

BEST PRACTICES FORUM: FAFSA 2017-18

January 20, 2017



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What to Expect in 2016/17

- MorraLee Keller, Director of Technical Assistance, National College Access Network
- Angela Johnson, Executive Director of Enrollment and Financial Aid, Cuyahoga Community College



How Higher Education is Responding

Moderator: Robert Durham, Director of Scholarship Services and Financial Aid, College Now Greater Cleveland, Higher Education Compact

- Mark Evans, Director of Financial Aid, Kent State University



FAFSA Changes – October is the New January

Mark Evans

Director Financial Aid
Kent State University

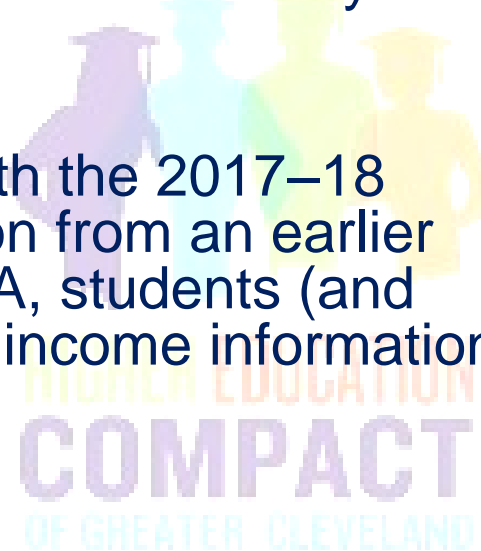
June 2, 2016



FAFSA® Changes for 2017–18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) process that will impact millions of students. Starting next year, students will be able to:

- **Submit a FAFSA® Earlier:** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.
- **Use Earlier Income Information:** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.



FAFSA Summary

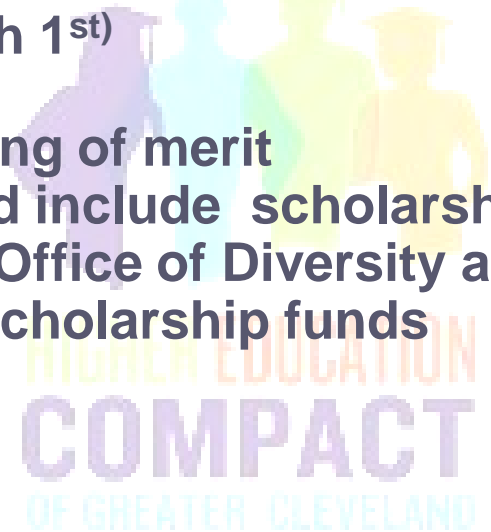
When a Student Is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income Information Is Required
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Prior Year (PY)	Prior-Prior Year (PPY)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available spring semester, January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available fall semester, October
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only requires taxes from previous year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires taxes from two years ago
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• File FAFSA & must make corrections to data once taxes are filed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taxes already filed & data is correct from previous year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorrectly aligned with college application calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better aligned with college application calendar

Prior Year (PY)	• Prior-Prior Year (PPY)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes it difficult to meet priority filing deadlines, which must be met to qualify for some forms of financial aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes conflicts with priority filing deadlines, which must be met to qualify for some forms of financial aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial aid information available nearing college decision deadline dates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial aid information available further in advance of college decision deadlines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced more stressful and less-informed college & financial aid decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for more at-ease, informed college & financial aid decisions

Kent State University: Year One-PPY Plan

- **Recommendation #1:** No change to the current undergraduate admission decision and notification timeline. The admission application opens August 1st and decisions begin in September.
- **Recommendation #2:** Promote filing the FAFSA Application by November 15th (previous was February 15th)
- **Recommendation #3:** Move the priority deadline for the FAFSA Application to December 1st (previous was March 1st)
- **Recommendation #4:** No change to the awarding of merit scholarships beginning in November. This would include scholarship programs from Undergraduate Admissions, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Financial Aid, and endowed scholarship funds



Kent State University: Year One-PPY Plan

- **Recommendation #5:** Move the packaging of need based aid for incoming freshmen to mid-December (previously was early March)
- **Recommendation #6:** Create an effective marketing communications plan for all constituencies that will be affected by these changes
- **Recommendation #7:** Merit renewal and need based packaging for returning students should occur in mid-February, after spring 15th day enrollment (previously was late March)
- **Recommendation #8:** Monitor other timeline changes over the summer



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Early FAFSA Resources

In early April 2016, Federal Student Aid will share 2017-18 FAFSA materials with schools

- Updated videos
- Updated publications
- Social Media content (Facebook and Twitter)

The materials will be available on the Financial Aid Toolkit website, www.financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov

Schools can start sharing this information with students and parents in the Spring of 2016



Early FAFSA Resources

In mid-August 2016, Federal Student Aid will launch the 2017-18 FAFSA Integrated Communications Campaign

- Outreach to students and parents via social media, in-person events, and webinars
- Updated information available on StudentAid.gov
- Partnership with schools, states, etc. to share messaging with students and parents



FAFSA Changes – October is the New January

Discussion / Questions



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The Trickle-Down Effect: What This Means for High Schools and Youth Serving Organizations

Moderator: Michele Scott Taylor, Chief Program Officer, College Now Greater Cleveland

- Melinda Franco, College Now Advisor, John Hay High School
- Jason Harris, College Now Advisor, Collinwood High School
- Donna Stevens, School Counselor, Facing History New Tech



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Thank you for attending!

- Please fill out your evaluation form prior to leaving.

