Quick Guide to Financial Aid Application Changes

Whether they're completing the FAFSA or the TASFA, Texas students will experience a new financial aid application for the 2024–2025 school year. Use this quick guide to learn what you can expect from the simplified FAFSA and the online TASFA.

FAFSA Simplification

The 2024–2025 FAFSA will feature a simplified application that will be easier for users to complete with fewer barriers.

New Processes

FSA ID	All contributors must create and verify an FSA ID before accessing the FAFSA. This includes parent(s) without a social security number. There is no longer an option to submit a signature page.
Direct Data Exchange	All contributors must consent to have their tax information transferred from the IRS. This includes non-filers, those filing foreign tax returns, and undocumented parents. Otherwise, FSA will not process the application or calculate an SAI.
Parent Contributors	For dependent students with separated or divorced parents, the parent providing the most financial support must be included in the FAFSA, even if the student lived with the other parent more often.
School Selection	Students may select up to 20 colleges or universities to receive their FAFSA.

Formula Changes

Family Size	For tax filers, family size is automatically calculated based on the number of individuals claimed on the tax return. If the family size is different from the tax return, there will be an option to enter it manually.
Business and Farm Assets	The net value of any business or farm must be included as an asset on the FAFSA.
Number in College	The number of students in college is no longer included in the SAI calculation, but the question will still be asked for institutional purposes.
Family Adjusted Gross Income	Families with an adjusted gross income (AGI) greater than $60,000 will be required to report asset information.

New Terms To Know

Financial Aid Direct Data Exchange (FADDX) is the new name for the process of bringing over applicant and contributor information from the IRS.

Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces the EFC. SAI will be calculated using a new formula and may be as low as -$1500.

Contributors are those people that provide information on an applicant's FAFSA, such as the student, a spouse, a biological parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent.

Family size replaces household size and will be automatically calculated based on information on the tax return.

The **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** replaces the former Student Aid Report (SAR). This is what students receive after submitting a completed form. The FSS will include an application summary and the student's SAI. Students will also use the FSS to make corrections.

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Online TASFA

The 2024-2025 TASFA will include changes based on the FAFSA simplification. Students are encouraged to complete the 2024–2025 paper TASFA when it is released. An online version will be available later.

Online TASFA Highlights

Decision Tree	Students unsure of which financial aid application to complete will be able to use the decision tree on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's website to help them decide if they should complete the TASFA or the FAFSA.
Account Creation	Students will be required to create an account by creating a password and providing a unique email address. Students are encouraged to use a personal email address, and not one assigned to them by their school or district.
Automatic Save	Navigation buttons include an automatic save feature to ensure users don't lose any progress.
Help Icons	Throughout the online TASFA, help icons provide clarification on most form fields.
Spanish Help Content	A link to the Spanish paper TASFA is included on each page of the online TASFA to help users translate questions.
Skip Logic	The online TASFA uses skip logic to hide or display certain questions based on answers provided earlier in the application. For example, the Parent tab will appear or disappear depending on student dependency responses.
College Section	Students can add up to 10 colleges per submission but may return to their application to add more colleges as needed.
Parent Acknowledgement	Once dependent students have completed their application, their parent will receive a secure link via email to access the application. The link will direct the parent to verify the student's identity and review the application information saved by the student. The parent must submit their acknowledgement before students can submit their application.
Submitting the online TASFA	Once their parent has acknowledged the online TASFA, dependent students will need to log in, review the colleges they selected, and submit their application. Then their selected colleges will receive the TASFA electronically. Lastly, students should follow up with each school to submit any required supplemental documents.

Important Changes to the 2024–2025 TASFA Process

The online TASFA is currently available in **English only**. Students can download and complete a Spanish version of the paper TASFA.

Beginning with the 2024–2025 aid year, students must submit a paper or online TASFA, not institution-specific applications.

THECB expects to release the 2024–2025 paper TASFA in December 2023, alongside the release of the FAFSA. The online version will be available at a later point.

The THECB updated the State Priority Deadline to **March 15, 2024**, for the 2024–2025 award year only. It will revert to January 15 for future years.

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