



INDIANA COMMISSION ^{for} HIGHER EDUCATION

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2025-2026 FAFSA Now Open

Students are encouraged to file before Indiana's April 15 deadline

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) announced today a statewide completion goal for the 2025-2026 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). The Commission's goal is to have at least 60 percent of high school seniors complete the current FAFSA by Indiana's deadline of April 15, 2025. The 2025-2026 FAFSA form is currently open.

Additionally, the Commission seeks to increase the total FAFSA filing rate including high school seniors, adult learners, and returning students by at least five percent from the previous year. For 2024, Indiana ranks second in the nation in completion rates for this year's high school graduating class, with less than a 2-percentage point decline compared to the national average of a near 9-percentage point decline.

"Indiana ranks third in the Midwest and eighth in the nation for our need-based aid opportunities," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "With legislative increases in 2023, Hoosier students have access to even more financial aid than before. Millions of dollars in additional aid are available throughout the next five years, only accessible through the FAFSA."

The FAFSA not only determines federal grant and scholarship eligibility but is used to award state financial aid, including the Frank O'Bannon Grant, Indiana's largest need-based financial aid award. It is also necessary for 21st Century Scholars to complete the FAFSA to receive their scholarship.

"While cost remains a high barrier for many Hoosiers looking to pursue education and training after high school, Indiana has opportunities to alleviate those challenges and make higher education accessible," said Lowery.

FAFSA Week of Action

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has announced December 9-13 as the FAFSA Week of Action. This week is specifically aimed at encouraging high school seniors to create their StudentAid.Gov Accounts (FSA IDs) and complete the FAFSA. The USDOE and Indiana Commission for Higher Education are encouraging high school counselors, principals and other school leaders, superintendents, after school programs, parent groups, non-profit organizations, and other local and state education organizations to commit to taking action to raise awareness about the FAFSA form.

More resources and information are available through the [National College Attainment Network \(NCAN\)](#).

Creating a StudentAid.Gov account (also called FSA ID account)

Students and parents (of dependent students) or spouses (of independent students) must [create a StudentAid.Gov Account \(FSA ID\)](#) at least three days before filing the FAFSA. Resources needed to create a StudentAid.Gov Account include:

- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Mailing address
- Personal email address
- A memorable username and password

How to file the 2025-2026 FAFSA

Students can file the FAFSA online at studentaid.gov. Information needed to complete the FAFSA include:

- StudentAid.Gov Account (FSA ID)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned from 2023
- List of any federal benefits received
- Asset information including bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

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 eight 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.

Additional resources:

- Hoosier families can also access free FAFSA help through INvestEd by email (outreach@investedindiana.org) or phone at 317-715-9007.
- ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame al 317-715-9007.
- The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 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

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates, and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020.