

INDIANA COMMISSION for HIGHER EDUCATION

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Indiana Ranks Top 10 in Nation in FAFSA Submissions and Completions

The opportunity remains for students to file the FAFSA and access state financial aid

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The latest data from the <u>NCAN FAFSA Tracker</u> ranks Indiana as the tenth state in the nation for both <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</u> submissions and completions for the high school graduating class of 2024 as of April 19. Last year, Indiana ended the FAFSA filing cycle ranked 39th in the nation, making this a one-year, 29-position improvement.

Students with a completed FAFSA have successfully had their form processed by Federal Student Aid, and students with a submitted FAFSA have not had theirs processed or may require <u>corrections or edits</u> to complete. Indiana ranks first in the country in closing both the completion and submission gaps from 2023.

"The Commission activated a strategic outreach and communications effort to encourage FAFSA filing, but we were not alone in this important work," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "Our great team was joined by incredible partners in non-profit, education, government, philanthropy, and business to inform and assist Hoosier students and their families with completing the FAFSA."

In 2023, Indiana joined seven other states in adopting a FAFSA completion requirement for high school seniors with broad opt-out provisions available.

"Last year's historic legislation to require FAFSA completion for all Indiana high school seniors opens the door for thousands of students to access and afford education and training beyond high school," said Lowery. "The FAFSA is not just a form; it's a key to unlocking the opportunity for economic and social mobility and prosperity that higher education provides."

While Indiana's priority deadline to file the FAFSA has passed, students can still complete the form. Financial aid will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Commission's Outreach Coordinators are available to assist students and families in the filing process. To send a direct message to your region's Outreach Coordinator, visit <u>www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact</u>.

Additional resources are available

- The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Hoosier families can also access free FAFSA help through INvestEd by email (<u>outreach@investedindiana.org</u>) or phone at 317-715-9007. ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame 317-715-9007.

About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the <u>21st Century Scholars</u> early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020.