

FAFSA Series Part 2: The Better FAFSA Overview

September 26, 2023



Welcome!



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Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the box
- Share on social media
 - Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
 - #FCAN
 - #TalentStrongFL

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording



Our mission:

We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

Our vision:

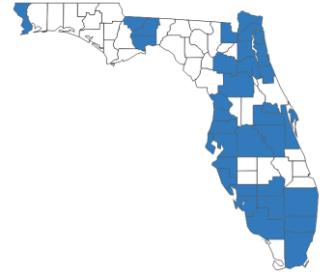
A Florida working together, where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

FCAN's Work



Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs support 83% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that provides schools and community organizations resources to help students continue their education after high school.

7 Conditions for Success

Opportunity for everyone: To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

Clear information and guidance: Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

Affordability: Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone's financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

Multiple pathways to success: Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

Lifelong learning: No degree or credential is "one and done;" Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

Effective use of data: Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida's diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

Community collaboration: When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.

2023 FAFSA SERIES: BETTER FAFSA OVERVIEW

Florida College Access Network

September 26, 2023

HI!

I'M GLAD TO BE HERE!



Bill DeBaun

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NCAN WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

The **National College Attainment Network (NCAN)** pursues its mission by building network capacity, advocating for policy solutions, and supporting systems change

Build field capacity

Bolster knowledge, skills, & competencies of leaders & practitioners through access to best practices, resources, professional development, & network connections.

Advocate for policy solutions

Build the case for research-based state & federal policies that equitably advance postsecondary affordability & completion; **equip members & students to advocate for change.**

Increase Alignment & Collaboration

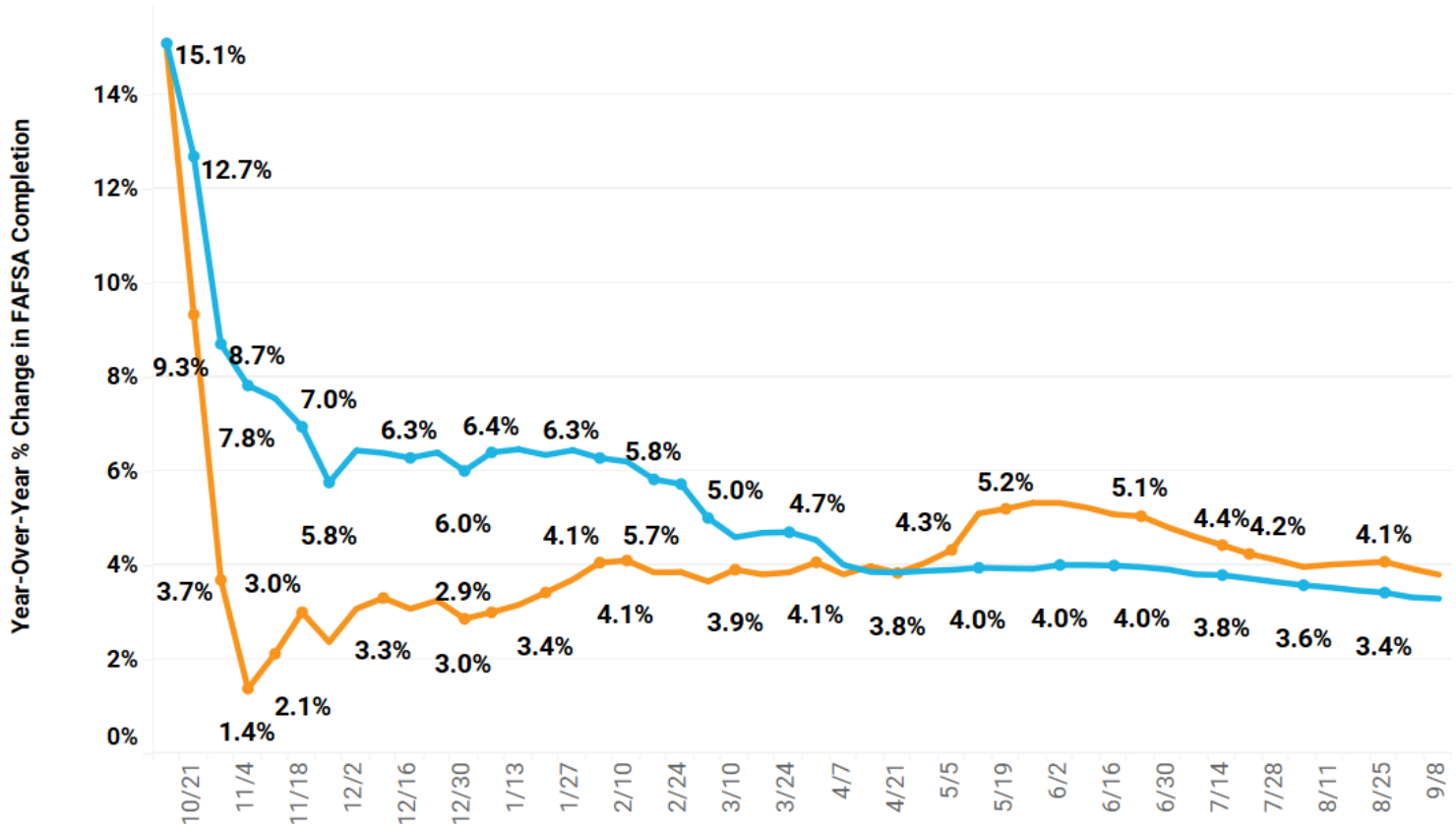
Elevate evidence-based strategies for increasing degree attainment to systems-level leaders (state agencies, districts), & **forge connections across educational orgs & systems.**

FAFSA COMPLETION ALSO TELLS US A LOT ABOUT ENROLLMENT

High School Class	National FAFSA Completion Rate	Year-Over-Year FAFSA % Change	National First Fall Enrollment Rate
2018	54.0%	+1.9%	64%
2019	53.8%	-0.5%	62.9%
2020	52.0%	-3.7%	59.9%
2021	49.9%	-4.8%	58.8%
2022	52.1%	+4.6%	60.0%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN FAFSA COMPLETIONS, 2023-24 FAFSA CYCLE

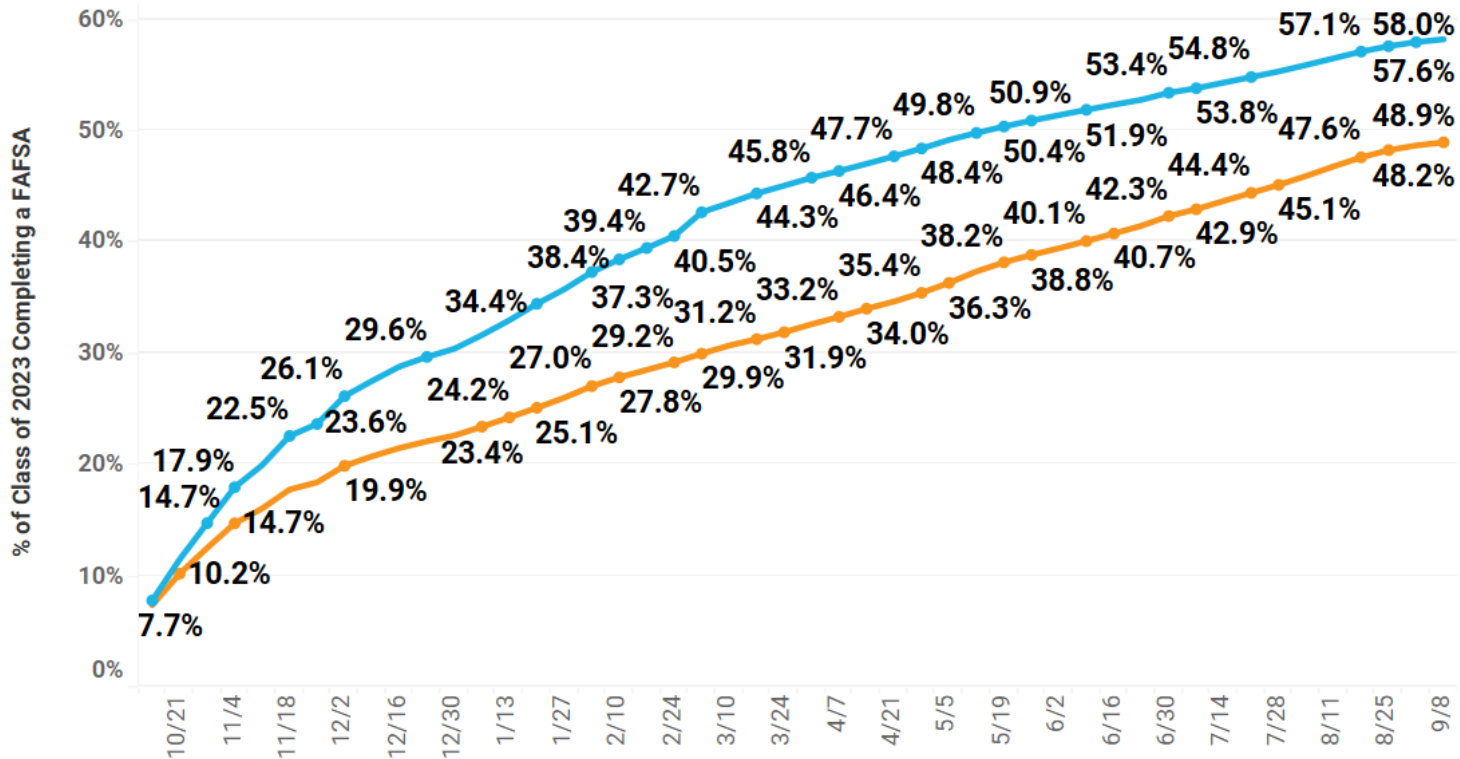
Florida vs. National, Year-Over-Year % Change



FLORIDA
(+3.8%)
 IS UP
 AND SEEING
 A **LARGER**
FAFSA
INCREASE
 THAN THE
NATION
OVERALL
(+3.3%)

PERCENT OF SENIORS COMPLETING A FAFSA, 2023-24 FAFSA CYCLE

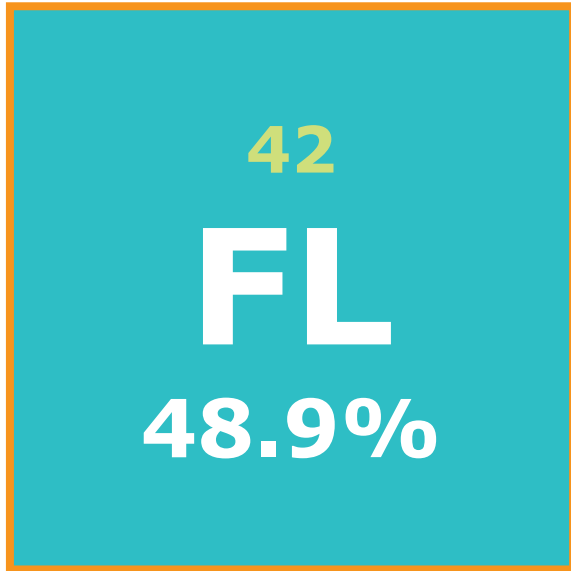
Florida vs. National, % of Seniors Completing



HOWEVER(!),
FEWER
FLORIDA
SENIORS
(48.9%)
HAVE
COMPLETED
THAN
U.S.
SENIORS
(58.2%)

% OF SENIORS COMPLETING A FAFSA

1 LA 70.7%	2 TN 70.4%	3 MS 69.2%	4 DE 68.9%	5 DC 66.1%
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YEAR-OVER-YEAR % CHANGE

1 CA 9.4%	2 ME 9.4%	3 WA 7.6%	4 ID 6.3%	5 DC 6.0%
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**WHAT'S ON THE
HORIZON WITH THE
“BETTER FAFSA”?**

FAFSA WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL DECEMBER 2023

- The massive overhaul of the form and process will delay the opening of the FAFSA until sometime in December.
- Encourage students to check on updated FAFSA priority deadlines at colleges
- FAFSA completion events should begin in early January
- Creates a condensed timeframe for FAFSA submission, FAFSA Submission Summary review, verification and award letter review

FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID (FSA ID) IS REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE

In case you misheard me or thought I said, “Oh it’d be a good idea to get an FSA ID” or “Most people should probably get an FSA ID,” let me go ahead and repeat myself.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID (FSA ID) IS REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE

OLD VS. NEW TERMINOLOGY

EFC IS GONE

**STUDENT AID INDEX
(SAI) IS HERE**

SAR IS GONE

**FAFSA SUBMISSION
SUMMARY IS HERE**

IRS DRT IS GONE

**DIRECT DATA
EXCHANGE (DDX) IS
HERE**

PARENT/SPOUSE IS
SORT OF GONE

**CONTRIBUTORS IS
HERE**

RACE, GENDER AND ETHNICITY QUESTIONS

- These demographic questions are now an official part of the student's section of the FAFSA
- **The answers will not be shared with state agencies or colleges. They have no bearing on aid eligibility and are to be used for research only.**
- The student will have a choice of “prefer not to answer” for each question.
- The information will not appear on the FAFSA Submission Summary and cannot be seen by parents or student spouse

IRS CONSENT REQUIRED = TAX FILERS OR NOT

- **EVERYONE** who contributes to a FAFSA will be required to provide consent to transfer data from the IRS
- This will include non-filers, people without Social Security Numbers, foreign tax filers
- No consent = no federal aid

MORE STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AID

- The new SAI formula projects that more students will be eligible for Pell Grants than under the current formula
- The new formula also projects that students who currently receive a partial Pell Grant will likely be eligible for a larger one

TWO WAYS TO DETERMINE PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- New legislation allows for Maximum and Minimum Pell Grants to be determined by 2022 Federal Poverty Tables
- Pell Grants between minimum and maximum will be determined by SAI (similar to way EFC was used)
- Poverty charts are published at the beginning of each calendar year and can be used to predict Pell Grant eligibility
- There will no longer be Pell Charts. Pell Grant amount is determined by maximum Pell amount minus SAI and rounded to closest “5” dollars
- Pell amount will vary by enrollment intensity, calculated on number of hours registered for

FSA ID: UNDOCUMENTED PARENTS

•What we know right now:

- Every contributor will be required to create an FSA ID
- Identity verification will be used for:
 - Students who are from Freely Associated States
 - Parents without SSNs
- Users without SSNs they will have the option to answer “knowledge-based identity” questions
 - If successful – FSA ID is authenticated and available to use immediately
- A manual documentation process will be available for those who can’t pass “knowledge-based identity” questions

•What information we’re waiting for:

- What these processes will look like
- The types of knowledge-based questions that will be asked
- The documents FSA will request to confirm identity

COUNSELOR CONSIDERATIONS

- May wish to update right now any resources, presentations or college information for your current juniors
- May wish to consider holding a financial aid information night this spring AND next fall
- Encourage households with two parents to each get an FSA ID so either/both can complete the FAFSA
- Develop messaging to parents with older college students that things are changing and warn the parents of your current seniors that what happens this year will be different next year
- Throw out all old materials for the Class of 2023 when right after graduation
- Sign up for every training or webinar offered next year when much more information will be available
- Warn you principal/supervisor now that you will need professional development time next year

WANT MORE RESOURCES? WE'VE GOT YOU.



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), branded as the "Better FAFSA," is all new for 2024-25 and includes the biggest changes to the form and process in decades. Set for a delayed launch in **December 2023**, the Better FAFSA will translate to a shorter and simpler form, increased eligibility for Pell Grants, and a reduction in verification, allowing more students access the financial aid they need to attend college. On this page, the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) has compiled tools and resources our members and partners can use to prepare.

Tools and Resources to Help You Prepare for the Better FAFSA



AWARENESS TOOLKIT

Sample tools and resources you can use to inform your partners, stakeholders, and communities about the Better FAFSA.

[LEARN MORE](#)

<https://www.ncan.org/About>



TRAINING TOOLKIT

This toolkit contains resources and tools from NCAN, our partners, and FSA, including webinars, how-to articles, infographics, and fact sheets.

[LEARN MORE](#)

REACH OUT ANY TIME!



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2024-25 FAFSA Highlights

Dameion Lovett

Program Director, Office of Financial Aid,
University of South Florida
President, Florida Association of Student Financial
Aid Administrators (FASFAA)

Kylie Gross

Assistant Director, Financial Aid Office,
University of Tampa



Legislation Changes

Future Act

- Expands access to federal student aid
- Mandates Federal Student Aid use tax data directly from IRS

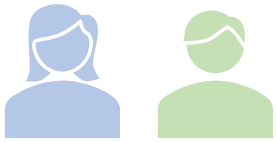
Consolidated Appropriations Act & FAFSA Simplification Act

- Changes to the FAFSA form
- How students & families complete the FAFSA
- Changes to aid eligibility calculation



Changes to What is Reported on FAFSA

Disclaimer: This is not a comprehensive list of the 2024-25 changes



Single/Divorced parents:

Provide income information for person who provided the **most support**



Family Size:

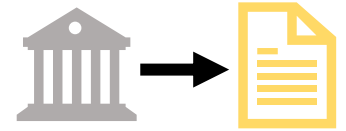
Only includes individuals **claimed on federal taxes**



Assets:

Small businesses and family farms are now reported as assets

Child Support received is an asset



Income Information:

Must be transferred from the IRS via Direct Data Exchange (DDX).

DDX replaces the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT).

Direct Data Exchange (DDX) & Consent



Consent

The agreement that information can be shared between the IRS and FAFSA via Direct Data Exchange (DDX).

- Required annually.
- Cannot be revoked for that year once given.
- Required of student and ***all contributors***.

Consent must be provided to be eligible for aid.

~~Consent~~ = ~~Aid~~

If no data can be retrieved from the IRS (non-filers, foreign filers, etc.) the financial information will need to be entered manually.

Is consent required if...

The person is a non-filer?

The person files foreign taxes?

The person was a victim of identity theft?

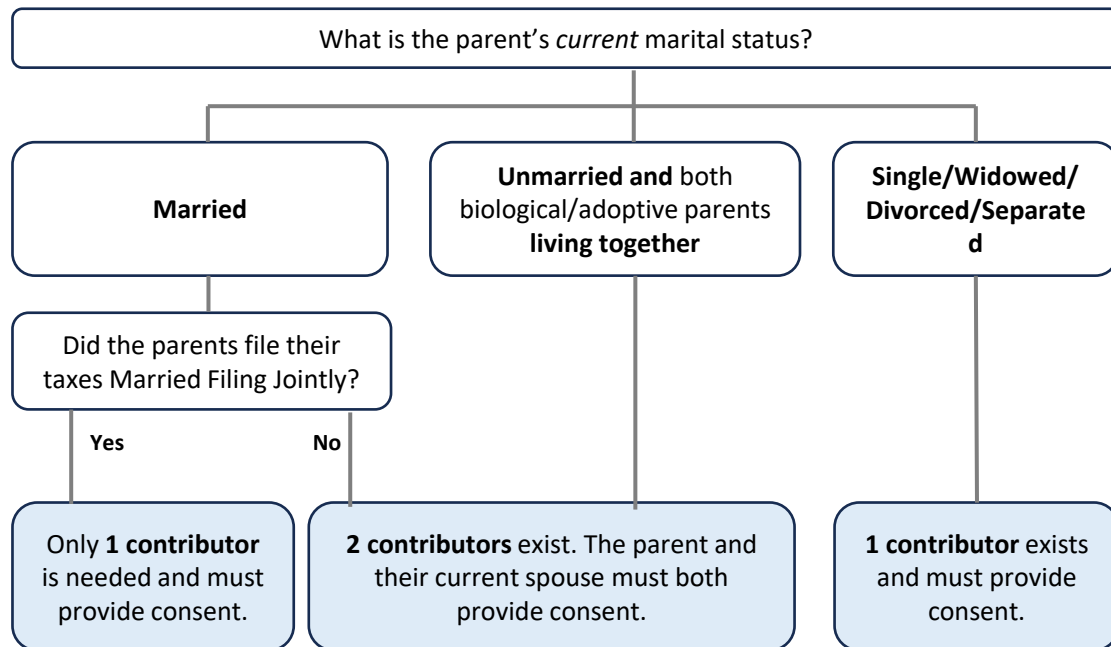
The person has no SSN?

YES!

FAFSA Contributors



Dependent students



Independent students



If married, the spouse is always a contributor and therefore, must consent

Remember

Each **contributor** needs their own FSA ID.



If a contributor is unable to create an FSA ID, the entire FAFSA must be done on paper.

FSA ID Creation for Non-SSN holders

The Department of Education has not released more information about this process yet.

What we currently know:

- Only for parents and contributors
- It will require a knowledge-based identity verification process using information pulled from credit bureaus.
- It will be like the current FSA ID set up process.

Reminder

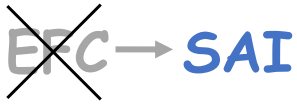


Students always need an SSN

Exception: If they are a citizen of one of the Freely Associated States of the Pacific (Marshall Islands, Palau, Micronesia)

Changes to Calculations and Awards

Disclaimer: This is not a comprehensive list of the 2024-25 changes



Student Aid Index (SAI):

Replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

May be as low as -1500



Multiple Kids in College:

No longer a factor



Provisional Independent:

New status for students who indicate an unusual circumstance exists on their application.

Schools must reach out to the student.



Pell Grants:

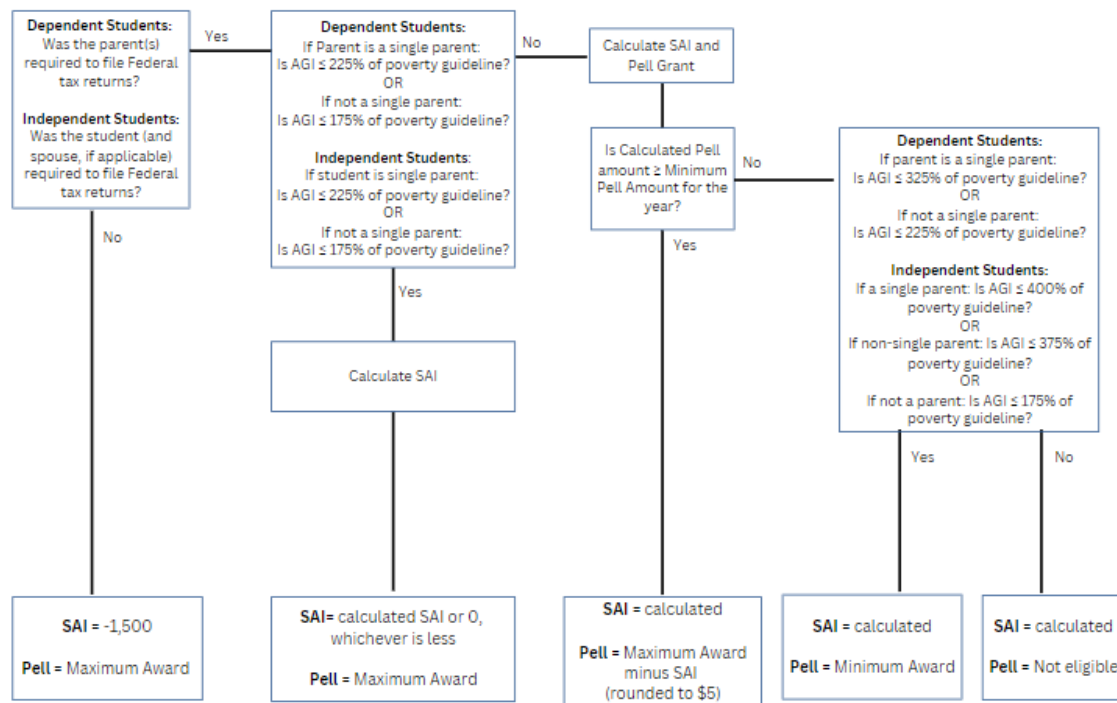
Significant award calculation and eligibility changes.

Pell Grant Changes

The Department of Education reports there should be an increase the net number of students eligible for Pell Grants

Simplified Pell Awarding Chart

By Kylie Gross



Student vs. Parent Confirmation Page

Student Confirmation Page

Congratulations,
the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

Raya Tran

Completion Date	Data Release Number	Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI)
10/12/2024	2572	123456789

The SAI is not a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college. Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

Based on the eligibility criteria, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$6,000.00. You may also be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants, scholarships, and/or work-study programs.

Estimated
SAI

Data Release
Number (DRN)

Estimated
Pell Grant

Parent Confirmation Page

No longer contains result information

Congratulations,
the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

Raya Tran

Completion Date
10/12/2024

Other Important Information



FAFSA Release Date:

On or before **December 31, 2023**



FSA ID:

Register for an FSA ID **before** starting the FAFSA.

Verification can take 1-3 days.



Housing Option:

Removed from FAFSA. Schools may request this information from students in another format.



FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS):

Previously called the Student Aid Report (SAR).

Contains a copy of the information on the FAFSA and information on issues.

Resources & Additional Information

[Draft 24-25 FAFSA and Summary of Changes](#)

Link for public comments is located within this announcement.

[FAFSA Simplification Information](#)

[NCAN Better FAFSA webpage](#)



Questions?

FREE
Online Webinars!



College 101 Step 3: Fund

You've applied. Now, how do you pay for college?

September 28, 2023
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. ET

Don't let the cost of college stop you from achieving your dreams. Find out how to lower costs through scholarships, grants, and other financial aid options.

REGISTER TODAY!

www.FloridaShines.org/College-101



Conclusion

