



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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*Moises G. Aguirre, Ed.D.*

*Superintendent*

March 3, 2023

California Student Aid Commission  
11120 International Drive Ste. 100  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**Re: Request for extension to the March 2, priority deadline for the FAFSA submission.**

Dear Commissioners:

The Sweetwater Union High District is requesting an extension for the FAFSA submission for 2022-2023 school year due to extenuating circumstances beyond our control. On February 12, 2023, the District experienced a Cyber-attack on our network. This impacted District-wide access to our internet, student Information system, transcripts, and learning platforms. Email and other systems were down District-wide and not fully restored until Sunday, February 26, 2023. The lack of access to our databases caused a negative impact on our students' ability to access the FAFSA website and our District's ability to upload the appropriate information for all of our seniors. Students could not use their District provided devices anywhere due to the settings requiring net filtering and authentication. Most schools have open labs the whole month of February for students to drop in and get one-on-one assistance from counselors. These meeting were very limited or could not be conducted during the outage. Normally our students could also reach out to their counselors via Microsoft Teams for guidance and help with their applications. They were unable to gain access to Microsoft Teams because of the outage. Additionally, our District had no access to WebGrants reports, no access to our student's records including grade point averages and schedules.

This Cyber-attack has been documented with the local law enforcement authorities as well as with the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

As District, we sponsor numerous events to support student FAFSA completion throughout the semester, unfortunately because of the outage these events had to be canceled. The following are a few examples of the events to aid our students that had to be canceled:

- The scheduled FAFSA workshop on February 15, 2023, for students and parents. Southwestern College was to conduct the workshop.
- Open labs during lunch and before and after school at all schools.
- Advisors from universities, Upward Bound, Talent Search and Cal-SOAP were unable to meet with students and assist with the FAFSA.
- Planned FAFSA presentations during select Senior courses.
- FAFSA/CADAA Spanish Language workshop scheduled for February 15, 2023.

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However, many students wait until the last minute to complete the FAFSA. In this case, the network outage impacted our District for the last two weeks prior to the submission date. I am requesting a 30-day extension to ensure our students have the appropriate access to the internet to submit their FAFSA forms.

According to our internal dashboard (Data Insights), in 2018, we had 57% of our students complete the FAFSA, our highest rate in the last four years.

2019- 55% completed

2020- 53% completed

2021 - 52% completed

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Aguirre', is written over the printed name.

Moises G. Aguirre, Ed.D.  
Superintendent