The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Changes for 2007-2008

There are a number of changes to this year’s FAFSA. To help prevent confusion when your students complete the FAFSA, especially for renewal applicants, please note the following changes and revisions:

1. The 2007-2008 FAFSA colors are yellow for student information and purple for parent information.
2. The design and layout of the FAFSA have also changed. The application pages are now numbered one to four. The “Notes” or instruction pages are numbered six through ten.
3. Question 25 asks students to indicate expected enrollment status from a code in the Notes.
4. Question 26 now asks students to enter a code from the Notes to indicate if they are interested in work-study and/or loans.
5. Question 31 which asks if a student was convicted for drug offenses has been revised. Convictions are counted only if offenses occurred during a time of enrollment when the student received federal student aid.
6. A new dependency question (Question 54) allows a student serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training to be considered independent.
7. The FAFSA has added new instructions for Questions 56-89 to emphasize that grandparents, foster parents and legal guardians are not considered parents unless they have legally adopted the student.
8. Two new questions with five separate data elements (Questions 92-96 for independent students and Questions 71-75 for parents) ask whether anyone in the household received benefits from any of the five federal means-tested benefit programs in 2006: SSI, Food Stamps, Free and Reduced School Lunch, TANF and/or the special nutritional program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). A student/parent who receives such a benefit and has an income at a certain level may qualify for a simplified Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculation or an automatic zero EFC for maximum financial aid consideration.
9. Students can request that additional colleges, universities or other post-secondary institutions receive the FAFSA information by calling the federal government’s helpline at 1.800.4.FED.AID (1.800.433.3243).
Tips to Avoid Financial Aid Application Errors

- Obtain your PIN number before you start the process or make sure that you have the correct number from prior year applications.
- Use your correct Social Security Number.
- Be sure that you understand the intent of the question and what is being asked. Wrong answers can affect eligibility.
- Do not insert words in spaces where figures must be reported. If the answer is “zero”, write “0,” not N/A, not applicable or dashes. Only skip an item if instructions specifically tell you that you should.
- Do not report cents – round figures to the nearest dollar.
- Do not report taxes withheld, but rather taxes paid.
- Do not write in margins or outside answer boxes or spaces.
- Do not send photocopies or attach other documents to your application unless specifically requested to do so.
- Make sure all required signatures are on the FAFSA if you are using the paper version.

FINAL NOTE: If you have any questions regarding completion of the FAFSA or the changes to this year’s application, please contact your IL Project Specialist, the financial aid office where your student plans to enroll or the PHEAA regional director for your area.