

TASFAA SURVEY

Re: Child Support Obligor in Arrears

Below are the results to the recent survey regard child support obligors in arrears on their payments not being eligible for state aid.

There were 99 responses.

- 35 out of 99 said **NO**, they were not aware of the law. For all recipients who answer no, no further questions were presented to them.
- 1 out of 99 said Yes, but provided no additional information.
- 63 said **Yes**, they were aware of the law. The following is the break-down of their responses.
 - 21 out of the 63 Yes responders stated they had not spoken to anyone about the issue
 - 42 out of 63 Yes responders stated they had spoken with someone in their institution about the issue.

The following are the people who the responders spoke to about the issue. Note that the responders may have spoken to more than one person, so the numbers will not add up evenly.

President/Chancellor	= 2
Counsel	= 12
Bursar	= 8
Other (see below)	= 29
Vice Chancellor	= 1
Vice President	= 10
Dean/Director FA	= 10
Assoc./Asst. Dir.	= 2
Auditor	= 1
Risk/Compliance	= 3
Other FA staff	= 2
Comptroller	= 1

- The following are the responses to the “School Plans” question. (One responder said they had spoken to another individual, but did not provide an answer to the question below. One responder chose both B. and C.)
 - A. Not take action unless a specific case is brought to your attention or conflicting information arises. = 20
 - B. Take some type of action for all students who fall into this category. = 30
 - C. Take another course of action (Please explain). = 13

- The following are the responses to the “Other Course of Action” question.
 - A. Ask for this question before the disbursement of state funds. Causing a huge issue right now.
 - B. Add this question to the financial assistance application for 23-24.
 - C. Flagging everyone who gets Texas Grant to take a survey.
 - D. Currently, we are having difficulty determining the approach to identify students in this situation.
 - E. We are still trying to determine how to identify these students.
 - F. Take action on all students to determine who is in this category. Will delay awarding because document will need to be received from all applicants.
 - G. Not sure yet how we are handling it. We may have students self-identify. Ideally, there would be a database we could check like Selective Service.
 - H. Still in discussion about how we might be notified, or identify these students.
 - I. Still discussing
 - J. It is being discussed by the AVP and Financial Aid Directors.
 - K. We are still determining how to identify these students.
 - L. All students awarded state aid must sign a statement attesting to whether they are in arrears or not before disbursement of their award.
 - M. We have some ideas, but know the numbers of students will be very low. Waiting to see the results of this survey.

- The following are the responses to the question about what “Specific Actions” will your school take/has your school taken.
 - A. We created a required form for students to self-certify their status on their obligation to pay child support.
 - B. We are looking to have the student complete a certification form. It is my understanding that we do not have access to the child support registry to check.
 - C. We are requiring ALL students to submit a combined self-certification statement for Selective Service, felony or drug-related convictions (TEOG) and child support arrears. The form doesn't hold up their federal aid, but it does prevent state aid from being awarded.
 - D. We are awaiting recommendation from our legal counsel. Until then, we are sending a form to any student that states on the FAFSA that they pay child support. So, we would only be collecting for self-reported data for now.
 - E. Indicator in PeopleSoft being implemented to monitor.
 - F. On the instruction of the Director of Student Financial Aid we are sending a form to any student who reported child support paid on the FAFSA.
 - G. Per recommendation from THECB and 22-23 state program guidelines, (our school) is consulting our legal counsel for the best way to comply with this requirement. Any student who indicated they are paying child support on the FAFSA will not receive any state aid until we can determine they are delinquent on their child support payments or not based on attorney guidance.
 - H. Send a form to all state funds recipients.
 - I. Compliance Manager
 - J. We review the hold file from the Comptroller for the specific codes that indicates arrears on child support. If we found a student in the hold file, we would place a disbursement hold on their state aid.
 - K. We created an Affidavit, which the student must have notarized, attesting that they are not in arrears on any child support obligation.
 - L. Unknown at this time
 - M. Set a procedure on how to identify these students.
 - N. Put a hold to stop disbursement for students in this situation. Our Director of Financial Aid recommended we take this action.
 - O. Work with the Bursar's Office to identify students with state holds and apply a financial aid hold to their account to prevent aid from disbursing.
 - P. We will need to determine how this can be tracked.

- Q. We are requiring the students who have been awarded state aid to certify that they are not in arrears on their child support. This is required of the student before we disburse their state aid.
- R. To be determined
- S. All students receiving state grants/loans must complete an attestation that they are not in arrears on child support. If they say yes, financial aid will reach out to confirm the status and aid is cancelled.
- T. Placing disbursement holds on students with affected funds that have child support that is delinquent. This is based on guidance from general counsel and reading the rules from THECB.
- U. Looking for students with child support paid on the FAFSA at <https://fmcpa.cpa.state.tx.us/tpis/search.html>
- V. We will be setting up a meeting with our Accounting Department to ask for a list of the students affected by House Bill 529.
- W. We will attempt to identify the students within the larger population. Once identified, we will engage students in a communication plan, advising them of the law. (2 responders used this same answer).
- X. Will not award if we are aware that the student is more than 30 days delinquent – will use self-certification statement for students to complete.
- Y. Remove state award based on student self-reporting status
- Z. Has not been determined yet.
- AA. Once we know how to access the information that the student is delinquent, we will move forward. Currently, we don't have access to a database to retrieve the information.