We are EdTrust

FIERCE ADVOCATES
for education equity and justice for students of color and students from low-income families

Equity-Driven • Data-Centered • Student-Focused
Training: Helping Students from Mixed-Status Families
Complete the FAFSA

Friday, April 26, 2024
The 2024-25 “Better FAFSA”

• 7.1 million students expected to be eligible for Pell Grants
• 665,000 more students will receive Federal Pell Grants
• More than 1.7 million more students will receive the maximum Pell Grant
• Fewer questions and a streamlined process, *for most*
• Submission and completion rates much lower than last year
  • As of 4/12, 25% fewer FAFSA submissions than last year
Experience for Mixed-Status Families

• Errors preventing submissions
• Manual identity verification
• Manual entry of financial information
• Long wait times when calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC)
• Important message to students and families: this is NOT your fault
Federal Privacy Protections

• By federal law, data collected through the FAFSA can not be used for anything other than calculating federal and state financial aid
• Personal information will not be shared with any other government agencies except to confirm identity
• Agencies with access to FAFSA data are required to protect it against security threats and unauthorized uses
• Protected by law, and is not the specific policy of any one particular presidential administration
EdTrust Response

• Working with immigration and education partners to raise awareness of issues to the Department of Education and push for solutions

• Tools:
  • EdTrust’s Navigating the Better FAFSA Hub
  • SurveyMonkey Tool for Mixed-Status Families
  • FAQs for Advocates and Tools to Support Students

• edtrust.org/FAFSA
Next Steps

• Share our resources!
• Let us know what other errors/difficulties your students are experiencing via the Google Form on the website
• Share these FAFSA fliers in Spanish & English with your community
• **Note for those working with California students** – visit the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) website for information on completing the California Dream Act Application (CADAA)
Questions?

- Let us know what other errors/difficulties your students are experiencing via the Google Form on the website
- Contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center for direct assistance
  - Phone: 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4 FED AID)
  - Website: fafsa.ed.gov
  - Student Aid on the Web, Website: studentaid.gov
- If you are a P-12 administrator or a higher-ed administrator, you can contact the Department of Ed using the following emails
  - P-12 administrators: fafsa2004@ed.gov
  - Higher-Ed administrators: collegesupportstrategy-fafsa@ed.gov