

Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System

2020–2021

U.S. Department of Education



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Introduction

Overview

The *Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System* is designed to meet the reference needs of financial aid administrators (FAAs), programmers, and data processing staff. In this guide, we describe updates and enhancements to the 2020-2021 application processing system and to student and school Web products. We recommend you review the information provided in this guide, as some enhancements may require you to modify your office procedures and system operations.

The following sections are included in this guide:

- **Major Changes** – This section provides information about major changes for the 2020-2021 processing cycle and covers the following topics:
 - 2018 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax form changes
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) question changes
 - Tax line changes
 - IRS Data Retrieval Tool changes
 - Syncing FAFSA on the Web with the myStudentAid Mobile App
 - Adding Transaction Source/Type Code for myStudentAid Mobile App
 - Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act
- **2020-2021 Application Processing System Schedule** – This section provides important processing deadlines and anticipated document and software release dates.
- **Summary of Changes to the 2020-2021 Paper FAFSA and FAFSA on the Web** – This section provides descriptions of the FAFSA and FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, including information about requesting and receiving paper forms and downloading electronic forms. It also describes changes to the 2020-2021 paper FAFSA and to FAFSA on the Web.
- **Summary of Changes to FAA Access to CPS Online** – This section provides information about FAA Access to CPS Online (FAA Access) enrollment requirements and changes to FAA Access.

- **Summary of Changes to the 2020-2021 Central Processing System** – This section provides information about changes to the U.S. Department of Education’s Central Processing System (CPS). The following areas are described:
 - Database Matches
 - CPS Edits
 - Need Analysis
 - Application Output Sent to Students
 - Student Aid Report (SAR) Comments
 - Mailing Addresses
- **Getting Help** – This section provides contact information for customer service and lists useful documents and Web sites you can access for additional assistance.

In addition to the annual 2020-2021 system updates that we will implement in October 2019, we plan to release other system updates intermittently. Scheduling intermittent releases enables us to continuously improve our Web sites and other systems.

We will describe enhancements implemented during the processing cycle in various future communications posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site at ifap.ed.gov, including electronic announcements and updated guides and references.

Unless otherwise noted, we are implementing the changes described in this guide in October 2019, at the start of the 2020-2021 processing cycle.

Major Changes

Description of Major Changes

In this section, we describe major changes to the application processing system and Web products for 2020-2021, including updates and enhancements resulting from annual and legislative changes. You can find policy and operational guidance on the IFAP Web site.

2018 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Tax Form Changes

The IRS made changes to their tax forms beginning with the 2018 tax filing year, which resulted in changes to the FAFSA and our electronic applications. These changes led us to revise, remove, and combine FAFSA questions; update tax form references; and update system edits on data.

FAFSA Question Changes

Below we describe the changes to the FAFSA. The question numbers referenced below are from the 2019-2020 FAFSA. If there is a new question number for the 2020-2021 FAFSA, it will be shown in parenthesis.

- The IRS tax form changes eliminated the IRS 1040A and 1040EZ tax forms beginning in the 2018 tax year. As a result, there are changes that rippled through our systems.
 - Questions 33 and 81 (*now 80*) – The type of income tax filed questions were revised to remove the answer choice for IRS 1040A and 1040 EZ and provide additional detail for foreign returns. The possible answers are now:
 - IRS 1040
 - Foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR, or IRS 1040NR-EZ
 - A tax return with Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory or Freely Associated State
 - Questions 35 and 83 (*now 82*) – The “If the (student or parent) filed a 1040, were they eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ?” questions were revised to reflect tax form changes. The new questions read:
 - “Did (or will) you file a Schedule 1 with your 2018 tax return? Answer “**No**” if you did not file a Schedule 1 or only filed a Schedule 1 to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend or one of the other exceptions listed in the Notes on page 9.”

- “Did (or will) your parents file a Schedule 1 with their 2018 tax return? Answer “No” if they did not file a Schedule 1 or only filed a Schedule 1 to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend or one of the other exceptions listed in the Notes on page 9.”

The numeric value that the Yes and No answers have were switched. Yes = 2 and No = 1 for edit purposes. This information is important to know when you are reviewing the data in the ISIR file or if you have internal edits of data in your systems.

- Questions 38 and 87 – The exemptions questions were deleted. All question numbering is revised starting with question 38.
- Questions 45e and 45f (*now 44e*) and 94e and 94f (*now 92e*) – Questions about untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions were combined into one, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions...”

For a comparison of ISIR question numbers and field numbers refer to the *2020-2021 EDE Technical Reference, Processing Codes* section: “2020-2021 ISIR Cross Reference” which describes the ISIR field names, question numbers, start and end position, and field changes.

The table below includes the 2019-2020 FAFSA question numbers. Note: The new 2020-2021 FAFSA question numbers begin at question 35.

FAFSA Question <i>(Not exact question wording)</i>	2019-2020 FAFSA #	2020-2021 FAFSA #
Student’s Last Name	1	1
Student’s First Name	2	2
Student’s Middle Initial	3	3
Student’s Mailing Address	4	4
Student’s City	5	5
Student’s State Abbreviation	6	6
Student’s ZIP Code	7	7
Student’s Social Security Number	8	8
Student’s Date of Birth	9	9
Student’s Telephone Number	10	10
Student’s Driver’s License Number	11	11
Student’s Driver’s License State Abbreviation	12	12
Student’s E-mail Address	13	13
Student’s Citizenship Status	14	14
Student’s Alien Registration Number	15	15
Student’s Marital Status	16	16
Student’s Date of Marital Status	17	17
Student’s State of Legal Residence Abbreviation	18	18
Did student become a legal resident of this state before January 1, 201X?	19	19
If answered “No” to question 19, date student became a legal resident.	20	20
Is the student male or female?	21	21
If the student is male (age 18-25) and not registered, answer “Register Me” and Selective Service will register you.	22	22
Does the student have a drug conviction affecting eligibility?	23	23
Parent 1 Educational Level	24	24
Parent 2 Educational Level	25	25

FAFSA Question <i>(Not exact question wording)</i>	2019-2020 FAFSA #	2020-2021 FAFSA #
Student's High School Completion Status	26	26
Student's High School Name, City, and State	27	27
Student's First Bachelor's Degree Before beginning 20XX-20XX school year?	28	28
Student's Grade Level in College in 20XX-20XX	29	29
Student's Type of College Degree/Certificate in 20XX-20XX	30	30
Student interested in being considered for work-study?	31	31
Student (and Spouse) Filed 201X Income Tax Return	32	32
Student's (and Spouse's) Type of 201X Tax Form Used	33	33
Student's (and Spouse's) Tax Return Filing Status 201X	34	34
If the student (and spouse) filed or will file a 1040, was he or she eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ? (<i>Schedule 1 question for 2020-2021</i>)	35	35
Student's (and Spouse's) Adjusted Gross Income from IRS Form	36	36
Student's (and Spouse's) U.S. Income Tax Paid from IRS Form	37	37
Student's (and Spouse's) Exemptions Claimed from IRS Form	38	Deleted
Student's Income Earned from Work	39	38
Spouse's Income Earned from Work	40	39
Student's (and Spouse's) Cash, Savings, and Checking	41	40
Student's (and Spouse's) Net Worth of Investments	42	41
Student's (and Spouse's) Net Worth of Businesses/Investment Farms	43	42
Student's (and Spouse's) Additional Financial Information	44	43
Student's (and Spouse's) Education credits	44.a	43.a
Student's (and Spouse's) Child support paid	44.b	43.b
Student's (and Spouse's) Taxable earnings from need-based employment	44.c	43.c
Student's (and Spouse's) Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported to IRS	44.d	43.d
Student's (and Spouse's) Combat pay/special combat pay	44.e	43.e
Student's (and Spouse's) Earnings from work under a cooperative education program	44.f	43.f
Student's (and Spouse's) Untaxed Income	45	44
Student's (and Spouse's) Tax-deferred pension/savings	45.a	44.a
Student's (and Spouse's) IRA deductions and payments	45.b	44.b
Student's (and Spouse's) Child support received	45.c	44.c
Student's (and Spouse's) Tax exempt interest income	45.d	44.d
Student's (and Spouse's) Untaxed IRA distributions	45.e	44.e
Student's (and Spouse's) Untaxed portions of pensions	45.f	Combined with question 44.e
Student's (and Spouse's) Military or clergy allowances	45.g	44.f
Student's (and Spouse's) Veterans noneducation benefits	45.h	44.g
Student's (and Spouse's) Other untaxed income	45.i	44.h
Student's (and Spouse's) Money received or paid on their behalf	45.j	44.i
Student Born Before 1-1-199X?	46	45
Is the student married?	47	46
Student is working on a master's or doctorate program in 20XX-20XX?	48	47
Student is on active duty in U.S. Armed Forces?	49	48
Student is a veteran of U.S. Armed Forces?	50	49
Student has children who receive more than half of their support from you?	51	50
Student has dependents other than children or spouse?	52	51

FAFSA Question <i>(Not exact question wording)</i>	2019-2020 FAFSA #	2020-2021 FAFSA #
Were student's parents deceased and was the student in foster care or a court dependent/ward?	53	52
Is or was the student an emancipated minor?	54	53
Is or was the student in legal guardianship?	55	54
Is or was the student verified as a homeless youth?	56	55
Is or was the student determined homeless by the Department of Housing and Urban Development?	57	56
Is the student an unaccompanied youth who is at risk for homelessness?	58	57
Parent's Marital Status	59	58
Parent's Date of Marital Status	60	59
Parent 1 Social Security Number	61	60
Parent 1 Last Name	62	61
Parent 1 First Initial	63	62
Parent 1 Date of Birth	64	63
Parent 2 Social Security Number	65	64
Parent 2 Last Name	66	65
Parent 2 First Initial	67	66
Parent 2 Date of Birth	68	67
Parents' E-mail Address	69	68
Parents' State of Legal Residence	70	69
Parents' legal resident of the state before January 1, 201X?	71	70
If "No" to question 71, enter the date parent became legal resident	72	71
Parents' number of family members in 20XX-20XX	73	72
Parents' number of family members in college in 20XX-20XX	74	73
Parents received Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?	75	74
Parents received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?	76	75
Parents received free/reduced price school lunch?	77	76
Parents received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?	78	77
Parents received Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?	79	78
Parents filed 201X Income Tax Return?	80	79
Parents' Type of 201X Tax Form Used	81	80
Parents' Tax Return Filing Status 201X	82	81
Parents filed or will file a 1040, or were they eligible to file 1040A or 1040EZ? (<i>Schedule 1 question for 2020-2021</i>)	83	82
Is either parent a dislocated worker?	84	83
Parents' Adjusted Gross Income from IRS Form	85	84
Parents' U.S. Income Tax Paid	86	85
Parents' Exemptions Claimed	87	Deleted
Parent 1 Income Earned from Work	88	86
Parent 2 Income Earned from Work	89	87
Parents' Cash, Savings, and Checking	90	88
Parents' Net Worth of Investments	91	89
Parents' Net Worth of Businesses/Investment Farms	92	90
Parents' Additional Financial Information	93	91
Parents' Education credits	93.a	91.a
Parents' Child support paid	93.b	91.b
Parents' Taxable earnings from need-based employment	93.c	91.c
Parents' Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported to IRS	93.d	91.d

FAFSA Question <i>(Not exact question wording)</i>	2019-2020 FAFSA #	2020-2021 FAFSA #
Parents' Combat pay/special combat pay	93.e	91.e
Parents' Earnings from work under a cooperative education program	93.f	91.f
Parents' Untaxed Income	94	92
Parents' Tax-deferred pension/ savings	94.a	92.a
Parents' IRA deductions and payments	94.b	92.b
Parents' Child support received	94.c	92.c
Parents' Tax exempt interest income	94.d	92.d
Parents' Untaxed IRA distributions	94.e	92.e
Parents' Untaxed portions of pensions	94.f	Combined with question 92.e
Parents' Military or clergy allowances	94.g	92.f
Parents' Veterans non education benefits	94.h	92.g
Parents' Other untaxed income	94.i	92.h
Student's (and Spouse's) number of family members in 20XX-20XX	95	93
Student's (and Spouse's) number in college in 20XX-20XX	96	94
Student received Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?	97	95
Student received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)?	98	96
Student received free/reduced price school lunch?	99	97
Student received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?	100	98
Student received Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?	101	99
Is student or spouse a dislocated worker?	102	100
First College Name, City and State	103.a	101.a
Housing Plans	103.b	101.b
Second College Name, City and State	103.c	101.c
Housing Plans	103.d	101.d
Third College Name, City and State	103.e	101.e
Housing Plans	103.f	101.f
Fourth College Name, City and State	103.g	101.g
Housing Plans	103.h	101.h
Date Completed	104	102
Signed By?	105	103
Preparer's Social Security Number	106	104
Preparer's EIN	107	105
Preparer's Signature	108	106

Tax Line Changes

The table below describes the 2017 IRS tax form line references and where to find the same information on the 2018 IRS tax form.

FAFSA Question	2019-2020 Student/Parent Question #	2020-2021 Student/Parent Question #	2017 IRS Tax Form Reference	2018 IRS Tax Form Reference
Adjusted Gross Income	36/85	36/84	IRS Form 1040—line 37; 1040A—line 21; or 1040EZ—line 4.	IRS Form 1040—line 7.
Income Tax Paid	37/86	37/85	IRS Form 1040—line 56 minus line 46; 1040A—line 28 minus line 36; or 1040EZ—line 10.	IRS Form 1040—Line 13 minus Schedule 2—line 46.
Exemptions	38/87	N/A	IRS Form 1040—line 6d or Form 1040A—line 6d. For Form 1040EZ, see Notes page 9.	<i>N/A, question and notes were deleted.</i>
Earned Income from Work	39/40/88/89	38/39/86/87	IRS Form 1040—lines 7 + 12 + 18 + Box 14 (Code A) of IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065); 1040A—line 7; or 1040EZ—line 1.	IRS Form 1040—line 1 + Schedule 1—lines 12 + 18 + Schedule K-1 (IRS Form 1065) — Box 14 (Code A).
Other Untaxed Income	45i/94i	44h/92h	IRS Form 1040—line 25.	IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1—line 25.
Education Credits	44a/93a	43a/91a	IRS Form 1040—line 50 or 1040A—line 33.	IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3—line 50.
IRA Deductions and Payments	45b/94b	44b/92b	IRS Form 1040—line 28 + line 32 or 1040A—line 17.	IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1—total of lines 28 +32.
Tax Exempt Interest Income	45d/94d	44d/92d	IRS Form 1040—line 8b or 1040A—line 8b.	IRS Form 1040—line 2a
Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions and Pensions	45e/94e 45f/94f	44e/92e – <i>(questions were combined)</i>	IRS Form 1040—lines (15a minus 15b) or 1040A—lines (11a minus 11b). IRS Form 1040—lines (16a minus 16b) or 1040A—lines (12a minus 12b).	IRS Form 1040—line 4a minus line 4b. <i>(questions were combined)</i>

IRS Data Retrieval Tool Changes

The type of tax return filed will now be used as a criterion to determine whether the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) option will display. When a student or parent selects their type of tax return as “Foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR, or IRS 1040NR-EZ” or “A tax return with Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State,” the IRS DRT option will not display to them, thus eliminating the need to ask the “Foreign or Puerto Rican” filtering question.

Syncing FAFSA on the Web with the myStudentAid Mobile App

Previously, if users began filling out the FAFSA using FAFSA on the Web and switched to the myStudentAid app (or vice versa), they would be taken to either the beginning of the application or the end. We have updated the syncing function between FAFSA on the Web and the myStudentAid app to ensure that users can continue their applications where they left off, regardless of the platform on which they choose to continue. Improving the syncing function required changing the order of some of the questions in FAFSA on the Web to align with the order found in the myStudentAid mobile app.

Adding Transaction Source/Type Code for myStudentAid Mobile App

Currently, FSA does not have a way to track where a user resumes and leaves off an application, specifically when completing an application using both FAFSA on the Web and the myStudentAid mobile app, or when completing an application using only the myStudentAid mobile app. We are updating our systems to track where an applicant or parent starts an application in FAFSA on the Web or the myStudentAid mobile app. These system updates will be implemented in the future.

We are also creating new application and transaction data source/type codes to track applications and corrections submitted via the myStudentAid mobile app. These codes display in the ISIR record layout and are reflected in the July 2019 2020-2021 *EDE Technical Reference* release. These system updates will be implemented mid-cycle. The new codes are as follows:

- 8A = mySA mobile app application
- 8C = mySA mobile app correction
- 8E = mySA mobile app EZ FAFSA
- 8G = mySA mobile app EZ FAFSA renewal application
- 8R = mySA mobile app renewal application

Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 requires new Pell eligibility requirements under the new Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) Scholarship Act. Beginning with the 2018-2019 award year, a Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer is eligible to receive Title IV aid as if they had a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) without regard to the student's calculated EFC for the award year for which the determination of eligibility is made. Thus, the student is eligible for the maximum Pell Grant for his or her enrollment status and cost of attendance. In addition, the student's eligibility for Direct Loans and for Campus-Based program aid must be based on an EFC of zero.

To qualify under this provision, a student must be Pell-eligible and have a Pell-eligible EFC (up to 5486 for the 2018-2019 award year or up to 5576 for the 2019-2020 award year), and be less than 24 years of age or enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of his or her parent or guardian's death. In subsequent award years, the student continues to be eligible under this provision, as long as the student has a Pell-eligible EFC and continues to be an eligible student. Additional information on this provision can be found on IFAP including the [November 19, 2018 electronic announcement](#).

An FAA who identifies an applicant meeting the criteria for the CFH Scholarship will set the CFH indicator flag in FAA Access. This indicator becomes part of the ISIR file and is printed on the SAR, eSAR, and ISIR from EDEXpress. Comment code 402 is assigned to students' records, alerting them that they may be eligible for additional aid under the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act and to contact their FAA for more information.

2020-2021 Application Processing System Schedule

Schedule for the 2020-2021 Application Processing System

We will no longer post documents to the FSAdownload Web site in 2019; all user documents and software can be found on the IFAP Web site. Refer to the [August 9, 2019 Electronic Announcement](#) for additional information on the FSAdownload transition.

Date	Event
May 15, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the 2020-2021 Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) Technical Reference draft (including the ISIR Record Layout and ISIR Cross-Reference). The <i>EDE Technical Reference</i> provides programmer specifications and information that can assist you in designing or building your own software to communicate electronically with Federal Student Aid.
May 31, 2019	The Secretary of Education announced the annual updates to the tables used in the statutory “Federal Need Analysis Methodology” to determine an applicant’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for the 2020-2021 processing cycle (May 31, 2019 [84 FR 25244]).
June 7, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the FAFSA MyStudentData Download Record Layout . This guide includes the record layout for the FAFSA MyStudentData download file. The file includes a subset of a student’s processed results in a machine-readable, plain text file.

Date	Event
June 13, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the 2020-2021 Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers . The publication provides CPS system edits that can assist you in designing and building your own software to communicate with Federal Student Aid.
July 15, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the 2020-2021 Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) Technical Reference . The <i>EDE Technical Reference</i> provides programmer specifications and information that can assist you in designing or building your own software to communicate electronically with Federal Student Aid. The <i>EDE Technical Reference</i> includes information about record layouts, required edits, printing, and reject messages.
July 17, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the CPS Test System User Guide . This user guide describes the CPS Test System, a system in which you can test electronic application and correction-data transmissions from your system to the CPS (outside of the normal CPS production environment). The test system will be available on September 30, 2019.
July 31, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the 2020-2021 SAR Comment Codes and Text guide. The guide provides the SAR comment codes, comment text, reject resolutions, and database match information.
August 8, 2019	Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the 2020-2021 ISIR Guide . The guide assists FAAs in interpreting applicant information from an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).
August 26, 2019	Federal Student Aid announces the availability of the EFC Formula Guide , pending final 2020-2021 Need Analysis legislative updates. This guide can be used to calculate an EFC.
September 6, 2019	Federal Student Aid announces the availability of the EDExpress for Windows Packaging Technical Reference . This technical reference provides instructions and record layouts for schools and other organizations that need to integrate their software or systems with the EDExpress 2020-2021 Packaging module (available October 2020). Record layouts are included for all imports from external systems, such as Packaging Import External Add, Packaging Import External Change, and Packaging Import Add Funds. Packaging module setup guidance and setup worksheets are also provided.

Date	Event
September 28, 2019	Federal Student Aid announces the availability of the EDExpress for Windows 2020-2021, Release 1.0, which includes Global, Application Processing, and Packaging functionality for the 2020-2021 processing cycle.
September 30, 2019	The 2020-2021 <i>CPS Web Applications Demo System</i> is available at fafsademo.test.ed.gov .
September 30, 2019	The CPS Test System is available. You can test electronic application and correction-data transmissions from your system to the CPS (outside of the normal CPS production environment).
October 1, 2019	The 2020-2021 FAA Access to CPS Online Web site (faaaccess.ed.gov) is available to FAAs.
October 1, 2019	The 2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web site is available to applicants.
October 1, 2019	The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) is available to 2020-2021 FAFSA applicants.
October 2, 2019	CPS begins processing 2020-2021 applications.
October 2019	The PDF FAFSA is available for download from the “Resources” page at StudentAid.gov/sa/resources#fafsa-application .
October 2019	The PDF version of the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is available to applicants on the FAFSA on the Web site and to schools.
October 2019	Applicants and parents can begin requesting up to three copies of the paper FAFSA from the Federal Student Aid Information Center.
October 2019	Federal Student Aid announces the availability of the <i>2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web Preview Presentation</i> . This Microsoft PowerPoint presentation contains information and screen shots pertaining to the 2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web site that can be used as a tool for internal staff training or high school night presentations.
October 2019	Federal Student Aid announces the availability of the <i>2020-2021 myStudentAid.gov Preview Presentation</i> . This Microsoft PowerPoint presentation contains information and screen shots pertaining to the 2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web site that can be used as a tool for internal staff training or high school night presentations.
October 2019	Federal Student Aid announces the availability of the final <i>2020-2021 Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers</i> .

Date	Event
November 2019	The 2020-2021 Federal School Code List is available online. This document is updated quarterly.
March 2020	EDEXpress for Windows 2020-2021, Release 2.0, is available. This software includes the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant modules for the 2020-2021 cycle.
June 2020	Direct Loan (DL) Tools for Windows, Release 18.0 is available. DL Tools is a supplemental software product for Direct Loan participants and contains Rebuild, Cash Management, and Compare functionalities for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 cycles.
Late June 2020	The CPS accepts 2019-2020 paper and electronic FAFSAs and renewal FAFSAs until late June 2020. Watch for a Federal Register notice with the final deadline. Electronic FAFSAs must be transmitted to and received by the CPS by midnight Central Time (CT) to meet the deadline.
Mid-September 2020	The CPS accepts 2019-2020 paper and electronic corrections until mid-September 2020. Watch for a Federal Register notice containing more information about this deadline. Electronic corrections must be transmitted to and received by the CPS by midnight CT to meet the deadline.
Late June 2021	The CPS accepts 2020-2021 paper and electronic FAFSAs until late June 2021. Watch for a Federal Register notice with the final deadline. Electronic FAFSAs must be transmitted to and received by the CPS by midnight CT to meet the deadline.
Mid-September 2021	The CPS accepts 2020-2021 paper and electronic corrections until mid-September 2021. Watch for a Federal Register notice containing more information about this deadline. Electronic corrections must be transmitted to and received by the CPS by midnight CT to meet the deadline.

Summary of Changes to the 2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web, myStudentAid Mobile App, and Paper FAFSA®

2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web Changes and Enhancements

In this section, we describe the 2020-2021 changes to FAFSA on the Web. These changes include:

- Masking the Social Security numbers (SSNs) of users on the login page
- FAFSA updates due to IRS tax form changes
- Other updates to FAFSA questions
- Syncing FAFSA on the Web with myStudentAid Mobile App

Masking the SSN of Users on the Login Page

When a user enters an SSN to log in to FAFSA on the Web, the numbers will be masked from view to protect the privacy and security of the user. Masking the SSN is the default setting, but users can opt to show or hide the values they enter.

FAFSA Updates Due to IRS Tax Form Changes

Because of IRS tax form changes, we have revised several questions that appear in FAFSA on the Web. The revisions are listed below.

- We updated the responses for the student (and spouse) question about type of income tax return filed:
 - Removed “IRS 1040A or 1040 EZ” as a response.
 - Updated the foreign tax return response to include IRS 1040NR and IRS 1040NR-EZ.

- We revised the questions regarding whether the student and parents filed a Schedule 1 to read, “Did [or will] you [or your parents] file a Schedule 1? Select No if you [or your parents] did not [or will not] file a Schedule 1 or only filed [or will file] it to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend. View other exceptions.” Responses are:

Yes

No

Don’t know

A student or parent is expected to answer “**No**” if they did not file a Schedule 1 or only filed it to report one or more of the following six additions or adjustments to income (referred to as the other exceptions in the question text above):

1. Capital gain (line 13 – may not be less than zero)
2. Unemployment compensation (line 19)
3. Other income to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend (line 21 – may not be less than zero)
4. Educator expenses (line 23)
5. IRA deduction (line 32)
6. Student loan interest deduction (line 33)

A student or parent is expected to answer “**Yes**” if they filed or will file a Schedule 1 and reported additional income or adjustments to income on any lines other than or in addition to the six exceptions listed above.

- We deleted the student and spouse exemptions question.
- We combined two questions into one, asking about the student’s untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions.
- We updated the responses for the parent question about type of income tax return filed:
 - Removed “IRS 1040A or 1040 EZ” as a response.
 - Updated the foreign tax return response to include IRS 1040NR and IRS 1040NR-EZ.
- We deleted the parent exemptions question.
- We combined two questions into one, asking about the parents’ untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions.

IRS Data Retrieval Tool Changes

The type of tax return filed will now be used as a criterion to determine whether the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) option will display. When a student or parent selects their type of tax return as “Foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR, or IRS 1040NR-EZ” or “A tax return with Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State,” the IRS DRT option will not display to them, thus eliminating the need to ask the “Foreign or Puerto Rican” filtering question.

Other Updates to FAFSA Questions

In addition to the FAFSA questions that were revised due to the 2018 IRS tax form changes, two other questions were updated.

- **Question 29** – The following responses were revised to add “college” and examples of the types of degrees:
 - 1st yr. college graduate/professional (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
 - Continuing graduate/professional or beyond (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
- **Question 30** – The question was revised to add “college,” and one of the responses was revised to include “college” and examples of the types of degrees:
 - What college degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2020-2021 school year?
 - College graduate/professional degree (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)

Syncing FAFSA on the Web with the myStudentAid Mobile App

Previously, if users began filling out the FAFSA online and switched to the myStudentAid app (or vice versa), they would be taken to either the beginning of the application or the end. We have updated the syncing function between FAFSA on the Web and the myStudentAid app to ensure that users can continue their applications where they left off, regardless of the platform on which they choose to continue. Improving the syncing function required changing the order of some of the questions in FAFSA on the Web to align with the order found in the myStudentAid mobile app.

2020-2021 myStudentAid Mobile App Changes and Enhancements

In the [August 16, 2018 Electronic Announcement](#), Federal Student Aid announced the availability of the new myStudentAid mobile app through both the Apple App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). The app provides the following functionality:

- myFAFSA – Complete the FAFSA safely and securely from your mobile device.
- Profile – Edit/manage an FSA ID.
- myFederalLoans – View federal student loan and aid history.
- StudentAid.gov – Access FSA’s signature source of information on student financial aid products, processes and services.
- Contact Us – Obtain contact information for FSA’s contact centers.

This section of the guide is new and will cover changes and enhancements to the mobile app beginning with the October 1, 2019, system start-up. This will be the first time that two cycles will be available in the myStudentAid mobile app.

FAFSA Updates Due to IRS Tax Form Changes

Because of IRS tax form changes, we have revised several questions that appear in myFAFSA, which is part of the myStudentAid mobile app. The changes are listed below.

- We updated the responses for the student (and spouse) question about type of income tax return filed:
 - Removed “IRS 1040A or 1040 EZ” as a response.
 - Updated the third response to, “A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ.”
- We revised the question to read, “Did [or will] you file a Schedule 1?” Responses are:
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
- We deleted the student and spouse exemptions question.
- We combined two questions to read, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions from IRS Form...”
- We updated the responses for the parent question about type of income tax return filed question:
 - Removed “IRS 1040A or 1040 EZ” as a response.
 - Updated the third response to, “A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ.”

- We revised the question to read, “Did [or will] your parents file a Schedule 1?” Responses are:
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
- We deleted the parent exemptions question.
- We combined two questions to read, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions from IRS Form...”

IRS Data Retrieval Tool Changes

The type of tax return filed will now be used as a criterion to determine whether the IRS DRT option will display. When a student or parent selects their type of tax return as “Foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR, or IRS 1040NR-EZ” or “A tax return with Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State,” the IRS DRT option will not display to them, thus eliminating the need to ask the “Foreign or Puerto Rican” filtering question.

Other Updates to FAFSA Questions

In addition to the FAFSA questions that were revised due to the 2018 IRS tax form changes, two other questions were updated.

- The following responses for the college grade level were revised to add “college” and examples of the types of degrees:
 - 1st year college graduate (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
 - Continuing graduate (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
- The degree or certificate question was revised to add “college,” and one of the responses was revised to include “college” and examples of the types of degrees:
 - What college degree or certificate will you/the student be working on when beginning the 2020-2021 school year?
 - College graduate/professional degree (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)

2020-2021 FAFSA® and FAFSA on the Web Worksheet Availability

FAFSA®

While most applicants use FAFSA on the Web to apply for financial aid, a paper application option is still available. The FAFSA is a ten-page form (six application pages and four instructional pages) used to apply for Title IV aid. The FAFSA is also available as a screen-fillable PDF document that can be printed and submitted by postal mail.

The PDF FAFSA is an official FAFSA that can be completed on the computer and printed, or it can be printed and completed manually. The printed and signed PDF FAFSA is mailed to Federal Student Aid for processing or, in some instances, can be delivered to a school, where the student's application data is entered and submitted using FAA Access or third-party software. The signed FAFSA is stored by the school according to Title IV record retention requirements.

English and Spanish 508-compliant PDF versions of the 2020-2021 FAFSA will be available online for download in October 2019 from the IFAP Web site. Schools can also access the PDF version of the FAFSA from the "Resources" page at [StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa-application](https://studentaid.gov/resources#fafsa-application).

Applicants and parents can begin requesting up to three copies of the paper FAFSA form from the Federal Student Aid Information Center.

FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

The FAFSA on the Web Worksheet, available in English or Spanish, is a tool that helps applicants prepare for the online application process. The worksheet is an electronic PDF document that presents some of the FAFSA questions in the order in which they appear on FAFSA on the Web. This form can be printed from the FAFSA on the Web and IFAP Web sites.

The worksheet will be available in PDF in October 2019 on [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), on the IFAP Web site, and on FAFSA on the Web.

We recommend you continue to remind applicants and their parents that the worksheet is not a FAFSA and is not processed as such if submitted.

2020-2021 Paper FAFSA® Changes

This section describes changes and enhancements to the 2020-2021 FAFSA. At the time this document was posted, the 2020-2021 paper FAFSA was still in the final clearance process. As a result, additional changes to the form that are not identified or described in this guide may be implemented after the clearance process.

There were significant revisions made to the FAFSA based on tax form changes. We implemented the following changes to the paper FAFSA:

Global Changes

- **Colors** – The 2020-2021 FAFSA colors are orange (Pantone Matching System [PMS] 156) for student information and purple (PMS 263) for parent information.
The student color of the FAFSA continues with the four-year color rotation of yellow (PMS 108) → orange (PMS 156) → green (PMS 390) → blue (PMS 633). Purple (PMS 263) continues to be the color for parent information regardless of the year.
- **myStudentAid Mobile App** – The text throughout the FAFSA has been updated to reference the myStudentAid mobile app in addition to the fafsa.gov site.
- **Renumbering** – Due to the deletion of the exemption questions (38 and 87 on the 2019-2020 application) and the combination of two untaxed income fields, we have revised the question numbering starting with question 38 and throughout the 2020-2021 FAFSA. These changes were the result of 2018 IRS tax form changes.
- **Tax Line References** – Due to changes to the IRS tax forms for 2018, there were significant revisions made to the tax line references throughout the FAFSA. See the “Major Changes” section for a table describing the specific tax line changes.
- **Application Year** – We added the application year on the left side of the header area of pages 2 through 10.

Page 1

- **Headings** – We updated the verb form used in the headings. They are now:
 - Apply by the Deadlines
 - Use Your Tax Return
 - Fill Out the FAFSA Form
 - Mail Your FAFSA Form
- **Mailing Addresses** – We updated the FAFSA mailing address for the 2020-2021 processing cycle.
- **Deadlines** – We updated the state deadlines.

Page 4

- **Question 29** – We revised the following responses to add “college” and examples of the types of degrees:
 - 1st yr. college graduate/professional (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
 - Continuing graduate/professional or beyond (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
- **Question 30** – We revised the question to add “college” and revised one of the responses to include “college” and examples of the types of degrees:
 - What college degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2020-2021 school year?
 - College graduate/professional degree (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)
- **Question 33** – We updated the responses for the student (and spouse) question about type of income tax return filed question:
 - Removed response 2, “IRS 1040A or 1040 EZ.”
 - Updated response 3, “A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ. **See Notes page 9.**”
- **Question 35** – We revised the question to read, “Did (or will) you file a Schedule 1 with your 2018 tax return? Answer ‘No’ if you did not file a Schedule 1 or only filed a Schedule 1 to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend or one of the other exceptions listed in the **Notes on page 9.**” Responses are:
 - 2 = Yes
 - 1 = No
 - 3 = Don’t know
- **Question 37** – We added the statement, “If negative, enter a zero here.” to the end of the taxes paid question.
- **Question 38** – We deleted the question about student and spouse exemptions due to changes in the IRS tax forms. The remaining questions on the FAFSA were renumbered.

Page 5

- **Question 45e and f (now 44e)** – We combined two questions to read, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions from IRS Form...”
- **Question 45i (now 44h)** – We added language to inform students and parents that untaxed foreign income not taxed by any government should be reported as untaxed income, “...such as workers’ compensation, disability benefits, untaxed foreign income.”

Page 6

- **Question 81 (now 80)** – We updated the responses for the parent question about type of income tax return filed:
 - We removed response 2, “IRS 1040A or 1040 EZ.”
 - Updated response 3, “A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ. **See Notes page 9.**”
- **Question 83 (now 82)** – We revised the question to read, “Did (or will) your parents file a Schedule 1 with their 2018 tax return? Answer ‘**No**’ if you did not file a Schedule 1 or only filed a Schedule 1 to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend or one of the other exceptions listed in the **Notes on page 9.**” Responses are:
 - 2 = Yes
 - 1 = No
 - 3 = Don’t know

Page 7

- **Question 86 (now 85)** – We added the statement, “If negative, enter a zero here.” to the end of the taxes paid question.
- **Question 87** – We deleted the question about parent exemptions due to changes in the IRS tax forms.
- **Question 94e and f (now 92e)** – We combined two questions to read, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions from IRS Form...”
- **Question 94i (now 92h)** – We added language to inform students and parents that untaxed foreign income not taxed by any government should be reported as untaxed income, “...such as workers’ compensation, disability benefits, untaxed foreign income.”

Page 8

- **Step 6, School Code Instructions** – We updated the link to go directly to the standalone school code search page: fafsa.gov/schoolsearch.

Pages 9 and 10

- **Notes for question 8** – We added the following sentence to the notes, “Do not enter an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in the Social Security Number field.”
- **Notes for question 33 (page 4) and 81 (now 80) (page 6)** – We revised the first sentence to read, “...return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ, or a tax...”

- **Notes for questions 35 (page 4) and 83 (now 82) (page 6)** – We updated the notes to read:
Answer “**No**” if you (and if married, your spouse) did not file a Schedule 1.
Answer “**No**” if you (and if married, your spouse) did or will file a Schedule 1 to report **only one or more** of the following items:
 1. Capital gain (line 13 – may not be a negative value)
 2. Unemployment compensation (line 19)
 3. Other income to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend (line 21 – may not be a negative value)
 4. Educator expenses (line 23)
 5. IRA deduction (line 32)
 6. Student loan interest deduction (line 33)Answer “**Yes**” if you (or if married, your spouse) filed or will file a Schedule 1 and reported additional income or adjustments to income on any lines **other than or in addition to** the six exceptions listed above.
If you do not know if you filed or will file a Schedule 1, select “**Don’t know.**”
- **Notes for questions 38 (page 4) and 87 (Page 7)** – Because the exemptions questions were deleted, we deleted the notes for those who filed a 1040EZ.
- **Notes for questions 42 (now 41) and 43 (now 42) (page 4), 45j (now 44i) (page 5), and 91 (now 89) and 92 (now 90) (page 7)** – Added language to the notes to exclude Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts from assets.

We Value Your Comments and Suggestions!

Federal Student Aid continually seeks new and innovative ways to make applying for financial aid easier and more convenient for applicants and their parents. Some of the changes we made to the paper FAFSA and Web applications were the result of feedback and comments we received from you. As always, we appreciate your contributions to improving our systems and processes and encourage you to continue to share your suggestions with us. We are particularly interested in ways to continue simplifying the paper and online FAFSA by eliminating unnecessary data collection.

We encourage you to watch the IFAP Web site in 2020, when we will post an announcement regarding the 2021-2022 FAFSA.

Summary of Changes to FAA Access to CPS Online

Enrollment Requirements

FAA Access to CPS Online

To ensure your school can take full advantage of 2020-2021 enhancements at the beginning of the processing cycle, the Primary Destination Point Administrator (DPA) of the TG Number used to send and receive FAFSA and ISIR correction data should verify your FAA Access enrollment status.

Note: If your school enrolled for 2019-2020, your enrollment carries over to 2020-2021.

Annually, your school's Primary DPA is required to actively confirm the FAA Access to CPS Online services and users associated with your school's TG Number. If you do not perform this confirmation when requested by Federal Student Aid, your staff's rights for FAA Access could be revoked, resulting in a "Primary DPA Validation Needed" error message when staff members attempt to access the site. We encourage you to monitor the IFAP Web site regularly for electronic announcements regarding active confirmation requirements.

If your school is not enrolled for CPS Online services, your school's Primary DPA can complete the enrollment for FAA Access to CPS Online services for your school through the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) Enrollment Web site, located at fsawebenroll.ed.gov.

The Primary DPA must print a Federal Student Aid User of Electronic Services Statement to be signed by new users of FAA Access. While you are not required to mail Federal Student Aid User of Electronic Services Statements to Federal Student Aid's Participation Management system, you must retain signed copies at your school in accordance with Title IV retention requirements.

All users of FAA Access (faaaccess.ed.gov) must have an FSA User ID and password. Any FAA Access user at your school who does not have an FSA User ID can acquire one by completing the following steps:

Step 1: Go to the [SAIG Enrollment site](#) and click the "FSA User ID Registration" link on the left side of the home page.

Step 2: Enter the identifying information requested and click "Submit."

Step 3: Follow the remaining steps, which include establishing a password and setting up challenge questions.

During the FSA User ID registration process, the user must verify the e-mail address on the SAIG Enrollment Web site. We will use this e-mail address to send the FSA User ID.

Note: As first explained in a [January 13, 2012 Electronic Announcement](#), we implemented a technology security initiative in 2012 called two-factor authentication (TFA). Through TFA, when logging in to certain Federal Student Aid systems, including the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site, an authorized user is required to use a traditional user ID and password, as well as provide a one-time password (OTP). A registered token device in the physical possession of the user generates the OTP. We completed our phased distribution of tokens and token registration/usage information to schools, and most school users have successfully begun using TFA tokens to access FAA Access to CPS Online. If you have questions about TFA, send an e-mail to TFASupport@ed.gov.

Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)

R2T4 on the Web is a non-year-specific application developed to calculate the earned and unearned portion of Title IV program assistance in accordance with Section 484B of the Higher Education Act. The application is currently accessible through the FAA Main Menu of FAA Access and from the View menu in EDEExpress. However, access to R2T4 will be removed from both FAA Access and EDEExpress by the beginning of 2020. FAAs should transition to using the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System for all R2T4 processes before then.

EDEExpress 2020-2021 FAA Access Interface

To access FAA Access through the EDEExpress 2020-2021 interface, you must follow the same enrollment procedures and use the same FSA User ID and password login credentials as you would to access the sites using your Web browser outside of EDEExpress 2020-2021.

You can save your TG Number, school code, and application save/restore password (used for initial applications only) in EDEExpress FAA Access setup (**Tools, Setup, Global, FAA Access**) or enter them each time you connect to FAA Access through the FAFSA and Student Inquiry tabs in EDEExpress. When you select these tabs, you are prompted for your FSA User ID and password, which are not stored in the EDEExpress database and must be entered separately from your TG Number and school code.

FAA Access Application Processing Changes

In this section, we describe 2020-2021 changes in FAA Access. These changes include:

- FAFSA updates due to 2018 IRS tax form changes
- Other FAFSA updates
- Identifying students eligible for the maximum Pell award under the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act
- Decommissioning of R2T4

FAFSA Updates Due to 2018 IRS Tax Form Changes

Because IRS tax form changes, we have revised several questions that appear in FAA Access. Those revisions are listed below.

Revised the responses to the student's and parents' 2018 Tax Return Filing Status questions (33 and 81 [now 80])

- Student's and Parents' Type of 2018 Tax Form Used will no longer display 2 = 2 – IRS 1040A or 1040EZ as options. The available options are:
 - 1 = 1 – IRS 1040
 - 3 = 3 – Foreign tax return
 - 4 = 4 – A tax return for a U.S. territory or a freely associated state
- All other references to the forms 1040A and 1040EZ have been removed from FAA Access.

Removed, revised, and/or restructured several of the subsequent questions that are based on the Type of Tax Return responses from students and parents

- We updated the logics when an FAA makes a correction to the type of tax return to “Foreign tax return” or “A tax return with Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State” so that the IRS Display Flag will be set to “J” when the transaction being corrected was submitted in FAFSA on the Web or the myStudentAid mobile app. The IRS Display Flags appear on the resulting ISIR and in Student Inquiry.
- The criteria for determining Auto Zero (AZ) and/or Simplified Needs Test (SNT) have changed. We revised the Student and Parents Eligible to File a 1040A or 1040EZ question labels (questions 35 and 83 [now 82]) due to the IRS tax form changes in the 1040. The new field labels are:

Question 35. Student Filed Schedule 1?

Question 83 (now 82). Parents Filed Schedule 1?

The students and parents are required to file a Schedule 1 to report income or adjustments to income that cannot be entered directly on the IRS 1040.

A response of **No** means they did not and will not file a Schedule 1, or they filed a Schedule 1 only to report one or more of the following six additions or adjustments to income on Schedule 1:

1. Capital gain (line 13 – may not be less than zero)
2. Unemployment compensation (line 19)
3. Other income to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend (line 21 – may not be less than zero)
4. Educator expenses (line 23)
5. IRA deduction (line 32)
6. Student loan interest deduction (line 33)

If a student or parents filed or will file Schedule 1 to report additional income or adjustments to income other than or in addition to the six exceptions listed here, a response of **Yes** must be selected.

- When the tax form is IRS 1040, the responses to the Filed Schedule 1? questions (35 and 83 [now 82]) are:
 - 2 = 2 – Yes
 - 1 = 1 – No
 - 3 = 3 – Don't know
- FAAs should only enter a response for Schedule 1 if the Type of Tax Return is “IRS 1040.” If a foreign tax return was filed, leave this field blank in Application Entry or correct to blank in FAA Corrections.
- A response to question 35 (Student filed Schedule 1?) will be required if all of the following criteria are met. If any of the following do not apply, the question may be skipped:
 - The student is independent, and
 - The student “already completed” or “will file” an IRS 1040, and
 - The student’s AGI is less than \$50,000, and
 - The response to the Student Dislocated Worker field is blank, “No,” or “Don’t know,” and
 - The student did not receive any federal benefits.
- A response to question 83 (now 82) (Parents filed Schedule 1?) will be required if all of the following criteria are met. If any of the following do not apply, the question may be skipped:
 - The student is dependent and has no special circumstances, and
 - The parents “already completed” or “will file” an IRS 1040, and
 - The parents’ AGI is less than \$50,000, and
 - The response to the Parent Dislocated Worker field is blank, “No,” or “Don’t know,” and
 - The parents did not receive any federal benefits.

- The criteria for question (84 [now 83] – “Is Parent a Dislocated Worker?”) has been updated. A response is required if:
 - The student is dependent and has no special circumstances, and
 - The parents “already completed” or “will file” an IRS 1040, and
 - The parents’ AGI is less than \$50,000, and
 - The response to the “Filed Schedule 1?” field is blank, “Yes,” or “Don’t know,” and
 - The parents did not receive any federal benefits.

OR

 - The student is dependent and has no special circumstances, and
 - The parents “already completed” or “will file” a Foreign tax return, and
 - The parents’ AGI is less than \$50,000, and
 - The parents did not receive any federal benefits.
- The criteria for question (102 [now 100] – “Is Student or Spouse a Dislocated Worker?”) has been updated. A response is required if:
 - The student is independent, and
 - The student “already completed” or “will file” an IRS 1040, and
 - The student’s AGI is less than \$50,000, and
 - The response to the “Filed Schedule 1?” field is blank, “Yes,” or “Don’t know,” and
 - The student did not receive any federal benefits.

OR

 - The student is independent, and
 - The student “already completed” or “will file” a Foreign tax return, and
 - The student’s AGI is less than \$50,000, and
 - The student did not receive any federal benefits.
- We created new comment codes to address users who attempt to report filing a Schedule 1 with a non-eligible tax return.
 - Comments 403 and 404 alert the user that either the parents (403) or the student (404) indicated they filed a foreign tax return and a Schedule 1, which is not a possible combination. The comments prompt the user to review their answers to the relevant questions.
 - These new comments will appear on the eSAR, in Student Inquiry, and in ISIR Compare.

Removed the student and parent Exemptions fields

- The Exemptions fields and the IRS Exemptions Data Field Flags for both students and parents have been removed. The deletion of the exemptions questions has caused all questions after the Student Exemptions field to be renumbered.

- The Taxes Paid Calculator functions for both students and parents have been adjusted to compensate for the removal of the Exemptions fields.
- The text associated with comments 273 and 274 has been updated to remove references to exemptions. These comments are triggered when a user changes the answer to the parents' (273) or student's (274) income or income taxes paid. The comment prompts the user to also change the answer to the appropriate tax return status question to indicate that the parents or student filed a return. The text for these comments will appear on the eSAR and the "Comments" page in Student Inquiry.

Merged Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions field and Pensions field for both students and parents

- The two fields referenced above are now combined into one for students and for parents: Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions and Pensions field. This change corresponds to questions 45e and f (*now 44e*) – Student's Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions and Pensions, and 94e and f (*now 92e*) – Parents' Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions and Pensions. This change also applies to the associated IRS Data Field Flags.

Other FAFSA Updates

In addition to the FAFSA questions that were revised due to the 2018 IRS tax form changes, two other questions were updated.

- We revised the responses for questions 29 and 30 to add "college" and examples of the types of degrees:

29. Student's Grade Level in College in 2020-2021:

6 = 6 – 1st yr. college graduate/professional (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)

7 = 7 – Continuing graduate/professional or beyond (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)

30. Type of Degree/Certificate:

8 = 8 – Graduate/College graduate or professional degree (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.)

Identifying students eligible for the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act

The children of public safety officers who die in the line of duty may be eligible for the Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) Scholarship Act. Starting with 2020-2021, FAAs will now have the ability to set a CFH indicator in FAA Application/Renewal Entry and Correction Entry under Step Three: Student Status, before the Dependency Override question.

FAA Application/Renewal Entry and Corrections:

Children of Fallen Heroes Indicator:

1 = 1 – Eligible for CFH

2 = 2 – Not Eligible for CFH

Once set, the CFH Indicator will carry forward on subsequent transactions and will be pre-filled on renewal applications starting in 2020-2021.

The CFH indicator field also displays in the following locations:

- ISIR Compare
- In the FAA Information sections of Student Inquiry and the eSAR

When Pell Grant Flag is set to **Yes** and CFH indicator is **Yes**, SAR Comment Code 402 will display in FAA Access in Student Inquiry, ISIR Compare, and on the eSAR. The SAR comment text will display in Student Inquiry and on the eSAR.

Refer to the “Major Changes” section for additional details.

Decommissioning of R2T4

The FAA Access iteration of R2T4 will be decommissioned by the beginning of 2020. FAAs should transition to using the Common Origination and Disbursement System for all R2T4 processes before then. All records that were created in the FAA Access iteration of R2T4 will cease to be available after it is decommissioned. If schools need any of these records, they will need to export, print, or download them before the decommissioning.

Summary of Changes to the 2020-2021 CPS

Overview

This section describes changes to the following components of the CPS:

- CPS edits
- Need analysis
- Application output sent to students
- SAR comments
- Mailing addresses
- Database matches – For 2020-2021, no changes were made to the edits associated with the current external match agencies.

Information about changes to the ISIR Record Layout is found in the [2020-2021 Electronic Data Exchange \(EDE\) Technical Reference](#), which is available on the IFAP site.

CPS Edits

We changed the year references in data element field titles, changed year parameters in our edits by one year, and revised edits for requirement changes, such as FAFSA field changes, deleted fields, and combined fields. We also updated data element field numbers to reflect data element changes, including new field values and question name changes.

We also added and modified several CPS edits for 2020-2021. The significant edit changes are described below.

- We revised the eligibility edits for the Auto Zero EFC and Simplified Needs Test to account for changing FAFSA question 35 from “eligible to file a 1040A/EZ” to “did (or will) you file a Schedule 1”:
 - In prior years, if the applicant or parent responded “Yes” to the “eligible to file 1040A/EZ” question, that person would be eligible for the Auto Zero EFC and Simplified Needs edits.

- Beginning in 2020-2021, to be eligible for the edits, the applicant or parent would need to respond “No” to the “did (or will) you file a Schedule 1” question.
- We revised edits to alert students and parents who reported they filed a Schedule 1 that they cannot file a Schedule 1 if the Type of Tax Return field shows they also reported filing a foreign tax return (a tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State – type of income tax return = 4).
- We removed edits related to exemptions because the exemptions questions were removed from the FAFSA. This change also applies to the edits that were performed for family sizes that were significantly larger than the number of exemptions and for the calculation of estimated taxes.
- We revised the edits for the newly merged field for untaxed portions of IRA distribution and untaxed portions of pensions. This includes revisions to reject 2 edits, cross-year edits, and double-reporting edits.
- We added edits and comment 402 to identify applicants who may be eligible for additional Pell Grant funds under the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act.
- We added edits to identify applicants or parents who say they filed a Schedule 1 and a foreign tax return. It is not possible to file both. If the application was the result of electronic data exchange, transaction reject error code 11 will be sent back to the school or servicer, and the application will not be processed. If the applicant filed on paper, comments 403 or 404 will print on the SAR.
- We added edits to track initial and renewal applications completed via the myStudentAid mobile app or a combination of Student Application/Renewal Entry and the myStudentAid mobile app. This indicator will not carry forward on correction records. A new indicator will be included in the ISIR record layout and will print on the ISIR from EDEXpress. This indicator will not be included on the SAR and SAR Acknowledgement.

Need Analysis

We updated the need analysis offsets and income protection allowances (IPAs) based on legislative changes. The methodology for determining the EFC is found in Part F of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

The income threshold for an automatic zero EFC remains unchanged at \$26,000 for the 2020-2021 Award Year.

See the [May 31, 2019 Federal Register notice](#) posted on the IFAP Web site for changes to the 2020-2021 need analysis tables. You can also consult the [2020-2021 EFC Formula Guide](#), posted on August 26, 2019 for more information.

Application Output Sent to Students

For each transaction processed at the CPS, an output document is sent to the applicant: a paper SAR, SAR Acknowledgement, or an E-mail Notification of SAR Processing with information to access SAR data on the Web.

- **SAR** – This document notifies the student of application and eligibility status and provides a paper-based means for correcting or confirming application data. Applicants can also request a SAR by calling FSAIC. A SAR can also be printed from the myStudentAid mobile application.
- **SAR Acknowledgement** – This document notifies the student of application and eligibility status; however, if corrections are needed, the applicant uses FAFSA on the Web or may request that the school submit corrections through FAA Access or a mainframe system.
- **E-mail Notification of SAR Processing** – This e-mail notifies the student of application and eligibility status more quickly than the paper SAR or the SAR Acknowledgement. The applicant can view the SAR online and print the online SAR document as often as needed. The e-mail includes a link to the FAFSA on the Web Login page, where the applicant, after his or her identity is authenticated, can view and print the SAR.

For more information on how the CPS determines the type of output document sent to applicants, see Appendix D of the [2020-2021 ISIR Guide](#), which can be downloaded from the IFAP Web site.

Each year, we make annual rollover changes, such as updating the cycle year references, deadline dates, question/item numbers, question text and responses, tax lines, and P.O. Box numbers.

Paper SAR and SAR Acknowledgement Changes

There were significant changes made to the text printed on the SAR or SAR Acknowledgement based on tax form changes. These include question wording, labels, deletions, and renumbering.

- **Color** – Paper 2020-2021 SARs and SAR Acknowledgements are printed on orange paper to match the color scheme of the 2020-2021 paper FAFSA.
- **Tax Line References** – Significant changes were made to the tax line references; see the “Major Changes” section for a table of changes.
- **Exemptions Questions Deleted** – The parents and student/spouse exemptions questions were removed from the documents. Question numbering from this point on is revised.
- **Response Deleted** – The “Type of 2018 Tax Form Used” question was updated to remove the IRS 1040A or 1040EZ answer option, so you will no longer see that print on these documents.
- **CFH Indicator** – The new Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) Indicator prints on page 2 of the SAR and page 3 of the SAR Acknowledgement.

- **Label Changes** – Because of space limitations, some questions have different labels on the SAR Acknowledgement. The updated labels are described below.
- **Application Source/Type Code and Transaction Source Type Code** – We are adding new source/type codes to track applications and corrections submitted via the myStudentAid mobile app. The Application Source/Type code will display on the SAR and the Transaction Source/Type code will display on the SAR and SAR Acknowledgement. When this change is implemented, sometime after system startup, you might see the following source type codes:

8A = mySA mobile app application
 8C = mySA mobile app correction
 8E = mySA mobile app EZ FAFSA
 8G = mySA mobile app EZ FAFSA renewal application
 8R = mySA mobile app renewal application

SAR

- The questions about eligibility to file a 1040A or 1040EZ were renamed to, “Did (or will) you file a Schedule 1 with your 2018 tax return?” and “Did (or will) your parents file a Schedule 1 with their 2018 tax return?”
- In the Untaxed Income sections, the “Untaxed IRA distributions” and “Untaxed portions of pensions” questions were combined into one, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions.”

SAR Acknowledgement

- The “Eligible to File 1040A or 1040EZ?” questions were renamed to, “Student filed Schedule 1?” and “Parent filed Schedule 1?”
- In the Untaxed Income sections, the “Untaxed IRA distributions” and “Untaxed portions of pensions” questions were combined into one, “Untaxed portions of IRA distributions/pensions.”

SAR Comments

SAR comments appear on SARs that we mail to applicants and on eSARs that applicants view on FAFSA on the Web. The comment codes are printed on the ISIR report from EDEXpress.

Each year we make annual rollover changes, such as updating year references, item numbers, and deadline dates. We also revise agency names and update mailing addresses and phone numbers where necessary.

Beginning this year, we have myStudentAid mobile application versions of the SAR comments. These comments are worded slightly differently than the regular SAR/ISIR and Web versions of the comments. They are written to be mobile friendly. Like the Web version of the comments, we are not including the mobile application version of the SAR comment text in this guide.

- Item numbers after 38 in the comments were updated for the FAFSA question renumbering.

- Updated comments 273 and 274 to remove references to the exemptions field.
- Added comment 402 to identify applicants who may be eligible under the Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act.
- Added comments 403 (for parents) and 404 (for student and spouse) who have a conflict with the type of tax return filed and the filed a Schedule 1 questions. The IRS Form Schedule 1 cannot be filed with a foreign tax return.

For a full listing of the 2020-2021 SAR comment code text, including the new mobile application comments, and a description of changes to comment text, see the [2020-2021 SAR Comment Codes and Text](#) guide, located on the IFAP Web site.

Mailing Addresses

Document	Mailing Address
FAFSA English and Spanish (including Pacific Islanders)	Federal Student Aid Programs P.O. Box 7650 London, KY 40742-7650
Student Aid Report (SAR) English and Spanish	Federal Student Aid Programs P.O. Box 7651 London, KY 40742-7651
FAFSA on the Web Signature Pages English and Spanish (including corrections)	Federal Student Aid Programs P.O. Box 7652 London, KY 40742-7652

Getting Help

Customer Service

FSATECH Listserv

FSATECH is an e-mail listserv for technical questions about Federal Student Aid systems, software, and mainframe products. For information on subscribing, go to ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/services/fsatechsubscribe.html.

CPS/SAIG Technical Support

800/330-5947 (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806) or 319/665-4762 E-mail: CPSSAIG@ed.gov

Federal Student Aid maintains this call center to address questions about CPS processing, the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site, the CPS Web Applications Demonstration Web site, PC software such as EDEXpress and EDconnect, SAIG enrollment and data transmissions, as well as to collect system enhancement suggestions.

Representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Eastern Time (ET).

Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC)

800/4-FED-AID (800/433-3243); 334/523-2691; or TDD/TTY 800/730-8913

E-mail: StudentAidHelp@ed.gov

FSAIC serves the public with information about the federal student aid application process. FSAIC customer service representative support is provided in English and Spanish and includes a toll-free telephone number, interactive voice response unit (IVRU) self-service, e-mail, and Live Help. Customers include students, parents, and FAAs seeking general information about federal grant and loan programs, assistance with the FAFSA (paper and FAFSA on the Web versions, including FSA ID assistance), and student aid processing timeframes.

The FSAIC also assists with FAFSA completion and corrections, application status checks, requests to change addresses and federal school codes on the FAFSA, duplicate SAR requests, identification of loan holders (including contact information), and Federal Student Aid publication fulfillment.

For FSAIC's hours of operation, including weekend and holiday hours, visit the StudentAid.gov Web site at StudentAid.ed.gov/contact.

Reach FSA

855/FSA-4-FAA (855/372-4322)

This phone number provides a simplified way for the financial aid community to access these Federal Student Aid (FSA) School Contact Centers:

- COD School Relations Center
- CPS/SAIG Technical Support
- eZ-Audit Help Desk
- Foreign Schools Participation Division
- G5 Hotline
- NSLDS Customer Support Center
- Nelnet Total and Permanent Disability Servicer
- School Eligibility Service Group

Note: You can also continue to use the specific phone number for each contact center.

CPS Web Applications Demonstration System

Demonstration versions of the FAFSA on the Web and FAA Access to CPS Online Web sites are available through the CPS Web Applications Demonstration System, a training tool for students, parents, and your financial aid staff.

This demonstration system offers most of the features of the production Web sites for FAFSA on the Web (for example, completing and submitting FAFSAs) and FAA Access (for example, requesting ISIRs) and is preloaded with test data for your use.

The demonstration system can be accessed at fafsademo.test.ed.gov, and the 2020-2021 options will be available for use on September 30, 2019.

Users can access the current and prior cycle's versions of our Web sites in the demonstration system. For the FAFSA on the Web feature, we display a tab for the previous cycle on the "My FAFSA" page. Preloaded demonstration data will be available for both cycles.

In January 2019, Federal Student Aid removed the login process for the Web Demo system. You are no longer required to provide a user name and password to access the system.

To access specific functions within the FAA Access to CPS Online, you need a destination code and a Federal School Code.

- For the Destination Code, type: **TG99999**
- For the Federal School Code, type: **001002**

Other Helpful Documents

We encourage you to review other documents on the [IFAP](#) Web site for more information about changes to the 2020-2021 application processing system. Unless noted otherwise, all documents are available from the IFAP Web site:

- [2020-2021 Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers](#), June 13, 2019: Provides CPS system edits that can assist you in designing or building your own software to communicate with Federal Student Aid. A final version will be posted in October 2020.
- [2020-2021 CPS Test System User Guide](#), July 17, 2019: Describes Federal Student Aid's CPS Test System and the testing process and provides testing instructions for the mainframe test environment, as well as instructions for using the CPS Web Applications Demonstration (Web Demo) System.
- [2020-2021 FAFSA MyStudentData Download](#) guide, June 7, 2019: Describes the FAFSA MyStudentData Download file structure, including record layout and valid values.
- [2020-2021 Electronic Data Exchange \(EDE\) Technical Reference](#), July 15, 2019: Describes the 2020-2021 EDE process and provides programmer specifications and information that can assist you in building your own software to complement or replace the EDEExpress software that is used to exchange data electronically with Federal Student Aid.
- [2020-2021 SAR Comment Codes and Text](#), July 30, 2019: Describes changes to the SAR comment codes and associated text for 2020-2021 and database match information.
- [2020-2021 ISIR Guide](#), August 8, 2019: Provides in-depth information regarding the 2020-2021 ISIR.
- [2020-2021 EFC Formula Guide](#), August 26, 2019: Provides worksheets and tables that can be used to calculate an estimated EFC for students.
- [2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web Preview Presentation](#), October 2019: Microsoft PowerPoint presentation containing information and screen shots pertaining to the 2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web site.
- [SAVE System Instructions for US Department of Education \(School\) Users](#): Provides instructions to FAAs on setting up access to the DHS SAVE system for submitting third-step verification electronically.
- English and Spanish versions of the FAFSA and FAFSA instructions will be available in October 2019 for download from ifap.ed.gov/ifap/processing/fafsaAndSARMaterialsPR.jsp.
- English and Spanish versions of the draft SAR and SAR Acknowledgement will be available in October 2019 for download from ifap.ed.gov/ifap/processing/fafsaAndSARMaterialsPR.jsp.
- English and Spanish versions of the [2020-2021 Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet](#) will be available in October 2019.

- English and Spanish versions of the 2020-2021 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet will be available for download in October 2019 from [FAFSA on the Web](#). To access the worksheet, use the Search feature at the top of the FAFSA on the Web pages and search for “FAFSA on the Web Worksheet.”

Federal Student Aid Web Sites

- Common Origination and Disbursement (COD): cod.ed.gov
- CPS Web Applications Demonstration System: fafsademo.test.ed.gov
- DHS/SAVE IFAP information:
ifap.ed.gov/DHSSAVEEligibleNoncitizen/ElectThirdStepVerfi.html
- FAA Access to CPS Online: faaaccess.ed.gov
- FAFSA on the Web: fafsa.gov
- Federal Student Aid Training Conference Web site: fsaconferences.ed.gov
- FSATECH e-mail listserv subscription information:
ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/services/fsatechsubscribe.html
- Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site: ifap.ed.gov
- National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Professional Access Web site:
nsldsfap.ed.gov
- Student Aid.gov: StudentAid.gov
 - FSA ID: StudentAid.ed.gov/fsaid
- Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) Enrollment: fsawebenroll.ed.gov
- Student Loans: StudentLoans.gov
- Training information and registration Web site for upcoming Fundamentals of Federal Student Aid Administration training opportunities and learning resources: fsatraining.ed.gov