

# Federal Student Aid

An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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## 2024–25 FAFSA Roadmap

The 2024–25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>) includes unprecedented changes to how students and families apply for federal student aid and how we determine eligibility, giving students a better and simpler experience with the FAFSA form. Improvements include a direct data exchange with the IRS for income data elements, a new “Who’s My Parent?” wizard, and a single consolidated portal for all FAFSA help resources.

To help ensure that students and families — and the partners critical to getting student aid dollars into the hands of students — are best prepared for a successful 2024–25 FAFSA cycle, we have launched the [Better FAFSA Better Future Roadmap](#).

### Institutions and State Partners

Resource	Delivery Date
<b>New Need Analysis Formula Tools</b>  These tools will help financial aid administrators understand the difference between the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and the new Student Aid Index (SAI), including a crosswalk, comparison case studies, and revised Federal Pell Grant look-up tables.	Spring 2023
<b>Provisional Final FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) Layout</b>  This near-final ISIR record layout will allow software developers to support institutions and states in determining eligibility for student aid.	April 2023
<b>Policy Guidance</b>  Official guidance documents will help ensure institutions are legally compliant in their implementation of the <i>FAFSA Simplification Act</i> and the <i>FUTURE Act</i> . The guidance will cover topics including Federal Pell Grants for incarcerated students, use of federal tax information, homeless youth determinations, verification, and FAFSA reporting requirements.	Spring through Fall 2023

<p><b>FAFSA Specifications Guide</b></p> <p>This multi-volume technical reference provides financial aid administrators and software vendors critical technical details for upcoming changes and software systems updates. The release schedule for each volume aligns with software development cycle needs with record layouts and edits in March/April, followed by processing details and testing in the following months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volumes 1–2 cover the summary of changes and implementation schedule of the FAFSA processing system.</li> <li>• Volumes 3–7 cover technical changes to the ISIR layouts including reject, comment, and processing codes.</li> <li>• Volumes 8–9 cover technical changes to agency matches, testing data, and the web demo system.</li> </ul>	<p>Beginning March 2023</p>
<p><b>Financial Aid Administrator Training</b></p> <p>These webinars will provide detailed training about the changes to application, eligibility, and data use so aid administrators can counsel families and update compliance procedures. The training will include topics such as consent and federal tax information, old and new ISIR layouts, verification and professional judgment, the Student Aid Index deep dive, and the Federal Pell Grant formula.</p>	<p>Summer 2023</p>
<p><b>Sample ISIR Datasets for Testing</b></p> <p>Sample student records will be available for software developers to test their eligibility calculations.</p>	<p>July 2023</p>
<p><b>Final ISIR Layout</b></p> <p>A final student record layout will be available for institutions and software providers to finalize their financial aid management systems.</p>	<p>October 2023</p>
<p><b>FAFSA Demonstration Site</b></p> <p>The FAFSA testing and demonstration website will be available for counselors and financial aid administrators to show staff, students, and families how to access and navigate the 2024–25 FAFSA form.</p>	<p>December 2023</p>
<p><b>2024–25 FAFSA Available</b></p>	<p>December 2023</p>

## Counselors and Advocates

Resource	Delivery Date
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<p><b>Financial Aid Estimator and Preview Tools</b></p> <p>Online tools for students and families will provide an early estimate of their Student Aid Index and potential eligibility, as well as visual previews of the 2024–25 FAFSA form.</p>	Summer 2023
<p><b>Counselor Training</b></p> <p>Webinars and train-the-trainer sessions, offered in collaboration with college access organizations, will provide detailed training to counselors about the key changes in the application process and eligibility determination. This training will help counselors better support students and families.</p>	Summer through Fall 2023
<p><b>Fact Sheets</b></p> <p>One-page resources for counselors about priority topics identified by college access professionals will include understanding the Student Aid Index, creating an FSA ID, assisting students with unusual circumstances, and use of federal tax information.</p>	Summer through Fall 2023
<p><b>2024–25 FAFSA Available</b></p>	December 2023

## Students and Families

Resource	Delivery Date
<p><b>Preparing for 2024–25 FAFSA Outreach Campaign</b></p> <p>A communications campaign, including videos, directed to students and families highlights what they should do to prepare for the new FAFSA form. The campaign also will provide key facts about what to expect from the new FAFSA process, including how to create an FSA ID, features of the 2024–25 FAFSA form, and Federal Pell Grant eligibility.</p>	Summer 2023
<p><b>Financial Aid Estimator and Preview Tools</b></p> <p>Online tools for students and families will provide an early estimate of their Student Aid Index and potential eligibility, as well as visual previews of the new FAFSA form.</p>	Summer through Fall 2023
<p><b>FAFSA Information Updates on StudentAid.gov</b></p> <p>Ongoing updates to FAFSA information and help resources will be posted to StudentAid.gov.</p>	Summer through Fall 2023
<p><b>2024–25 FAFSA Available</b></p>	December 2023