

Education Department Responses to Data Request by Senator Warren, April 2, 2021

1. From Senator Warren: According to FSA’s data, how many borrowers would have their debt burdens completely forgiven under plans to cancel \$10,000 of student debt, \$25,000 of student debt, and \$50,000 of student debt?

Education Department’s (ED) Response: “FSA has provided debt levels which were readily available. As a result, the [data] shows the number of borrowers who would receive total forgiveness at debt levels ranging from \$10k-\$50k. The data includes borrowers’ Direct Loans and FFEL balances only, as of December 31, 2020.”

The Department also provided a table of data, which is reproduced below, but with estimates rounded to the nearest thousand.

Total number of borrowers: 44,972,000

Forgiveness Amount Up To				
\$10K	\$20K	\$30K	\$40K	\$50K
15,022,000	24,161,000	30,030,000	33,669,000	36,062,000

- a. For each amount of debt cancellation (\$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000), please include the number of borrowers whose loans were in default or delinquent prior to March 2020 who would have their debt burdens completely forgiven.

ED Response: “The table below shows the number of borrowers who were in default or delinquent as of December 31, 2019, who would have their entire balance forgiven at the various forgiveness levels. Since delinquency is not reported on commercial FFEL loans, delinquency is only captured for ED-owned FFEL loans and Direct Loans. As of December 31, 2019, 10,347,000* borrowers were in default or 91+ days delinquent out of 44,865,000* borrowers with outstanding debt.”

The Department also provided a table of data, which is reproduced below, but with estimates rounded to the nearest thousand:

Forgiveness Amount Up To				
\$10K	\$20K	\$30K	\$40K	\$50K
4,656,000	7,187,000	8,470,000	9,295,000	9,838,000

2. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ED has exercised its authority to modify or cancel student debt by waiving payments and interest. Among the amounts forgiven, what is the total value of student loan payments suspended during the pandemic to date? What is the total value of the interest waived on student loan payments?

ED Response: “The Department previously provided information that borrowers are saving approximately \$5 billion per month from the temporary 0% interest rate.”

3. How many borrowers have achieved cancellation through IDR or PSLF programs during the current pause on student loan payment?

ED Response: “As reported in NSLDS as of March 31, 2021, <1,000 borrowers have received IDR forgiveness during the pause while <4,000 received PSLF forgiveness and <2,000 received TEPSLF forgiveness.” Note: Estimates have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

4. For each program described in question 1(d) above, please provide the number of borrowers and the outstanding balance that have been in repayment for less than 5 years, 5-10 years, 10-15 years, 15-20 years, 20-25 years, and more than 25 years.

ED Response: “The table below shows data for Direct Loan and FFEL borrowers as of December 31, 2020. Consolidation loan linking is used to identify the dates that the underlying loans entered repayment. The minimum enter repayment date of currently outstanding loans is identified and used to measure time in repayment. If the borrower currently has a loan in school or in grace, they are categorized as 'In school/grace'.”

The Department also provided a table of data, which is reproduced below, with estimates rounded to the nearest thousand.

Time in repayment	Borrower Counts	Outstanding Balances
In school/grace	8,068,000	252,433,549,000
1 – <1 Year	2,525,000	47,638,925,000
2 – 1-2 Years	1,811,000	38,263,043,000
3 – 2-5 Years	6,021,000	163,876,238,000
4 – 5-10 Years	11,385,000	387,139,417,000
5 – 10-20 Years	10,620,000	457,595,529,000
6 – 20+ Years	4,423,000	211,362,359,000
Unknown	117,000	3,733,884,000

- a. Of the outstanding balances in each of these categories, how much of the balance is interest, including capitalized interest?

ED Response: “The outstanding balance shown in response 4 includes outstanding principal balance plus any interest balances.”

- b. What percentage of loans in each category were in default or more than 90 days delinquent before the current pause on student loan payment?

ED Response: “The table below shows the count of borrowers who were 91+ days delinquent or in default as of December 31, 2019 by debt size. Since delinquency is not reported on commercial FFEL loans, delinquency is only captured for ED-owned FFEL loans and Direct Loans 10,347,000 out of the 44,865,000 borrowers with outstanding debt at that time were in default or 91+ days delinquent. See table.”

The Department also provided a table of data, which is reproduced below, with estimates rounded to the nearest thousand.

Count of Borrowers 91+ Days Delinquent or in Default						
Outstanding Balance Groupings						
Time in repayment	<\$10K	\$10K to \$20K	\$20K to \$30K	\$30K to \$40K	\$40K to \$50K	\$50K+
In school/grace	4,000	7,000	6,000	5,000	4,000	22,000
1 – <1 Year	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000
2 – 1-2 Years	103,000	39,000	15,000	9,000	4,000	6,000
3 – 2-5 Years	607,000	285,000	117,000	73,000	37,000	69,000
4 – 5-10 Years	1,404,000	829,000	400,000	251,000	160,000	356,000
5 – 10-20 Years	1,246,000	699,000	392,000	259,000	179,000	602,000
6 – 20+ Years	907,000	415,000	199,000	119,000	84,000	379,000
Unknown	21,000	14,000	8,000	4,000	3,000	8,000

- c. How many borrowers in each of these categories would receive full forgiveness under plans to cancel \$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000 of student debt?

ED Response: “The following table shows the count of borrowers who would have their entire balance forgiven at the various debt levels, broken down by time in repayment, as of December 31, 2020. As of this date, the total borrower population was 44,972,000. We also note that we have published some statistics on the age of student debt in a prior letter to the U.S. Department of the Treasury: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/secletter/210302.html>.”

The Department also provided a table of data, which is reproduced below, with estimates rounded to the nearest thousand.

Borrowers with All Debt Forgiven					
Time in repayment	Forgiveness Amount Up To				
	\$10K	\$20K	\$30K	\$40K	\$50K
In school/grace	3,043,000	4,756,000	5,834,000	6,383,000	6,736,000
1 – <1 Year	1,021,000	1,592,000	2,087,000	2,302,000	2,392,000
2 – 1-2 Years	677,000	1,102,000	1,443,000	1,599,000	1,670,000
3 – 2-5 Years	2,043,000	3,462,000	4,393,000	4,921,000	5,213,000
4 – 5-10 Years	3,729,000	6,096,000	7,473,000	8,470,000	9,150,000
5 – 10-20 Years	3,091,000	4,974,000	6,168,000	7,046,000	7,707,000
6 – 20+ Years	1,376,000	2,112,000	2,548,000	2,855,000	3,095,000
Unknown	41,000	68,000	83,000	92,000	98,000

###