



THE BETTER FAFSA

What High School Educators and College Access Counselors Need to Know

Higher Education Opens Doors to Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Education is making transformational changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. The FAFSA form is an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and it gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to help pay for higher education.



The Better FAFSA is:

- » Simple and streamlined.
- » Easier to fill out—many people complete it in under 15 minutes.

Unlocking an additional
\$1.8 BILLION in aid.



610,000 more students

from low-income backgrounds will receive Federal Pell Grants.

Nearly **1.5 million more students** will receive the maximum Pell Grant.

All students will be able to access the maximum financial aid for which they are eligible.

Better FAFSA Timeline for the 2024-25 Award Year

NOW

- Students and families should complete and submit the 2024-25 FAFSA form

MARCH

- The Department begins transmitting FAFSA information to schools and state agencies for processing

THIS SPRING

- Colleges review FAFSA information for students who applied for admission
- Colleges start sending aid packages to students

JULY 1

- FAFSA award year starts

Note: Your guidance to students and families is critical. Help students and families check deadlines for their institutions and states regarding scholarships and enrollment commitments.

CHECKLIST

FOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS AND COLLEGE ACCESS COUNSELORS



- Hold information sessions to help students and families understand the process and timeline for FAFSA submission this year.
- Support students as they create a [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account by giving time to do it with trained school personnel or volunteers.
- Set FAFSA completion goals for your or key partners' high schools and use [available data](#) to know your school's current submission rate.
- Train teachers, support staff and volunteers on how to fill out the FAFSA.
- Visit ed.gov/Better-FAFSA to access resources like the Financial Aid Toolkit for counselors and the roadmap for counselors and advocates.
- Develop a roadmap for your school and community support providers.
- [Sign up](#) to receive updates on webinars and other information

More information and resources are available at ed.gov/BetterFAFSA

This information was last updated on Feb. 22, 2024.



Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION