



**INDIANA COMMISSION** *for*  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**

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## **Indiana's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Priority Deadline is Quickly Approaching**

*Students should file by April 15 to access numerous aid opportunities*

**(INDIANAPOLIS)** – The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) encourages all high school seniors and current or prospective college students to file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) by April 15, 2024. Earlier this year, the Commission announced [a 60 percent completion goal](#) for the high school graduating class of 2024.

With over \$400 million in state aid available to students, Indiana ranks first in the Midwest and fifth in the nation in awarding need-based financial aid. However, according to the [National College Attainment Network](#) (NCAN), Indiana high school graduates left \$76 million in Pell Grants on the table in 2023 by not completing the FAFSA.

In 2023, Indiana joined seven other states in adopting a FAFSA completion requirement for high school seniors. Through March 15, 2024, 31.1 percent of current high school seniors have filed the FAFSA, making Indiana 27th in the nation in FAFSA filing. Progress toward the completion goal can be tracked on NCAN's interactive online dashboard at [www.ncan.org/fafsatracker](http://www.ncan.org/fafsatracker).

“Education and training beyond high school is associated with better economic and social outcomes for the individual,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. “Significantly higher wages, lower unemployment rates, increased levels of labor participation, and better health outcomes are just a few reasons why continued education is important. The FAFSA is a critical tool that allows students to access those greater outcomes.”

Research shows there is a significant association between FAFSA completion and postsecondary enrollment. [According to a 2019 study](#), FAFSA filers from the lowest socioeconomic quintile were 127 percent more likely to enroll in college in the fall following high school graduation.

“Many students do not submit a FAFSA because they don't know how or think the form is too complicated,” said Lowery. “We have heard from multiple people the new FAFSA is quicker and easier – with some reporting it takes just 10 minutes to file. Students and families are not alone—there are resources available to help them in the filing process. The Commission's statewide Outreach Coordinators are available for students, families, and educators to contact for support.”

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 [www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact).

### **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 ([outreach@investedindiana.org](mailto:outreach@investedindiana.org)) or phone at 317-715-9007. ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame 317-715-9007.

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**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 [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020.