



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

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2027-2028 FAFSA Opens with Continued Improvements to Ease the Filing Process
Students are encouraged to file as early as possible before Indiana's April 15 deadline

(INDIANAPOLIS) — Today, the U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) the 2027-2028 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) online form is available earlier than the anticipated October 1 launch date. This provides students and families with more time to submit the form and make corrections. The FAFSA is the key to unlocking over \$400 million in state aid and over \$1 billion dollars in federal aid, and the earlier students complete their form, the better chance they have at receiving the full amount of eligible aid.

"The FAFSA helps make college more affordable for Indiana families and empowers Hoosiers to choose the postsecondary path that best fits their goals," said Governor Mike Braun. "This gives students access to the opportunities that prepare them for high-demand, high-wage careers while strengthening both their individual prosperity and our state's economic future."

In addition to providing more time for students and parents to submit the form, the 2027-2028 FAFSA includes a new feature – Real Time Processing. Real Time Processing allows students to view their confirmed Student Aid Index, Federal Pell Grant eligibility information, and any error code(s) immediately upon filing their FAFSA. State financial aid, such as the Frank O'Bannon Grant or 21st Century Scholars award and institutional aid will still require additional time to be processed and awarded.

"Filing the FAFSA remains the number one way that Hoosier students and families can reduce the cost of earning a degree or short-term credential," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "As a state, we are committed to ensuring every learner has access to an affordable path beyond high school, and completing the FAFSA moves students closer to the opportunities they deserve."

In 2023, Indiana became the eighth state to adopt a FAFSA completion requirement for high school seniors with opt-out provisions available. Now, over a dozen states have implemented a similar requirement. Since this legislation, Indiana has seen a steady growth in filings. In 2026, Indiana exceeded the 60 percent filing goal for the second year in a row, with nearly 61 percent of Indiana high school seniors filing the 2026-2027 FAFSA. Students can choose to opt out of the requirement by completing and submitting a [waiver](#).

Help is Available

The Commission's Outreach Coordinators are available to assist students and families in the filing process. Outreach Coordinators are strategically located in 10 geographic regions in Indiana and can help students, families, and educators with questions about state financial aid and filing the FAFSA.

To send a direct message to your region's Outreach Coordinator, visit www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact.

Free FAFSA filing assistance is also available through the following resources:

- INvestEd: Email outreach@investedindiana.org or call 317-715-9007.
- U.S. Department of Education: Call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

FAFSA Filing Events

Higher education institutions around the state are hosting FAFSA filing events for students and families. To view the upcoming events calendar, visit [learnmoreindiana.org](https://www.learnmoreindiana.org).

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's higher education coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through postsecondary education and training, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including [21st Century Scholars](#), which celebrated 35 years in 2025.