

GUIDING YOU
THROUGH THE
BETTER

FAFSA



NCAN

SHEEO Financial Aid Learning Community Convening

September 8, 2023



Better FAFSA Tools and Resources

www.ncan.org



FAFSA



Better FAFSA

<https://www.ncan.org/page/better-FAFSA>

 AWARENESS TOOLKIT Sample tools and resources you can use to inform your partners, stakeholders, and communities about the Better FAFSA. LEARN MORE	 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
 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Have questions about the Better FAFSA? You're not the only one! Get answers to all your FAQs about the new form. LEARN MORE	 STATE POLICY TOOLKIT Featuring an action plan, sample coalition letters, communications plan, student and family outreach resources and tools, and more. LEARN MORE
 FAFSA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES NCAN and other organizations will be hosting a number of free webinars to prepare practitioners for the Better FAFSA. Check out the full schedule. LEARN MORE	 FEDERAL STUDENT AID'S BETTER FAFSA RESOURCES FSA has compiled a list of outreach resources you can use to communicate upcoming changes to your students and families. LEARN MORE
 THE BETTER FAFSA WILL BE DELAYED FSA announced that the release of the new Better FAFSA will be delayed until December 2023 rather than its traditional October 1 opening date.	 TOP 10 CHANGES COMING TO BETTER FAFSA Changes include a mandatory FSA ID for all, multifactor authentication, a role-based form, and more. Learn more about these upcoming changes.

- Awareness Toolkit
- Training Toolkit
- Frequently Asked Questions
- State Policy Toolkit
- FAFSA Training Opportunities
- FSA's Better FAFSA Resources
- Top 10 Changes Coming
- Creating a Plan for the Delay
- Key Steps Before the FAFSA Opens
- FAFSA Tracker

Communication Resources: Awareness Toolkit

Better FAFSA: Communicating with Partners & Stakeholders

Better FAFSA: Communicating with Partners & Stakeholders

CAMPAIGN

Use these social media posts to alert your partners and stakeholders in FAFSA completion

DESCRIPTION

The 2024-25 FAFSA, or "Better FAFSA," is being comprehensively overhauled. Everyone who works on FAFSA completion should be aware of its delayed opening, numerous changes coming with the new form and process, and how to get trained.

NCAN members can use the social media posts below to communicate important Better FAFSA-related messages to their partners and stakeholders in FAFSA completion. Please refer to the timeline to the right for what to communicate when.

TIMELINE

August-December 2023

KEY DATES

August-September 2023
Communicate that the Better FAFSA is delayed.

September-December 2023
Communicate about the changes and benefits of the Better FAFSA, available training, and state policy work.

December 2023
Better FAFSA opens (an exact date is forthcoming)

HASHTAGS

#BetterFAFSA

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

Use these social media posts to communicate with your partners and stakeholders in FAFSA completion about upcoming changes to the form and process.

LEARN MORE

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Coming September 2023!

COMING SOON!

SAMPLE NEWSLETTER/EMAIL TEXT

This document forms the basis of a great newsletter article or email informing your partners and stakeholders about the Better FAFSA.

ACCESS RESOURCE

SAMPLE OP-ED

Use this template to raise awareness of the changes coming with the Better FAFSA and what needs to be done to ensure all students have a fair shot.

ACCESS RESOURCE

BETTER FAFSA TALKING POINTS

The main points about the Better FAFSA you should be communicating to your partners, stakeholders, communities, and the media.

ACCESS RESOURCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have questions about the Better FAFSA? You're not the only one! Get answers to all your FAQs about the new form.

LEARN MORE

Better FAFSA is delayed

The new #BetterFAFSA is set for a delayed launch in December 2023, rather than October 1. What will this mean for your FAFSA completion efforts this year?

Changes coming with Better FAFSA

The new #BetterFAFSA is bringing plenty of changes with it. Here are the top 10 you should know about to be prepared for the new form & process.

Benefits of Better FAFSA

A lot of positive change is coming with the new #BetterFAFSA, including:

- Increased #FAFSAid eligibility
- Reduction in verification
- FAA ID for those without SSNs

Get trained on the Better FAFSA

There's a lot to learn about the new #BetterFAFSA. Don't miss your chance to get free virtual training before the new form opens!

Better FAFSA FAQs

Have questions about the #BetterFAFSA? You're not the only one! Get the answers to FAQs about the new form & process.

Supporting state policy work

With the delayed coming of the #BetterFAFSA, agencies, districts, institutions, & coalitions will need to adjust their plans & systems to support students in completing the form on time. Use this tool to support that work.

Training Resources



Major Changes for the Better FAFSA	
The 24-25 FAFSA will open in December 2023	Students will need to invite other contributors to complete their section on the FAFSA
FAFSA look and feel has changed	Role-based completion is required
New terminology to learn	Contributors will have to consent to the IRS sharing their federal tax information with the FAFSA for the student to be eligible for federal aid
The FSA ID will be required to start	Student Aid Index (SAI) is replacing Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

What we are still waiting to learn

- FSA ID process for parents without a social security number
- What the manual income and tax information entry process will look like
- If specific questions on the FAFSA will change based on feedback from the open comment period
- How to advise on assessing the net worth of family farms and small businesses
- How the Better FAFSA will impact verification selection

These screenshots are not final and could change by the time the FAFSA is released in December 2023

• Training Slide Decks

- Primary and recommended deck was developed in partnership with uAspire. Includes 116 detailed slides on every aspect of the form and process.
- Decks from FSA on FSA ID creation, Dependent Student Process, Provisionally Independent Student and More – with screen shots!



• Resources and Tools for Practitioners

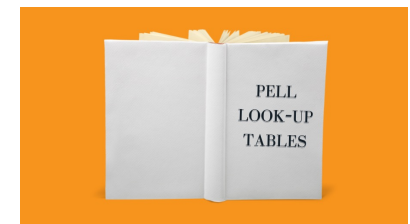
- Fact Sheets
- Guide to Asset Reporting
- Training Scenarios
- How to Guide on the Pell Look-Up Tables
- List of Potential Trainers by State

BETTER FAFSA TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SUMMIT | ATTENDEE LIST

STATE	ORGANIZATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TITLE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Alabama	Alabama Commission on Higher Education	Ben	Loftland	Director of Special Initiatives	ben.loftland@ache.edu
Alabama	Alabama Possible	Tracy	Baker	Program Director for Postsecondary Access	tbaker@alabamapossible.org
Alabama	Alabama Possible	Tracy	Watts	Program Director	twatts@alabamapossible.org
Alaska	Alaska Community Development Corporation	Christina	Langford	College & Career Specialist II	christina.langford@alaska.gov
Alaska	Alaska Community Development Corporation	Christina	Langford	Program Coordinator	christina.langford@alaska.gov
Arizona	Arizona Board of Regents	Julie	Sanz	Director, FAFSA and College Access Initiatives	julie.sanz@arizona.edu
Arizona	Arizona State University	Stephanie	Wells	Director	stephanie.wells@asu.edu
Arizona	Arizona State University, Access Path	Allyson	Stevenson	Director	allyson.stevenson@asu.edu
Arizona	Arizona State University, Access Path	Scott	Langdon	Program Manager	scottl@asu.edu
Arizona	Arizona University of Higher Education	Michelle	Light	Program Specialist	michelle.light@azuh.edu
Arizona	College Board at Phoenix Public Schools	Diana	Manner	Principal Aid Director	diana.manner@phoenix.gov
Arizona	Education Forward Arizona	Graciela	Nichols	Program Manager	graciela@educationforwardaz.org
California	CSDE/Stanislaus	David	Lawson	Director of College Access, San Francisco & Merced Offices	lawson@csdestanislaus.net

• Resources and Tools for Students and Families

- How To Guide on FSA ID
- Steps to Appeal for More Financial Aid



State Policy Resources



Spring Forward FAFSA- Twitter Post
 Twitter Post 1600 px x 900 px
 By Alondra Vallejo
 On Jun 16, 2023

[Edit](#)

[Make a copy](#)

[Share this design](#)



Spring Forward FAFSA - Facebook Post
 Custom dimensions 1080 px x 1080 px
 By Alondra Vallejo
 On Jun 16, 2023

[Edit](#)

[Make a copy](#)

[Share this design](#)

Sample Institutions Coalition Letter

Directions: Swap out the **highlighted** text with information pertaining to your coalition and institution you're working to send out as needed.

Dear **[Name]**,

As practitioners who work with students of color and those from low income communities to help them complete their college and financial aid applications and ultimately enroll in postsecondary education, we write to encourage you to take proactive steps to help mitigate the potential harm to students that could come because of the delayed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The release of the new Better FAFSA, adopted after years of federal advocacy to make the process of applying for financial aid easier, is exciting and will result in more students becoming eligible for the Pell Grant, among many other positive changes. Unfortunately, the significant changes required by the transition to the new system have resulted in a delayed release and compressed timeline for filling out the form. While Federal Student Aid has not yet announced the exact date when the FAFSA will be released, it will not be earlier than December 1, 2023, two months later than in a typical year.

This compressed timeline could most disadvantage students and families who need greater support to complete the FAFSA – and who have the most to gain from filling out the form.



OUTREACH TO STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Those working with students and families should be prepared to inform them about the new FAFSA, its delayed launch date, and important resources like the **Pell Look-Up Tables** and the flyer linked here.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



STATE SYSTEMS & FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Learn about state financial aid programs and administrative systems, including state financial aid programs, deadlines, and connection to the FAFSA.

[LEARN MORE](#)



SAMPLE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

This Gantt chart details when to share messages and activities with key audiences related to the Better FAFSA rollout.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



BETTER FAFSA MYTHS & FACTS

What's changed with regards to the new form and process? This simple one-pager dispels myths and shares facts.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



SAMPLE INSTITUTIONS COALITION LETTER

Send this sample letter to institutions of higher education to urge them to begin planning for a delayed rollout of the Better FAFSA.

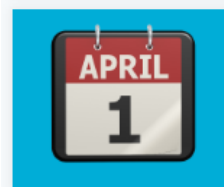
[DOWNLOAD](#)



SAMPLE AGENCY/LEGISLATORS COALITION LETTER

Urge them to push back financial aid deadlines, inform families and students about the delay, and encourage them to start the FAFSA process early.

[DOWNLOAD](#)



SPRING FORWARD FAFSA CAMPAIGN

To allow students enough time to complete the 2024-25 FAFSA, states should move their financial aid deadlines back to April 1, 2024.

[LEARN MORE](#)



2024-25 FAFSA SPECIFICATIONS GUIDE

Check out this resource from the Office of Federal Student Aid, current as of July 2023. Please note that the guide is a draft.

[LEARN MORE](#)



BETTER FAFSA

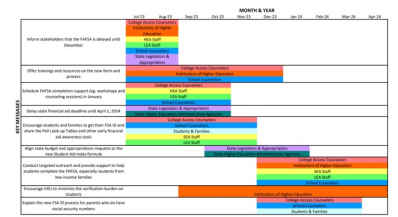
Better FAFSA Myths and Facts

Myth: Parents without Social Security Numbers (SSNs) (i.e., undocumented) will not be able to contribute their information to a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).


Fact: Federal Student Aid (FAA) is implementing a new process that will allow parents who do not have an SSN to obtain an FSA-ID. FSA has not yet shared the details of that process, but they have said it will use the TransUnion Credit Bureau to verify peoples' identities. Parents who are undocumented will need an FSA-ID to complete the FAFSA online, but those who are not able to verify their identity through the new process will have the option of completing a paper FAFSA form.

Myth: Students whose families own farms or small businesses will see their federal student aid decrease significantly.

Fact: While the new formula does require assets from family farms and small businesses to be reported in some cases, financial aid awards will be impacted differently by the new formula for determining federal financial aid. Families with adjusted gross income of \$65,000 or less will not be required to report assets at all and students from families earning up to 175% of the federal poverty limit will automatically receive a maximum Pell Grant. Families required to



Upcoming State Policy Leader Convenings

- Tuesday, September 19th 2-3pm EST via Zoom
-  NCAN National Conference, Wednesday, October 18th, 11:30-1pm, Hyatt Regency Dallas Texas, Lunch Included!
- Thursday, November 16th, 2-3pm EST via Zoom

Questions or to RSVP? Please contact:



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