

## 4 Things College Advisors Should Know

### 1. Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA®) form updates

- Financial aid eligibility restrictions associated with certain drug convictions and failure to register for Selective Service have been removed. Questions related to certain drug convictions and Selective Service registration will also be removed.
- A demographic data survey will be added to the FAFSA® form with questions related to race, ethnicity, and gender.
- The new Student Aid Index (SAI) will replace the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the calculation to determine eligibility for need-based funding. So, the new formula will be cost of attendance (COA) – SAI = financial need. Learn how this change expands access to federal aid.
- The English and Spanish FAFSA forms will be updated with a tool for early estimation of aid.
- The FAFSA form will become available in the 11 most common languages spoken in the U.S. Additional translation services and support will also be available through the Department of Education office of Federal Student Aid's (FSA) contact center.

### 2. FSA ID needed to apply

- Having an FSA ID (account username and password) is the only way for students and parents to access or correct information online or prefill the online FAFSA application with information from the previous year's form.
- Beginning in Award Year 2024-25, applicants will need an FSA ID to apply for federal student aid, so encourage students to create an FSA ID as early as possible at StudentAid.gov.

### 3. Pell Grant eligibility changes

- New formulas will expand Pell Grant eligibility to more students and link eligibility to family size, household income, and their state's poverty level.
- Students who are incarcerated in federal or state penal institutions, and other involuntary commitments, will regain the ability to receive a Pell Grant.

### 4. Applicants unable to provide parental information

- There is aid available for students who cannot provide parental information on their FAFSA form.
- Students who are homeless, orphans, former foster youth, or who have other unusual circumstances that prevent them from providing parental information will benefit from simplified questions that more efficiently determine their independent status.