

# CSUDH Annual Counselor Luncheon

CSUDH Financial Aid &  
Scholarships Office  
October 4, 2024

**CSUDH**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS

# TOPICS

- **Important Information for 2025-2026**
- **2024-2025 FAFSA Refresher, Using Issue Alerts, and the online tool, Who Counts as a Parent?**
- **Federal Student Aid Estimator**
- **2025-2026 FAFSA Prototype**



**Important  
Information for  
2025-2026**



# RE: FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid



## Format for 2025-2026

- Will be consistent with the 2024-2025 form
- A [Prototype](#) is available

## Timeline:

- Applicant access granted in a phased timeline due to Beta Testing

# Timeline for Phased Rollout

## 2025–26 FAFSA BETA TIMELINE

OCT 1, 2024	MID OCT	NOV	DEC 1, 2024
<b>Beta 1</b>	<b>Beta 2</b>	<b>Beta 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Full Launch</b>
100s of Users	1,000s of Users	10,000s of Users	Launch 2025-26 FAFSA form to all users



# During the Beta Testing Period



- Issues that currently arise in processing the 2024-2025 FAFSA forms are likely to appear in the 2025-2026 forms.
- FSA will work to resolve the issues before full launch on December 1, 2024.

# The Priority Filing Period



**Priority Filing Period**  
**October 1, 2024 - March 3, 2025**  
*(Because March 2nd falls on a Sunday)*

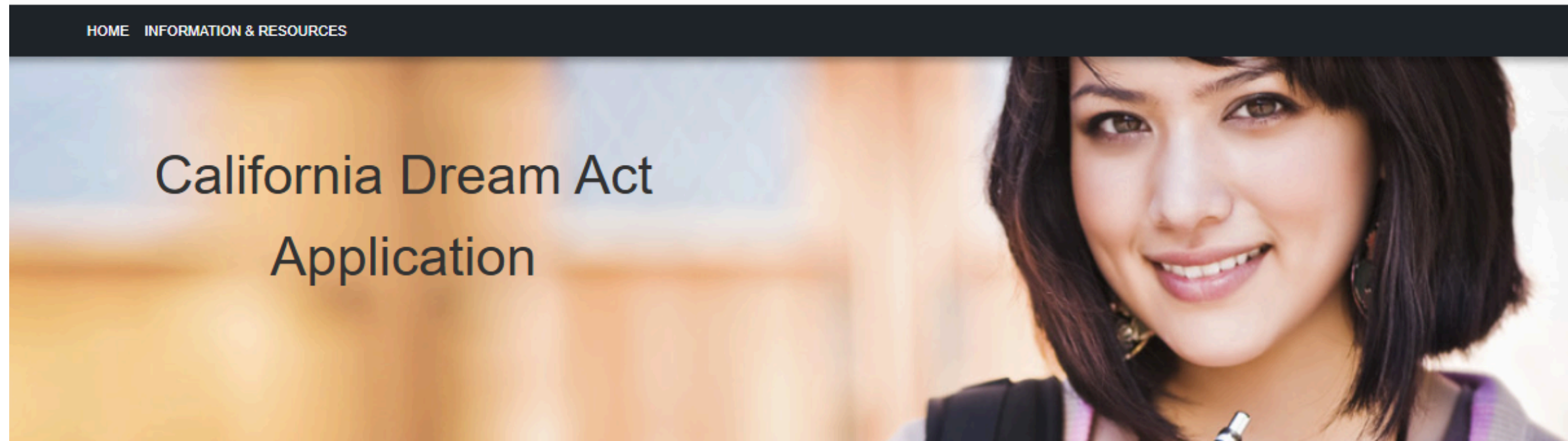


*\*However, monitor any alerts from CSAC and the Financial Aid Office websites for the colleges and universities for any updates on any extension to the Priority Filing Deadline date for California.*

# RE: California Dream Act Application (CADAA)



CA.GOV | Privacy Policy |



**CSAC** will open the **California Dream Act Application (CADAA)** on **December 1, 2024** in tandem with the FAFSA.

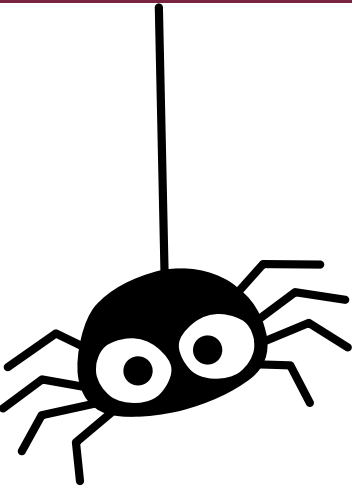
Priority Filing Deadline: **March 3, 2025**  
*(Because March 2 is a Sunday)*



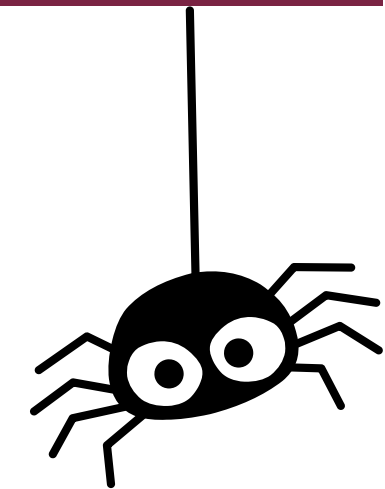


# A Few Tips & Reminders

- For the FAFSA, student applicants and parents will need an **FSA ID**
- Using **2023 Tax Year/Income**
- **FAFSA** applicants must be U.S. Citizens or eligible non-Citizens
- **CADAA** applicants must meet the AB540 criteria
- Applicants can list up to 20 colleges or career schools
- **FAFSA** applicants should create their StudentAid.gov accounts (if they don't already have one)
- FSA will send **email reminders** to students and parents of dependent students (who applied on the 2024-2025 form) to apply for 2025-2026



# A Few Tips & Reminders: **Mistakes to Avoid**



A few errors we are noticing students make:

- Reporting their parent's income as their income
- Not including the **Family Size** (formerly the number in household)
  - students getting email messages from FSA to correct
- Reporting dollar amounts under the “**Foreign Earned Income Exclusion**”
  - Question reads: Enter your foreign earned income exclusion for 2022.
  - This amount appears on IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1, line 8d
  - FA administrators must review to determine if the dollar amount impacts student eligibility for maximum Pell Grant

Advise students and parents to review the questions carefully before entering a dollar amount and submitting the application.



# Application Website: Studentaid.gov or FAFSA.gov



## FAFSA® 2025–26 Coming Soon

The 2025–26 FAFSA form is currently in a limited beta. Only a select number of people have been invited to participate in the beta. Full access is coming soon. [Learn more](#)

An official website of the United States government

[Help Center](#)

[Submit a Complaint](#)

[English](#) | [Español](#)

**Federal Student Aid**  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[FAFSA® Form](#) ▾

[Loans and Grants](#) ▾

[Loan Repayment](#) ▾

[Loan Forgiveness](#) ▾



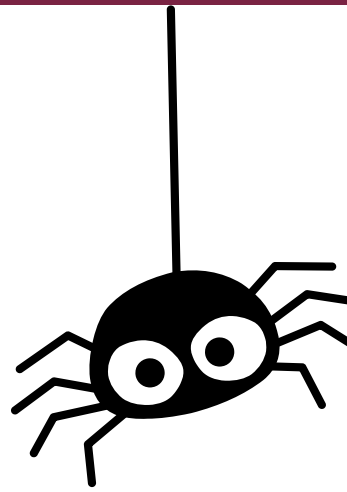
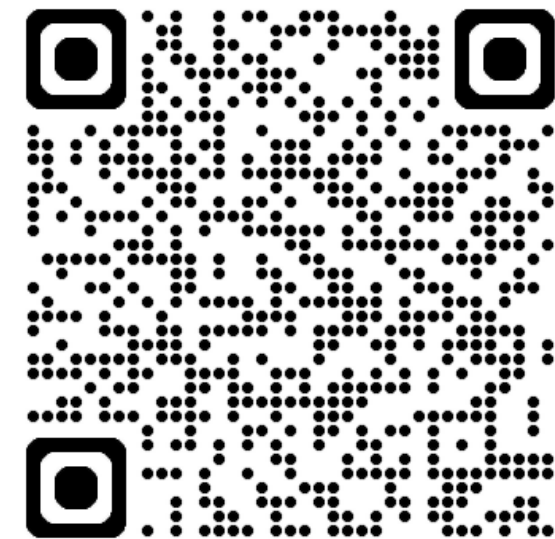
## FAFSA® 2025–26 Coming Soon

We're working to launch the new 2025–26 FAFSA form. [Learn more about the new form timeline.](#)

Need the 2024–25 FAFSA form?

[Log In To Start a New Form](#)

[Log In To Edit Existing Forms](#)



# Application Website: [csac.ca.gov](http://csac.ca.gov) | [dream.csac.ca.gov](http://dream.csac.ca.gov)



Login ▾ Contact Us English ▾ Search Q



STUDENTS

SCHOOLS & COUNSELORS

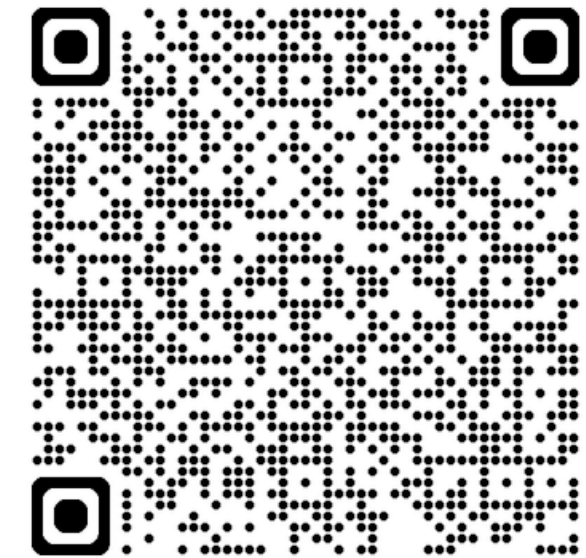
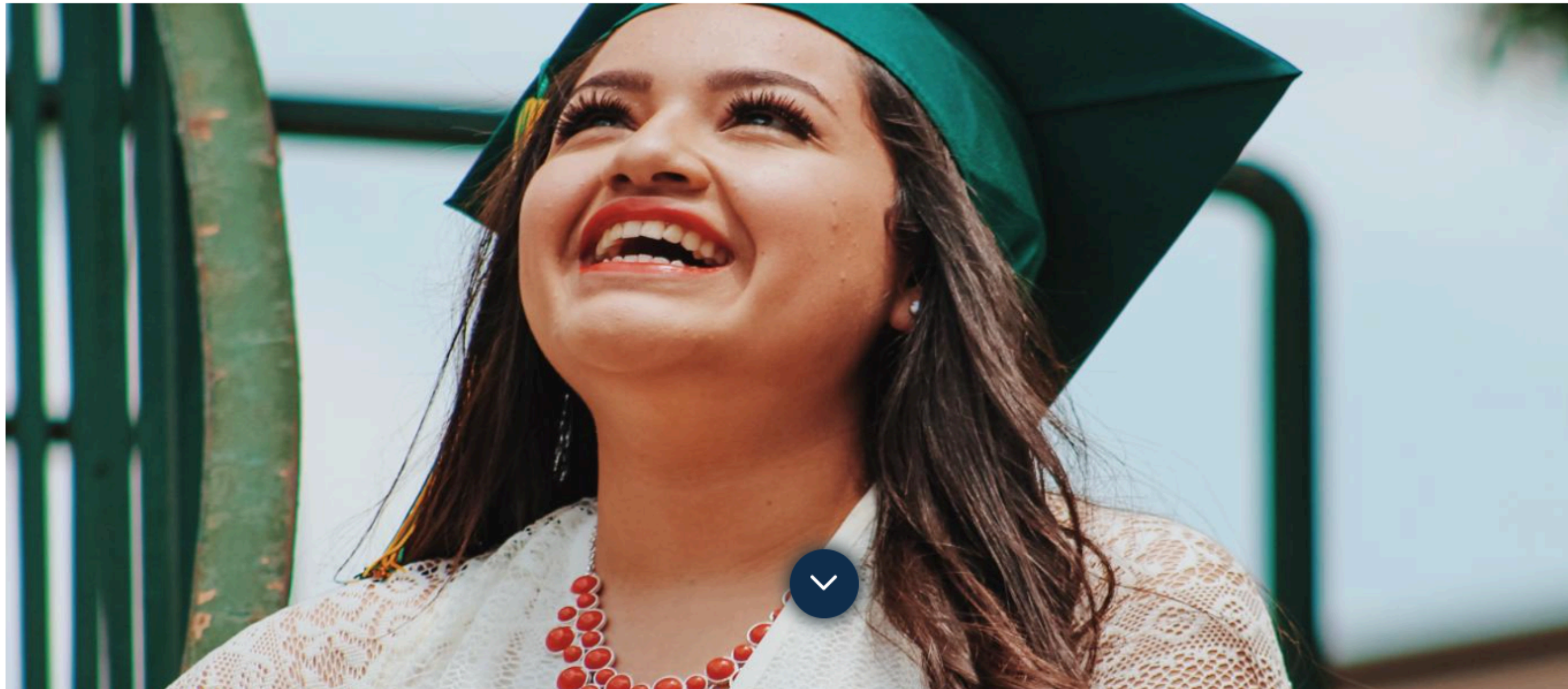
PROGRAMS

DATA & REPORTS

OUTREACH & MATERIALS

NEWS & EVENTS

ABOUT



**2024-2025 FAFSA  
Refresher  
Using Issue Alerts  
Online Tool: Who  
Counts as a Parent?**



# Who is a Contributor?

## A Contributor is:

Anyone who is required to provide information on a student's FAFSA, inclusive of:

- The student
- The student's spouse
- A biological or adopted parent
- The parent's spouse (stepparent)

## A Contributor is not:

- Grandparents
- Foster parents
- Legal guardians
- Brothers or sisters
- Aunts or uncles



FSA Video - What's  
Changed for the 24/25  
FAFSA

## What Contributor Info is Needed?

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Email Address

Contributors must receive an **invite** to complete their portion of the FAFSA application. Therefore, all contributors must have their own individual email account.

## Providing Consent for FTI - Federal Tax Information

- Contributors must provide “consent” to have their Federal Tax Information (FTI) used.
- If a required contributor refuses to provide their information, it will result in an incomplete FAFSA.

# FSA ID Requirements

- All contributors must have an FSA ID to access the 2025-2026 FAFSA online
- Identity match required for each contributor to verify FSA ID
- A verified email address will be required to establish an account
- Users can apply without entering an SSN
  - Users without an SSN will complete a knowledge-based identity verification process
  - This would include undocumented parents or undocumented spouses of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents

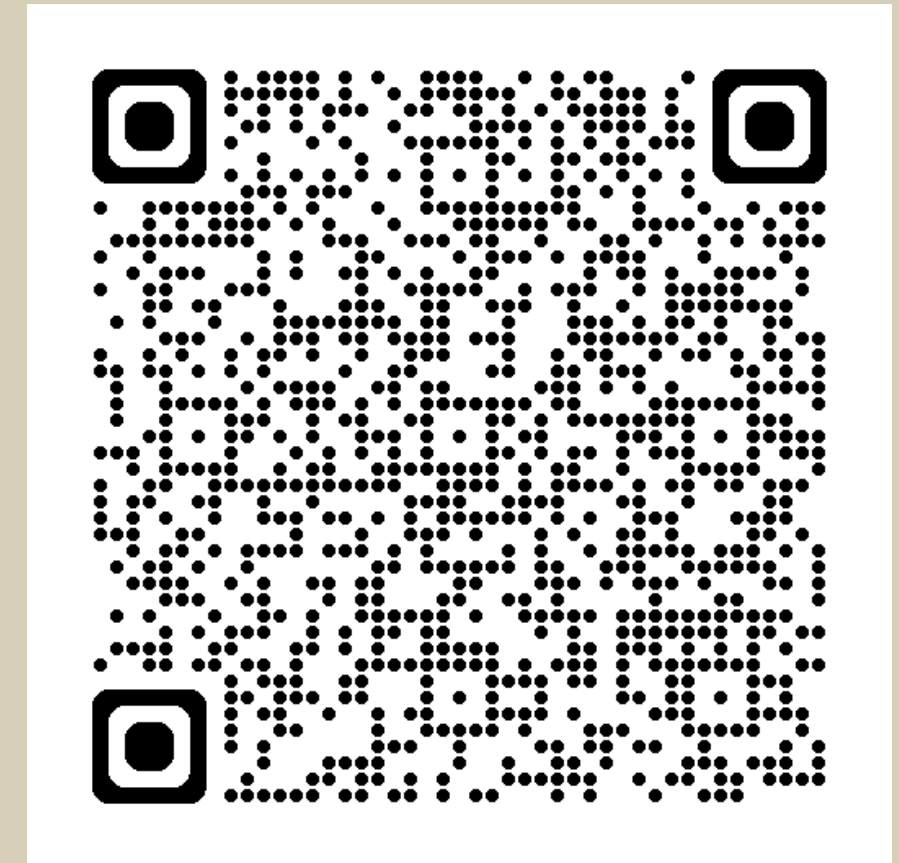
*However, there are ongoing issues.*

*Let's take a look at the [2024-2025 Issue Alerts webpage](#)*



# 2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid Knowledge Center website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Knowledge Center, Training, Financial Aid Delivery, Title IV Program Eligibility, and Partner Connect Services. Below this is a search bar and a 'Log In' button. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Knowledge Center Home > Topics > FAFSA Simplification Information > 2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts. The title '2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts' is prominently displayed. A sub-header states: 'Stakeholders should bookmark this page to follow issues related to the 2024-25 FAFSA form that we identify and resolve.' A 'Print' button is visible on the left. The main text provides instructions for frequently asked questions and issue alerts related to production ISIRs for the 2024-25 award year, referring to a Technical FAQ and Known Issues Guide\* (last updated Sept. 27, 2024). It then lists several links for issue alerts related to the 2024-25 FAFSA form, including sections for Open FAFSA Form Issues, Open FAFSA Submission Summary Issues, Open FAFSA Corrections Issues, Resolved FAFSA Form Issues, Resolved FAFSA Submission Summary Issues, and Resolved FAFSA Corrections Issues. A 'Quick Links' sidebar on the right contains links to 2024-25 FAFSA Fast News, 2024-25 FAFSA Status, 2024-25 FAFSA Updates, 2024-25 FAFSA FAQs, 2024-25 FAFSA Roadmap, FAFSA Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements, and FAFSA Simplification Information.



[2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts | Knowledge Center](#)

# Unable to invite parents w/ no SSN that have a foreign country address

## STUDENTS ARE UNABLE TO INVITE PARENTS WITH NO SSN THAT HAVE A FOREIGN COUNTRY ADDRESS (Updated May 10, 2024; Workaround)

**Status:** Open

**Description:** When a student attempts to invite a parent to contribute to the 2024-25 FAFSA form, and the parent has a foreign address but also does not have a Social Security number (SSN), the student encounters an error message at the top of the page that reads "Unable to Complete This Action". This error prevents the student from inviting the parent contributor to the form.

**Workaround:** If the contributor does not yet have a StudentAid.gov account, they should complete the create account process for individuals without an SSN, and enter their foreign mailing address. Once the contributor has created an account, or if they already have one, they should navigate to their account Settings and update their mailing address to a U.S. address on the Contact Information page. When the student invites the contributor to participate in their FAFSA form, the student should enter the U.S. address that the contributor temporarily entered in their account Settings (not the contributor's actual foreign address). The address information must match precisely (for example, if the street address input ends in "Dr." instead of "Drive," the student must input "Dr."). After the student has invited the contributor to the FAFSA form, the contributor can update their address in their account Settings to their foreign address. When the contributor enters the FAFSA form, it should display their updated foreign address.

**Note:** Due to another known issue, users will need to confirm their settings the first time they log in each day. If a user changes their address back to their foreign address, they will need to follow this workaround the next time they log in (if on another day).

## USERS WITH NO SSN WHO HAVE ITIN MUST MANUALLY ENTER FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN FORM *(Added March 20, 2024)*

**Status:** Open

**Description:** All users without a Social Security number (SSN), including those with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), must manually enter their financial information in the 2024-25 FAFSA form due to an issue that prevents financial information for those users from being pulled into the FAFSA form. We still encourage all impacted users to enter an ITIN, if they have one.

**Workaround:** There is currently no workaround to this issue. Once a permanent fix is identified and implemented, the Department will attempt to retrieve federal tax information (FTI) for an affected user via the direct data exchange with the IRS and will reprocess the FAFSA, as necessary, to reflect any changes. There is currently no estimated timeline for resolution of this issue.

## CONTRIBUTORS WITH A PENDING SSA PENDING MATCH STATUS ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS A FAFSA INVITATION

*(Added July 12, 2024; Workaround)*



**Status:** Open

**Description:** Individuals who (a) have a StudentAid.gov account with a pending Social Security Administration (SSA) match status and (b) are invited to participate in a FAFSA form as a contributor are unable to access the FAFSA invitation from their StudentAid.gov Dashboard. The user is also unable to access the FAFSA invitation from the “My Activity” section.

**Note:** This issue does not prevent users with a pending SSA match status from starting a new FAFSA form.

**Workaround:** Contributors who are unable to accept the FAFSA invitation should wait until their information has been verified by the SSA before re-attempting to access the FAFSA invitation.

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## STUDENTS WHO ARE INVITED TO THE FAFSA FORM BY A PARENT ARE NOT SEEING THE INVITATION IN MY ACTIVITY

*(Added July 12, 2024; Workaround)*

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**Status:** Open

**Description:** Students who have been invited by a parent to the FAFSA form are not seeing the FAFSA form invitation in the “My Activity” section of the Dashboard. Instead, they see a FAFSA form in “Draft” status when they have not accepted the invitation to the application.

**Workaround:** Students do not need to accept the invitation to access the FAFSA form. They can log in to their StudentAid.gov account and select the draft form from the “My Activity” section of the Dashboard.

# Unusual Circumstances

**Unusual Circumstances** - The conditions that justify an aid administrator making an adjustment to a student's status based on a unique situation.

- **Dependency Override**

- Due to parental abandonment or where parental contact poses a risk
- Not allowed for students that moved out or for students whose parents don't want to provide info
- Decisions are made on a **case-by-case** basis and must be substantiated with supporting documentation

- **Loss or Reduction of Income**

- Applicants and parents (if applicable) may submit income adjustment appeal requests to the Financial Aid Offices.
- This process will/can occur during the spring and summer months; but initial application must be submitted first using the 2023 income information.

- **Other Unusual or Special Circumstances**

- Death or Serious Illness
- Additional Expenses, not included in Cost of Attendance
  - Contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss & receive assistance

# Unusual Circumstances: **Dependency Override**

- Starting with the 2024-2025 aid year, **initial and renewal** applicants who indicate they have an *unusual circumstance* on their FAFSA form will submit their application under a [provisional independent status](#).
  - Allows applicants to receive a Student Aid Index (SAI) with an estimate of their Federal student aid eligibility
  - Subject to final determination by their school
- Once a determination has been made, ***it is valid for every year*** the student attends that school.
  - Unless, the student notifies school that their situation has changed; **(or)**
  - There is conflicting information

**Important note:** If the aid administrator does not approve the unusual circumstance, the student will only be eligible for the unsubsidized loan

# Providing Parent Information

## RE: Divorced or Separated Parents

The parent that contributes most to the student's living expenses is the parent that will contribute their information to the student's FAFSA.

No longer the parent that the student lives with.

## Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

There is an FSA tool that can help:

### Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's **dependency status**.

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's **FAFSA form**.





# Online Tool: Who Counts as a Parent?

## Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

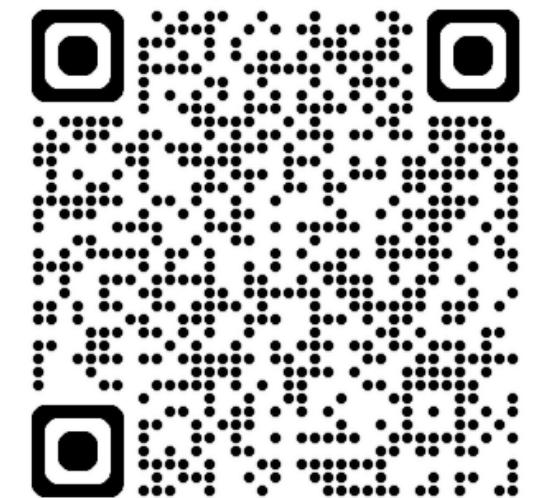
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## Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>



**Federal  
Student Aid  
Estimator**



# Online Tool: Federal Student Aid Estimator



## Federal Student Aid Estimator

Our Federal Student Aid Estimator provides an estimate of how much federal student aid the student may be eligible to receive. These estimates are based on the Student Aid Index (SAI), an index number used to determine federal student aid eligibility.



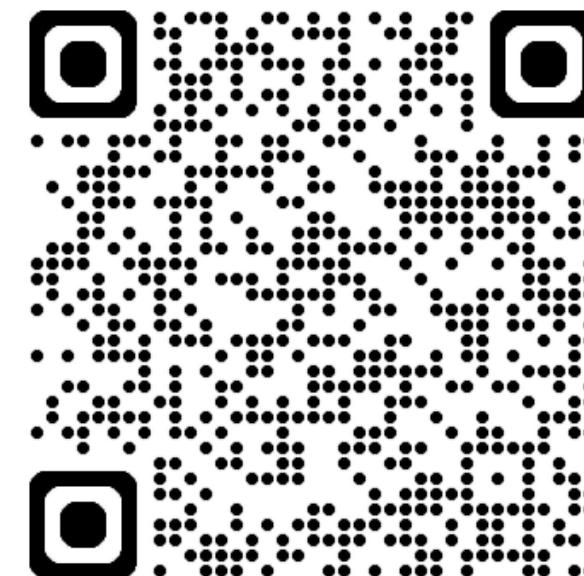
This Is Not the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Form

With this tool, students can find out how much federal student aid they may be eligible for in the 2025–26 award year.

To apply for financial aid, [complete the FAFSA® form](#).

## Federal Student Aid Estimator

<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>



**2025-2026  
FAFSA  
Prototype**





# FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM

## 2025–26

Prototype

*Last Updated on 9/3/2024*



The 2025–26 FAFSA Prototype URL

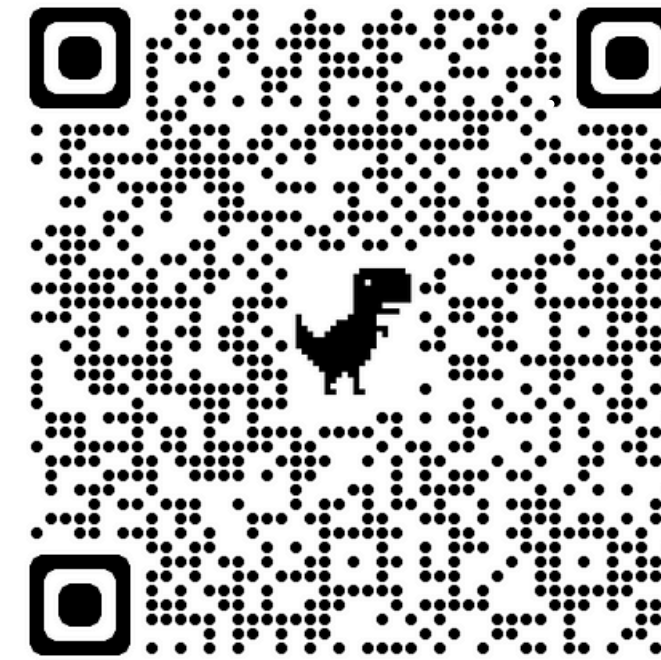
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/fafsa-prototype/2526>

Access Code: **prototype2526**

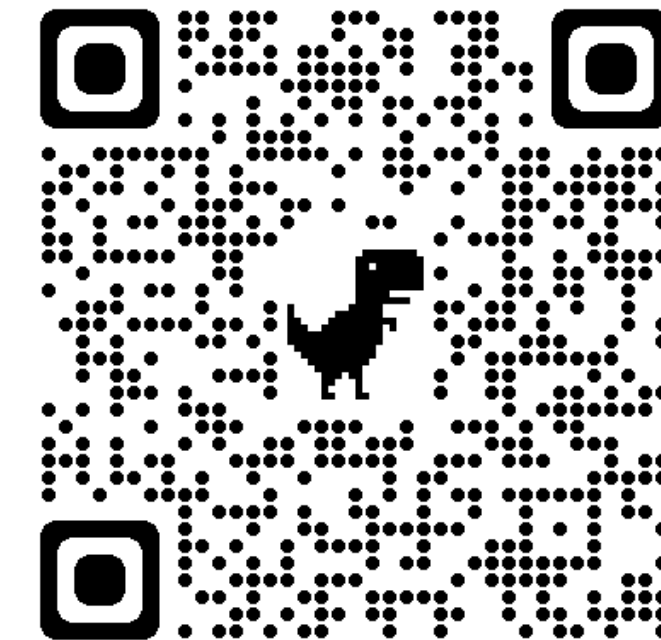
# Thanks for Joining Us! We hope this helped!

## Additional Resources:

- [Federal Student Aid YouTube](#)
- [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
- [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)



**CSUDH FATV**



**FAFSA Updates  
Webpage**

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