FSA Office of Consumer Education and Ombudsman
SAVE Plan FAQ

1. Why do I need to leave the SAVE Plan?

A court order ended the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan in March 2026. Because the SAVE Plan is no longer available, you must select another repayment plan that you're eligible for.

Not sure if you're enrolled in the SAVE Plan? You can check which repayment plan you're enrolled in on StudentAid.gov.

If you're not enrolled in the SAVE Plan, didn't apply for the SAVE Plan, have already applied for a new repayment plan, or no longer have a balance on your federal student loans, then you don't need to take any action.

2. Why should I apply for a different plan now and not wait?

Here are four reasons to apply for a different repayment plan ASAP rather than staying in forbearance and waiting until your loan servicer moves you into another plan:

1. **Avoid Growing Your Debt:** Interest on your loans started accruing on Aug. 1, 2025. By choosing a new repayment plan and making payments now, you'll pay off your debt more quickly than if you stay on the SAVE Plan in a forbearance that's adding to your loan balance.
2. **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF):** Time spent in the SAVE Plan forbearance doesn't provide credit toward PSLF. If you're pursuing PSLF, you'll reach your required 120 qualifying monthly payments faster by starting payments on a different, PSLF-eligible repayment plan.
3. **Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plan Loan Discharge:** Time spent in the SAVE Plan forbearance also doesn't provide credit toward IDR discharge. If you switch to an available IDR plan, you'll be eligible to have any remaining balance on your loans discharged once you reach the necessary number of payments, which depends on your IDR plan.
4. **Plan for the Future:** By applying for a different repayment plan now, you'll learn your new monthly payment amount sooner and can better plan for how your student loans fit into your budget.

Read the questions and answers below for more information.

3. When am I required to change my plan?

Your loan servicer may have already contacted you, or may contact you soon, with details about choosing a different repayment plan, including a deadline by which you must select an available plan or be moved to one.

Most borrowers will receive notices from their loan servicer via email. However, if you requested not to receive communications digitally, you'll receive your notice via postal mail. Make sure your contact information is up-to-date with your servicer and in your StudentAid.gov account.

Loan servicers began sending notices to SAVE borrowers on July 1, 2026. You can confirm that you received this notice by checking your inbox on your servicer's website:

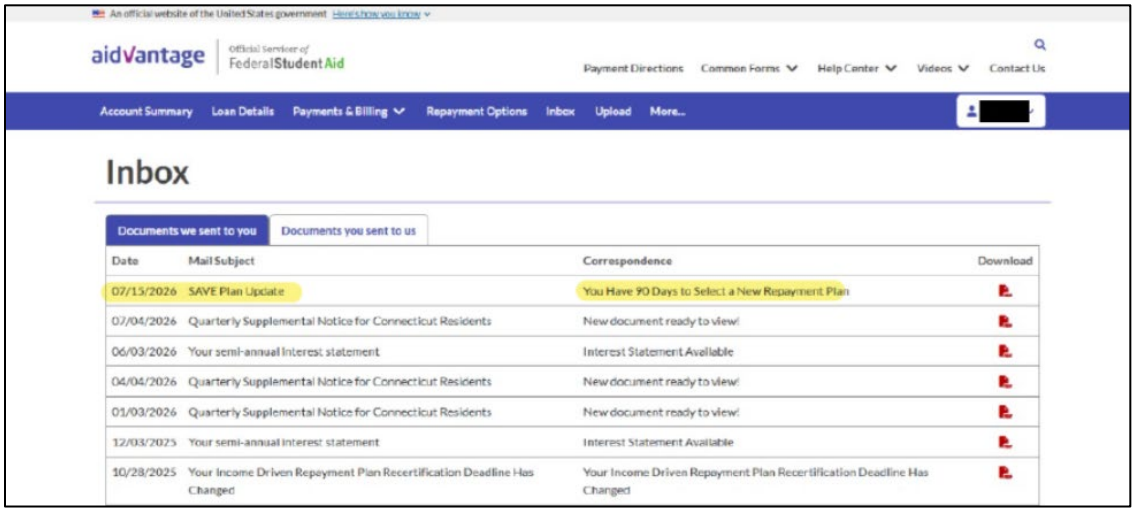

Figure 1: Screenshot of borrower inbox on servicer (Aidvantage) website showing a SAVE Plan notice

Another way to confirm that you received a notice about the end of the SAVE Plan from your loan servicer is by searching your email inbox for your servicer's email address:

Loan Servicer	Email Address
Aidvantage	customerservice@aidvantage.studentaid.gov
CRI	CRINoReply@cri.studentaid.gov
EdFinancial	donotreply@mail.edfinancial.studentaid.gov or info@email.edfinancial.studentaid.gov
MOHELA	noreply@mohela.studentaid.gov
Nelnet	nelnetnoreply@nelnet.studentaid.gov

In addition to a notice from your loan servicer, you also may have received emails from the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). FSA's emails came from noreply@studentaid.gov.

4. What happens if I don't select another repayment plan?

If you don't choose another repayment plan by the deadline set by your loan servicer, then your loan servicer will automatically enroll you in either the Standard Repayment Plan or

the Tiered Standard Plan. The repayment plan you will be moved to depends on when you received your federal student loans:

- If you haven't received any loans on or after July 1, 2026, then you'll be enrolled in the Standard Repayment Plan.
- If you received a loan on or after July 1, 2026, and that loan has entered repayment, then you'll be enrolled in the Tiered Standard Plan.

Your monthly payment under the Standard Repayment Plan or the Tiered Standard Repayment Plan, both of which are fixed payment repayment plans, may be higher than if you enroll in another IDR plan. If your monthly payment goes up and you're enrolled in auto pay, then your automatic withdrawal amount will also increase. Your loan servicer will notify you about your new monthly payment amount at least 21 days before the first due date on your new repayment plan.

5. How do I estimate my new monthly payment under a different plan?

Use FSA's updated Repayment Calculator (formerly called Loan Simulator) to explore your repayment options. Logging in with your StudentAid.gov account lets you import your loan and income information for more accurate results. You can find examples and screenshots in "Compare Repayment Plans With Our Repayment Calculator" article.

The Repayment Calculator shows estimates for your

- monthly payment amount;
- repayment period;
- potential PSLF or IDR discharge amount;
- principal and interest paid; and
- total amount paid over the life of the loan(s).

6. How do I apply for a different plan?

After reviewing your repayment options using FSA's updated Repayment Calculator (formerly called Loan Simulator), select "Apply" for the plan you want to enroll in, and follow the instructions to submit your application.

If you choose an IDR application, you can submit your application online at StudentAid.gov/idr. You must first log in to your StudentAid.gov account to access the IDR application.

To apply for an IDR plan, you'll need to provide your income information. If you have Direct Loans, the easiest way to do this within the IDR application is by providing consent for FSA to securely access your financial information directly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). You can do this by selecting "Provide Approval" under the "Authorization To Retrieve Federal Tax Information" section of the application.

Providing consent to import your federal financial information to your IDR application allows FSA to process your application faster and will save you time in the future since we'll be able to automatically recertify your IDR plan each year. Alternatively, you can manually provide documentation of income, such as your most recent tax return. If you didn't file taxes, other acceptable income documentation includes paystubs or a letter from your employer.

You can learn how to check the status of your IDR application and more in FSA's "Top FAQs About Income-Driven Repayment Plans" article.

Note: Once you're enrolled in your new repayment plan, consider signing up for auto pay to make sure your payment is on time and get a discount on your interest rate. Eligible borrowers enrolled in auto pay by Sept. 30, 2026, will benefit from a 1% interest rate reduction through June 30, 2028.

7. What should I do if I have a pending IDR application?

If I have a pending SAVE Plan application:
Your loan servicer will deny your SAVE Plan application. You likely received your denial notice already. If you don't apply for a different plan by the deadline provided by your loan servicer, you'll be returned to the repayment plan you were enrolled in before you applied for the SAVE Plan.

Use FSA's updated Repayment Calculator today to compare your options, and apply for an available plan today! Your loan servicer will explain your account status while your new application is pending.

If I have a pending application for another IDR plan
Log in to your StudentAid.gov account and review the request on your "My Activity" page. Your request may show a status such as "Draft," "In Progress," "Cancelled," "In Review," "Action Required," or "Completed."

- If you see "Action Required," you'll need to provide more information or a manual signature.
- If your servicer needs more time to process your IDR application, it may place your loans in a processing forbearance for no more than 60 days.

8. Will my previous payments still count toward IDR discharge or PSLF? How does the SAVE Plan forbearance affect my progress?

Changing repayment plans doesn't remove qualifying PSLF payments or credited IDR plan payments that you made before entering the SAVE Plan forbearance.

Time spent in the SAVE Plan forbearance is not eligible for credit toward PSLF unless you buy back the months you were in that forbearance. Through the PSLF buyback

opportunity, you may buy back certain months you spent in an ineligible deferment or forbearance, including the SAVE Plan forbearance. This buyback opportunity is only available if you already have 120 months of qualifying employment under PSLF.

If you're pursuing PSLF and aren't eligible—or don't plan—to buy back the months you spent in the SAVE Plan forbearance, you'll reach your required 120 qualifying monthly payments faster by starting payments on a different, PSLF-eligible repayment plan.

Time spent in the SAVE Plan forbearance also doesn't provide credit toward IDR discharge. If you switch to an available IDR plan, you'll be eligible to have any remaining balance on your loans discharged once you reach the necessary number of payments, which depends on your repayment plan.

If you take out a new Direct Consolidation Loan, the qualifying payments made on the Direct Loans (other loan types will not be considered) included in your consolidation loan will be credited to your consolidation loan using a weighted average of those payments.

9. **If I want to pursue the PSLF buyback opportunity, how much will it cost to buy back the months I spent in the SAVE Plan forbearance? How is the PSLF buyback amount determined?**

The buyback amount depends on what your payment amount likely would have been during the deferment or forbearance for the months you're buying back.

If you were on an IDR plan immediately before or after the months you're buying back: If the deferment or forbearance was less than a year in length, FSA will use the lower of the two monthly IDR payments for the months before or after the time in deferment or forbearance.

An exception is if you were enrolled in the SAVE Plan on or after July 18, 2024, then the IDR plan you were in immediately before you enrolled in the SAVE Plan is used to inform the payment amount.

If you were not in an IDR plan before or after the months you're buying back: FSA will request tax information for that calendar year to determine the amount that you would have paid under an IDR plan. If your deferments or forbearances cross over multiple tax years, then we will need your tax information for each year.

If you were not required to file a tax return for the period of time you are requesting to buy back, we will need you to submit a statement to that effect.

In addition to the tax information requested above, you would need to provide a statement informing us of what your family size was for that same period of time.

Your payment amount will be based on the lowest IDR amount you were eligible for at the time of the deferment or forbearance. If the 10-year standard payment is lower than your calculated IDR payment, then the 10-year Standard payment amount will be used.

If you don't send us the tax and family size information that we request within 30 days, we'll determine your buyback amount as what your payment amount would be on the 10-year Standard Plan.

10. If I'm pursuing PSLF, which repayment plan should I switch to?

Qualifying repayment plans that count toward PSLF include all IDR plans:

- Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan
- Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan (plan expiring on July 1, 2028)
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Repayment Plan (plan expiring on July 1, 2028)
- Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)

Use FSA's updated Repayment Calculator to compare your repayment options. Then, use the PSLF Help Tool to confirm that you have eligible Direct Loans and qualifying employment. We recommend submitting a PSLF form each year and whenever you change employers.

11. Is there anything else I need to know?

Remember that help from your loan servicer is always free. You never have to pay a company to apply for a repayment plan or manage your federal student loans.