DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[DOcket ID ED–2016–FSA–0044]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of an altered system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act), the Chief Operating Officer for Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) publishes this notice to revise the system of records entitled “Common Services for Borrowers (CSB)” (16–11–16).

The Department publishes this notice to supplement the description of the CSB system to include paper records obtained from guarantee agencies as part of the appeal of guarantee agencies’ decisions to the Department and to revise the CSB system of records as a result of receiving multiple requests for documents from Federal, State, local, or tribal governmental entities seeking to verify Department contractors’ compliance with consumer protection, debt collection, financial, and other applicable statutory, regulatory, or local requirements. To more easily accommodate these requests, FSA proposes to add a new routine use to the altered system of records to allow the Department to make disclosures to governmental entities at the Federal, State, or local levels regarding the practices of Department contractors who have been provided with access to the CSB system (e.g., Federal Loan servicers, including not-for-profit servicers, the Federal Perkins Loan servicer, and private collection agencies) with regards to all aspects of loans and grants made under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), in order to permit these governmental entities to verify the contractor’s compliance with debt collection, financial, and other applicable statutory, regulatory, or local requirements, thus allowing such contractors to continue with their contracted activities for loans and grants made under title IV of the HEA.

DATES: Submit your comments on this altered system of records notice on or before October 3, 2016.

The Department has filed a report describing the altered system of records covered by this notice with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on August 22, 2016. This altered system of records will become effective on the later date of: (1) The expiration of the 40-day period for OMB review on August 22, 2016; or (2) October 3, 2016, unless the altered system of records notice needs to be changed as a result of public comment or OMB review. The Department will publish any changes to the altered system of records notice that result from public comment or OMB review.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. We will not accept comments submitted by fax or by email or those submitted after the comment period. To ensure that we do not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID at the top of your comments.

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to www.regulations.gov to submit your comments electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under the “help” tab.

• Postal Mail, Commercial Delivery, or Hand Delivery: If you mail or deliver your comments about this altered system of records, address them to: William Leith, Director, Program Management Services, Business Operations, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street NE., Union Center Plaza (UCP), Room 11111, Washington, DC 20202–5132.

Privacy Note: The Department’s policy is to make all comments received from members of the public available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record: On request, we will