

The *FAFSA Deadline Act (H.R. 8932)*

In December 2020, Congress passed the bipartisan *FAFSA Simplification Act* to streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, address longstanding concerns with the federal student aid award process, and strengthen access to the Pell Grant. It made substantial changes to benefit students, foremost among them being changes to the formula to determine eligibility for federal student aid. These changes ensured that students from the lowest income families would automatically qualify for the maximum Pell Grant award, and institutions would receive better information to target their campus-based aid programs. The *FAFSA Simplification Act* also significantly reduced the number of questions on the FAFSA to decrease the time it takes students and families to complete the application.

Unfortunately, the Department of Education's flawed implementation of the *FAFSA Simplification Act* caused unnecessary delays and setbacks, preventing many students from accessing timely information about the federal student aid to which they are entitled.

What will the *FAFSA Deadline Act* do?

The [FAFSA Deadline Act](#) requires the Department of Education to release the FAFSA by October 1 instead of January 1 to help students access federal student aid in a timely manner.

What is the Department doing to help students complete the FAFSA?

To address FAFSA challenges, the Department has rolled out a series of resources to help students, families, and colleges. In February, the Department launched the [FAFSA College Support Strategy](#), which deployed experts to colleges to help financial aid offices navigate the new processing system. Additionally, the [FAFSA Student Support Strategy](#) gave grant funding to schools, states, and nonprofit organizations to increase their capacity to help students complete the FAFSA through interventions such as targeted advising, workshops, and multimedia campaigns. These efforts helped shrink the FAFSA completion gap.

The Biden-Harris Administration has a significant track record of helping student loan borrowers. It has taken steps to [reduce the burden of student debt](#) and ensure that student loans are not a barrier to educational and economic opportunity for students and families. The Administration secured a \$900 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award—the largest increase in a decade—and finalized new rules to help protect borrowers from career programs that leave graduates with unaffordable debts or insufficient earnings.

Additionally, the Biden-Harris Administration has approved debt relief for nearly 5 million (as of October 25, 2024) borrowers through various actions, including:

- \$74 billion for over one million borrowers through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.
- \$56.5 billion for more than 1.4 million borrowers through Income-Driven Repayment
- \$28.7 billion for more than 1.6 million borrowers who were cheated by their schools, saw their institutions precipitously close, or are covered by related court settlements.
- \$16.2 billion for almost 572,000 borrowers with a total and permanent disability.

To read letters of support for the *FAFSA Deadline Act*, [click here](#).