

# Even More Critical Student Loan News!

*(as of 4/1/2025)*

It seems like there's never a dull moment in the federal student loan space these days. After months of a frustrating logjam, the result of an 8th Circuit Court decision to put the SAVE repayment plan on hold, things are finally beginning to break loose.

As Cambridge Credit Counseling reported last week, applications for Income-Driven Repayment plans, or IDRs, have reopened. It looks like no one is prepared to process them, however, but a hearing has been scheduled for mid-April at which point the court may force the US Department of Education to do so. That's specifically because preventing loan holders from applying for the Income-Based Repayment plan, or "IBR," was illegal. (Unlike the other IDR plans, IBR was created by Congress, so it must be made available.)

We've reassured members repeatedly that Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) will remain available because it was also created by Congress, but there are still some roadblocks in the short term. For example, a PSLF application will not be processed if the borrower is enrolled in the SAVE, PAYE, or ICR repayment plans, but it will be processed if the borrower was paying through the IBR plan. That obstacle appears to only be temporary, as the DOE also indicated that the PAYE and ICR plans will be extended soon.

If you're a PSLF candidate who would have reached your 120th payment but have been caught up in the SAVE forbearance, the "Buyback" option is still available for you. Please visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) for details.

Consolidations are available again, but we wouldn't recommend that step for the majority of borrowers at the moment. There are two exceptions, however: recent college graduates can consolidate, and any parents looking to complete the double-loophole consolidation process should get to that without any additional delay. For those using the loophole strategy, all of your consolidations must be completed (not just the applications, but the actual consolidations) before July 1, 2025.

That leaves us with the chaos surrounding recertification. As you'll see, your new recertification date will be based on your IDR status:

- If you recertified your income before February 20, 2025, and your loan servicer processed it, you won't be able to change the payment. It's locked in for now.
- If you recertified your income before February 20, 2025, but your loan servicer didn't process it, your recertification date will be extended by one year. Because servicers had halted recertifications quite a while ago, most borrowers may fall into this category.
- If you had been asked to recertify but failed to do so and have since been placed on the Standard repayment plan (resulting in a substantial increase in your payment), you must submit a recertification request to reduce that payment. Do so IMMEDIATELY by following this link: [Apply for or Manage Your Income-Driven Repayment Plan | Federal Student Aid](#)

- If you weren't scheduled to recertify until after February 20, 2025, then your recertification date has been extended by at least one year.

Given all of the interruptions and delays in repayment, as well as what will likely be a rush by borrowers who had been on SAVE to switch into one of the other IDRs, it's also just as likely that there will be additional changes to this recertification guidance, so watch this space for additional updates.

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