

Better FAFSA Better Future

Info Sheet for TRIO Professionals

About FAFSA Simplification

In December 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act. The law included provisions that amend the FUTURE Act and included the FAFSA Simplification Act which authorized drastic changes to the FAFSA completion process and the systems used to award federal student aid.

Vision of the Better FAFSA

The Better FAFSA was designed to connect more people with more funds by reducing the barriers associated with FAFSA completion. Through streamlining the application questions users should have a better experience.

Goals of the Better FAFSA

The Better FAFSA aims to add an estimated 930,000 additional Pell Grant Recipients, Federal Student Aid would love to connect over 7 million students with more than \$114 billion in student aid.



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What You Need to Know



December 2023 Release Date

This is a departure from the October 1st date in previous years. Note: Other aid granting organizations may not have changed their dates.



Fewer Questions Than Before

Previous versions of the form had as many as 100 questions. The Better FAFSA will ask as few as 36 questions



The IRS Will Provide Federal Tax Information When Available

The Data Retrieval Tool is gone. Since the Better FAFSA will access FTI there will be a reduced number of students selected for verification



The Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) is required

Due to information sharing between the IRS and Federal Student Aid the FSA ID is required for everyone entering information on the FAFSA. Parents without SSNs will also be required to obtain an FSA ID



The Student Aid Index (SAI) will replace the Estimated Family Contribution



Pell Grant eligibility will change. In addition to the SAI, Pell grant eligibility will be linked to federal poverty level and family size. Students who are incarcerated also will regain eligibility



In divorced, separated, or never married families, students will report the income of the parent who provides the most financial support. The number of family members in college has no impact.