

October 16, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

uAspire is a national nonprofit working to improve the economic mobility of underrepresented students by creating financial solutions to diverse postsecondary pathways. We directly advise high school and college students from low-income families on financial aid - supporting thousands of students to complete the FAFSA - and we train guidance counselors and college access staff across the country on the FAFSA. We respectfully submit to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) our comments on the proposed 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

### **529 Plan Instructions**

Investments to include and investments to not include have contradictory statements on how 529 plans should be treated. These instructions should align and reflect the new guidance.

### **EITC**

On the 2022 tax forms, the EITC acronym is no longer used. They now refer to it as EIC. Aligning this acronym will help students and parents identify whether they receive the tax credit.

### **Amount of college grants, scholarships or AmeriCorp benefits**

It would be ideal to identify the two areas where someone may find that scholarships have been reported as taxable income. Schedule 1 line 8r and to the left of line 1a on the 1040 labeled with an SCH.

We look forward to continuing to work with FSA on rolling out the forthcoming FAFSA simplification efforts. We appreciate the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact VP of Policy, Anika Van Eaton at [anikav@uaspire.org](mailto:anikav@uaspire.org).

Sincerely,  
Anika Van Eaton