FAFSA UPDATE

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U.S. Department of Education
June 2025

Federal **Student Aid**
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

AGENDA

1. FAFSA Vision and Strategy

2. 2025-26 FAFSA Metrics

3. 2026-27 FAFSA Changes

4. Your Say on What Comes Next

5. Go Kerri Go

FAFSA STRATEGY

1 **Student Success**. For too many, the cost of higher education is prohibitively expensive, closing off pathways to upward mobility. Our #1 strategic priority is to open the doors of higher education to more students across America by increasing the number of students who successfully complete the FAFSA.

2 **Financial Aid Community Empowerment**. The financial aid process relies on an ecosystem of partners and stakeholders that help students apply for aid, understand their options, and make sound decisions. We are dedicated to empowering these partners to provide an excellent experience to students throughout the financial aid application process.

3 **Public Trust**. The FAFSA is one of our nation's greatest investments in human potential, and we intend to do everything possible to earn and sustain the trust of the American people and uphold the integrity of this program.

4 **Operational Excellence.** Our ability to serve students, partners, and the public relies on achieving operational excellence across the organization. We aim to set and uphold high standards for customer service, speed, quality, reliability, privacy, security, efficiency, and sustainability, with a focus on delivering better outcomes for students and partners.

5 **High-Performing Team.** The foundation of all that we do and hope to achieve is our people. We aim is to create a high performing team defined by a clear mission, effective leadership, highly engaged employees and contractors, a strong culture, continuous learning, transparent communication, and a focus on results. Overall, we strive to have fun and be awesome.

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW / ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

https://slido.com
3628827

2025-26 FAFSA DASHBOARD

Volume

Previous day plus total figures since the launch of 2025-26 (incl beta)

	6/23	Total
Starts	48,539	**14.9m**
Submissions	46,270	**13.2m**
Processed	66,399	**13.1m**
Corrections	18,168	2.4m

Performance

Quality metrics to understand customer experience

	6/23	Total
Satisfaction	94%	**94%**
Reasonable time to complete	89%	86%
Rejection Rate	0.7%	2.7%

Contact Center

Performance of the Contact Center for the previous week (through 6/20)

	Calls	Chat
Average Speed to Answer	**0:15**	0:05
Abandonment	0.4%	0.1%
Volume	21,591	1,697

2026-27 FAFSA AND BETA

INCREASING STUDENT SUCCESS

Created by students / dependent (6.30M)
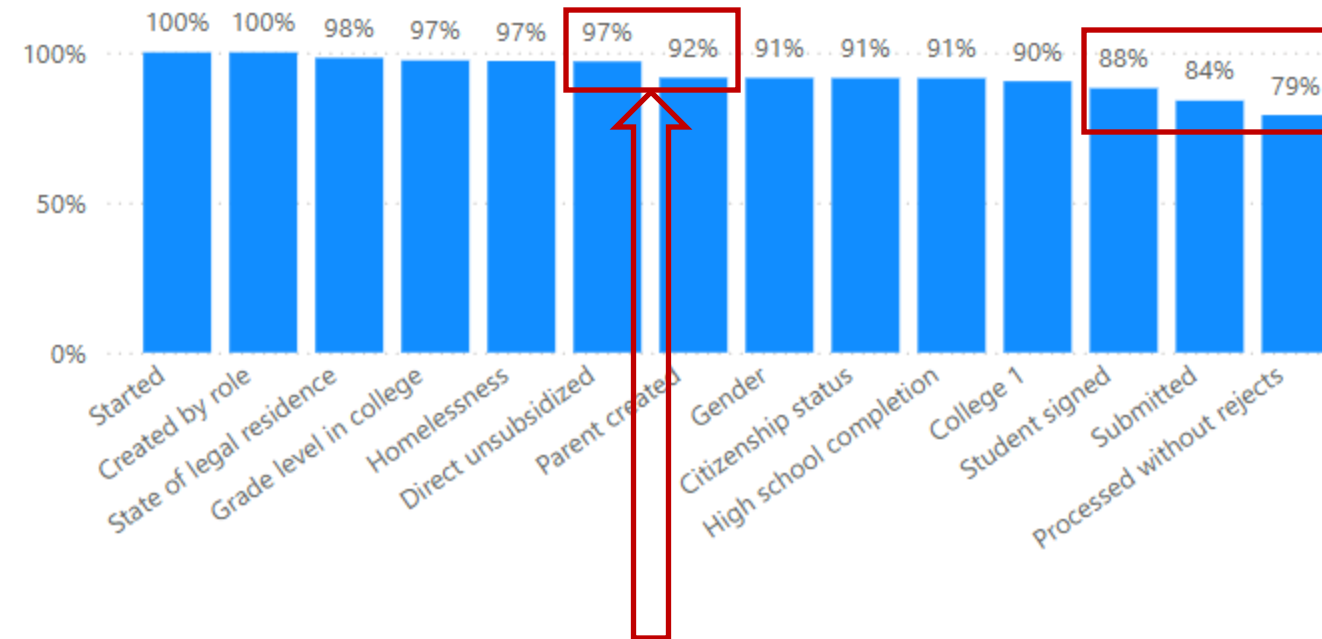
Biggest overall drop-off is getting the student over the finish line

Biggest single drop-off is parent invite

BIG MOVE #1: A NEW CONTRIBUTOR FLOW

Current State ☹

Parent

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month   *Day*   *Year*

Social Security Number (SSN)

Hide

☐ My parent doesn't have an SSN. **Checking this box when your parent does have an SSN may delay processing of your FAFSA form.**

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Send Invite

Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent. We may ask them to invite their spouse or partner.

Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

[   ] ⓘ

✈ Send Invite

Previous

Continue

9

Pending Submission

Check with your contributor

Parent Contributor

Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA form can't be submitted until your contributor(s) fill out their section of the form and sign it. Keep track of contributors for your FAFSA form and make sure it is submitted after all sections are complete.

Contributor	Role	Invite Code	Status
alcina.tran@email.com	Parent	j7xt2y4	☑ Invite Sent

✐ Manage Invitations

Accept 2026-27 FAFSA Invitation

Enter the code from the student who invited you to join their FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

[   ]

Submit

The new flow only applies if the student starts the form.

Need to accept an invitation for a different year?

Navigate to the My Activity page where you will see FAFSA forms from previous years where you've been invited as a contributor.

Don't have a contributor code?

Please speak with the student who invited you to their form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your contributor code.

BIG MOVE #2: REAL-TIME SSA MATCH

Bryan Howard ✓ · 3rd+
Director of Programs at Winning Futures (Veteran)
2w · 🌐

This will be a game changer for the Class of 2K26!

Portia Cook · 2nd
Advise TN College Advisor at Tennessee Higher Education C...
2w · 🌐

Praise God!

Your Account Was Successfully Created

What's Next?

✓ **Your Information Has Been Verified**

Your account has successfully been created and your personal information has been verified with the Social Security Administration (SSA).

💡 **Remember to Save Your Backup Code**

Your backup code lets you access your account in the event that you cannot use any other two-step verification method.

Your Backup Code Is:

Kimberly Wilson Daniel ✓ · 3rd+
Postsecondary Readiness Education Consultant - Empowerin...
2w · 🌐

This is great news for our families!!! The process is getting better!!!

Branden Lewis, MBA · 3rd+
Educator/Doctoral Candidate
2w · 🌐

Game changer!!

Danielle Malfara (D'Ambrosio) ✓ · 2nd   **+ Follow**
Coordinator of College and Career Counseling at Osceola C...
2w · 🌐

I don't think I've ever been happier to see a FAFSA update in my life! 🎉

Amber Peters (Mizz P.) ✓ · 2nd   **+ Follow**
🎓 College and Career Consultant| 🤎 Organizational Partne...
2w · 🌐

A win is a win!!! The FAFSA application process should go alot faster now!!!

2026-27 FAFSA BETA TESTING

FSA will conduct beta testing of the 2026-27 FAFSA launch in advance of releasing to the public by Oct. 1, 2025.

- Testing online and paper FAFSA submissions with students and families

- Validating that their ISIRs are successfully delivered and data is accurate

- Addressing user feedback and fixing critical issues along the way

Goals:

- Launch by October 1 with no critical blockers or user issues

- Continue to engage real students, families, and partners to inform our roadmap

2026-27 FAFSA BETA KEY MILESTONES

- ## August 4th: Beta 1 Opens
  - Events with a limited set of community-based organizations, districts, institutions
  - Validate ISIR delivery with local IHEs and vendors

- ## September 1st: Beta 2 Opens
  - Anyone can request access to the 2026-27 Beta FAFSA form on StudentAid.gov
  - Continued testing with institutions and vendors

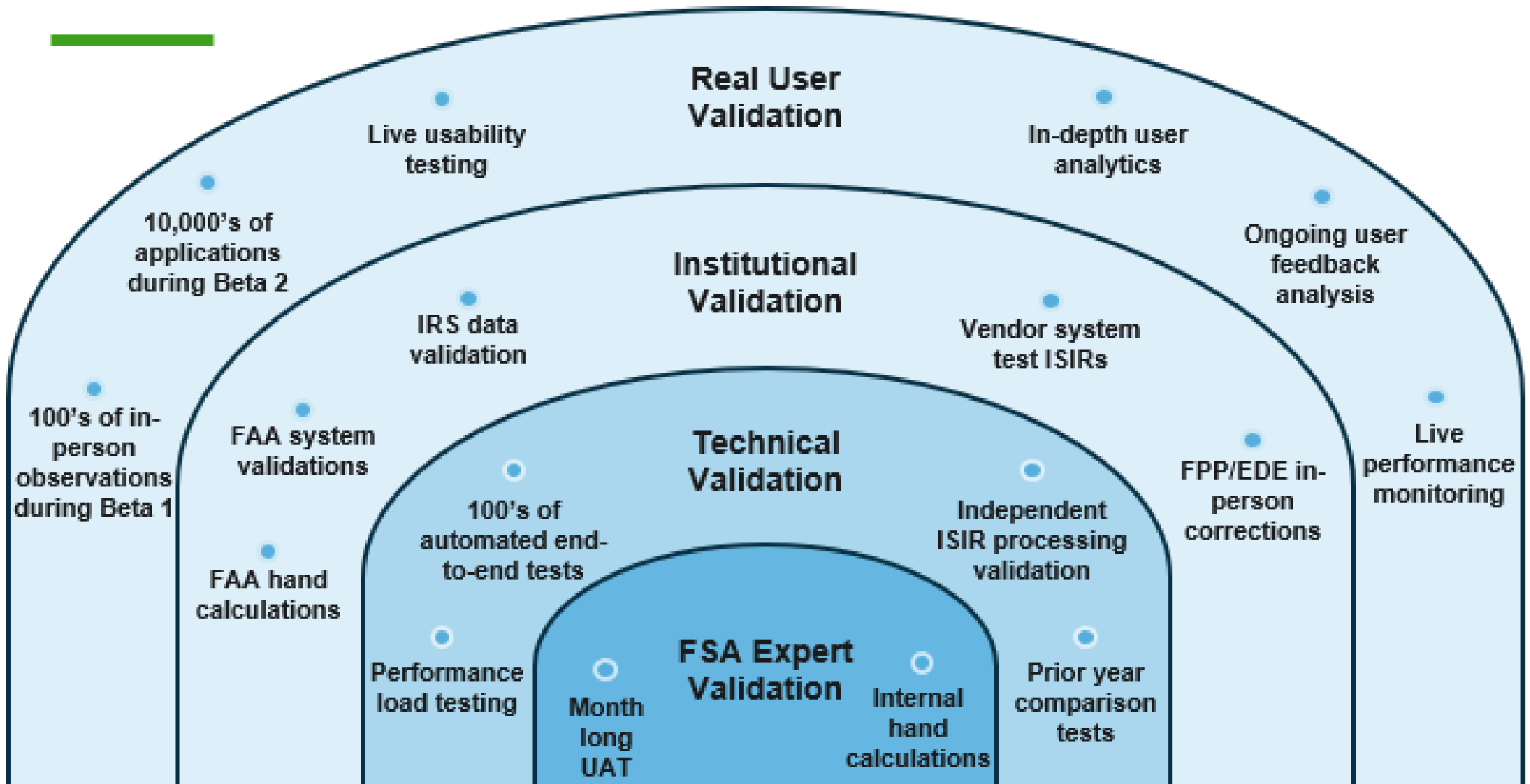- ## By October 1: General Release

2026-27 FAFSA Early Access Participation

You can now sign up to participate in the beta for the 2026-27 FAFSA form. We will approve requests for access depending on testing needs.

Request Early Access
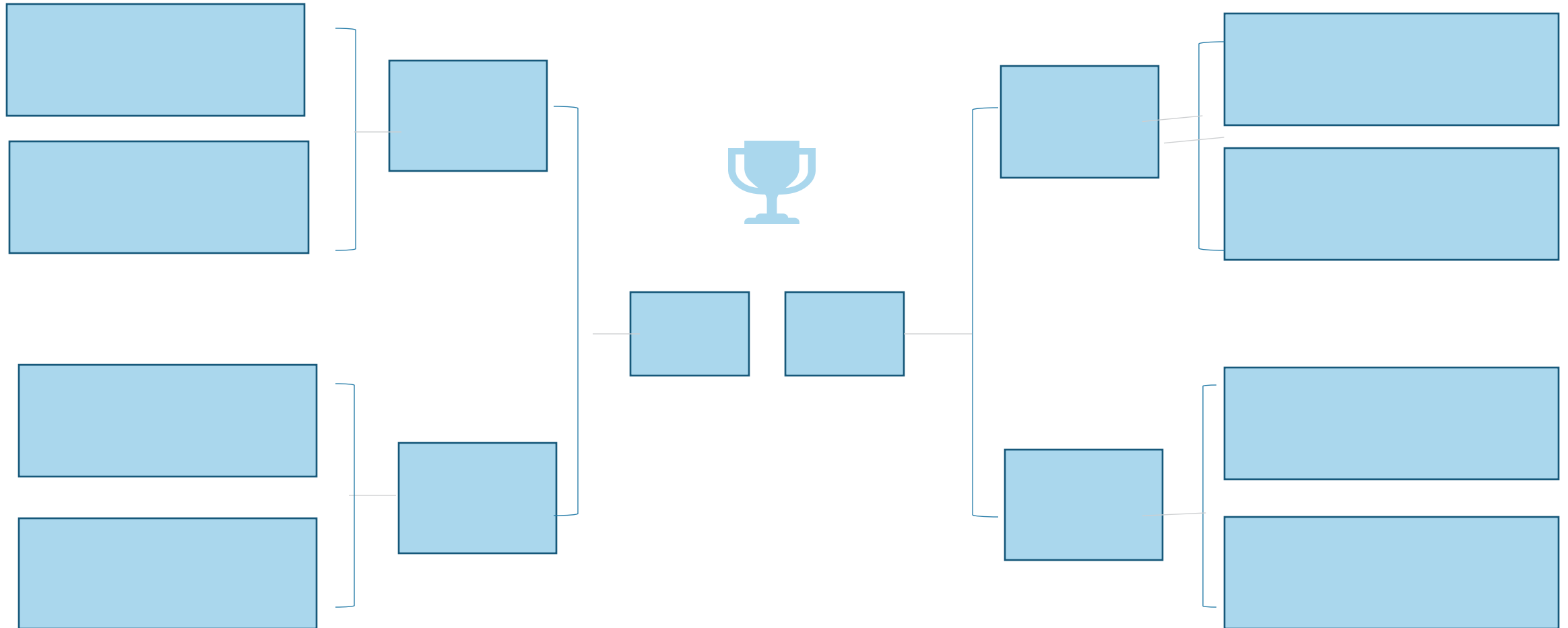
We'd love your help to spread the word about Beta 2!

LAYERS OF VALIDATION

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Real User Validation

Live usability testing

In-depth user analytics

10,000's of applications during Beta 2

Ongoing user feedback analysis

Institutional Validation

IRS data validation

Vendor system test ISIRs

100's of in-person observations during Beta 1

FAA system validations

Technical Validation

Live performance monitoring

100's of automated end-to-end tests

Independent ISIR processing validation

FPP/EDE in-person corrections

FAA hand calculations

Performance load testing

FSA Expert Validation

Month long UAT

Internal hand calculations

Prior year comparison tests

6

PRODUCT PRIORITIZATION

PRODUCT PRIORITIZATION-> FAFSA BRACKET

TOP SEEDS

- **Receive ISIRs in alternative, more modernized format (e.g., JSON or XML)**
  - Currently, ISIR data is delivered via a flat file or fixed-length batch file. Receiving it in a more modernized format could provide your IT team and software vendor more flexibility, and increase efficiency.

- **Real-time ISIR processing and delivery**
  - Currently, ISIRs are processed in batch jobs within 1-3 days of initial submission or correction. Real-time processing would allow you to receive individual transactions immediately, as soon as they are initially submitted or a correction is made.

CROWD FAVORITES (WE HEARD YOU BEFORE!)

- **Provide an option to compare transactions in FPP**
  - Currently, when a new ISIR record is generated, it is not always clear what fields have changed from the prior transaction. This feature would allow you to compare multiple transactions for a particular student so you can easily see what changed.

- **Manage multiple award/cycle years within FPP at the same URL**
  - It can be difficult to toggle between different award years, or to determine what award year you are currently viewing/logged into. This feature would allow you to toggle between award years within the same link.

- **Make it easier to manage multiple school codes within FPP**
  - This feature would allow you to set a default code, and/or make it more obvious which code you are working with. That way an institution with multiple schools could more easily manage across codes.
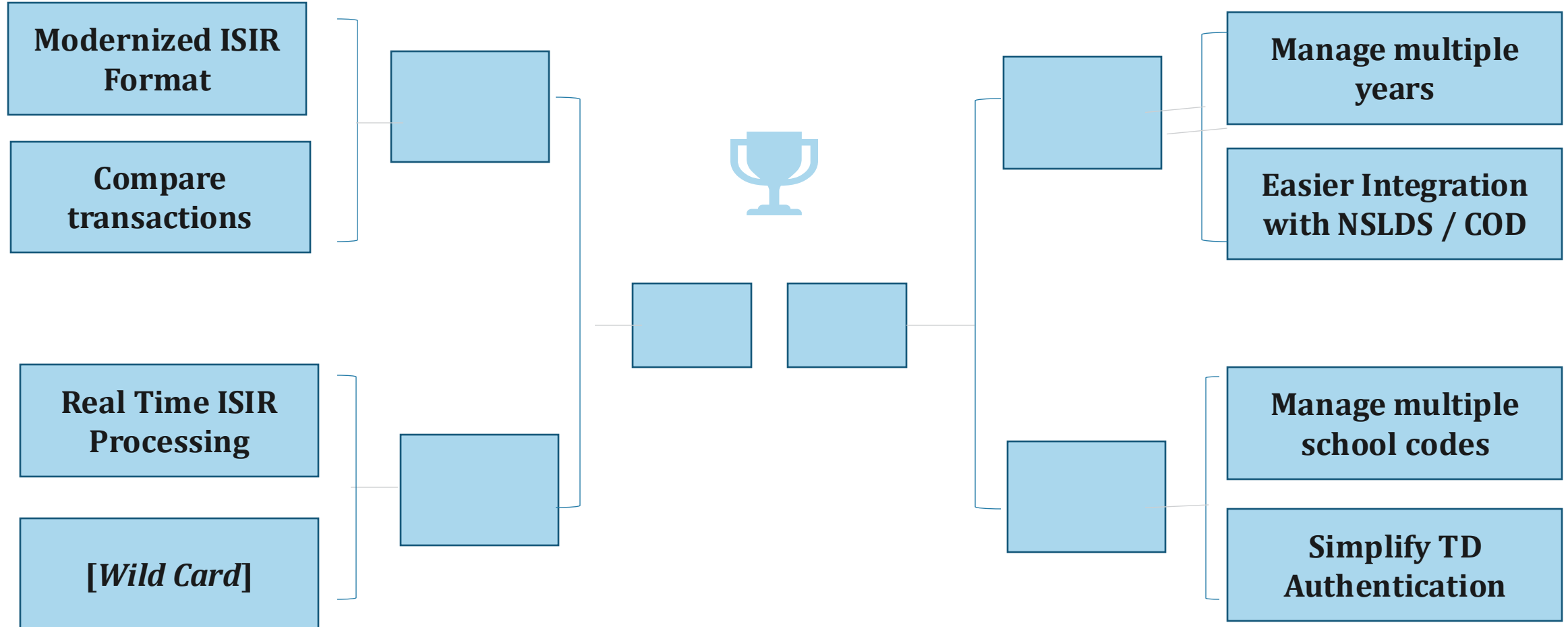
CINDERELLAS

- **Provide easier access to or integration with NSLDS and/or COD websites in FPP**
  - This feature would allow you to click a link in FPP to instantly open a student's record in NSLDS and/or COD. Future integrations might integrate data from those sites directly into FPP to make it easier for FAAs to access that information.

- **Simplify TDClient authentication**
  - Currently, logging into TDClient is complex and requires technical knowledge. This improvement would simplify the authentication process.

WILD CARD

Shout it out! What did we miss?

PRODUCT PRIORITIZATION: FAFSA BRACKET

| Modernized ISIR Format | | | | | Manage multiple years |
| Compare transactions | | 🏆 | | | Easier Integration with NSLDS / COD |

| Real Time ISIR Processing | | | | | Manage multiple school codes |
| [*Wild Card*] | | | | | Simplify TD Authentication |

SEMI-FINALS

FINALS!

VS

THANK YOU FOR PLAYING....

Now, please tell us officially:

Help us improve FAFSA processing by sharing your thoughts in a quick survey.

RECENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Recent policy guidance

- 2025-26 Federal Pell Grant Minimum and Maximum Award remain at $7395 and $740

  - Jan. 31 DCL: [2025-26 Federal Pell Grant Maximum and Minimum Award Amounts](#)

- FAFSA 60-day comment period (almost 3,000 comments)

- FAFSA 30-day comment period ended June 13th

- Information on SNAP Benefits for Eligible Students

  - Jan. 16 EA: [(GENERAL-25-08) SNAP Benefits for Eligible Students](#)

Recent policy guidance

Expanded Late Disbursement Flexibilities – GEN-25-25

- In EA-GENERAL-25-25 (published May 27, 2025) we extended the late disbursement flexibilities that were previously limited to applicants who applied via the paper (PDF) FAFSA form, to all applicants who applied during the 2024-25 application cycle, regardless of method (online or paper).

- Flexibilities are extended to students who are impacted by a known issue that prevented their official SAI from being calculated by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) prior to the end of their enrollment.

- Check the Known Issues Guide in the FAFSA Simplification Section of the Knowledge Center

- Use the additional flexibilities to award financial aid and make late disbursements to students whose applications were impacted by known issues and who would have otherwise been eligible to receive Title IV funds prior to the end of their enrollment during the 2024-25 cycle.

Recent policy guidance

Technical FAQ and Known Issues Guide

Information specific to production ISIRs is available in the Technical FAQ and Known Issues Guide* (last updated May 12, 2025).

FAFSA Form Issue Alerts

For issue alerts related to the FAFSA form, continue reading below. The list of issues impacts both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 cycles, unless otherwise noted.

Go to Open FAFSA Form Issues section

Go to Open FAFSA Submission Summary Issues section

Go to Open FAFSA Corrections Issues section

Recent policy guidance

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Technical Frequently Asked Questions and Known Issues
(TeFAQKI)

May 12, 2025

Recent policy guidance

This document includes:

Open Issues

Last updated: 05/12/2025

ISIRs delivered with blank SAIs and no reject code. (Updated 5/12/25)

Status: Open (Reopened on 4/10/2025)

Description: Due to missing data from the Federal Tax Information Module (FTIM), schools were receiving a small number of ISIRs with no SAI and no rejected code. In some instances, the Department discovered that the blank SAI was caused by a missing family size value, which required a student correction to resolve.

Resolution: Starting the week of Feb. 24, 2025, the Department temporarily assigned Reject Code 68 and Comment Code 329 to these impacted records. Schools should have then received new system-generated ISIRs with the FPS Correction Reason code set to "A," reflecting the FTIM Result Update. In these cases, the records no longer have the Reject Code 68

2025–26 verification

Items to be verified, by Verification Tracking Group

V1 TAX FILERS	V1 NON-TAX FILERS	V4 ALL	V5 TAX FILERS	V5 NON-TAX FILERS
Income information	Income earned from work**	Identity/ ~~Statement of Educational Purpose~~	Income information	Income earned from work**
Family size*	Family size*		Family size*	Family size*
			Identity/ Statement of Educational Purpose	Identity/ Statement of Educational Purpose

* Verification not required if manual update matches number transferred from IRS
** For individuals not required to file a 2022 income tax return

Revised documentation for tax-related identity theft

DCL GEN-24-10   Federal Register Notice 89 FR 71893
* APP-25-16

Recent policy guidance

2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation - [2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation | Knowledge Center](#)

- Amended **APP-25-16** expanding identity verification (V4) for first time students attending the summer semester

- Currently limited to summer pending updated FSA fraud prevention

- Updates to acceptable documentation for identity verification

  - Present ID in person or on video

  - Use a 3rd party vendor that meet NIIST standards

  - No more Statement of Educational Purpose

Recent policy guidance

2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation - [2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation | Knowledge Center](#)

- In the past we have requested individuals who are victims of IRS tax-related identity theft to obtain a Tax Return DataBase View (TRDBV) transcript from the IRS for verification purposes.

    - Due to the long processing time, individuals who are victims of IRS tax-related identity theft can provide a copy of their signed 2023 income tax return and applicable schedules and must also provide an IRS 4674C letter (a letter from the IRS acknowledging the identity theft) or a statement signed and dated by the tax filer indicating that he or she was a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft, and the IRS is aware.

Recent policy guidance

2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation - [2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation | Knowledge Center](#)

- A confined or incarcerated student is only required to verify their identity and sign the statement of educational purpose. Institutions are not required to verify a confined or incarcerated student selected under Verification Tracking Group V1.

  - Acceptable documentation of identity includes official IDs issued by the correctional facility. In addition,

  - If a confined or incarcerated student is unable to submit a signed and notarized Statement of Educational Purpose, a school may accept a signed statement from an authorized official who works for the correctional facility or the oversight entity confirming to the school that the individual who completed the FAFSA form and was selected for verification is the person signing the Statement of Educational Purpose.

Recent policy guidance

Students who have a pseudo-Social Security number (SSN) [2024-25 and 2025–26 FAFSA® Updates | Knowledge Center](#)

- FAFSA applicants from the Freely Associated States (the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia) who do not have an SSN are assigned a "pseudo-SSN"

- Returning applicants who have a pseudo-SSN should reuse their assigned pseudo-SSN when filing the FAFSA form in subsequent years (will automatically be associated with their FAFSA form when they log in with their StudentAid.gov account).

- Returning applicants who complete the paper FAFSA form are instructed to enter their previously assigned pseudo-SSN

Recent policy guidance

Students who have a pseudo-Social Security number (SSN) 2024-25 and 2025–26 FAFSA® Updates | Knowledge Center

- In very few cases, some returning applicants who were previously assigned a pseudo SSN were incorrectly assigned a new pseudo-SSN by the system.

  - This created duplicate records and made it difficult for institutions to track lifetime eligibility used [LEU] and aggregate loan limits.

  - Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) sweeps accounts twice per week to match new pseudo-SSN customer records with existing records. Any institutions that continue to see students with multiple pseudo-SSNs should contact the FSA Partner and School Relations Center to have the records manually linked.

Recent policy guidance

FAFSA Submission Summary request functionality in FAFSA Partner Portal (FPP) for paper filers [2024-25 and 2025–26 FAFSA® Updates | Knowledge Center](#)

- On March 30, the Department implemented new functionality in the FPP to enable the reprinting of a FAFSA Submission Summary for applicants who applied using the paper FAFSA form (for both 2024-25- and 2025-26)

- Feature is not limited to, but especially necessary for incarcerated students

- FAAs can request the reprint of a FAFSA Submission Summary on behalf of the student, with the option to indicate it be mailed to either the student's address on the FAFSA form or to a new mailing address

Recent policy guidance

FAFSA Submission Summary request functionality in FAFSA Partner Portal (FPP) for paper filers [2024-25 and 2025–26 FAFSA® Updates | Knowledge Center](#)

- FAAs should coordinate with the student (and the student's correctional facility when applicable) to determine the best address to send the FAFSA Submission Summary reprint.

- If the student elects to have the reprint sent to an address other than what is on the FAFSA, the address provided for the reprint will not overwrite the address on the FAFSA record.

- FAAs can access this new feature in FPP by searching for a specific student, selecting the applicable transaction, and clicking the "FAFSA Submission Summary Reprint" button that displays underneath the Transaction Details section.

Recent policy guidance

Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) request functionality. [2024-25 and 2025–26 FAFSA® Updates | Knowledge Center](#)

- On March 30, the Department restored the ability for institutions and states to request a single ISIR or a specified group of ISIRs from the FAFSA Processing System.

- The feature can be accessed on the FAFSA Partner Portal

- Requests may be submitted by the Destination Point Administrator enrolled for FAFSA batch services for your organization, or by FAFSA Online Services users enrolled for ISIR requests.

- To avoid delays state agencies and institutions should consider limiting ISIR requests to a one-month time range.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations

- The student self-reports their status by indicating they have a determination from one of the authorized entities:

  - McKinney-Vento; The director (or designee) of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness; The director (or designee) of a Federal TRIO program or a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate program (GEAR UP) grant; an FAA at another institution who documented the student's circumstance in the same or a prior award year.

- In the absence of a determination by the entities above, an applicant who has indicated that they are an unaccompanied homeless youth will *follow the same FAFSA flow* as a Provisionally Independent student; but

- Unaccompanied homeless youth determinations are separate from professional judgments made under the unusual circumstances provision

Second Chance Pell and Prison Education Programs

Incarcerated Students

- Monthly and Annual Reporting Requirements

- Second Chance Pell (SCP) to Prison Education Program Transitions (Revised SCP ends on June 30, 2026)

- PEP Milestone 3: The institution must submit the PEPs to the Department for approval by January 1, 2026, and must have PEP programs approved before July 1, 2026, to continue offering Pell Grants to enrolled students

- GENERAL-24-118 Revised Instructions for Applying for Prison Education Programs

Reminders:

- The title of the program must include "Prison Education Program." For example, if the program is "Business Administration," you would enter "Business Administration - Prison Education Program"

- Ensure all signature are included

- Ensure all required "best interest determination" elements are included

- Clearly identify transfer and release data components

Quick Updates

- Look out for changes to FISAP for 26-27 funding with the new 24-25 SAI and Pell eligibility formulas
  - Max Pell vs Auto Zero;
  - ISIR intermediate values and FISAP Total Income
    - Keep in mind FISAP Total Income is FTI

Other policy guidance

- Guidance on FAFSA data sharing
  - Dec. 2., 20240 EA: [(GENERAL-24-149) Guidance on Consent for FAFSA Data Sharing and Automatic IDR Certification](#)
  - Nov. 7, 2024 EA: [(GENERAL-24-129) Guidance for State Grant Agencies and Institutions of Higher Education on the Access, Disclosure, and Use of FAFSA Data for the Application, Award, and Administration of Student Aid Programs](#)
    - Updated Guidance regarding:
      - Permitted access, disclosure, and use of FTI and FAFSA and non-FAFSA data
      - Clarification on how FAFSA and FTI data may be used in the "application, awarding, and administration of aid", research, FAFSA completion initiatives, means-tested benefits outreach, and aggregate reporting.
    - Attend Session: Data Sharing: Best Practices, Challenges, and Compliance Considerations with Dennis Kramer (Thursday June 26 – 1:30pm – 204AB)

More Resources

- Financial Aid Toolkit

- GEN-24-10 2025–2026 Award Year: FAFSA Information to be Verified and Acceptable Documentation

- APP-25-16 Significant Actions to Prevent Fraud through Identity Verification

- GENERAL-25-25 Information on Expanded Late Disbursement Flexibilities for 2024-25 FAFSA Forms and Additional Information on Remaining Processing Errors

- Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Programs; 2025-26 Award Year Deadline Dates

- GEN-24-88 Reminder – Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations

- EA GENERAL-24-71 Resolving Conflicting Information

- EA GENERAL-24-50 Title IV Eligibility of Citizens of Freely Associated States

Other Resources

(1) **Knowledge Center**

Knowledge Center Homepage

Subscribe for daily or weekly email updates.

(2) **FSA Training Center**
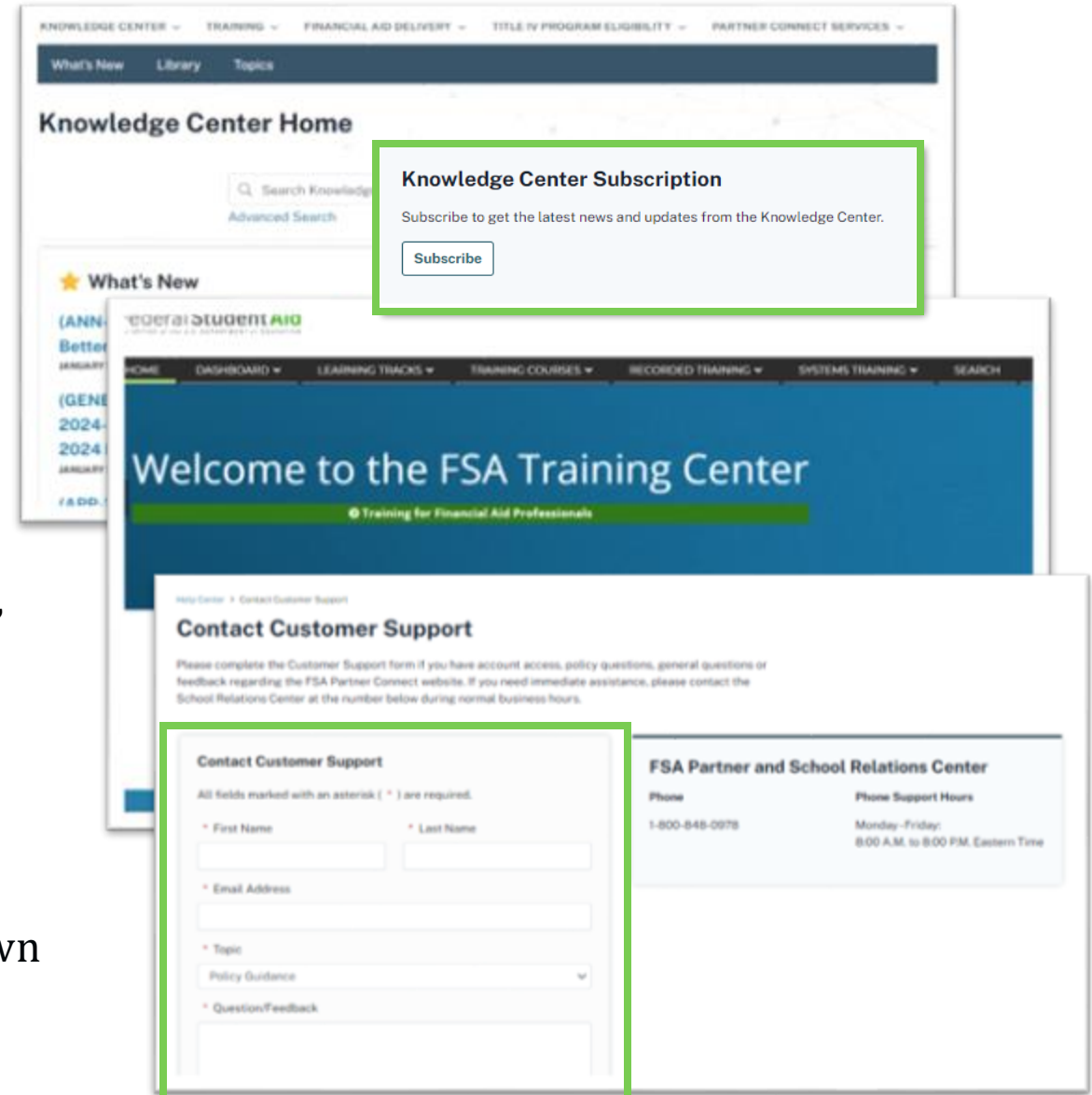
FSAtraining.ed.gov

View learning tracks, training courses, videos, and software training.

(3) **FSA Partner Connect Help Center**

Contact Customer Support

Choose "Policy Guidance" from Topic dropdown list to ask policy questions.

THANK YOU!

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