



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420**

In reply refer to: 223C

June 29, 2012

On May 31, 2012, the State Approving Agencies, on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, disseminated a letter (attached) discussing Executive Order 13607 – Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members. Implementation of this Executive Order will strengthen consumer protection for our Service members, Veterans, and their families, as well as ensure they have access to the information they need to make informed decisions concerning the use of their well-earned educational benefits. This letter requested that educational institutions respond by email to VA their intent to comply with the Principles by June 30, 2012. This is a statement of intent to comply with the Principles by the end of academic year 2012-2013.

In an effort to respond to questions about implementation of the Executive Order, the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA), Defense (DoD), and Education (ED) jointly conducted three informational webinars, and have posted a recording of one of the webinars on www.militaryonesource.mil. We will post on all agency websites answers to Frequently Asked Questions which have been raised. We acknowledge concerns raised about asking schools to indicate intent to comply by June 30, 2012, before they feel adequately informed on the details of implementation. Therefore, we are extending the response date to August 1, 2012. With the continued development of implementation details, we will provide additional clarity on which educational institutions can determine their intent to comply with the Executive Order.

Schools can communicate their intent to VA by sending an email to principles.excellence@va.gov with their school name and a point of contact. Schools with multiple campuses should send a consolidated response identifying all campuses. Additionally, institutions may continue to submit questions to this address. Schools that have already replied to VA do not need to submit an additional response. Schools that have notified VA that they intend to comply with the Principles will be identified on www.GIBILL.VA.gov starting July 2, 2012. We will continue to update that list on a weekly basis to recognize schools as they are able to respond.

Thank you for your continued support of our nation's Veterans, Service members and their families.

Sincerely,

/s/

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary,
Office of Economic Opportunity

Enclosure