



June 13, 2025

RE: ICR Reference No: 202501-1845-004

Submitted via reginfo.gov

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to respectfully provide comment regarding the 2026-27 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is administrator for the PA State Grant Program, a need-based state grant program serving approximately 110,000 students per year.

PHEAA appreciates ED's commitment to the October 1, 2025 release of the 2026-27 FAFSA to ensure that students, particularly high school seniors, have as much time to complete the FAFSA as possible prior to postsecondary enrollment. To assist in getting information to applicants on all types of higher education funding that are available for their application, (1) we request that wording be added to the signature information at the bottom of page 6 to specify that all means of contact information reported on the FAFSA, including mobile phone numbers, can be utilized by state higher education agencies for purposes of providing applicants with information on all available higher education funding opportunities (i.e. via text messaging).

PHEAA is encouraged to hear of the planned improvements to the contributor invitation process to simplify the required contributor information that a student must report to only an email address. We are also appreciative of the plan to only have a student invite one parent to contribute to the form, and then evaluate whether a second parent must also receive a contributor invitation.

While PHEAA does not require housing information from applicants to evaluate PA State Grant eligibility, we understand that the loss of the housing choice question has provided a hardship to postsecondary institutions and believe that (2) an optional reporting of housing status could be added to the FAFSA without a legislative fix being necessary.

In closing, PHEAA would like to thank the U.S. Department of Education (ED) for this opportunity to provide feedback for the 2026-27 FAFSA. As the administrator of the nation's fifth largest need-based state grant program, PHEAA recognizes this is the optimal application process for low-income students who benefit most from Pennsylvania State Grant dollars. Please do not hesitate to contact me at elizabeth.mccloud@pheaa.org if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth K. McCloud

Vice President

PA State Grant & Special Programs