

# GENERAL SESSION #04

Federal Update

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U.S. Department of Education

2024 FSA Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals

# AGENDA

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1. Negotiated Rulemaking
2. Regulatory Updates
3. Recent Policy Guidance
4. 2024-25 FAFSA Form
5. 2025-26 FAFSA Form
6. Resources

# NEGOTIATING RULEMAKING

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# REGULATORY PROCESS



## PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Inform community of intent to regulate and topics
- Conduct public hearing(s)
- Request nominations for non-federal negotiators



## NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

- Negotiating Committee meets
- ED provides draft amendatory text for discussion
- Final consensus vote on last day of negotiations



## PROPOSED REGULATIONS

- Publish Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register
- Request for comments submitted through regulations.gov



## FINAL REGULATIONS

- Review, redact, summarize, and respond to public comments
- Publish Final Rule/regulations (FR) in the Federal Register



## MASTER CALENDAR

- Final regulations published by Nov 1 are effective the following July 1
- Early implementation at Secretary's discretion

# STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF

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- The Department (ED) announced its intent to establish a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on July 7, 2023 –
  - To develop proposed regulations on the authorities granted to the Secretary under the Higher Education Act, of 1965, as amended, Section 432(a), which relate to the modification, waiver, or compromise of Federal student loans.
- The committee held sessions on:
  - October 10-11, 2023
  - November 6-7, 2023
  - December 11-12, 2023
  - February 22-23, 2024 (Hardship only)
- [NPRM SDR](#) published on April 17, 2024
  - 148,567 comments received.
- More information on [OPE's website for 2023-2024 Negotiated Rulemaking](#)

# STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF

- ED proposes to clarify the Secretary's authority to modify, waive, or compromise Federal student loan debt:
  - Waiver when the current balance exceeds the balance upon entering repayment
  - Waiver based on time loan first went into repayment
  - Waiver when a loan is eligible for forgiveness based upon repayment plan
- IDR repayment plans:
  - Waiver when a loan is eligible for a targeted forgiveness opportunity
  - Waiver based upon Secretarial actions
  - Waiver following a closure prior to Secretarial actions
  - Waiver for closed gainful employment (GE) programs with high debt-to-earnings rates or low median earnings
- Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL)
  - Only regulations



Note: NPRM provisions are subject to change in the Final Rule

# STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF – HARDSHIP

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- The Department added an additional negotiating session to discuss Student Loan Debt Relief specific to Hardship
  - February 22-23, 2024
  - Consensus was reached on proposed regulatory language presented during negotiations
- [NPRM on Hardship](#) published on October 31, 2024
  - Specific criteria to be considered in granting hardship (factors)
  - Likelihood of defaulting within two years
- Comment Period ended on December 2, 2024



Note: NPRM provisions are subject to change in the Final Rule

# PROGRAM INTEGRITY AND INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY

## Negotiations were held:

- January 8-11, 2024
- February 5-8, 2024
- March 4-7, 2024

## Consensus Reached

- Federal TRIO Programs

## Consensus Not Reached

- Accreditation
- Cash Management
- Distance Education
- Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)
- State Authorization

## NPRM for TRIO, Distance Education, and R2T4 published:

- July 24, 2024, for a 30-Day public comment period.

# NPRM – TRIO PROGRAMS

Would expand:

- Participation Eligibility for the Talent Search Program
  - to individuals who are enrolled in or seek to enroll in a high school in the United States, territories, or Freely Associated States
- Participation Eligibility for the Educational Opportunity Center Program
  - to individuals who are enrolled in or seek to enroll in a high school in the United States, territories, or Freely Associated States
- Participation Eligibility for the Regular or a Math and Science Upward Bound project Program (other than direct cash stipends)
  - to individuals who are enrolled in or seek to enroll in a high school in the United States, territories, or Freely Associated States



**Note: NPRM provisions are subject to change in the Final Rule**

# NPRM – DISTANCE EDUCATION

- Would amend definitions under § 600.2 to:
  - Include under the subsection “Additional location” a “Virtual location”, that comprises all of an institution’s educational programs that are provided 100% through distance education or correspondence courses;
  - Revise the definition of clock hour to reflect that, for Title IV purposes, coursework delivered via distance education cannot be asynchronous; and
  - Add a definition for distance education course
- Revise the academic year definition in § 668.3 to specify that, for Title IV purposes, asynchronous coursework offered through distance education could only be offered in credit-hour programs
- Require institutions under § 668.41 to report student enrollment in distance education or correspondence courses, using a procedure to be determined by the Department



**Note: NPRM provisions are subject to change in the Final Rule**

# NPRM – R2T4

- Would allow a student who received a loan disbursement as part of a Title IV credit balance, but never began attendance in a payment period or period of enrollment to repay loan funds they received under the terms of their promissory note
- Would exempt institutions from performing an R2T4 calculation if the following conditions are met:
  - The student is treated as never having begun attendance;
  - The institution returns all Title IV aid disbursed to the student for that payment period or period of enrollment;
  - The institution refunds all institutional charges to the student for that payment period or period of enrollment; and
  - The institution writes off or cancels any current year balance owed by the student to the institution due to the institution's return of Title IV funds to the Department



**Note: NPRM provisions are subject to change in the Final Rule**

# NPRM – R2T4

- Would codify longstanding policy that an institution required to take attendance must, within 14 days of a student's last date of attendance, assess whether the student has withdrawn
- Would require an institution to take attendance for each course offered entirely through distance education, except for doctoral dissertation research courses
- Would allow a confined or incarcerated individual, in a term-based setting, to not resume where the student left off when returning from a leave of absence
- Would streamline and make consistent institutions' calculation of the percentage of the payment period completed for a clock-hour program
- Would include a module as part of the payment period used in the denominator of the R2T4 calculation only when a student begins attendance in the module



**Note: NPRM provisions are subject to change in the Final Rule**

# REGULATORY UPDATES

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# LOAN PROGRAMS - INCOME-DRIVEN REPAYMENT PLANS (IDR)

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published January 11, 2023:
  - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/11/2022-28605/improving-income-driven-repayment-for-the-william-d-ford-federal-direct-loan-program>
- Did not reach consensus
- Received 13,621 comments
  - Notice of Final Rule published July 10, 2023
  - <https://www.regulations.gov/document/ED-2023-OPE-0004-13623>
- Future implementation is on hold due to pending litigation

# LOAN PROGRAMS - INTERIM FINAL RULE (IFR)

- Interim Final Rule (IFR) on the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) plans was published on November 15, 2024
- Provides a stopgap measure that reopens enrollment for borrowers in these two other repayment plans
- Borrowers will not be required to switch to these plans. But we have heard from borrowers seeking PSLF in particular who are looking for options to make payments that count toward forgiveness
- FSA is working to implement the changes, and we will provide more information when borrowers may apply
- New enrollments in these plans had been closed when SAVE was introduced
- Issuing this IFR allows the Department to meet its statutory obligation under the Higher Education Act

# LOAN PROGRAMS – PERKINS LOANS

- Schools are required to report the status of their Perkins Loan portfolio and program Fund annually through the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP), as well as report monthly on their outstanding loans to the National Student Loan Database System (NSLDS®)
  - See Fiscal Procedures and Records [34 CFR 674.19(d)]
- Schools must account for the receipt and expenditure of Perkins Loan program funds
  - See Record Retention and Examination [34 CFR 668.24(b)]

# LOAN PROGRAMS – PERKINS LOANS – CONT.

- Under the due diligence general requirements, schools are required to follow all policies and procedures
  - See Due Diligence [34 CFR 674.41(b)]
- When using contractors for billing and collection, schools must make certain servicers and collection firms comply with the program rules in performing its duties
  - See Use of Contractors [34 CFR 674.48] and Collection Procedures [34 CFR 674.45]

# LOAN PROGRAMS – PERKINS LOANS – CONT.

- Schools are required to assign to the U.S. Department of Education any Perkins Loan that has been in default for more than two years
  - Please refer to the May 26, 2023 [[EA ID: CB-23-09](#)] and Aug. 27, 2021 [[EA ID: General 21-53](#)] Electronic Announcements for complete information and conditions
- Schools that no longer wish to service their Perkins Loan portfolio should begin the liquidation process to close out their program
  - Follow the steps outlined in Part II of the [Federal Perkins Loan Assignment and Liquidation Guide](#)

# JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOAN

- On October 11, 2022, the Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act (JCLSA) was signed into law on October 11, 2022
- The JCLSA allows joint consolidation loan (JCL) borrowers who have either Direct Loans (DL) or Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) to separate their joint debts into new, individual Direct Consolidation loans
- JCL borrowers may request a JCL separation by submitting a combined application effective September 30, 2024

# RECENT POLICY GUIDANCE

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# DCL GEN-24-09: VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE OF HATE CRIME SUB-CATEGORIES

- Reminds institutions that they may voluntarily provide information about hate crimes to members of their campus communities beyond what the Clery Act requires
- The Department encourages institutions to voluntarily provide the sub-categories of persons and groups who were targeted based on their actual or perceived membership in a covered bias category
  - Race/ethnicity/ancestry
  - Religion
  - Sexual orientation
  - Disability
  - Gender
  - Gender identity
- The full list of sub-categories is published in the FBI's Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual
  - <https://le.fbi.gov/file-repository/hate-crime-data-collection-guidelines-and-training-manual.pdf/view>

# RECENT POLICY GUIDANCE

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- Students enrolled in an **Eligible Career Pathway Program** may be eligible to receive Title IV aid if the student meets one of the following Ability-to-Benefit (ATB) alternatives:
  - Passes an independently administered, Department-approved ATB test;
  - Completes at least six credit hours or 225 clock hours that applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by the postsecondary institution; or
  - **Completes a State process approved by the Secretary of Education**
- [DCL GEN-24-08](#) (Ability to Benefit State Process and Eligible Career Pathway Programs) provides guidance regarding:
  - The procedures for a State to seek and maintain Department approval of a State process; and
  - The process for an institution to seek Department approval of an Eligible Career Pathway Program
- An institution that offered one or more Career Pathway Programs prior to July 1, 2024, must apply to have one of its programs certified as eligible for Title IV purposes by the earlier of:
  - The submission of any update the institution makes to the E-App on or after January 1, 2025; or
  - The submission of the institution's recertification application on or after January 1, 2025

# RECENT POLICY GUIDANCE

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- [DCL GEN-24-07](#): Implementation of Regulations Related to Financial Responsibility, Administrative Capability, Certification Procedures, and Ability to Benefit (ATB)
  - Provides an overview of regulatory provisions that became effective July 1, 2024
    - Financial Responsibility
    - Administrative Capability
    - Certification Procedures
    - Ability to Benefit

# DCL GEN-24-04: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL VALUE TRANSPARENCY AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

- Provides an overview of the FVT/GE provisions effective July 1, 2024
  - Applicability of FVT/GE regulations
    - Definitions of GE programs and eligible non-GE programs
  - Summary of FVT framework and major provisions
  - Overview of reporting requirements
  - Discussion of D/E rates and EP measure and outcomes
  - Discussion of program information website (effective July 1, 2026)
- Electronic Announcement GE-24-08: Updated Timeline for Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment Reporting and Completers Lists
  - Extends to **January 15, 2025** the deadline for institutions to complete required FVT/GE reporting and to review completers lists

# DCL GEN-24-06: IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM LENGTH RESTRICTIONS FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT (GE) PROGRAMS

- Effective July 1, 2024, GE program length limited to:
  - The required minimum number of clock hours, credit hours, or the equivalent required by the state in which the institution is located, if the state has established such a requirement or as established by any federal agency; or
  - Another state's required minimum number of clock hours, credit hours, or the equivalent required for training in the recognized occupation for which the program prepares the student if the institution is able to document and substantiate certain conditions as provided under § 668.14(b)(26)(ii)(B)
- **Note: This provision is currently on hold pending a court decision, and until further notice institutions must continue to comply with the previous maximum program length regulations under 34 CFR 668.14(b)(26) that were in effect prior to July 1, 2024**

# DCL GEN-24-05: USE OF NEGATIVE STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI) IN FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG) SELECTION CRITERIA

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- Explains FSEOG selection criteria options for students with negative SAI
  - May treat all negative SAIs (down to -1500) as equal to an SAI of zero in its selection criteria for FSEOG
  - May use the negative SAI to identify the students with the most need in its selection criteria for FSEOG.
- Either option is valid, and selecting one option over the other is neither preferred by the Department of Education, nor will it result in a compliance finding as long as it is applied correctly and consistently to all students

# FEDERAL STUDENT AID UPDATES



# **GUIDANCE FOR TITLE IV PARTICIPANTS AFFECTED BY TROPICAL STORM HELENE OR HURRICANE HELENE**

- Reminds institutions in federally declared disaster areas of the regulatory reliefs provided to them in [GEN-17-08](#):
- Includes guidance:
  - Changes to an institution’s academic calendar due to a disaster;
  - Exclusion from treatment as “other financial assistance” of aid received by victims of a disaster from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief;
  - Verification requirements for families whose verification records were lost or destroyed because of a disaster;
  - Allowances for leaves of absence for students affected by a disaster;
  - Waivers for under-allocation of Campus-Based aid and Federal Work Study community service for disaster-affected schools;
  - Reporting enrollment status during a disaster; and
  - Effects on Direct Loan or Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) borrowers affected by a disaster.

# FAFSA DATA USE FOR THE APPLICATION, AWARD, AND ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT AID PROGRAMS

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- Guidance does not apply to FTI
- A separate EA will follow with on the use of FTI
- Use FAFSA data for the application, award, and administration of financial aid
- IHEs or state grant agency may need to obtain consent for the disclosure of FAFSA data for other purposes.

# 2025–26 VERIFICATION

*Items to be verified, by Verification Tracking Group*

## V1 TAX FILERS

Income information

Family size\*

## V1 NON-TAX FILERS

Income earned from work\*\*

Family size\*

## V4 ALL

Identity/  
Statement of Educational Purpose

## V5 TAX FILERS

Income information

Family size\*

Identity/  
Statement of Educational Purpose

## V5 NON-TAX FILERS

Income earned from work\*\*

Family size\*

Identity/  
Statement of Educational Purpose

\* Verification not required if manual update matches number transferred from IRS

\*\* For individuals not required to file a 2022 income tax return



[DCL GEN-24-10](#)

[Federal Register Notice 89 FR 71893](#)

# 2024–25 FAFSA® FORM



# 2024–25 FAFSA® CYCLE



## FAFSA SUBMISSIONS

~ 16 million submissions to date

[2024–25 FAFSA Updates](#)

[2024–25 FAFSA Issue Alerts](#)

[FAFSA form](#)



## PROCESSING PAPER FAFSAS

Started July 2024

Identify online duplicates

Request more information

Addressing special populations

[EA GENERAL-24-96](#)



## FAFSA CORRECTIONS

Individual

Batch

Reporting disbursements flexibility

[EA GENERAL-24-94](#)



## FAFSA COLLEGE SUPPORT STRATEGY

Personnel, funding, resources

[CollegeSupportStrategy-FAFSA@ed.gov](mailto:CollegeSupportStrategy-FAFSA@ed.gov)

[EA GENERAL-24-56](#)

# 2024–25 FAFSA® CYCLE

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## PROCESSING PAPER FAFSAS

Started July 2024

Identify online duplicates and returning FAFSA with notice of duplicate FAFSA

Request more information/Returned FAFSA and mitigated unintended consequences

Addressing special populations/considering improvements to paper FAFSA processing and experiences for incarcerated populations

[EA GENERAL-24-96](#)  
See 11/8/24 update

[EA GENERAL-24-94](#)  
See updates



## FAFSA CORRECTIONS

Individual correction available

Batch corrections for both 24-25 and 25-26 in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025

Reporting disbursements flexibility

# CONTRIBUTORS WITHOUT AN SSN

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- ✓ Access to the FAFSA form
- ✓ Identity validation flexibilities

[EA GENERAL-24-95](#)

[EA GENERAL-24-52](#)

# AWARD YEAR FLEXIBILITIES

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## VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Significantly reduced

Focused on identify fraud

Conflicting Information still a factor, but with some flexibilities for 24-25

[EA GE-24-71](#)

## DISBURSEMENT FLEXIBILITY

Extends flexibilities to allow institutions to disburse aid

Report disbursements made for the 2024-25 award year by November 30 or 15 calendar days after the disbursement, whichever is later.

[EA GE-24-94](#)

# FAFSA® FORM ISSUES

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## Issue Tracking and Resolution

[2024–25 FAFSA Issue Alerts](#)

[Federal Student Aid Information Center \(FSAIC\)](#)

[Complaint Form \(Ombudsman\)](#)

1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4 FED AID)

# DHS/SAVE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

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## SECONDARY MATCH PROCESS UPDATE

- DHS's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)
- Secondary match “pending”
- Interim solution
  - Third-step verification in FSA Handbook
  - Awarding and disbursing aid: **after** 15 days

[EA GENERAL-24-100](#)

[FSA Handbook Volume 1, Chapter 2](#)

[EA GENERAL-24-53](#)

# 2025–26 FAFSA® FORM



# 2025–26 FAFSA FORM

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## FORMAT

- Consistent with 2024-25 form
- Feedback from students and schools
- [Prototype available](#)
- [Estimator available](#)
- [FAFSA Preview PowerPoint Presentation available](#)



[EA GENERAL-24-99](#)

[EA GENERAL-24-72](#)

[APP 24-12](#)

# CONTACT CENTER CAPACITY



# 2025–26 FAFSA BETA TIMELINE

| OCT 1, 2024   | MID OCT         | NOV              | DEC 1                                  |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Beta 1        | Beta 2          | Beta 3 & 4       | Full Launch                            |
| 100s of Users | 1,000s of Users | 10,000s of Users | Launch 2025-26 FAFSA form to all users |



# 2025–26 BETA ENVIRONMENT

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- FAFSA.gov
- Institutions received real Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs)



# 2025–26 BETA PROCESS

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## TESTING SESSIONS

Different stakeholder groups

### Beta 1

- Some community-based organizations (CBOs)
- IHEs that receive FAFSAs from those CBOs

### Betas 2-4

- CBOs, high schools, institutions that recruit new and returning FAFSA submitters



# BETA 2-4 POPULATION COVERAGE

## High school types

- Public, public charter, private preparatory, private religious
- Urban, suburban, rural

## Postsecondary institution types

- Public 4-year, public 2-year, private (secular), private religious
- 3 HBCUs
- 8 HSIs
- Campuses in Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, and Australia

## Populations

Mixed-status families

Unaccompanied homeless

Incarcerated

U.S. Territories and FAS

Eligible non-citizen students

English language learners

First-generation students

Veterans and service members

Children of military veterans

Youth in the foster system

Students with disabilities

# 2025–26 EXPANDED BETA 4 AND FAFSA RELEASE

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- Functionality once FAFSA is fully available
  - Application
  - ISIR processing
  - Rollover of FTI module
  - FAFSA Partner Portal
  - Online student-initiated corrections
  - Online institution-initiated corrections (via FPP)



# WHAT'S NEW FOR 25-26

1

## DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN ONLY POP UP

The screenshot shows a progress bar at the top with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The 'Financials' step is active. A pop-up window titled 'Your Dependency Status' is displayed over the form. The pop-up contains the following text: 'You WILL NOT Be Eligible for Most Federal Student Aid'. Below this, it states: 'By changing the answer to "Yes" you'll be considered for a limited amount of Direct Unsubsidized Loans ONLY. Any existing parent information will be removed. Do you want to continue?'. There are two buttons: 'Continue' and 'Return to Form'. At the bottom of the pop-up, there are radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'.

2

## NEW IRS IMPORT SCREEN

Provides user with the results of their PII match against IRS records.

The Department will request FTI directly from the IRS via the FA-DDX for users with a successful match.

If FTI is successfully retrieved and can be used to determine eligibility for federal student aid, users will not need to manually enter their taxable information.

The screenshot shows a success message with a green checkmark icon. The text reads: 'We're securely importing your information.' Below this, a green box contains the following text: 'Success! We have confirmed your information with the IRS, but you may have to answer additional questions in the Finances section. Select "Continue" to proceed.'

3

## DIGITAL ATTESTATION & VALIDATION OF IDENTITY

The screenshot shows the 'Create an Account' progress bar with seven steps: 1. Personal Information, 2. Account Information, 3. Contact Information, 4. Communication Preferences, 5. Challenge Questions, 6. Confirm & Verify, and 7. Enable Two-Step Verification. The 'Confirm & Verify' step is active. Below the progress bar, there are two sections: 'Confirm Your Identity' and 'Understandings & Certification'. The 'Confirm & Verify' section contains a checkbox that is circled in green, with the text: 'I, Alexander Doe, certify that all of the information I have provided on this form and in any accompanying documentation is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.' The 'Understandings & Certification' section contains a paragraph of legal text: 'I certify that I, Alexander Doe, am the individual signing this statement and do so voluntarily. I understand that I must provide accurate information to create a StudentAid.gov account to access the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. I acknowledge and understand this attestation form is not an application for federal student financial aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended. I further understand and acknowledge that I must abide by ED's code of conduct, terms of service, and rules of behavior when accessing and using ED's systems, as detailed in the Federal Register Notice dated Sept. 10, 2021.'

## AND ...

- Improved help text with guidance for users throughout the site
- Students can submit application while contributors without a Social Security number await verification
- Applicant or contributor not required to re-sign if their counterpart updates their data

# REMINDER: FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM ISSUES

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Issue Tracking and Resolution

[FAFSA Issue Alerts](#)

[Federal Student Aid Information Center \(FSAIC\)](#)

[Complaint Form \(Ombudsman\)](#)

1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4 FED AID)

# RESOURCES

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# 2024–2025 FSA HANDBOOK

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Application & Verification  
Guide,  
All Volumes,  
Errata  
now available

*Federal Student Aid (FSA) Handbook*

# FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION RESOURCES

Knowledge Center Home > Topics > FAFSA Simplification Information

## FAFSA Simplification Information

This page serves as a repository for all information, guidance, and training related to implementation of the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#) and the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* portion of the *Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act*.

Together, these laws represent a significant overhaul of federal student aid including a relaunch of the FAFSA form, changes to need analysis, the creation of a direct data exchange with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to facilitate completing the FAFSA form, and updates to many policies and procedures for schools that participate in the *Title IV* programs.

[Print](#)

### Federal Register Notices Including Regulations

This page contains links to the published Federal Register Notices and regulations related to the *FAFSA Simplification Act*.

### FAFSA News and Links

- **FAFSA Issue Alerts:** Get information about the status of the FAFSA form, processing, and current issues.
- **FAFSA Beta:** Current information about the beta testing of the 2025-26 FAFSA.
- **FAQs:** Answers to general questions as well as answers on applications, ISIRs, SSN, Corrections, and Verification.
- **2025-26 FAFSA Roadmap:** Including information for institutions and state agencies; counselors and advocates; and students and families.
- The **FSA Training Center** has recorded webinars available. Log in and select “FAFSA Simplification”.

# FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION RESOURCES (1 OF 2)

- [EA GENERAL-24-113](#) Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona Letter to Presidents and Chancellors on Improving the FAFSA Experience: Updates, actions, and a path forward for the 2025–26 cycle
- [2024–25 Award Year Deadline Dates for Reports and Other Records Associated with the FAFSA](#)
- [2024–25 FAFSA Specifications Guide](#)
- [2024–25 Student Aid Index \(SAI\) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide](#)
- [2025–26 Student Aid Index \(SAI\) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide](#)
- [2024–25 Technical FAQ and Known Issues Guide \(ISIR\)](#)

# FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION RESOURCES (2 OF 2)

- [Better FAFSA Better Future Webinar Series](#)
- [Federal Need Analysis Methodology for the 2024–25 Award Year](#)
- [EA GENERAL-24-100](#) Additional Update on the Availability of the DHS/SAVE Secondary Confirmation Process and Third-Step Verification Requests
- [EA GENERAL-24-84](#) NSLDS Post-screening & Identity Verification for 2024–25 Cycle
- [EA GENERAL-24-67](#) Update on Department Reprocessing of 2024–25 FAFSA Records
- [EA GENERAL-24-26](#) Updates to the 2024–25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center
- [EA APP-24-01](#) Final 2024–25 FAFSA Form, FAFSA Form for Incarcerated Students, and FAFSA Submission Summary

# MORE RESOURCES (1 OF 3)

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- [Financial Aid Toolkit](#)
- [EA LOANS-24-08](#) FY 2021 Official Cohort Default Rates Distributed Sept. 23, 2024
- [EA GENERAL-24-86](#) Origination of Summer-Only Direct Loans Prior to the Availability of Batch Corrections Functionality for 2024–25
- [EA GENERAL-24-78](#) Reminder – Institution Responsibilities under the Clery Act
- [EA GENERAL-24-76](#) NSLDS Professional Access – NSLDS Incarcerated Student Report and Spreadsheet Submittal
- [EA GENERAL-24-74](#) Implementation of the GE Funding Metric Requirements for Institutions Under Administrative Capability and Financial Responsibility

# MORE RESOURCES (2 OF 3)

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- [EA GENERAL-24-71](#) Resolving Conflicting Information
- [EA GENERAL-24-54](#) Update on 90-Day CIO Notification Requirement
- [EA GENERAL-24-50](#) Title IV Eligibility of Citizens of Freely Associated States
- [EA CB-24-18](#) Reminder – FISAP Due Oct. 1, 2024
- [EA CB-24-15](#) Information about the Reallocation Process, the 2023–24 Campus-Based Reallocation Form, and the Process to Request Supplemental Federal Work-Study Funds for 2024–25
- [90/10 Questions and Answers](#)

# MORE RESOURCES (3 OF 3)

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- [GEN-24-10](#) 2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation
- [EA ID: APP-24-10](#) 2025–26 Initial Test ISIR Data File Available
- [EA ID: APP-24-09](#) 2025–26 FAFSA Prototype Now Available
- [GEN-24-108](#) 2024-25 FAFSA Verification-Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Tax Return
- [GEN-24-108](#) Transcript Matrix
- [GEN-24-88](#) Reminder – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations
- [GEN-24-125](#) - Resources to Assist with Preparation for the 2025–26 FAFSA Cycle

# OTHER RESOURCES

1

## Knowledge Center

[Knowledge Center Homepage](#)

Subscribe for daily or weekly email updates.

2

## FSA Training Center

[FSAttraining.ed.gov](https://FSAttraining.ed.gov)

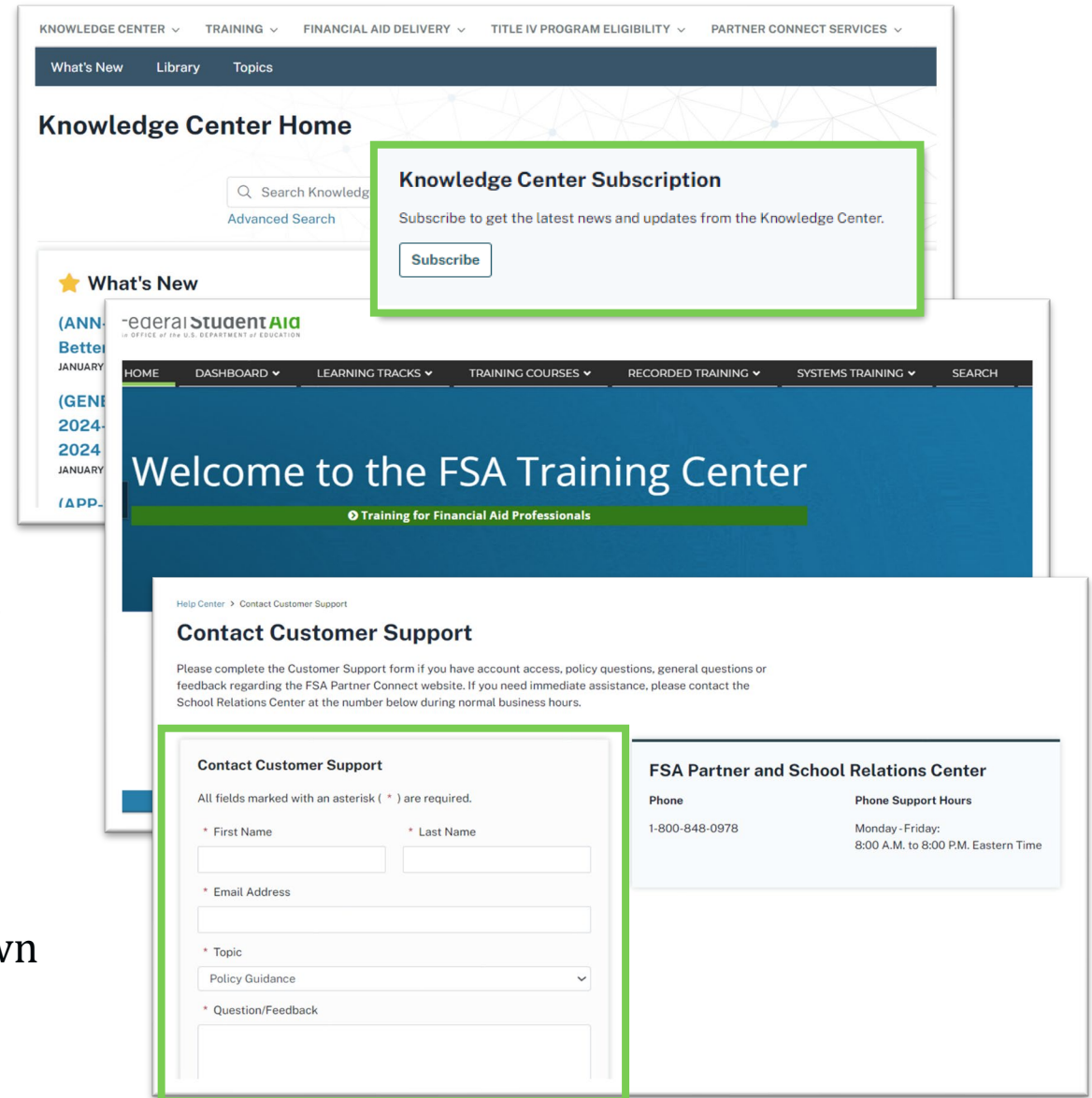
View learning tracks, training courses, videos, and software training.

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## FSA Partner Connect Help Center

[Contact Customer Support](#)

Choose “Policy Guidance” from Topic dropdown list to ask policy questions.



# OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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**THANK  
YOU!**

Office of Postsecondary  
Education (OPE)

**Federal Student Aid**

*An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION*

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