

## Important Update



**As of January 1, 2024 a Soft Launch of  
the 2024–2025 FAFSA Application was  
made available.**



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## WHAT IS A SOFT LAUNCH?

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“During the soft launch period (whole month of January), the Department will be monitoring site performance, conducting planned pauses for maintenance, and making updates to improve the user experience for students and families.”



## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT DURING THIS TIME?

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- Applicants may experience a waiting room feature, which will help control website volumes to ensure optimal performance of the form.
- FSA will initiate pauses for site maintenance and to make updates as needed to create a better FAFSA experience for students and families. Users who go on-line during a temporary pause should check back at a later time to complete the form.



## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT DURING THIS TIME?

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- If a student completes their form during the soft launch period, their information will be stored for processing. They do NOT need to return to resubmit their application after the soft launch concludes.
- If a student completes their FAFSA form, but a contributor cannot access the site during a period when the site is unavailable, the contributor can return to complete their portion of the form as soon as the site becomes available again. Any data entered in the form is still in the system and is secure.





## SHOULD I STILL FILL OUT THE FORM DURING THE SOFT LAUNCH?

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Yes!

After all sections of the online FAFSA form are completed and submitted, the student will receive a confirmation email noting their submission date, their estimated Student Aid Index (SAI), and estimated Federal Pell Grant eligibility. However, the student will not receive a FAFSA Submission Summary until FSA processes the FAFSA, beginning in late January.



## WHEN WILL THE SCHOOLS I SELECTED RECEIVE MY FAFSA APPLICATION?

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- The schools students selected will receive their FAFSA eligibility information starting in late January. Students will receive an email informing them when that information has been sent to the schools.
- Students should begin to receive aid information from schools they have been accepted to several weeks after the school received their FAFSA information.



## WHAT DO I NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA FORM?

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- Your Social Security Number
- Your A-Number (if you're not a U.S. citizen)
- 2022 income tax returns, records of child support received; and your current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable), net worth of investments, businesses, and farms
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID (account username and password) to log in to StudentAid.gov and start the FAFSA form electronically
  - Parents without a SSN can create an FSA ID.