



SPECIAL ALERT

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



Update from the California Student Aid Commission

November 19, 2015

GSA 2015-50

TO: Financial Aid Administrators
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
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SUBJECT: Upcoming Changes to the 2017-18 FAFSA

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) summarizes upcoming changes for the 2017-18 FAFSA application.

- With the implementation of prior-prior-year, the 2017-18 FAFSA application period will open on October 1, 2016 and extend through June 30, 2018.
- Income from tax year 2015 will be used to complete the 2017-18 FAFSA.
- The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) will be available to use to complete the FAFSA application starting the first day that the FAFSA is accessible for completion.
- Use of the IRS DRT will lessen the time it takes to complete the application and ensure that FAFSA information is more accurate due to reduction in guessing amounts.
- The 2017-18 FAFSA will be able to be filed earlier allowing students and their families to be provided with more timely communication and transparency about cost and out-of-pocket expenses.
- Visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/fafsa-changes-17-18.pdf> for more details on these upcoming changes.

The Commission previously invited you to participate in a newly established workgroup for the 2017-18 earlier FAFSA and prior-prior year changes. If you are interested in joining this workgroup, please contact Jeff Morrison at csac_fafsa_ppy@csac.ca.gov. Please include any questions you may have about the FAFSA changes to this mailbox.

Once workgroup participants have been identified, a meeting date will be established and a notice will be sent to the interested parties. See [GSA 2015-43](#) for details.

Need to contact us?

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
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