

---

2024–25

# ***FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Specifications Guide***

## **Volume 9 – Testing and Web Demo System**

December 2023

**U.S. Department of Education's  
Federal Student Aid**



# Table of Contents

<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Change History Table</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
What's in Volume 9, Testing and Web Demo System? .....	1
Testing and Web Demo System Options for 2024–2025 .....	2
Test ISIR Data .....	2
<b>FPS Test ISIR Data</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Steps for Downloading and Using Test ISIR Data .....	3
1. Download Test ISIR Data from the Knowledge Center .....	3
2. Download Volume 4 of the FAFSA Specifications from the Knowledge Center .....	3
3. Use Test ISIR Data in Your School System .....	4

# Acronyms

Table 9-1: Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CPS	Central Processing System
ED	U.S. Department of Education
ET	Eastern time
FAA	Financial Aid Administrator
FAFSA®	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FPS	FAFSA Processing System
FSA	Federal Student Aid (ED's office)
FTI	Federal Tax Information
ISIR	Institutional Student Information Record
PII	Personally identifiable information

# Change History Table

The change history table below is updated each time the “Testing and Web Demo System” volume of the *FAFSA Specifications* is updated providing you with a cumulative list of revisions made to the document.

The footer is updated to include the revised date. For example, if a change is made to page 2 in January 2024, the footer will show “Rev 1/24.”

**Table 9-2: Change History**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Changes/Notes</b>
7/23	All	Volume 9 is released
12/23	2	Updated the Test ISIR Data section
12/23	3	Updated the instructions to download test ISIR data from the Knowledge Center

# Overview

---

## What's in Volume 9, Testing and Web Demo System?

This volume replaces the *CPS Test System User Guide* document provided in cycles prior to 2024–2025. It describes the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) testing and Web Demonstration (Demo) website options available to schools, third-party software vendors, state agencies, and any other Federal Student Aid (FSA) partners for a specific cycle.

For 2024–25, this volume provides guidance regarding test *Institutional Student Information Record* (ISIR) data files provided by FSA for use by the student aid community. This volume is also a resource for financial aid administrators (FAAs) and others who are interested in using the Web Demo system for training purposes.

**Note:** FSA will no longer offer application testing for 2024–25 and forward due to changes in data consent requirements. Correction data testing may return as a testing option in a future processing cycle.

---

# Testing and Web Demo System Options for 2024–2025

For 2024–25, Federal Student Aid will provide files with simulated ISIR data that you can download for testing with your student aid system. We are currently defining requirements and evaluating solutions for the 2024-25 Web Demo System and will provide additional guidance to the community through electronic announcements and updates to this volume when available. We recommend monitoring the Knowledge Center at FSA Partner Connect website for additional information as it becomes available.

Testing is optional; ED does not require it. The test ISIR data and Web Demo site are tools for you to use to help ensure that your processing system is prepared for the ISIR data produced by the FPS and to familiarize your staff with the web options available to both applicants and FAAs.

## Test ISIR Data

In October 2023, we posted a test ISIR data file under message class IDSA25OP to the Knowledge Center at FSA Partner Connect website, located at [fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center). This initial file included a limited number of simulated 2024–25 student records. In late Fall 2023, we will replace the initial file with an expanded version that contains multiple records and a more robust sampling of applicant scenarios, including multiple transactions, parent and spouse data.

We will post electronic announcements to the Knowledge Center website when each test ISIR file is available for download. For subsequent postings of test ISIR files, the announcement will describe issues resolved or major changes made, if applicable.

# FPS Test ISIR Data

---

## Steps for Downloading and Using Test ISIR Data

### 1. Download Test ISIR Data from the Knowledge Center

The FPS Test ISIR Data File is available as an attachment to the [2024–25 FAFSA Specifications Guide](#) on the Knowledge Center website. To locate and download test ISIR data files available on the Knowledge Center website:

1. Go to [fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center).
2. Click **Library** on the menu near the top of the Knowledge Center home page (between the “What’s New” and “Library” links).
3. Click **Publications by Resource Type**.
4. Click **Handbooks, Manual, or Guides**.
5. Scroll to and click the most recent date-specific link associated with “**FAFSA Specifications Guide**”.
6. Scroll to the **Attachments** section at the end of the electronic announcement to locate *Volume 9 – Testing and Web Demo System*. Click the download link for the **2024-25 FPS Test ISIR Data File**. The IDSA25OP.DAT file is included in the zip file.

### 2. Download Volume 4 of the FAFSA Specifications from the Knowledge Center

We recommend that you download the *2024–25 FAFSA Specifications, Volume 4 – Record Layouts and Processing Codes*, which contains the ISIR record layout. You can use this record layout as a reference to interpret the test data file contents, including valid field content. The *FAFSA Specifications* document is available in Adobe PDF format on the Knowledge Center website.

To download this document:

1. Go to [fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center).
2. Click **Resource Type** in the Library section of the Knowledge Center home page.
3. In the Publications by Resource Type list, click System Technical References.
4. On the **Current** tab of the **System Technical References** page, scroll to and click the electronic announcement link for the most recent *2024–25 FAFSA Specifications, Volume 4 – Record Layouts and Processing Codes* by date.
5. Scroll to the **Attachments** section at the end of the electronic announcement to locate the individual downloadable sections of the technical reference.
6. Click the link to each section. Use Adobe Acrobat Reader or a similar PDF-compatible program to view and print the document.

### **3. Use Test ISIR Data in Your School System**

Each school uses different systems and has varied reasons for testing. You can conduct testing at your convenience, and the results are for your use only.

FSA recommends using the initial test ISIR data file to verify your financial system can import the revised ISIR format correctly. You can then use the expanded test ISIR data file to test more complex, advanced scenarios and test cases that require a wider variety of student records and data values.

Be sure to remove all test ISIR data from your system at the conclusion of your testing process to ensure it is not mistaken for real student data when you begin 2024–25 processing.

#### **Match and FTI Data**

The match agency and Federal Tax Information (FTI) data on the test ISIRs is simulated data. It does not compromise any student's personally identifiable information (PII) protected by the Privacy Act.

#### **Getting Help**

If you need assistance regarding the test ISIR data files posted to the Knowledge Center, contact the FPS Help Desk at **1-800-330-5947** or by email at [support@fps.ed.gov](mailto:support@fps.ed.gov).