What's New for the 2017–18 FAFSA®?

Basics for High School Counselors and College Access Mentors

Topics

- What's Changing
- Reasons for the Changes
- FAQs About Timing & Reporting Information
- Tips for Fall College Prep Outreach
- Materials & Resources for Outreach

What's Changing for 2017–18

Change #1: Earlier FAFSA® Launch

- 2017–18 FAFSA available Oct. 1, 2016, at fafsa.gov
- Change to October 1 launch will be permanent

Change #2: Earlier Income Info Required

- 2015 tax/income information required
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately

What's Changing for 2017–18

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

| IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM | YOU WILL SUBMIT This fafsa | YOU CAN SUBMIT The Fafsa from | USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 | 2015–16 | January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016 | 2014 |
| July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 | 2016–17 | January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017 | 2015 |
| July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 | 2017–18 | October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018 | 2015 |
| July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019 | 2018–19 | October 1, 2017-June 30, 2019 | 2016 |



Reasons for the Changes

- Reason #1: Alignment
 - Many college admissions application deadlines occur in the fall
 - Financial aid application done at same time = less confusion
- Reason #2: Certainty
 - No need to estimate tax info
 - IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately
 - Earlier receipt of Expected Family Contribution (helps with assessing net costs)
- Reason #3: Less Pressure
 - More time before (most) state and school deadlines
 - More time to compare schools before College Signing Day

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will deadlines be earlier?

- Most state and school deadlines won't change
- Caveat: several states will change from "as soon as possible after January 1" to "as soon as possible after October 1" (for their firstcome, first-served state aid)
- State deadlines: fafsa.gov
- School deadlines: see schools' websites

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will 2016–17 FAFSA® info be carried over to Renewal FAFSA?

- No; too much could have changed
- IRS DRT provides easy importation of data to keep process quick

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info Can a student choose to report 2016 information?

- No; student does not have a choice of which year to report
- Must report info re the year the FAFSA® asks for
- Remember: Certain items on FAFSA are "as of today," so student must read each question and fill out accordingly

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will students receive aid offers earlier if they apply earlier?

- Not necessarily; some schools will make offers earlier; others won't
- collegescorecard.ed.gov allows for cost comparison of schools based on averages
- Remember: early aid offers will likely be estimates (Pell maximum not announced until early 2017)

Tips for Fall College Prep Outreach

Messaging/Outreach Calendar























Partners

College Students, Parents, Adults: య ESE SE

Engage:

Let you know we've got tools and resources ready now to support your needs.

Increase Fluency:

Provide education materials about 2017-18 FAFSA and any changes that impact your students/clients.

Arm You:

Continue to listen and provide you with materials to support your outreach about the 2017-18 FAFSA and financial aid.

Increase Awareness:

Drive awareness of financial aid and FSA ID over the summer while students/parents are planning for college.

Prepare Them for the FAFSA:

Keep federal student aid top of mind.

Drive FAFSA Submissions:

Starting Oct.1, promote that FAFSA is now available and increase the sense of urgency to fill out the FAFSA for financial aid.

Tips for Fall College Prep Outreach

Messaging/Outreach Calendar

- May/early June: Prep for the fall! Tell rising seniors to get FSA IDs (full info: StudentAid.gov/fsaid)
- Early/mid-September: Hold financial aid night
 - Remind students and parents re FSA ID
 - Explain that FAFSA® coming soon & importance of filling it out promptly (early submission = chance of more money)
- October: Hold FAFSA completion event
 - Provide hands-on help filling out FAFSA
 - Explain next steps
- November through April: Help students interpret and compare aid offers
 - Emphasize importance of meeting deadlines set by colleges for providing any additional info
 - Remind students to check e-mail (inc. junk folder) often

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov



Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FAFSA CHANGES FOR 2017-18

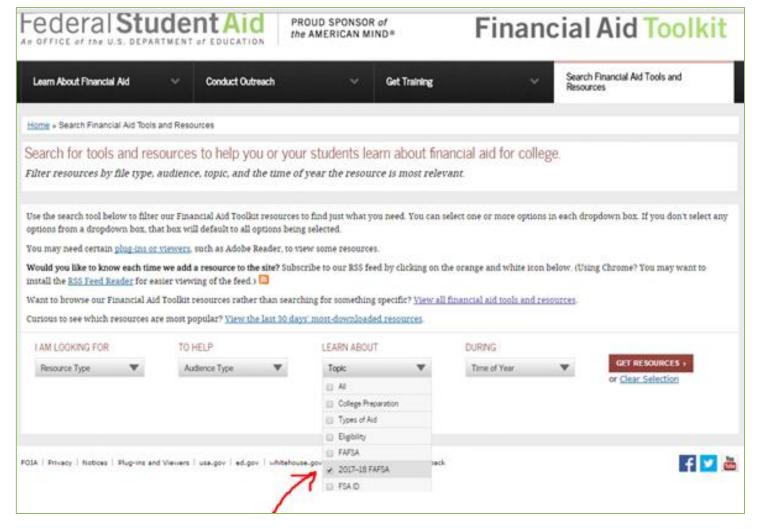
suggested messages for social media. e-

mails or newsletters

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

- FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/fafsa
- FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources
- FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/fafsa-changes
 - Talking points
 - Table of FAFSA® launch dates and tax years
 - Fact sheets for counselors and parents & college students
 - Outreach calendar
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Information about upcoming webinars

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources



FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

Your Search Results

Your search resulted in 4 results. If you'd like to get more results, try broadening your search by selecting more criteria in the dropdown filter boxes.

The resources below are, by default, listed in alphabetical order. To change the order to sort the resources by Resource Type, please select the "Resource Type" radio button below.

Please note that a resource could be classified as more than one Resource Type but will appear just once in the list below.

Sort results by:

Resource Title © Resource Type



2017-18 FAFSA Talking Points

Description: Messages for counselors to use with colleagues, students, and parents to inform them about the changes for the 2017-18 FAFSA. Feel free to copy and paste! [142KB]

Resource Type: Other, How-To Guides



Changes to the FAFSA Process for 2017-18 - Graphic

Description: Table showing changes to FAFSA application cycle dates and tax year the FAFSA asks about. [66KB]

Resource Type: Infographics Also Available in: Text Version



College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA.

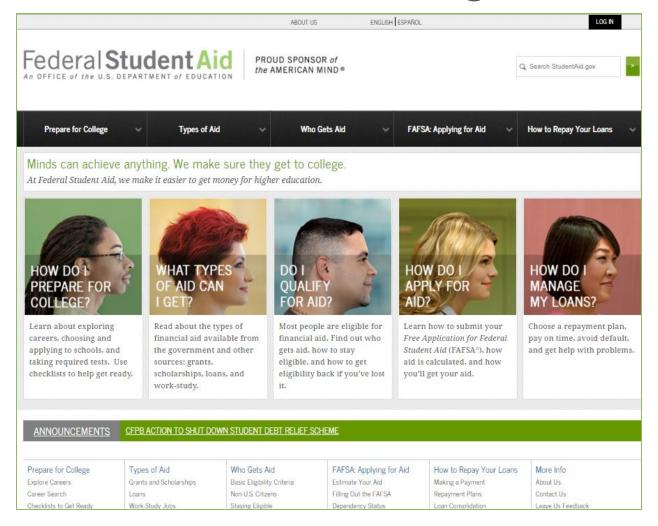
Description: Details for college students and parents about changes to the FAFSA launch date and the tax year the FAFSA asks about [56KB] Resource Type: Handouts



Counselors and Mentors: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA

Description: Both the FAFSA launch date and the tax year about which the FAFSA asks are changing for the 2017-18 FAFSA. Get details and outreach tips. [61KB] Resource Type: Handouts

StudentAid.gov



FAFSA info section: StudentAid.gov/fafsa



Fact sheets, videos, graphics, etc.: StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa

| Fact Sheets | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------------|--|
| What's an FSA ID and Why Do I Need One? | <u>PDF</u> | PDF | |
| Am I Dependent or Independent? | <u>PDF</u> | <u>PDF</u> | |
| Who Is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA? | <u>PDF</u> | <u>PDF</u> | |
| College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017–18 FAFSA* | <u>PDF</u> | Coming spring 2016 | |
| Myths About Financial Aid | <u>PDF</u> | PDF | |

Changes for 2017–18: StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes

FAFSA® Changes for 2017-18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA*) process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:

- Students will be able to submit a FAFSA* earlier. Students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016-17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- Students will use earlier income information. Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

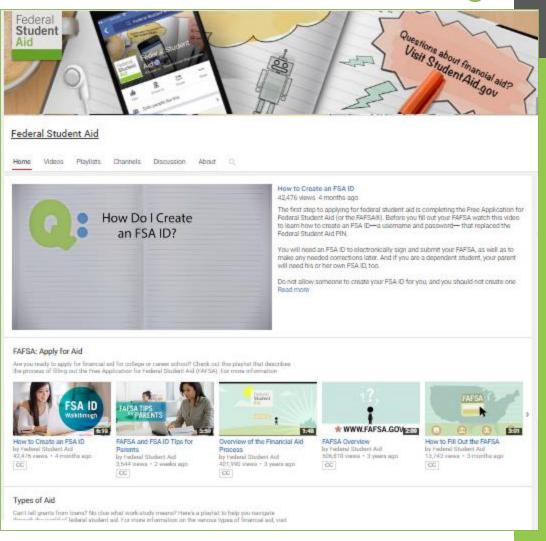
The following table provides a summary of key dates as we transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017-18 SUBMIT A FARSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016-17 schedule. The 2016-17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.) USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION; Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year for example, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students tand parents, as appropriate) will report their 2016 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school: IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND YOU WILL SUBMIT YOU CAN SUBMIT USING INCOME AND TAX COLLEGE FROM THIS FAFSA THE FAFSA FROM INFORMATION FROM July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 2015-16 January 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 2014 July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 2016-17 January 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 2015 July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 October 1, 2016-June 30, 2018 2015 2017-18

Social Media

- Twitter.com/FAFSA
- Facebook.com/ FederalStudentAid
- YouTube.com/
 FederalStudentAid

Federal Student Aid's YouTube Page



Getting Help With the FAFSA®

- fafsa.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID
- studentaid@ed.gov

Questions?