

# FAFSA + FEDERAL UPDATE

SHEEO Financial Aid Learning Community Convening

May 2025

# TODAY'S SPEAKERS

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# AGENDA

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- 01 FAFSA Update
- 02 Federal Update
- 03 Resources
- 04 Questions



# FAFSA UPDATE

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# 2025-26 FAFSA FORM SUBMISSION STATUS

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As of May 13, 2025

- 11.6M total applications
- 2.2M high school seniors
- 616K other first-time applicants
- 8.8M returning students



[FAFSA Simplification Information \(Knowledge Center\)](#)

# UPDATED FAFSA QUESTION 11

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- Department updated FAFSA Question 11 (sex question) on February 14, 2025
  - Two response options: “Male” and “Female”
- Students submitting or correcting 2024-25 and 2025-26 FAFSA forms on or after February 14<sup>th</sup> must update Question 11
- Institutions initiating corrections do not update question
- 2024-25 and 2025-26 paper FAFSA forms do not require correction

[EA APP-25-05](#)

# NSLDS POST-SCREENING UPDATE

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- Now live for 2024-25 and 2025-26 award years
- FSA conducted a beta test of post-screening data with a group of schools to ensure successful deployment
- Check individual student eligibility status in COD when needed

[EA APP-25-06](#)

[EA APP-25-02](#)

[EA GENERAL-24-84](#)

# NSLDS FINANCIAL AID HISTORY REPORT

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NSLDS Financial Aid History Report (FAT001) available as of January 29, 2025

FAHEXTOP AND FAHREPOP outputs currently affecting number of students displayed per page on FAT001

[EA GENERAL-25-10](#)



# ISIR REQUEST FUNCTIONALITY

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- Institutions and states may request a single ISIR or a specified group of ISIRs from the FAFSA Processing System
- Accessed on FAFSA Partner Portal
- Includes 2024–25 and 2025–26 cycles

Additional information on requesting ISIRs through the ISIR Datamart can be found in Volume 3 of the [FAFSA Specifications Guide](#).

# FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY REPRINT FOR PAPER FILERS

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- Reprinting of FAFSA Submission Summary for applicants who applied via paper
- Accessed on FAFSA Partner Portal
  - FAAs may request reprint on behalf of student
  - Option to mail to address on file (as entered on FAFSA form) or new mailing address
- Includes 2024–25 and 2025–26 cycles
- May be necessary to assist incarcerated students in making corrections

# 2026-27 FAFSA FORM ANNOUNCEMENT

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- 2026-27 FAFSA form and FAFSA Submission Summary public comment
  - 60-day comment period ended on April 7
  - 30-day comment period will open in mid-May
- Beta testing begins in early August
  - August: Invite-only testing with limited population
  - September: Online testing; anyone can request access
- General release to public by October 1, 2025

[EA APP-25-04, Regulations.gov \(ED-2025-SCC-0011\), Federal Register Notice \(February 4, 2025\)](#)

# 2026-27 FAFSA FORM PLANNED CHANGES

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- Question 11— Student Demographic Information
  - “What is the student’s gender?” changed to “What is the student’s sex?”
  - “Nonbinary” and “Prefer not to answer” responses removed
- Question 12 — Student Race and Ethnicity
  - Separate Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin question removed
  - “Hispanic or Latino” and “Middle Eastern or North African” categories added

[Executive Order 14168](#)

[Federal Register Notice \(March 29, 2024\)](#)

# 2026-27 FAFSA Specifications Guide

*Volumes Introduction, 3, 4 A/B, 5, and 9*

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[2026-27 FAFSA Specifications Guide](#)

2026–27

## ***FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Specifications Guide***

February 2025

U.S. Department of Education's  
Federal Student Aid



# FAFSA FUNCTIONALITY FOR MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES

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- FSA continues to utilize TransUnion for identity verification for individuals without Social Security Numbers and to follow guidance allowing applicants to proceed.
- Ingestion of IRS data for contributors with ITINs is being actively scoped now and should be available in the coming months.
- Significant resources are available on Studentaid.gov to support all students and families in completing the FAFSA form.

# DATA MODELING/USER TRENDS

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- Significant improvement in completion based on a number of changes that the team made based on data:
  - Clarifying the implications for students who declare that they can not reach their parents
  - Encouraging signatures and reminders to improve signature completion.
- Coming with 2026-27:
  - Overhaul of contributor invite flow to improve completion and adoption
  - Real-time matching with Social Security Administration to allow for significant reduction in manual data entry.

# FEDERAL UPDATE

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# GENERAL UPDATES

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- Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4)
  - Signed into law March 15, 2025
  - Provides continuing resolution through end of FY2025
  - Pell Grant and Campus-Based Programs amounts stay the same



# NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

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# REGULATORY PROCESS

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## PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Inform community of intent to regulate topics
- Conduct public hearing(s)
- Request nominations for non-federal negotiators



## NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

- Negotiated Committee meets
- ED provides draft amendatory text for discussion
- Final consensus vote on last day of negotiations



## PROPOSED REGULATIONS

- ED publishes NPRM in Federal Register
- Request for comments submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)



## FINAL REGULATIONS

- ED reviews, redacts, summarizes, and responds to public comments
- ED publishes Final Rule in Federal Register



## MASTER CALENDAR

- Final regulations published by Nov 1 effective following July 1
- Early implementation at Secretary's discretion

# 2025-26 NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

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Intent to host public hearings and establish negotiated rulemaking committee(s) to develop proposed regulations



Topics include

- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
- Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR)
- Other topics to streamline current *Title IV* programs



Public hearings

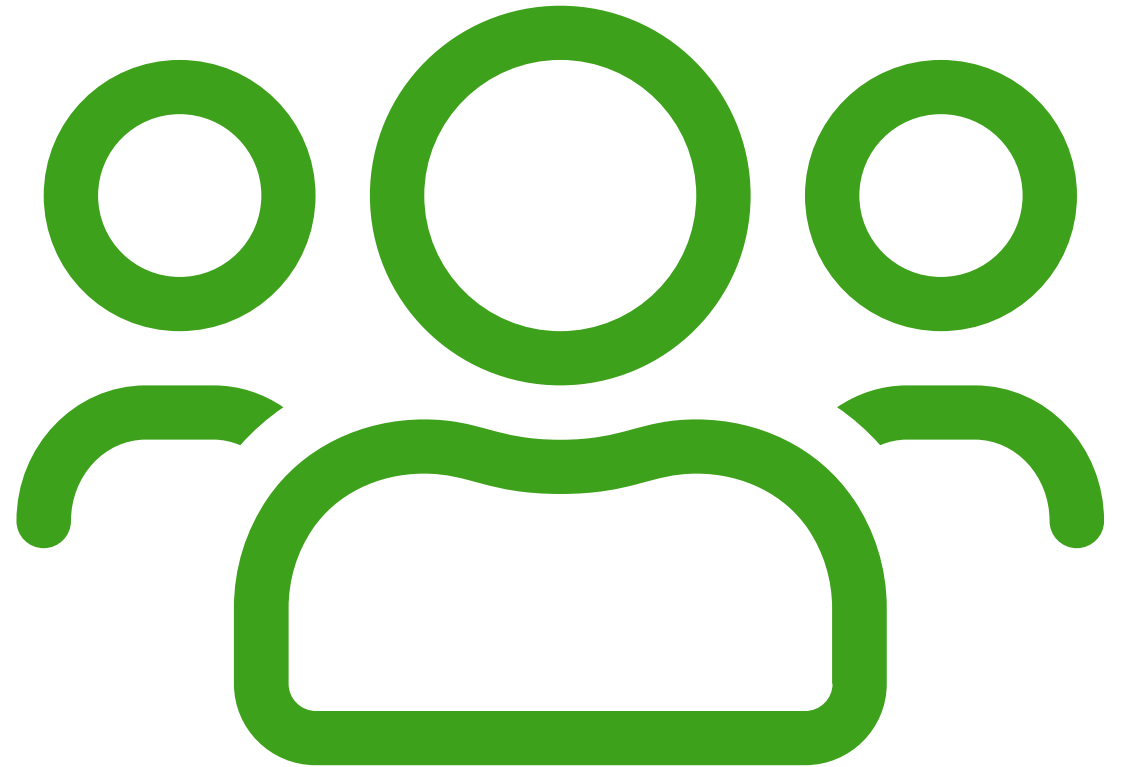
- April 29, 2025 (in-person)
- May 1, 2025 (virtual)
- Written comments accepted on or before May 8, 2025

[Federal Register Notice \(April 4, 2025\)](#)

# 2025-26 NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING – NEGOTIATOR NOMINATIONS AND SCHEDULE

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- Intent to establish rulemaking committee, with negotiator nominations due by June 2, 2025
- Committee Topics:
  - Definition of qualified employer
  - Revisiting family size, repayment plan provisions, and certain other provisions of July 10, 2023 rule
- Schedule for negotiations:
  - Session 1: June 30-July 2, 2025



[Federal Register Notice \(May 12, 2025\)](#)

# FAFSA DATA + FTI

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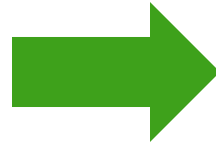
# UPDATE ON ACCESS AND USE OF FTI

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FTI expanded to include intermediate and derived FTI values on ISIR

## 2024-25 FAFSA cycle and beyond

- FTI safeguards
- Data use limitations



## 2026-27 FAFSA cycle and beyond

- Appropriate CUI labeling

# FAFSA DATA SHARING

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Students must provide consent to share FAFSA data to eligible entities.

## FAFSA data includes:

Personal circumstances	Dependency status	Federal benefits received	Financial assets	SAI	Pell Grant eligibility status	Verification status
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[EA GENERAL-24-149](#)

[EA GENERAL-24-129](#)



# RESOURCES

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## OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

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Posting Date	Link/ID	Description
—	<a href="#">TeFAQKI</a>	Technical Frequently Asked Questions and Known Issues (ISIR)
—	<a href="#">FAFSA Issue Alerts</a>	Knowledge Center's FAFSA Form Issue Alerts page
May 9, 2025	<a href="#">FSA Webinars and Trainings</a>	On-demand webinar: <i>Submitting Corrections in the FAFSA Partner Portal</i>
March 14, 2025	<a href="#">EA GENERAL-25-14</a>	Notice of Updated School Participation Division Contact Information ( <a href="mailto:CaseTeams@ed.gov">CaseTeams@ed.gov</a> )

# OTHER RESOURCES

1

## Knowledge Center

[Knowledge Center Homepage](#)

Subscribe for daily or weekly email updates.

2

## FSA Training Center

[FSATRaining.ed.gov](https://fsatraining.ed.gov)

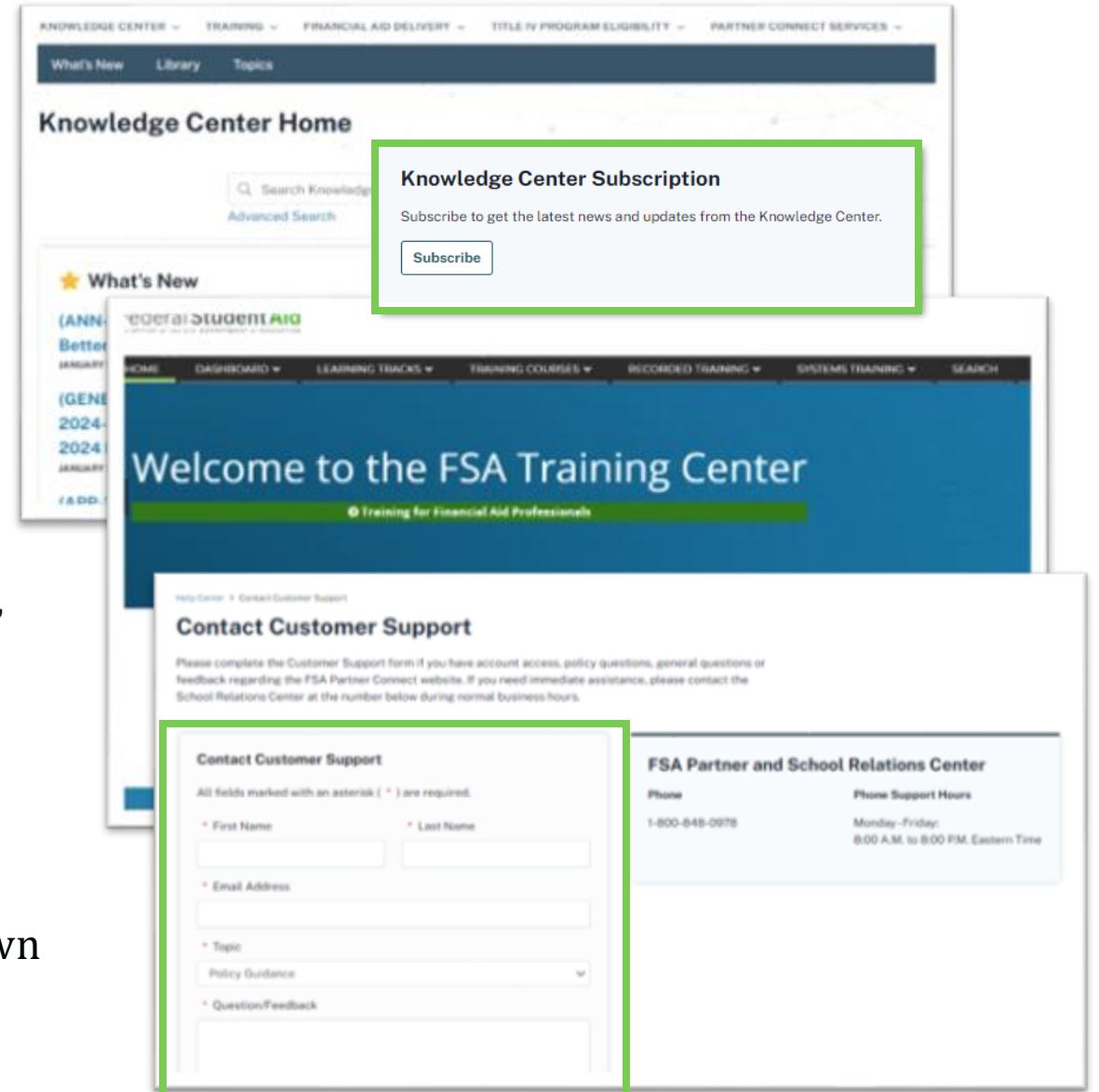
View learning tracks, training courses, videos, and software training.

3

## FSA Partner Connect Help Center

[Contact Customer Support](#)

Choose “Policy Guidance” from Topic dropdown list to ask policy questions.



# Questions?

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