

2018-19 FAFSA Updates

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U.S. Department of Education

AGENDA

- Enhancements for 2018-19 Startup
 - Non-IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) changes
 - IRS DRT Changes
- Questions or Comments



2018-19 FAFSA START-UP ENHANCEMENTS

Non-IRS DRT Changes

SECURE CONNECTIONS

Issue

The Federal Government is concerned that federal public-accessible Web sites and Web services do not have the strongest privacy and integrity protection available for public Web connections.



Resolution

- FSA Web sites with the “http://” or “www” prefix will change to “https://”
- Acceptable browser ceiling will be raised
- Provides a higher level of security for FAFSA users

BANNER DISCLAIMER

Issue

It can be challenging for the Department of Education to track and produce sufficient evidence to prosecute unauthorized FAFSA users seeking to benefit from commercial or private financial gain.

Resolution

- FAFSA will feature disclaimer banner that requires users to acknowledge that
 - » The Dept. of ED monitors the FAFSA for criminal activity
 - » Users consent to such monitoring
 - » Unauthorized use of the FAFSA for commercial or private financial gain is subject to criminal prosecution
- Provides a higher level of security for users and helps decrease criminal activity

PARENT MARITAL STATUS



Issue

Parents have difficulty answering the parent marital status question correctly.

Resolution

- Question 59 has been modified
- Term “legal” only applies to “unmarried and both parents living together”

HOMELESS YOUTH

Issue

Applicants aged 22 or 23 who indicate on the FAFSA that they are homeless must rely on the FAA to set a Homeless Youth Override flag in order for the applicant to complete the FAFSA as an independent student.



Resolution

- Logic for FAFSA questions 56, 57, and 58 is modified
- Questions display to all applicants who indicate they are homeless
- Allows applicants aged 22 or 23 to indicate if they've received a homeless determination

CHANGES TO FAFSA QUESTIONS

Issue

Applicants and parents continue to misreport scholarship and grant aid in questions 44d and 93d.

Resolution

- Question 44d will be changed to read “Taxable college grant and scholarship aid **reported to the IRS as income**. Includes AmeriCorps benefits (awards, living allowances and interest accrual payments), as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.”
- Question 93d will be changed to read the same with the addition of “Your parents” at the beginning.

Issue

The Selective Service question was not inclusive of the transgender community.

Resolution

- Question 21 will be reworded to read “Were you born male or female?”
- Labels will be reworded to read “Male or Female?”

REORGANIZED HELP PAGE

Issue

Parents have difficulty finding answers to questions from their point-of-view.

Resolution

- FAFSA Help Page now features a separate parent section
- Helps ensure a better user experience for parents



IRS DRT Changes

IRS DRT SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS



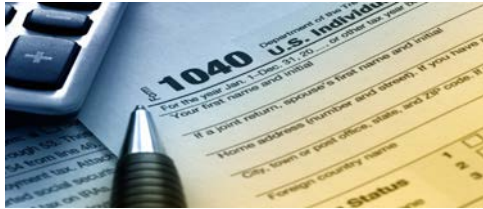
Issue

Concerns were raised that cyber criminals could use the IRS DRT to steal sensitive taxpayer data.

Resolution

- Protect sensitive taxpayer data
- New encryption safety measures
- Different user experience

AMENDED RETURN FILERS & THE IRS DRT



Issue

Applicants and parents who self-report that they amended their tax return cannot use the IRS DRT to transfer tax return information into the FAFSA.

Resolution

- Amended tax return filtering question removed
- Applicant or parent can use the IRS DRT to import their original return
- IRS indicates if there's an amended return on file

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Are there any questions or comments?

