

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release May 11, 2020 Contact: Beth Erickson

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Ascendium's Cohort Analyzer™ Significantly Reduces Time Spent Researching Cohort Data Challenges

New Schools Submit Cohort Default Rate Appeal

Madison, Wis.— Cohort Analyzer™ is a data analysis tool that quickly and easily identifies federal student loan cohort data discrepancies. When used throughout the year it can significantly reduce the time postsecondary schools spend researching and preparing cohort data challenges.

Data from multiple sources is captured and compared in this innovative tool. Schools see discrepancies in an easy-to-use dashboard. The tool quickly accomplishes what normally takes school administrators days, weeks, or months—depending on cohort size.

Although Cohort Analyzer wasn't developed in response to COVID-19, it is a timely resource due to the extension of the deadline for schools to submit FY 2017 Cohort Default Rate (CDR) appeals. The normal deadline for submitting appeals is 45 days from the beginning appeal date, which was March 3, 2020. Due to the challenges schools are facing accessing data and preparing their appeals during this time of national emergency, the Department of Education used its authority under the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students (HEROES) Act of 2003 to extend the deadline to June 30, 2020.

Cohort Analyzer compares data from multiple sources including the Department of Education, Department of Defense, student loan servicers, postsecondary schools, credit bureaus, and additional resources.

Cohort Analyzer is a component of <u>Cohort Catalyst</u>®, a default prevention and rehabilitation counseling service. It can also be purchased separately for a nominal annual fee based on the size of a school's cohort.

"During this stressful time of COVID-19, we're excited to introduce this time-saving tool not only to our Cohort Catalyst customers, but others who may need extra support to get the job done. We're pleased to be of service," said Beth Erickson, VP-Ascendium Education Solutions.

More information on Ascendium Education Solutions' Attigo product suite is available at attigo.com.

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