



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

September 05, 2023

GSA 2023-47

TO: High School Counselors
Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: 2024-25 FAFSA/CADAA Updates [Corrected]

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) communicates important changes to the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA).

2024-25 Financial Aid Applications Delayed

As communicated in [GOM 2023-13](#), the opening of the 2024-25 FAFSA and CADAA will be delayed from **October 1 to December 2023**. The exact date will be communicated once it has been determined.

Additionally, as communicated in [GSA 2023-37](#), the Cal Grant priority deadline for the 2024-25 academic year has been extended to **April 2, 2024** due to the delayed application opening.

What Can Schools Do Now?

- Watch for Commission updates to learn more about the new FAFSA and CADAA, including tools and resources to help you prepare for the 2024-25 application season.
- Review the [2024-25 FAFSA Form Preview Presentation](#) which provides financial aid administrators, mentors, and counselors with reference tools for staff trainings and financial aid nights.
- Organizations such as the National College Attainment Network have developed [tools and resources](#), such as Trainings, FAQs and Toolkits, that will provide guidance on preparing for the Better FAFSA, Better Future Campaign changes.
- Encourage students and their contributors to create a [Federal Student Aid \(FSA\) ID](#) account as early as possible. At this time, only individuals with a Social Security Number (SSN) can apply for an FSA ID.

Highlights from the 2024-25 Better FAFSA Better Future campaign

- Parents without Social Security Numbers (SSN) will soon be able to apply for an FSA ID. This feature is not yet available; however, it will closely resemble the current FSA account creation process but will allow parents to indicate they do not have an SSN. From here, the parent will be taken through a knowledge-based identify verification process using information from credit bureau, TransUnion. **[corrected 09/21/2023]**
- Both students and parents must create FSA IDs before completing the application. If parents are divorced or separated, the parent who provided the most financial support during the last 12 months (from when the FAFSA is being completed), will now complete the form. If both parents provided an equal amount of support, the parent with the greater income will be the participating parent. **[corrected 09/21/2023]**
- All persons contributing information on the FAFSA must consent to have their federal tax information validated by the IRS, even non-filers.
- The number of students a family has enrolled in college will no longer factor into the financial need calculation.

Proposed 2024-25 CADAA Enhancements

The Commission is working on making enhancements per the recommendations of the [Renewing the Dream Report](#) that was released earlier this year. Some of the notable enhancements are:

- Inclusion of Race/Ethnicity/Gender questions: the questions will be optional and will not impact a student's financial aid eligibility. The data obtained will be used for Commission research purposes only.
- AB 540 Affidavit inclusion: Following the progress of [Assembly Bill 1540](#), the Commission will embed the questions for the determination of non-resident tuition exemption (commonly referred as AB 540 affidavit) within the CADAA and provide a mechanism to allow institutions to collect a student's answers to the AB 540 affidavit. **NOTE:** Institutions of higher education will continue to make final determinations of AB 540 eligibility.
- Parent Signature Process changes: The Commission is working to build the parental signature into the original submission, which may eliminate the separate PIN creation process.

Need to contact us?

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