



CALIFORNIA
STUDENT AID
COMMISSION

Better FAFSA, Better CADAA Bulletin

January 9, 2024

Welcome to the fifth edition of the California Student Aid Commission's Better FAFSA, Better CA Dream Act Application Bulletin with information, updates, and resources for the upcoming 2024-25 financial aid cycle.

From our Executive Director, Marlene Garcia:

Happy new year, 2024! As everyone knows, both the FAFSA and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) recently launched, and many students and their families have successfully started the process to qualify for financial aid. Although there have been some issues encountered with the FAFSA, we have been notified that the U.S. Department of Education is making every effort to resolve them. As we all know, the release of many updated technologies frequently results in various challenges; however, the goal is to improve the user experience, and streamline the process. We believe that the changes to Better FAFSA will make it easier for students and families to apply for financial aid. So, encourage students to persist and complete their 2024-25 applications.

What's the Latest?

FAFSA and CADAA are open!

Both financial aid applications are open, and students can begin applying for financial aid for the 2024-25 academic year. Students only need to complete one application. The state priority deadline in California is April 2, 2024. Some colleges may have earlier deadlines for institutional aid, and students should check with their colleges to make sure they are meeting those deadlines. Keep in mind for the Better FAFSA, the planned maintenances announced by Federal Student Aid (FSA) have impacted the experience for some applicants. We encourage students to be patient and persistent in completing their applications.

Action Item:

Support your students in completing a [FAFSA](#) or [California Dream Act Application](#) for financial aid for the 2024-25 academic year.

In the Spotlight:

Better FAFSA: Studentaid.gov accounts for Mixed Status Families Follow-Up

As a follow up to the information in [last month's bulletin](#), FSA released additional guidance for Individuals without a Social Security Number, also referred to as mixed status families. Individuals without social security numbers can now create an studentaid.gov account at [Create Account | Federal Student Aid](#)

Please refer to the specific instructions for the account creation for individuals without a social security number on this [FSA Announcement](#).

Upcoming CSAC Virtual Training:

California Dream Act Application Line-by-Line Webinar:

- January 9, 2024 – [CADAA Line-by-Line](#) (Zoom)
- January 17 & February 5, 2024 – [FAFSA/CADAA Updates](#) (Zoom)
- January 29, 2024 – [CADAA Line-by-Line](#) (Zoom)

Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops Webinars:

- January 17, 2024 – [FAFSA/CADAA Updates](#) (Zoom)
- February 5, 2024 – [FAFSA/CADAA Updates](#) (Zoom)
- February 22, 2024 – [FAFSA/CADAA Updates](#) (Zoom)

Cash for College Train the Trainer Webinars:

- January 26, 2024 – [Train the Trainer](#) (Zoom)
- February 16, 2024 – [Train the Trainer](#) (Zoom)

Cash for College

CSAC is hosting several [Cash for College webinars](#) designed to answer common questions about applying for financial aid. Financial aid experts are available live to answer questions for students and families and we encourage you to promote these webinars. You can also look for in person [Cash for College events](#) hosted by our community partners. This information and additional resources can be found on the [Cash for College](#) website.

Key Application Dates to Keep in Mind

The Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship deadline has been extended to **April 2, 2024**, due to the delayed application opening for the 2024-25 Academic Year. Keep in mind many campuses use the March 2 priority deadline to award state institutional aid.

Remember, you can find this information and other resources on our [Better FAFSA](#), [Better CADAA webpage](#).

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