



The Better FAFSA is coming soon!

College Now is ready to support students and families apply for financial aid.

What & Why:

In late 2020, the US Congress passed a law requiring significant changes to the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) is calling this revised edition the **Better FAFSA**. Some of these changes included a complete revamp of the technology platform that houses the FAFSA, a reduction of the number of questions that must be answered by the parents and students, and a more secure FSA ID sign-in system.

When:

Due to these and other changes, FSA has announced the Better FAFSA will not open on October 1, 2023, as in past years. **Instead, the 2024-2025 Better FAFSA will open in December 2023**; a specific date has yet to be determined. In early Fall 2024, FSA plans to announce the Better FAFSA opening date.

How College Now Plans to Support Schools, Students, & Families:

Please know that College Now is actively preparing for this change. All advisors will receive extensive training on the Better FAFSA. We will be ready to answer questions about the Better FAFSA, offer in-class workshops to create FSA IDs, and offer up-to-date College Affordability and FAFSA workshops.

We know this change will impact the way schools schedules College Now advisors for the 2023-2024 school year. Here are some items to consider when working with your College Now team (advisor & manager) to plan service days for financial aid needs for 2023-2024:

- **September/October/early November:** Schedule FSA ID workshops in Senior classes to teach students how to create their FSA IDs. This will be critical as the process has changed to include a mandatory 2-step verification step. Both the student and the parents living in the household **MUST** have created an FSA ID before the student can begin the FAFSA. Needing the FSA ID prior to starting the FAFSA is a change for the 2024-2025 FAFSA.
- **October 1:** The CSS Profile will OPEN on October 1. This financial aid form will not change. Many of the highly selective colleges require it. Colleges in Ohio that require the CSS Profile include Case Western Reserve University, Oberlin College, Kenyon College, Denison University, the College of Wooster, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. A full list can be found at <https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>
Your College Now advisor can assist students and families with this form, which will be beneficial to students who are applying to meet Early Action or Early Decision deadlines.
- **October/early November:** Schedule College Affordability/Financial Aid events for students and families that includes information on the Better FAFSA.
- **December:** Schedule advising days & evening FAFSA workshops once the Better FAFSA opens in December.
- **January:** Schedule advising days & evening FAFSA workshops to encourage early completion of the FAFSA to ensure students may receive financial aid award letters in a timely manner.



College Now
Greater Cleveland

An Update on the Launch of the 2024-2025 Better FAFSA

- **February – March:** Schedule advising days for continued FAFSA support and College Now Scholarship application support.
- **March – April:** Schedule advising days for continued FAFSA support, financial aid award letter comparison, and college enrollment assistance.

We will continue to update you as we learn more about the roll out for the 2024-2025 Better FAFSA. Please contact us with any questions you may have about the delayed timeline.