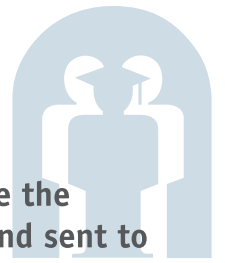


FAFSA Key Dates

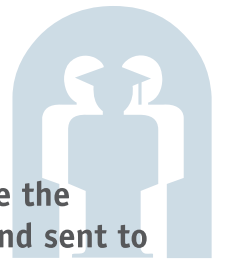


In a normal processing year, the FAFSA is released on October 1. Students complete the FAFSA, the FAFSA is processed, and ISIRs are generated within 3-5 business days and sent to institutions. Applicants and institutions are typically able to make corrections to the FAFSA immediately after it is processed. Below is a timeline of the 2024-25 cycle.


- December 27, 2020:** Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 signed into law; includes FAFSA Simplification Act
- January 19, 2021:** NASFAA includes FAFSA simplification as a top priority in a brief prepared for incoming Biden administration
- March 15, 2021:** Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 includes technical revisions to the FAFSA Simplification Act including delaying implementation for FAFSA and SAI formula provisions to 2024-25
- November 28 - December 1, 2022:** ED does not commit to October 1 FAFSA release date at its annual FSA Training Conference; shares vague dates for release of FAFSA-related documentation that do not appear to allow for an October 1 launch
- December 14, 2022:** NASFAA and NCAN send joint letter to White House asking for confirmation of whether 2024-25 FAFSA launch will occur on October 1
- February 7, 2023:** ED officials refuse to commit to October 1 FAFSA release date for 2024-25 at NASFAA's Leadership & Legislative Conference & Expo
- March 15, 2023:** NASFAA & other higher education organizations send a joint letter to ED asking for commitment on FAFSA release date
- March 21, 2023:** ED releases Better FAFSA Better FUTURE Roadmap with announcement of December FAFSA launch
- March 27, 2023:** ED releases 2024-25 paper draft FAFSA for 60-day public comment period
- September 18, 2023:** ED releases second draft paper FAFSA for 30-day comment period
- October 13, 2023:** NASFAA & other higher education organizations urge ED to provide specific FAFSA release date
- November 15, 2023:** ED announces 2024-25 FAFSA will be available by December 31. Students will also be unable to make corrections to submitted FAFSAs until late January
- November 17, 2023:** NASFAA joins other higher organizations in joint letter requesting more detailed information about timelines
- December 15, 2023:** ED announces FAFSA release will be a "soft launch"
- December 30, 2023:** FAFSA opens with significant outage periods and early reports of students unable to complete the application for various reasons
- January 7, 2024:** FAFSA Issue Alerts page created documenting many issues impacting applicants' ability to complete the form, including students whose contributors (parents and students' spouses) lack a social security number (SSN)
- January 30, 2024:** ED announces students will not be able to make corrections to submitted FAFSAs until the first half of March
- February 20, 2024:** ED announces resolution for FAFSA contributors without an SSN coming in first half of March; releases 9-step temporary workaround
- March 12, 2024:** ED announces that most contributors without an SSN can now complete their FAFSA section
- March 12, 2024:** ED announces IRS FA-DDX not working for contributors without an SSN
- March 15, 2024:** As larger batches of ISIRs are received, schools report seeing higher than normal rates of students applying for unsubsidized loan only. ED later changed the wording of the FAFSA question to ensure students answer correctly
- March 25, 2024:** ED announces delay in applicants' ability to make FAFSA corrections to the first half of April
- March 29, 2024:** ED catches up on FAFSA backlog

KEY Red = Late announcement or release | Blue = NASFAA action/communication
Orange = Department of Education error

FAFSA Key Dates



In a normal processing year, the FAFSA is released on October 1. Students complete the FAFSA, the FAFSA is processed, and ISIRs are generated within 3-5 business days and sent to institutions. Applicants and institutions are typically able to make corrections to the FAFSA immediately after it is processed. Below is a timeline of the 2024-25 cycle.

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- April 8:** Limited data use and data sharing guidance related only to sharing FAFSA completion status for FAFSA completion outreach released
 - April 9:** FSA letter to college presidents encouraging schools to begin packaging
 - April 11:** FSA indicates they are in the final testing phase for student corrections
 - April 15:** Student corrections process opens
 - April 30:** Changes made to online FAFSA to allow individuals without an SSN to complete and submit FAFSA before identity validation process is completed. FA-DDX still not functional for this population

ISIR Key Dates




The ISIR is the output document of the FAFSA that communicates the Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant eligibility to financial aid offices, which they use to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid. In a normal processing year, ISIRs are generated within 3-5 days after students submit the FAFSA, and are sent to institutions at that point. Below is a timeline of the 2024-25 cycle.

- **March 21, 2023:** Better FAFSA Better FUTURE Roadmap indicates test ISIR files will be sent to schools and third-party vendors in July 2023
- **September 28, 2023:** ED releases 3 ISIR test data files
- **November 15, 2023:** ED announces delivery of ISIRs delayed to late January
- **January 30, 2024:** ED announces ISIR delivery to schools and states will be further delayed to first half of March and will be sent in batches as part of a ramp-up strategy
- **February 15, 2024:** ED releases 8 additional test ISIRs, not system-generated, not delivered via new FTI-SAIG mailbox
- **March 4, 2024:** ED releases ISIR transmission plan with small ISIR batches anticipated to be sent in first half of March, ramping up to larger batches over the following days or weeks, and entire ISIR backlog transmitted within 2 weeks following ramp up
- **March 11, 2024:** First small batch of ISIRs sent to limited number of schools
- **March 13, 2024:** ED begins transmitting larger ISIR batches; majority of schools should receive at least 1 ISIR and many will receive dozens
- **March 25, 2024:** ED announces reprocessing of ISIRs impacted by SAI formula issue that ignored dependent student assets will not take place until after corrections process opens
- **April 4, 2024:** ED announces it will reprocess all ISIRs impacted by inaccurate IRS data transfer, beginning in the first half of April
- **April 9:** Updates on timelines for reprocessing and corrections
- **April 10:** FSA provides details on the school- or state-specific data file to be delivered to Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes soon to assist schools and states to further identify additional FAFSA records for which they can package aid
- **April 11:** FSA guidance that schools and states may, based on data provided by the Department, use their judgment to rely on the original ISIR sent—not the reprocessed record—under certain conditions
- **April 11:** Comment Codes Volume of FAFSA Specifications Guide updated to fix errors
- **April 17:** FPS reprocessing begins for the 10% of ISIRs impacted by asset issues in SAI formula begins in small batches; FA-DDX reprocessing promised by May 1
- **April 29:** Reprocessing for FA-DDX data issues begins

EdConnect Key Dates



EdConnect is a Windows-based software nancial aid administrators use to send and receive federal student aid information, including ISIRs. EdConnect is occasionally updated, but not necessarily in conjunction with the start of an aid processing cycle. Due to the changes in the FAFSA Simplification Act, EdConnect required an upgrade. Below is a timeline of the 2024-25 cycle.

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- A vertical blue arrow pointing downwards, with a white circle at the top and a white circle at the bottom. The arrow is positioned to the left of the timeline items.
- November 8, 2023:** ED sends Electronic Announcement to schools instructing them to upgrade to EdConnect 8.6.0
 - December 4, 2023:** ED announces issue with EdConnect 8.6.0; offers temporary workaround and promises fix in future release
 - February 27, 2024:** ED announces release of EdConnect 8.6.1
 - February 29, 2024:** ED announces issue with EdConnect version 8.6.1; removes software file from website
 - March 1, 2024:** EdConnect version 8.6.1 is re-released with supposed fixes
 - March 11, 2024:** ED announces issue with headers and trailers identified in the supposedly fixed EdConnect version 8.6.1. Instructions provided to users who downloaded prior to March 11 indicate they must take one of two proposed actions to address issues



SAI Formula/Student Eligibility Determination Key Dates

Formerly known as the EFC, the formula that determines a student's aid eligibility is typically updated annually and finalized prior to the release of the FAFSA on October 1. In a normal processing year, ISIRs contain accurate SAIs upon which financial aid administrators can make financial aid offers to students. Below is a timeline of the 2024-25 cycle.

- December 27, 2020:** Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 signed into law; includes FAFSA Simplification Act
- March 15, 2021:** Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 includes technical revisions to FAFSA Simplification Act including delaying implementation for FAFSA and SAI formula provisions to 2024-25
- November 21, 2022:** ED publishes 2024-25 Draft Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide; tables reflect original figures from FAFSA Simplification Act
- March 19, 2023:** ED releases first update of Draft Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide; tables still reflect original figures from FAFSA Simplification Act
- August 25, 2023:** ED issues second update to Draft Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide; tables still reflect original figures from FAFSA Simplification Act
- September 13, 2023:** A participant asks ED in a FAFSA webinar whether tables in the SAI formula will be updated for inflation; ED indicates no plans to do so for 2024-25 but will update in 2025-26
- September 21, 2023:** ED releases FSA Estimator
- September 25, 2023:** FSA Estimator taken down due to inaccurate SAI/Pell information being generated
- October 16, 2023:** NASFAA requests that ED update SAI formula tables for inflation
- January 23, 2024:** White House announces SAI formula tables will be updated; no details on when tables will be updated or whether it will impact ISIR delivery promised for late January
- January 30, 2024:** Final SAI Guide with formula tables updated for inflation published
- February 27, 2024:** ED announces it is making a significant change to the SAI formula to permit the Student Contribution from Income (SCI) to be as low as -\$11,130 vs. -\$1,500 from earlier versions of the SAI formula
- February 28, 2024:** ED is alerted to an issue with SAIs being incorrectly calculated due to dependent student assets being ignored
- March 1, 2024:** President Biden signs continuing resolution legislation, amending the FAFSA Simplification Act to place a -\$1500 floor on the SCI for 2024-25 and \$0 floor for 2025-26 and beyond to address earlier ED error
- March 12, 2024:** ED announces error in estimated SAIs provided to students from households with 2 income earners where one income is < \$60K causing assets not to be considered in the SAI
- March 21, 2024:** ED notified by a financial aid administrator that the IRS FA-DDX appears to be transferring the wrong line item from the tax return for US taxes paid, using a higher figure that includes self-employment tax (meaning SAIs are appearing to be lower than they should be)
- March 22, 2024:** ED announces error in SAIs being delivered to schools on ISIRs where student assets were not being counted toward the student contribution in the SAI, requiring reprocessing
- March 22, 2024:** ED notified by an FAA that IRS FA-DDX appears to be transferring incorrect figures for education credits
- March 29, 2024:** ED announces it is aware of reports concerning tax data provided on the Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) for 2024-25 FAFSA applications
- March 30, 2024:** ED updates March 29 Electronic Announcement regarding potential incorrect FTI data transferred from ED. Confirms <20% of applications are impacted. Confirms issues of "some fields are a mix of updated and original returns", education credit data inaccurate, manual entry tax paid and education credits wrong due to discrepancies in the instructions
- April 1, 2024:** ED provides follow-up on three separate incorrect tax data issues. Shares that it will only reprocess records if reprocessing would result in a lower SAI but that institutions can use PJ to use existing (incorrect) data or request reprocessing but that ED will assume schools will use incorrect data to make financial aid decisions

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