

# Response to Request for Comments on ICR 202501-1845-004

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Title of the Collection: 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

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ICR 202501-1845-004

Submission URL: [https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref\\_nbr=202501-1845-004](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202501-1845-004)

This response is submitted by Mark Kantrowitz and David Levy.

These comments are specified in reference to the pages of the draft FAFSA PDF document, FAFSA\_26-27\_Reg\_en\_2025-04-28

## Page 1

For assistance in other languages, it now refers to [StudentAid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/other-languages](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/other-languages), a broken URL, instead of [StudentAid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/request-interpreter](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/request-interpreter)

The new version of the form replaced "at your college" with "at the college or career school you are attending or plan to attend." in "Apply by the Deadlines". We recommend making similar changes to "How much student financial aid will I receive?" and "Homelessness – Question 6" paragraph "If you selected "Yes" to being unaccompanied and homeless" and "Special Circumstances" and "How can I have more colleges get my FAFSA information?" and "Where can I get more information on student financial aid?" and "Current Marital Status – Questions 3 and 32". Some of them are missing "or career school" and some are missing "you are attending" and some are missing "or plan to attend."

In "Apply by the Deadlines" first paragraph, insert "or by June 30, 2027, whichever comes first."

Under "Mail Your FAFSA® Form", perhaps include a recommendation to not staple the pages together and to print them single-sided so that this does not interfere with scanning the pages.

## Page 2

On page 2, where it lists the state deadlines, it doesn't include any of the relevant URLs for several of the states for which the online tool for retrieving deadlines lists the URL in the results for the state. Examples include CA, DC, GA, IL, IN, NC, UT, VA, WA and WV.

## Page 3

On page 3, "When will I receive the student financial aid?", replace "is paid to you" with "may be paid to you".

On page 3, in "Who must provide information on the FAFSA form?"

#### **Page 4**

On page 4, in "FAFSA® Privacy Act Statement", insert "U.S." before "Department of Education" to distinguish the federal Department of Education from state Departments of Education.

#### **Page 6**

On page 6, in "Signatures", the first paragraph states "is true and complete" while the first paragraph after "Student, Student Spouse, Parent, Parent Spouse or Partner, Preparer" states "is true and complete to the best of your knowledge". Why the discrepancy? We recommend using the same language in both locations for consistency.

#### **Page 8**

On page 8, in #6, replace "Financial aid administrator" with "College financial aid administrator" because some private high schools have their own financial aid administrators and this may be confusing to students. Similar changes may need to be made elsewhere throughout the form, such as #8 "financial aid administrator at the student's school" (e.g., school is ambiguous), and on page 22, "If you meet any of these conditions, the financial aid administrator at your school".

#### **Page 9**

On page 9, in #11, insert "as assigned at birth" after "What is the student's sex?"

#### **Page 11**

On page 11, in #22 and on page 17 #40, note that there is pending legislation that may restore the small business and family farm exclusions. This may require a subsequent change to the FAFSA form when the legislation passes. Likewise on page 23, "Assets – Questions 22 and 40".

#### **Page 20**

On page 20, #48, it is missing a field for the preparer's country code. Not all preparers are located in the U.S.

#### **Page 22**

On page 22, "Federal Benefits Received – Questions 18 and 36", the acronym "QHP" should be spelled out as this the first location in which the term is mentioned.

#### **Page 23**

On page 23, in "Assets – Questions 22 and 40", it should note that the applicant and contributors should report only their share of the assets and debt for assets that they own with other people. This is often a source of confusion for families.

On page 23, in "Colleges – Question 23". it lists StudentAid.gov and 1-800-433-3242 as potential sources of a college's Federal School Code, but doesn't suggest contacting the college itself to get its Federal School Code.