



NCHER



BRIEFING

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FSA Announces Roadmap, Date Range for 2024-2025

FAFSA Launch

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) released a [roadmap](#) outlining delivery dates and resources for the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and confirmed that the new FAFSA will be released sometime in December of this year, for students applying for aid for this school year. "The redesigned FAFSA form is the most ambitious and significant redesign of the federal student aid application and delivery in decades, and will significantly simplify how students, parents, and other educational stakeholders use the FAFSA form starting this year," FSA's announcement reads. "The Roadmap outlines the series of resources and tools that will be available over the coming months to individuals who engage with and use the FAFSA form to apply for federal student aid, leading up to the launch of the

revamped 2024-25 form, which is on track for December 2023.”

FSA said that, in the Spring 2023, several tools will become available to aid offices to explain the differences between the Expected Family Contribution and the new Student Aid Index. A crosswalk, comparison case studies, and Pell Grant look-up tables will be provided. The roadmap states that, in April 2023, the “near-final” FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) layout will be released to help software developers and states understand what that layout will look like and prepare for any applicable system updates. In July 2023, FSA will release sample ISIR datasets for software developers to test their eligibility calculations and, in October, the final ISIR layout will be released.

Between Spring and Fall this year, financial aid offices will receive policy guidance to ensure they are compliant with the FAFSA Simplification Act and the FUTURE Act, which includes the expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to incarcerated students, use of federal tax information, homeless youth determination, and FAFSA reporting requirements. FSA also noted that it will release FAFSA specification guides this month with several volumes on topics such as a summary of changes and implementation schedule of the FAFSA processing system, technical changes to the ISIR layout, technical changes to agency matches, and testing of the web demo system. There will also be 10 virtual training sessions on the 2024-25 FAFSA this summer for financial aid administrators. Two of the 10 training sessions will be live question-and-answer sessions with FSA. By December 2023, a demonstration version of the FAFSA for counselors and aid offices will be released that will allow financial aid administrators to display the new FAFSA for educational purposes or when aiding families or students in completing the form. Additionally, FSA announced that it will create two portals – one for questions regarding the road map timeline and another for questions from the FSA trainings.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Hears Budget Testimony from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen

Today, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing titled, “Review of the FY 2024 Budget for the Department of the Treasury,” with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

In his opening statement, Subcommittee Chairman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) mentioned the banking system struggles of the past few weeks and gave the Biden Administration

“high marks” for their response. He also complimented the Administration for the sanctions placed on Russia, and said he believes the nation could go further. He also raised concerns about the prolonged fight to raise the debt ceiling and called for additional resources for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In his opening statement, Subcommittee Ranking Member Bill Hagerty (R-TN) said the U.S. has accumulated an “unsustainable” amount of debt that puts the country at a competitive disadvantage. He also said that he does not think Treasury Secretary Yellen has done enough to curb inflation.

In her [prepared testimony](#), Secretary Yellen touted the Treasury’s work shoring up the banking system this month, recovering from the pandemic, and supporting the conflict in Ukraine. She said, “Two years into this Administration, Treasury continues to serve at the forefront of our nation’s response to some of its most urgent challenges. We have advanced our country’s domestic and international economic priorities – thanks to the resources that you have provided us.” She voiced her support for the President’s budget request, specifically for increased funding of the IRS, increased support for the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, and increases for Treasury’s Departmental Offices.

For additional coverage, including an archived webcast of the hearing, visit the [committee website](#).

Federal Reserve Holds FOMC Meeting, Raises Interest Rates Another 0.25 Percent

Earlier today, the Federal Reserve held a meeting of its Federal Open Market Committee where it voted to raise the federal fund interest rate by another quarter of a percentage point in its latest bid to curb inflation. The move is likely to be controversial, given the recent failures in the financial sector and pressure from Congressional Democrats who fear that higher interest rates could raise the unemployment rate. Those in favor of the interest rate hike, however, argued it would show the banking sector is stable enough to handle higher rates. In comments following the meeting, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the Fed continues to be concerned about inflation, and raising interest rates is one of the few tools at its disposal. In the last year, the Fed has steadily continued to raise interest rates – which are now between 4.75 and 5 percent – as it tries to target inflation. For additional coverage, see this article from [The Hill](#).

House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development Releases Witness List for Hearing on Federal Student Loan Policies

The House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development released the witness list for tomorrow's hearing titled, "Breaking the System: Examining the Implications of Biden's Student Loan Policies for Students and Taxpayers." The witness list includes:

- Mr. Marc Goldwein, Senior Vice President and Senior Policy Director, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
- Dr. Adam Looney, Director, Marriner S. Eccles Institute for Economics and Quantitative Analysis
- Dr. Carlo Salerno, Economist and Financial Aid Expert
- Mr. Sameer Gakaree, President, The Institute for College Access and Success (Minority Witness)

In a statement announcing the hearing, which will be held at 10:15 a.m., on Thursday, March 23rd, Subcommittee Chairman Burgess Owens (R-UT) said, "President Biden lacks the executive authority to implement his \$1 trillion executive re-write of the federal student loan program and overlooks this single basic fact: Debt cannot be canceled, only transferred from those who borrowed to those who did not. Creating an offramp for responsibility, driving up college costs, disincentivizing real loan reform, and forcing hardworking American taxpayers to pay for someone else's loans is nothing more than a backdoor attempt at free college with abysmal implications for students, taxpayers, and our economy. Republicans are working to responsibly reform the nation's student loan program through Congressional action, and our first subcommittee hearing will tackle this critical issue head-on." The hearing will be broadcast on the Committee's [YouTube channel](#).

U.S. Department of Education News

For today's Federal Register, click [here](#).

The following announcement was posted to Federal Student Aid's Knowledge Center:

- [\(GENERAL-23-17\) Implementing the 2024-25 FAFSA Process](#)
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General News

[Higher Ed Dive](#) examined what potential budget cuts would look like for the U.S. Department of Education as the House and Senate begin the budget and appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2024.

[Fox 9 News](#) reports that the State of Minnesota voted to provide financial aid to undocumented college students.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports that Pearson recently announced that it will sell its online services, including its Online Program Management business.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reported on 2U employees who provided public feedback to the U.S. Department of Education on its recent guidance for Online Program Management services without disclosing that they worked for 2U.

An online version of this Daily Briefing is available to view and print from the [Daily Briefing Section](#) of the [NCHER e-Library](#).

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