




# SPECIAL ALERT

## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

April 12, 2017

GSA 2017-16

TO: High School Counselors  
Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler   
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

**SUBJECT: IRS Data Retrieval Tool Unavailable**

This Special Alert from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) provides information regarding the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) availability.

- The IRS DRT became unavailable for students and families completing their 2016-17 or 2017-18 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in early March.
- The IRS and the U.S. Department of Education Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) anticipate the IRS DRT to be unavailable until the start of the next FAFSA season. The tool was disabled due to security concerns and to protect sensitive taxpayer data.
  - [IRS and FSA Official Statement about the DRT](#)
- It is recommended that students and parents request copies of their 2015 federal income tax transcript in case they are selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education.
  - Students and parents have two options available for requesting federal income tax transcripts from the IRS website at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>
    1. Online: allows the taxpayer to view, print or download the tax transcript. This option requires online registration and identity verification.
    2. By Mail: the taxpayer can request a transcript online or by calling 1-800-908-9946 and the transcript will be delivered to the address on record within 5 to 10 days.

**Need to contact us?**

- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153
- E-mail: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)

***Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!***