



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

December 12, 2023

GSA 2023-69

TO: High School Counselors
Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Tae Kang *Tae Kang*
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SUBJECT: **2024-25 Better FAFSA / Better CADAA Update**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides the latest updates related to the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA); Better FAFSA / Better CADAA. As communicated in [GSA 2023-47](#), the 2024-25 financial aid applications are anticipated to be released by December 31, 2023.

2024-25 FAFSA Reminders

- All students, parents, and legal guardians contributing information to the FAFSA will be required to have or register for a Federal Student Aid (FSA) account and provide consent. Parents/contributors without a Social Security Number will be able to create an FSA account when the 2024-25 FAFSA form goes live.
 - New FAFSA filers will need to create an FSA ID account.
 - Renewal FAFSA filers can continue to use their existing FSA ID.
- Starting with the 2024-25 year, the number of students a family has enrolled in college will no longer factor into the financial need calculation. However, the FAFSA will still require applicants to disclose the total number of people that will be attending college for the academic year in the parent section.
 - Financial aid offices may exercise professional judgement for additional costs due to other siblings' enrollment in college.
- When the 2024-25 FAFSA is released, the confirmation email with Pell Grant eligibility and Student Aid Index information will be available to students as they complete and submit their FAFSA.
- The following items will be available by the end of January 2024:
 - Colleges and State Higher Education agencies will receive the Institutional Student Information Records (ISIR).
 - Students will have the ability to make corrections and updates to their FAFSA.
 - Students will be able to access their FAFSA submission summaries.

- The [FAFSA prototype](#) offers the financial aid community an advance opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the 2024-25 FAFSA user experience ahead of its release.
- The [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#) is available for use by anyone seeking preliminary SAI and federal student aid information ahead of the FAFSA release.

2024-25 CADAA Updates

- The 2024-25 CADAA will provide students with a more streamlined financial aid process by incorporating the nonresident tuition exemption form, commonly known as AB 540 affidavit, within the application.
 - Information collected will be provided to the colleges/universities the student lists on their CADAA.
 - The school of attendance will make the final determination of AB 540 eligibility.
- Other features in the 2024-25 CADAA include:
 - Streamlined parent signature process.
 - Reduction in the percentage of applications that are selected for verification from 20% to 10%.
 - Enhanced text within the application and help & hints for a better user experience.

2024-25 Cal Grant High School Entitlement Awards

- Following the release of the 2024-25 FAFSA/CADAA and FAFSA Submission Summaries, the Commission anticipates processing initial Cal Grant high school entitlement awards in mid-February 2024.
- Due to the May 2024 state revenue contingency for the confirmation of the Cal Grant Reform changes for the 2024-25 award year, the Commission will run a modified Cal Grant selection process to offer initial awards to students eligible under both, the Cal Grant legacy and Cal Grant reform models.
- Following the May 2024 revenue confirmation and final Cal Grant model determination for the 2024-25 award year, the Commission will move forward with processing additional students for Cal Grant award consideration.

Need to contact us?

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