California
Non-SSN Contributor Tip Sheet

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

HELPFUL TIPS

The FAFSA is experiencing several issues for contributors without SSNs. Should the student wait to start the FAFSA?

CSAC recommends that students begin the FAFSA and complete the student section as soon as possible. The most important thing is to get the application started, and once the student has completed and submitted their section, advise them to save their confirmation email.

Federal Student Aid (FSA) announced that they will resolve FAFSA submission issues for students who have a contributor without an SSN in the first half of March. At that time, FSA indicates that students can submit a fully completed FAFSA that includes contributor information.

Student's contributor does not have an SSN and needs to create a StudentAid.gov account.

The contributor without an SSN can make a StudentAid.gov account to contribute to the student's FAFSA. They may be asked to verify their identity through a series of questions. In case these questions do not appear, or the contributor is unable to answer the questions correctly, they will be instructed on the next steps to verify their identity.

On March 5, 2024, FSA announced that they have updated steps 2 and 3 of the account creation process for contributors without an SSN. The new process now automatically assigns a case number to the contributor by email if further Identity Verification is needed.

Better FAFSA

Should the contributor use their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or work-authorized Social Security Number to create a StudentAid.gov account?

CSAC has been advised that a contributor can enter their DACA/work-authorized SSN when creating their StudentAid.gov account. However, an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) should <u>not</u> be used when creating a StudentAid.gov account.

Student's contributor does not have an SSN and has started the StudentAid.gov account setup process. Now FSA is requiring identity verification. What are the contributor's next steps?

- FSA will automatically assign the contributor a case number. Once the case number is created, FSA will send a verification email in their preferred language (English or Spanish), including their case number and instructions on submitting identity verification documentation.

- The contributor will be asked to submit an Attestation Form (available in both English and Spanish) with copies of unexpired acceptable documentation. The completed form and documentation can be submitted to IDVerification@ed.gov.

- Contributors should NOT submit an Attestation Form or documentation to FSA until they have a case number; we have been advised that documents without a case number will not be processed.

The student's contributor does not have an SSN and was able to create a StudentAid.gov account. Now the contributor cannot complete their section of the FAFSA. What are the contributor's next steps?
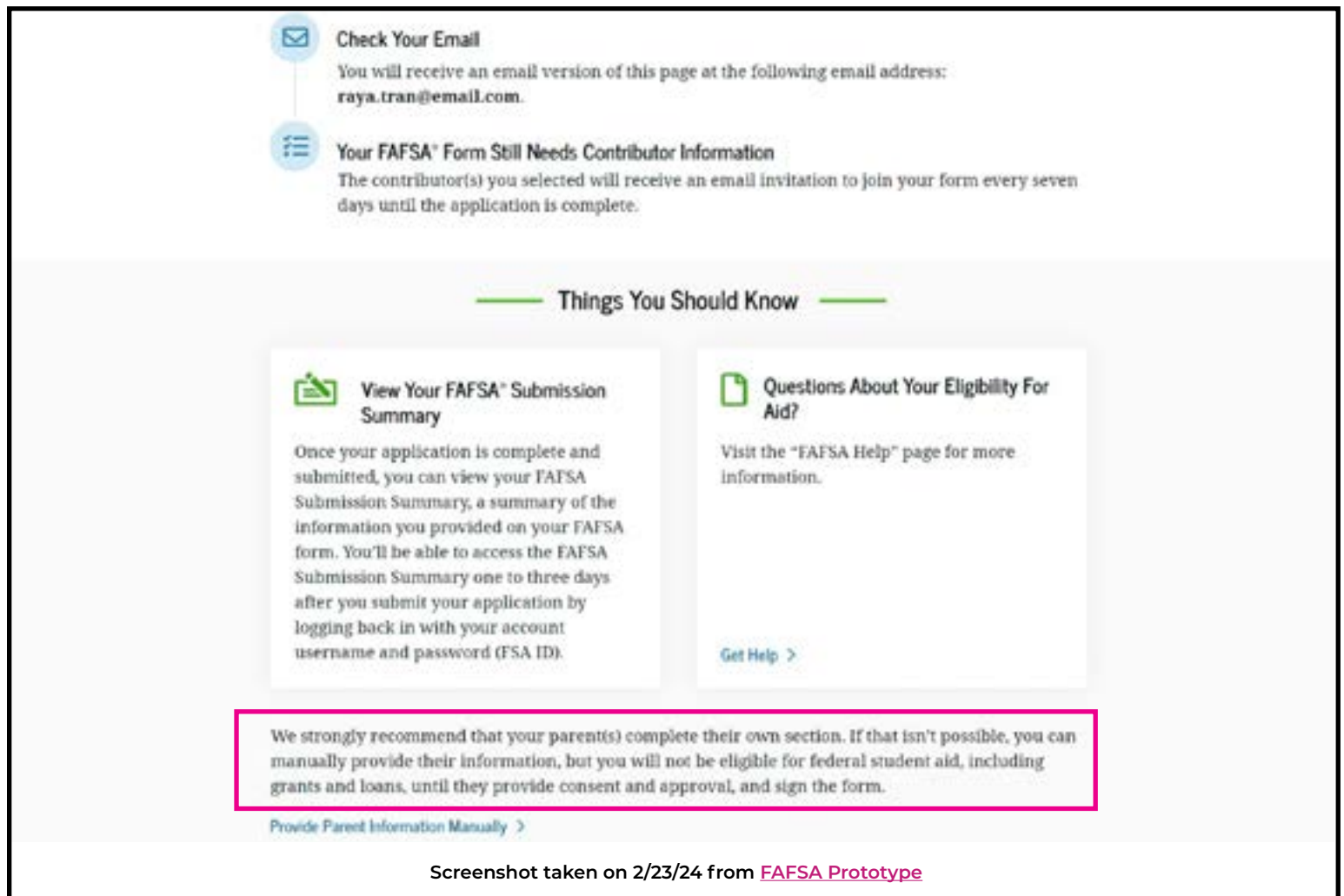
CSAC is working with Federal Student Aid to resolve this issue. CSAC has started the California Non-SSN Contributor Follow-Up Email List to provide up-to-date

information regarding this issue and other related topics. Sign up here.
On February 20, 2024, FSA released steps for a student with a contributor without an SSN to submit a partial FAFSA, only if they have a critical deadline to meet. Please view the steps here. If needed, the student can complete the steps, which includes entering their contributor's tax information manually. Students will click on the link to "Provide Parent Information Manually."

However, their contributor will still need to login to provide consent to complete the application when the issues are resolved. Until contributors return to the application, the FAFSA will not generate the information needed so that a student can be considered for financial aid. Communications will be sent to students regarding completion of the application.

✉ **Check Your Email**
You will receive an email version of this page at the following email address:
raya.tran@email.com.

≣ **Your FAFSA® Form Still Needs Contributor Information**
The contributor(s) you selected will receive an email invitation to join your form every seven days until the application is complete.

—— Things You Should Know ——

View Your FAFSA® Submission Summary
Once your application is complete and submitted, you can view your FAFSA Submission Summary, a summary of the information you provided on your FAFSA form. You'll be able to access the FAFSA Submission Summary one to three days after you submit your application by logging back in with your account username and password (FSA ID).

Questions About Your Eligibility For Aid?
Visit the "FAFSA Help" page for more information.

Get Help >

We strongly recommend that your parent(s) complete their own section. If that isn't possible, you can manually provide their information, but you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans, until they provide consent and approval, and sign the form.

Provide Parent Information Manually >

Screenshot taken on 2/23/24 from FAFSA Prototype

Should the student fill out a paper FAFSA?

The paper FAFSA is not recommended. FSA is prioritizing processing the online FAFSAs. CSAC recommends that the student start an online FAFSA first to avoid processing delays.

Please see the FAQs about the paper FAFSA here.

Better FAFSA

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