



For Immediate Release
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Meteor Release 3.0 Provides Borrower Access

The National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) and the Meteor Advisory Team are pleased to announce the availability of Version 3.0 of the Meteor Software. Building on the Meteor technology that provides access for school Financial Aid Professionals, Version 3.0 gives student loan borrowers web access to detailed, real time information on their loans with a single sign-on.

Meteor Version 3.0 also provides new screens for Customer Service Representatives (CSR) at participating Meteor Access Providers. Viewing data retrieved using Meteor, the CSR has access to more data in order to assist their borrowers. For example, a participating lender will be able to see their loan information as it appears for the borrower from their loan servicer as well as the guarantee agency that guaranteed the loan.

Version 3.0 also features a consolidated "super screen" for Financial Aid Professionals to see exactly what data is returned by each organization with regard to a particular loan. This feature provides a powerful tool for ensuring timely, accurate information from multiple sources.

Originally released in August of 2002, Meteor is a shared effort of many leading FFELP business partners and was developed under the auspices of the NCHELP. The goal is to provide open, non-proprietary access to student aid information in real time, using industry standards. For a complete list of Meteor partners and participants visit the Meteor web site at www.nchelp.org/Meteor.htm

The Meteor Advisory Team, a group made up of representatives from organizations funding the project, is responsible for governing Meteor. This group is currently lead by Co-Business Team Leads Adele Marsh of AES and Charlie Miller of RIHEAA, along with Technology Team Lead Will Thien of Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. For more information about the Meteor Project, please visit the Web site at www.nchelp.org/Meteor.htm or contact Judy Martin at (202) 822-2106.

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Meteor is a collaborative effort within the student aid industry to simplify and consolidate access to student financial aid information. Funded by over thirty industry participants, and coordinated by the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs, Meteor's free software provides open, non-proprietary, real time access to all available aid information for a student, and consolidates it for display to students and Financial Aid Professionals. For additional information visit www.nchelp.org/meteor.htm or contact Judy Martin at 202-822-2106.