FAFSA Series Part 2: The Better FAFSA Overview

September 26, 2023
Welcome!

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Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions in the box

• Share on social media
  
  Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  #FCAN
  #TalentStrongFL

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording
Our mission:

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

Our vision:

A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.
FCAN’s Work

Research and Data  FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida’s talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs)  LCANs support 83% of the state’s population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.

Statewide Initiatives  FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.
7 Conditions for Success

**Opportunity for everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

**Clear information and guidance:** Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

**Affordability:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone’s financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

**Multiple pathways to success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

**Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is “one and done;” Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

**Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida’s diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

**Community collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.
Hi!
I’m glad to be here!

Bill DeBaun
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The **National College Attainment Network (NCAN)** pursues its mission by building network capacity, advocating for policy solutions, and supporting systems change.
## FAFSA Completion Also Tells Us a Lot About Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Class</th>
<th>National FAFSA Completion Rate</th>
<th>Year-Over-Year FAFSA % Change</th>
<th>National First Fall Enrollment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>+1.9%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>+4.6%</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCAN FAFSA Tracker, NSCRC HS Benchmarks Reports
Florida is up and seeing a larger FAFSA increase than the nation overall (+3.3%).
HOWEVER(!), FEWER FLORIDA SENIORS (48.9%) HAVE COMPLETED THAN U.S. SENIORS (58.2%)
### % of Seniors Completing a FAFSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>% Completing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LA</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>DC</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Year-Over-Year % Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>DC</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT’S ON THE HORIZON WITH THE “BETTER FAFSA”?
FAFSA WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL DECEMBER 2023

• The massive overhaul of the form and process will delay the opening of the FAFSA until sometime in December.

• Encourage students to check on updated FAFSA priority deadlines at colleges

• FAFSA completion events should begin in early January

• Creates a condensed timeframe for FAFSA submission, FAFSA Submission Summary review, verification and award letter review
In case you misheard me or thought I said, “Oh it’d be a good idea to get an FSA ID” or “Most people should probably get an FSA ID,” let me go ahead and repeat myself.
OLD VS. NEW TERMINOLOGY

EFC IS GONE
STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI) IS HERE

SAR IS GONE
FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY IS HERE

IRS DRT IS GONE
DIRECT DATA EXCHANGE (DDX) IS HERE

PARENT/SPOUSE IS SORT OF GONE
CONTRIBUTORS IS HERE
RACE, GENDER AND ETHNICITY QUESTIONS

• These demographic questions are now an official part of the student’s section of the FAFSA.

• The answers will not be shared with state agencies or colleges. They have no bearing on aid eligibility and are to be used for research only.

• The student will have a choice of “prefer not to answer” for each question.

• The information will not appear on the FAFSA Submission Summary and cannot be seen by parents or student spouse.
EVERYONE who contributes to a FAFSA will be required to provide consent to transfer data from the IRS.

This will include non-filers, people without Social Security Numbers, foreign tax filers.

No consent = no federal aid.
MORE STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AID

• The new SAI formula projects that more students will be eligible for Pell Grants than under the current formula.
• The new formula also projects that students who currently receive a partial Pell Grant will likely be eligible for a larger one.
TWO WAYS TO DETERMINE PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY

• New legislation allows for Maximum and Minimum Pell Grants to be determined by 2022 Federal Poverty Tables
• Pell Grants between minimum and maximum will be determined by SAI (similar to way EFC was used)
• Poverty charts are published at the beginning of each calendar year and can be used to predict Pell Grant eligibility
• There will no longer be Pell Charts. Pell Grant amount is determined by maximum Pell amount minus SAI and rounded to closest “5” dollars
• Pell amount will vary by enrollment intensity, calculated on number of hours registered for
FSA ID: UNDOCUMENTED PARENTS

• What we know right now:
  • Every contributor will be required to create an FSA ID
  • Identity verification will be used for:
    • Students who are from Freely Associated States
    • Parents without SSNs
  • Users without SSNs they will have the option to answer “knowledge-based identity” questions
    • If successful – FSA ID is authenticated and available to use immediately
  • A manual documentation process will be available for those who can’t pass “knowledge-based identity” questions

• What information we’re waiting for:
  • What these processes will look like
  • The types of knowledge-based questions that will be asked
  • The documents FSA will request to confirm identity
COUNSELOR CONSIDERATIONS

• May wish to update right now any resources, presentations or college information for your current juniors
• May wish to consider holding a financial aid information night this spring AND next fall
• Encourage households with two parents to each get an FSA ID so either/both can complete the FAFSA
• Develop messaging to parents with older college students that things are changing and warn the parents of your current seniors that what happens this year will be different next year
• Throw out all old materials for the Class of 2023 when right after graduation
• Sign up for every training or webinar offered next year when much more information will be available
• Warn you principal/supervisor now that you will need professional development time next year
WANT MORE RESOURCES? WE’VE GOT YOU.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), branded as the "Better FAFSA," is all new for 2024-25 and includes the biggest changes to the form and process in decades. Set for a delayed launch in December 2023, the Better FAFSA will translate to a shorter and simpler form, increased eligibility for Pell Grants, and a reduction in verification, allowing more students access the financial aid they need to attend college. On this page, the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) has compiled tools and resources our members and partners can use to prepare.

Tools and Resources to Help You Prepare for the Better FAFSA

**Awareness Toolkit**
Sample tools and resources you can use to inform your partners, stakeholders, and communities about the Better FAFSA.

https://www.ncan.org/About

**Training Toolkit**
This toolkit contains resources and tools from NCAN, our partners, and FSA, including webinars, how-to articles, infographics, and fact sheets.

LEARN MORE
REACH OUT ANY TIME!

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2024-25

FAFSA Highlights

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Program Director, Office of Financial Aid,
University of South Florida
President, Florida Association of Student Financial
Aid Administrators (FASFAA)

Kylie Gross
Assistant Director, Financial Aid Office,
University of Tampa

The 2024–25 FAFSA® form will be available in December 2023, not Oct. 1.
Legislation Changes

Future Act
• Expands access to federal student aid
• Mandates Federal Student Aid use tax data directly from IRS

Consolidated Appropriations Act & FAFSA Simplification Act
• Changes to the FAFSA form
• How students & families complete the FAFSA
• Changes to aid eligibility calculation
Changes to What is Reported on FAFSA

Disclaimer: This is not a comprehensive list of the 2024-25 changes

Single/Divorced parents:
Provide income information for person who provided the most support

Family Size:
Only includes individuals claimed on federal taxes

Assets:
Small businesses and family farms are now reported as assets
Child Support received is an asset

Income Information:
Must be transferred from the IRS via Direct Data Exchange (DDX).

DDX replaces the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT).
Direct Data Exchange (DDX) & Consent

Consent
The agreement that information can be shared between the IRS and FAFSA via Direct Data Exchange (DDX).

- Required annually.
- Cannot be revoked for that year once given.
- Required of student and all contributors.

Consent must be provided to be eligible for aid.

Consent = Aid

Is consent required if...
The person is a non-filer?
The person files foreign taxes?
The person was a victim of identity theft?
The person has no SSN?

YES!
**FAFSA Contributors**

**Dependent students**

What is the parent’s *current* marital status?

- **Married**
  - Did the parents file their taxes Married Filing Jointly?
    - Yes: Only **1 contributor** is needed and must provide consent.
    - No: **2 contributors** exist. The parent and their current spouse must both provide consent.

- **Unmarried and both biological/adoptive parents living together**

- **Single/Widowed/Divorced/Seperated**
  - 1 contributor exists and must provide consent.

**Independent students**

If married, the spouse is always a contributor and therefore, must consent.

**Remember**

Each *contributor* needs their own FSA ID.

If a contributor is unable to create an FSA ID, the entire FAFSA must be done on paper.
FSA ID Creation for Non-SSN holders

What we currently know:

• Only for parents and contributors
• It will require a knowledge-based identity verification process using information pulled from credit bureaus.
• It will be like the current FSA ID set up process.

The Department of Education has not released more information about this process yet.

Reminder

Students always need an SSN

Exception: If they are a citizen of one of the Freely Associated States of the Pacific (Marshall Islands, Palau, Micronesia)
Changes to Calculations and Awards

Disclaimer: This is not a comprehensive list of the 2024-25 changes

- **Student Aid Index (SAI):** Replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). May be as low as -1500
- **Multiple Kids in College:** No longer a factor
- **Provisional Independent:** New status for students who indicate an unusual circumstance exists on their application. Schools must reach out to the student.
- **Pell Grants:** Significant award calculation and eligibility changes.
Pell Grant Changes

The Department of Education reports there should be an increase the net number of students eligible for Pell Grants.
Student vs. Parent Confirmation Page

**Student Confirmation Page**

- Congratulations, the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!
- Raya Tran
- Completion Date: 10/12/2024
- Data Release Number: 2572
- Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI): 123456789

The SAI is not a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college. Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

Based on the eligibility criteria, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to $6,000.00. You may also be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants, scholarships, and/or work-study programs.

**Parent Confirmation Page**

No longer contains result information

- Congratulations, the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!
- Raya Tran
- Completion Date: 10/12/2024

Estimated SAI

Data Release Number (DRN)

Estimated Pell Grant
Other Important Information

**FAFSA Release Date:**
On or before December 31, 2023

**FSA ID:**
Register for an FSA ID before starting the FAFSA.
Verification can take 1-3 days.

**Housing Option:**
Removed from FAFSA. Schools may request this information from students in another format.

**FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS):**
Previously called the Student Aid Report (SAR).
Contains a copy of the information on the FAFSA and information on issues.
Resources & Additional Information

Draft 24-25 FAFSA and Summary of Changes
Link for public comments is located within this announcement.

FAFSA Simplification Information

NCAN Better FAFSA webpage
Questions?
College 101
Step 3: Fund

You’ve applied. Now, how do you pay for college?

September 28, 2023
6:00–7:00 p.m. ET

Don’t let the cost of college stop you from achieving your dreams. Find out how to lower costs through scholarships, grants, and other financial aid options.

REGISTER TODAY!

www.FloridaShines.org/College-101
Conclusion