# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. 20549

# FORM 8-K

#### **CURRENT REPORT**

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): August 21, 2002

### **SLM CORPORATION**

(formerly known as USA Education, Inc.) (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**11600 Sallie Mae Drive, Reston, Virginia** (Address of principal executive offices)

**52-2013874** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

> **20193** (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (703) 810-3000

#### Item 5. REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE

On August 21, 2002, SLM Corporation issued a press release stating that, in response to inquiries it has received, it has no interest in pursuing a transaction with Golden State Bancorp. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Report.

#### ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Exhibits: The following exhibit is furnished as part of this Current Report on Form 8-K:

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release, dated August 20, 2002.

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SLM CORPORATION

|                        | By:             | /s/ JOHN F. REMONDI   |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Dated: August 21, 2002 | Name:<br>Title: | John F. Remondi<br>Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer |

#### INDEX TO EXHIBIT

| Exhibit Number |                                     | Exhibit | Sequentially<br>Numbered Page |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 99.1           | Press Release dated August 21, 2002 |         | 4                             |
|                |                                     |         |                               |

### QuickLinks

Item 5. REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

<u>SIGNATURES</u> INDEX TO EXHIBIT

### SallieMae

#### Contact: Jim Boyle 703/810-5605

#### Statement on Golden State Bancorp

**RESTON, Va., Aug. 21, 2002**—In response to inquiries, SLM Corp. (NYSE: SLM) stated today that it has no interest in pursuing a transaction with Golden State Bancorp.

\* \* \*

Sallie Mae (NYSE: SLM) is the nation's leading provider of education funding, managing nearly \$76 billion in student loans for more than seven million borrowers. The company primarily provides federally guaranteed student loans originated under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), and offers comprehensive information and resources to guide students, parents and guidance professionals through the financial aid process. The company was founded in 1972 as a government-sponsored enterprise (GSE) called the Student Loan Marketing Association, and began the privatization process in 1997. Since then, Sallie Mae's parent company name has changed, most recently to SLM Corporation (effective May 17, 2002). Through its specialized subsidiaries and divisions, the company also provides an array of consumer credit loans, including those for lifelong learning and K-12 education, and business and technical outsourcing services for colleges and universities. More information is available at www.salliemae.com. SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries, other than the Student Loan Marketing Association, are not sponsored by or agencies of the United States.

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QuickLinks

Exhibit 99.1