



BETTER FAFSA UPDATE

Student Impact, Outreach, and
Communications Committee
November 29, 2023



2024-2025 FAFSA Update



Federal Student Aid Announcement

- Federal Student Aid announced on November 15 that the 2024 -25 FAFSA will launch by **December 31, 2023.**
- Will meet the new federal statutory requirement to open prior to January 1, 2024.
- FAFSA could open sooner than December 31, but most likely it will be December 31.



Delayed Processes

- Students will receive the confirmation email with Pell Grant eligibility and Student Aid Index information with a submitted FAFSA
- **End of January**
 - Colleges and State Higher Education agencies will receive the Institutional Student Information Records (ISIR)
 - Students can make corrections and updates to their FAFSA
 - Students will also receive their FAFSA submission summaries by the end of January.



Delayed ISIR

- Colleges and Universities will not receive ISIRs until late January and will need time to load and test their systems. Financial aid award offers will be delayed. Some admission decisions will go out without award letters.
- Cal Grant award processing will experience similar delays. Targeting a mid to late February award cycle
- Students may experience delays from their FAFSA submission and hearing about their financial aid award



FAFSA Specifications Guide

- FSA announced on November 27 that the final version of the 2024 -25 FAFSA Specifications Guide was now available.
- 9 volumes encompassing the final technical changes needed for states, vendors and institutions to prepare their systems for the Better FAFSA data uploads
- Including 2024 -25 ISIR record layout that included some minor edits, but users could finally proceed with the development and testing.



FSA Resources



FAFSA Prototype

- Released on September 29 for anyone to use
- Allows users to preview the 2024 -25 FAFSA by walking through the online application with pre -determined use cases.
- Before the December 31 release, practitioners should test the prototype to become familiar with the Better FAFSA



Federal Student Aid Estimator

- Provides an estimate on how much federal aid a student can receive
- Estimates the Student Aid Index
- Good practice for actual FAFSA..



Student Aid.gov

- Better FAFSA Information for families and students
- What you need know now
- What you can do now



FSA ID



FSA ID for Undocumented Parents

- Undocumented parents and spouses will be able to create an FSA ID when the 2024 -25 FAFSA launches, even if they don't have a Social Security Number
- Their privacy will be protected from DHS and immigration enforcement
- FSA will perform verification through TransUnion. If TransUnion is not available, a process called "ID Proofing," or "knowledge -based identity" questions will be asked
- If any questions are answered incorrectly, the FSA ID applicant will be prompted to contact FSA customer service to initiate the identity verification process
- If the information is not confirmed, the parent will not be able to create an FSA ID or be a contributor on the FAFSA

Screenshot of Account Creation Page

Create an Account

Step 1 of 7

Personal Information

I understand that I'll be required to certify that the information I provide to create an account is true and correct and that I'm the individual who I claim to be.

If I'm not the person I claim to be, I understand that I'm not authorized to proceed and that I should exit this form now. If I provide false or misleading information, I understand that I may be subject to a fine, prison time, or both.

First Name

Jesse

Middle Initial

C

Last Name

Faden

Date of Birth

Month: 09 Day: 07 Year: 1991

Social Security Number

☒ I don't have a Social Security number.

Cancel

Continue

Contributors without an SSN who are required to create an FSA ID, such as a student's spouse, parent, or other parent will indicate they do not have an SSN here

They will be sent through the knowledge-based ID verification process when they do not have an SSN



CSAC Better FAFSA, Better CADAA Efforts

CSAC Teams

1

FAFSA IMPLEMENTATION (TECHNICAL)

Technical specifications from FAFSA & ISIR changes are updated in Grant Delivery System to accept applications and process awards.

2

BETTER CADAA ENHANCEMENTS

Align application to all FAFSA changes and incorporate recommendations from undocumented workgroup

3

2024-25 CAL GRANT AWARD PROCESSING

Offering Cal Grant awards to incoming college freshman that are dually eligible under the legacy and CGR programs

4

BETTER FAFSA & CADAA COMMUNICATIONS

Develop and update communications, training, materials, and resources to support students and their families; high school counselors and educators; college financial aid administrators and professionals; and external community partners.



Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops (ASF AW)

- 59/61 in person workshops completed
 - 2 more scheduled in January & February
 - 4,853 attendees to date
- 5 virtual workshops
 - 2,729 attendees for the virtual workshops
- Additional virtual events to be held in January and February after release of Better FAFSA/CADAA
 - Wednesday, January 17th
 - Monday, February 5th
 - Thursday, February 22nd
 - Events.com registration: [2024 -25 Better FAFSA & CADAA Updates](#)

Educator and Professional Resources

1

Operations Memos and Special Alerts

- Communications centered on the upcoming changes around the 2024 applications -25 financial aid
- Released [GOM 2023 -13](#) in May 2023 and [GSA 2023 -47](#) on September 5, 2023
- Next communication scheduled in December.

2

Better FAFSA & CADAA Landing Page for Educators

- On CSAC homepage with a dedicated landing page for Better FAFSA, Better CADAA
- Upcoming key dates, milestones, targeted resources and events
- Resources from FSA, NCAN, and other partners

3

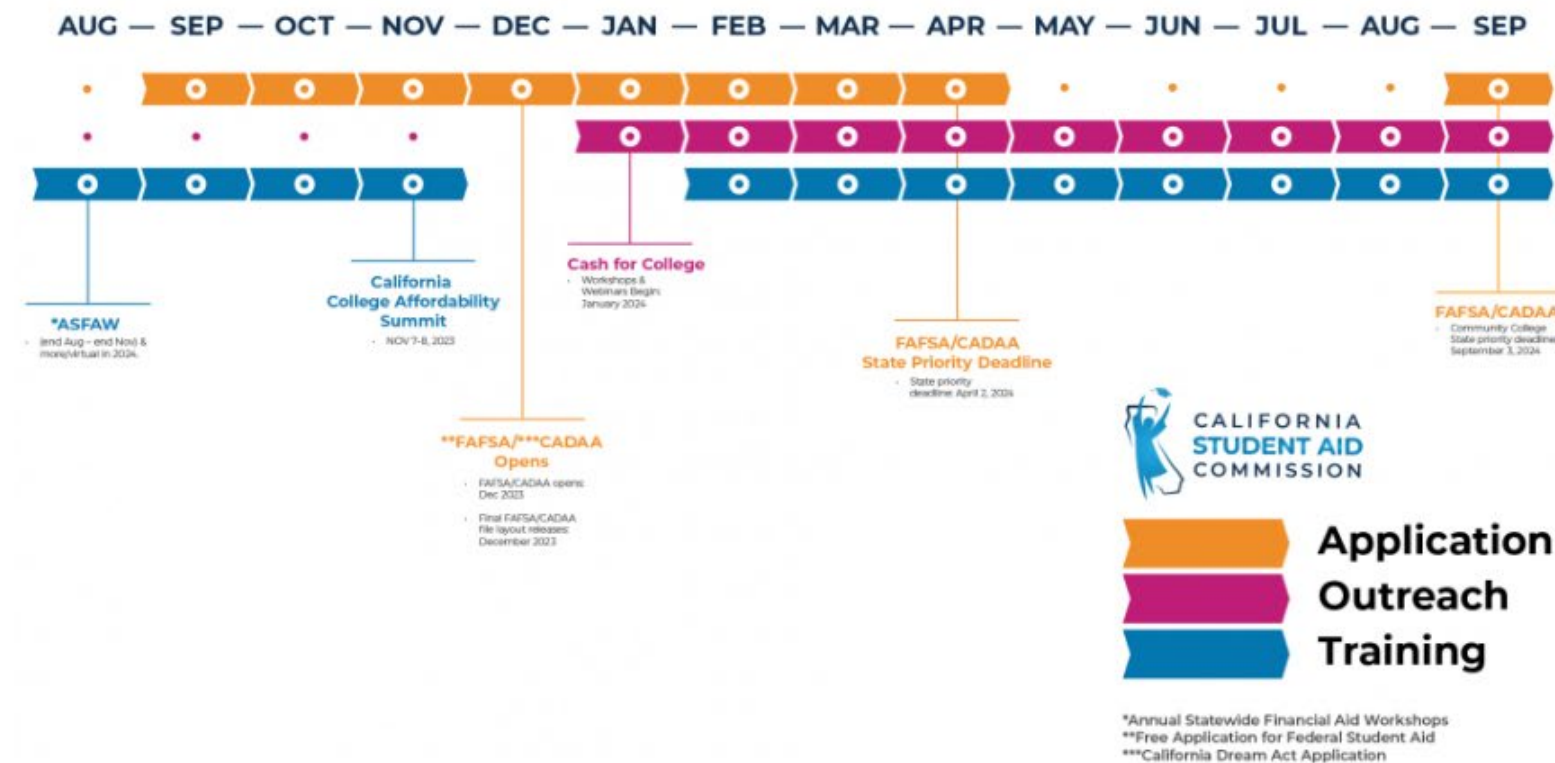
Better FAFSA & CADAA Bulletin/Newsletter

- Periodic bulletin sent to list serve recipients with updates, best practices, and reminders of upcoming training events
- Content of bulletin will be embedded in the e-mail communication
- Three bulletins have been released

Better FAFSA, Better CADAA Landing Page



Better FAFSA, Better CADAA Timeline





Student Communications



CURRENT STUDENTS (Renewals)

- Inform of the changes to the FAFSA for the 2024 -25 school year and enhancements to CADAA.
- Provide the new deadline for both Better FAFSA and Better CADAA.
- Remind students to confirm their FSA ID and add any new contributors if applicable
- 660,000 emails sent between September 12 and October 9, 2023



NEW STUDENTS (High school seniors)

- Targeting the first two weeks of December
- Using 2024 -25 GPA data that has been submitted
- College applications are done, shift your focus to the FAFSA/CADAA
- Provide the new deadline for both Better FAFSA and Better CADAA.
- Encourage students to complete their FSA ID requirement for all contributors before the FAFSA opening
- Promote the Cash for College webinars starting on January 2024.



Thank you!



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