WASFA Updates

• The 2024-25 WASFA Application Guide and Sample WASFA are now available.

FAFSA Updates

Thank you for sharing your experiences with the 2024-25 FAFSA with us. With your help, we have been able to identify new issues and workarounds. We want to acknowledge that specific issues are impacting our mixed status families' ability to apply for financial aid, and this is an equity concern we all share.

FAFSA Issues

- Federal Student Aid (FSA) is working on identifying <u>2024–25 FAFSA Issues</u> and providing workarounds when available. Please use this list when working with students.
- Parents without an SSN are currently unable to start or contribute to an existing 2024-25 FAFSA.
 There is currently no workaround, and FSA has not provided an estimated timeline in which this issue will be fixed. This issue impacts any student that has a parent that does not have an SSN, even if one parent does have an SSN. Impacted students are not currently able to submit an application online. If a student has an immediate financial aid deadline, they can complete 2024-25 Paper FAFSA (English Spanish). We encourage those without upcoming deadlines to wait until FSA corrects this issue.
- FSA released a new resource, <u>Pro Tips for the 2024–25 FAFSA</u> to support students and families.

2024-25 FAFSA Corrections

• Students that need to make a <u>correction to their FAFSA</u> will be able to do so starting in mid-March.

Data and Financial Aid Offer Delays

- FSA is working on adjusting the new Student Aid Index (SAI) to reflect the inflation adjustment. This change will deliver an <u>additional \$1.8 billion to students</u> in the form of increased eligibility for Pell grants, campus-based aid and student loan subsidies. To make this adjustment, the release of student applications to the colleges will be delayed until mid-March.
- As a result, financial aid offers from college this year will also be delayed. We encourage patience as our college financial aid offices navigate this new condensed timeline.
- Unless there is a further delay of data from FSA, the <u>FAFSA Completion Portal</u> will be available at the end of March.
- FSA has released high school level data on FAFSA submissions through 1/26/24.

Commonly Requested Resources and Links

- Who's the Parent for Financial Aid Purposes <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>.
- Financial Aid 101 Video available in English and Spanish.
- Financial Aid 101 Presentation available in English and Spanish.
- 12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Student and Parent Events List.
- Check out our easy to implement lesson plans to support your financial aid completion work and other resources at https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign

• If you would like to know more about the FAFSA Simplification Act and the changes to the application, we have training opportunities that can be found here.

We understand the challenges you are navigating as you support your students and families. We are committed to communicating updates as soon as they are provided by FSA. We are also updating the <u>Financial Aid Padlet</u> with the latest information and resources. Please join us for <u>WSAC Wednesday</u> for more updates.

Thank you for all the amazing work you do to support students.

Sincerely, Christina & Yaslin Your 12th Year Campaign Team

