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This presentation is accurate as of August 12, 2024

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Agenda

- o Getting the Most out of NEA Membership
- Understanding Student Loan Forgiveness **Programs and Eligibility**
- Understanding PSLF Policy and Program Updates
- Getting Started with the NEA Student Debt **Navigator**
- Setting up a Savi Account
- Summary of Resources



4

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forgiveness or cancellation programs you may qualify for, along

Debt Relief.

Find information about any

with how much you can save.



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Resources: PowerPoint Additional Dates NEA Student Debt Navigator Link Other "stuff"



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Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF)

General Requirements:

- You have subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans from the FFELP and/or the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program are eligible.
- You are a new borrower (no outstanding balance on a Federal Loan before October 1, 1998)
- You have been employed for at least five consecutive years in an eligible elementary or secondary school (listed in TCLI Directory, Teacher Cancellation Low Income)



11

Loan Forgiveness Programs

Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF)

General Requirements continued...

- You are not in default on the loan for which you are seeking forgiveness
- You have not received a benefit for the same teaching service through the AmeriCorps Program
- At least one of your five years of qualifying teaching service must be after the 1997-98 academic year
- You received the loan for which you are requesting forgiveness before the end of your fifth year of qualifying teaching service

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Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF)

How Much Is Forgiven...

- Certain highly qualified special education and secondary mathematics or science teachers can qualify for up to \$17,500 in forgiveness. Other eligible teachers can qualify for up to \$5,000
- School librarians, guidance counselors and other administrative staff are not considered teachers for the purposes of this loan forgiveness program
- You apply for TLF after you have completed the five-year teaching requirement



13

Loan Forgiveness Programs

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- Provides complete loan balance forgiveness
- Eligible after you have made 120 qualifying payments under a qualified repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer
- · Not required to be consecutive, only cumulative
- Direct Loans or loans consolidated into Direct Loans
- · Paperwork filed annually



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PSLF Criteria:



Qualifying Employer

Government organizations at any level (federal, state, local, or tribal), not-for-profit 501(c)3s

Must work min. 30 hours per week

Can combine multiple/part-time employment to qualify (all employers must be eligible)



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15

Loan Forgiveness Programs

PSLF Criteria:



Qualifying Loans

Direct Federal Loans only

Consolidate Parent PLUS & FFEL



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PSLF Criteria:



Qualifying Repayment Plan

Income-Driven Repayment Plan

On-Time and full monthly payments



17

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Additional Details

- Direct Loans Only
- Enroll in IBR, ICR, PAYE, or SAVE (formerly REPAYE)
- Make 120 income driven repayments, on-time, exact amount
- File for forgiveness
- Complete the PSLF Employment Certification
 Form for each year of full-time qualifying
 employment





SAVE Repayment Plan

- Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE)
- <u>Decreases monthly payments</u> by increasing the amount of income that is excluded from the calculations.
- Eliminates extra interest accrual every month beyond your payment. For example, if \$40 in interest accumulates monthly and your payment is \$30, the remaining \$20 of interest will not be added to your loan balance. Your principal balance will never increase if you make your regular monthly payments.
- Excludes spousal income for borrowers who file separately.



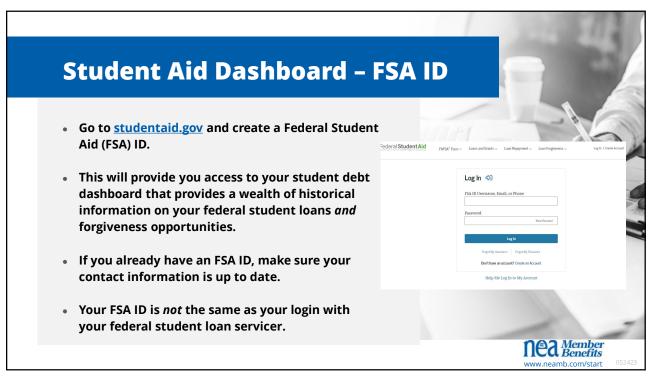
19

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF Program)

- Effective January 1st, 2021, Ed Code 87489 (e) was amended to say that for the purposes of public service loan forgiveness program application qualifications, the college district shall credit faculty with 3.35 hours for each hour of lecture/work.
- 9 hours of course work meets this requirement.







Emergency Forbearance Ending

Payment Pause Ending

Back in March 2020, all federal student loans went into emergency forbearance, pausing all payments and dropping interest rates to 0%. This "payment pause" was extended several times and officially ended on October 1, 2023.

The payment pause ended in two stages:

- On September 1st, regular interest rates applied to all student loans.
- On October 1st, payments were due.



24

Emergency Forbearance Ending

Identify Your Servicer

- Many borrowers were transferred to a new loan servicer during the payment pause. For example, if you applied for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, your loans have been or will be transferred to MOHELA. Or, if your servicer ended their contract (like FedLoan Servicing) your loans were transferred to another servicer.
- If you are not sure which servicer your loans were transferred to, log into your Federal Student Aid dashboard. If you can't log in, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) for loan servicer information.



Introducing the SAVE Plan

- The Biden Administration just launched the **most affordable** IDR plan ever—the **SAVE Plan**.
- The SAVE Plan, like other income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, calculates your monthly payment amount based on your income and family size.
- The SAVE Plan provides the lowest monthly payments of any IDR plan available to nearly all student borrowers.



28

The SAVE Plan

Here are the SAVE Plan Details:

- **Decreases monthly payments** by increasing the amount of income that is excluded from the calculations. You will owe nothing if you are a single borrower earning \$32,800 or less or a family of four earning \$67,500 or less. Borrowers earning more will save at least \$1,000 a year.
- Eliminates extra interest accrual every month beyond your payment. For example, if \$50 in interest accumulates monthly and your monthly payment is \$30, the remaining \$20 of interest will not be added to your loan balance. Your principal balance will never increase if you make your regular monthly payments.
- **Excludes spousal income** for borrowers who file separately.



The SAVE Plan

More SAVE Benefits:

Starting July 2024, the SAVE Plan will also:

- Cut undergraduate loan payments in half. Borrowers with both graduate and undergraduate loans will also see a decrease.
- Forgive loans after 10 years of payments for borrowers with original balances of \$12,000 or less.



31

Account Adjustment

- The Biden Administration is helping more borrowers get closer to forgiveness by *automatically* reviewing your payment history and counting more payments as qualifying.
- The one-time account adjustment will count more time towards PSLF and Income-Driven Repayment Plan Forgiveness, like:
 - late and partial payments
 - o payments made under any repayment plan
 - o payments made on Parent PLUS, FFEL, or Perkins loans before consolidation
 - o months spent in an extended forbearance (12+ months consecutive; or 36+ months total



Account Adjustment Timeline

• Federal Direct Loan Holders

 The account adjustment will occur automatically in 2024. When you apply for PSLF your payment count will be adjusted.

• FFEL, Perkins, or Parent PLUS Holders

- You will need to apply for a direct loan consolidation prior to <u>December 31, 2023</u>.
- Once consolidation is complete, your payment count will be temporarily reduced to zero.
- After the account adjustment takes effect, your payment count will increase based on the adjustment.



34

Getting StartedWith the NEA Student Debt Navigator



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