SUBJECT: Feedback on Draft of 2003-04 CDS with Proposed Changes by August 1

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(Note: This message has been posted on the CDS listserv on July 24.)

The Common Data Set (CDS) publishers with input from the CDS Advisory Board, the Association for Institutional Research's Higher Education Data Policy Committee, the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators, and listserv subscribers have posted a draft of the 2003-04 CDS including proposed changes on the CDS Web site http://www.commondataset.org for public review and comment. The proposed changes were suggested to improve problematic data's definitions, accuracy, comprehensiveness, timeliness, and adherence to existing standards. As in prior years, the publishers are circulating these changes to ensure broad-based discussion among interested parties with the goal of achieving consensus. Please review either the rich-text-format or Adobe Acrobat file posted atop http://www.commondataset.org under "Newsworthy Items" and post any questions or concerns to the CDS listserv no later than FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2003. As always, your input in this collaborative initiative between the publishers and the higher education community is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

To subscribe to the CDS listserv, set your Internet browser to http://www.collegeboard.com/about/association/cblist/memb.html and click on the successive links labeled "Enter Discussion Groups", "Common Data Set," and "CDS."

Excluding annual updates, proposed changes to the CDS include the
A0: The addition of a respondent information section.

B4-B21, Graduation Rates: Due to differences in the timing of IPEDS and publishers’ data collections, respondents now have the option of providing graduation rate data for the 1997 cohort else the 1996 cohort depending upon data availability and survey deadlines.

Section H, Financial Aid: Refinements were made to the wording of several items to clarify their intent. In addition, a copy of the glossary of financial aid definitions found at the end of the document is now included in Section H in case the financial aid questions are updated separately by the financial aid office.

Section J, Degrees Conferred: IPEDS CIP 2000 categories are now presented alongside CIP 1999 categories to accommodate institutions as they adopt the new classification.

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