency approval requirements.