

Guidance on Managing the Impact of FAFSA Simplification for Senior College Officials

Co-Sponsored by MEFA and AICU Mass

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Agenda

- Overview and Benefits of FAFSA Simplification
- Additional Changes
- Other Regulatory Updates
- Short-Term Considerations
- Additional Laws Regarding Data Handling
- Long-Term Needs
- Cross-Campus Support Needed
- Opportunities for Your Institution
- Resources

Overview and Benefits

The FAFSA Simplification Act brings:

- Simpler application
- More straightforward Pell Grant eligibility criteria
- Federal Methodology changes
- Elimination of Emergency Aid from Estimated Financial Aid
- Provisional Independent Student Status

Additional Changes

Other changes included in FAFSA Simplification Act:

- Professional Judgment changes
- Cost of Attendance changes
- Pell Grant for prison education programs
- Expansion of Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used restoration
- Year-round Pell changes
- Pell proration changes

Other Regulatory Updates

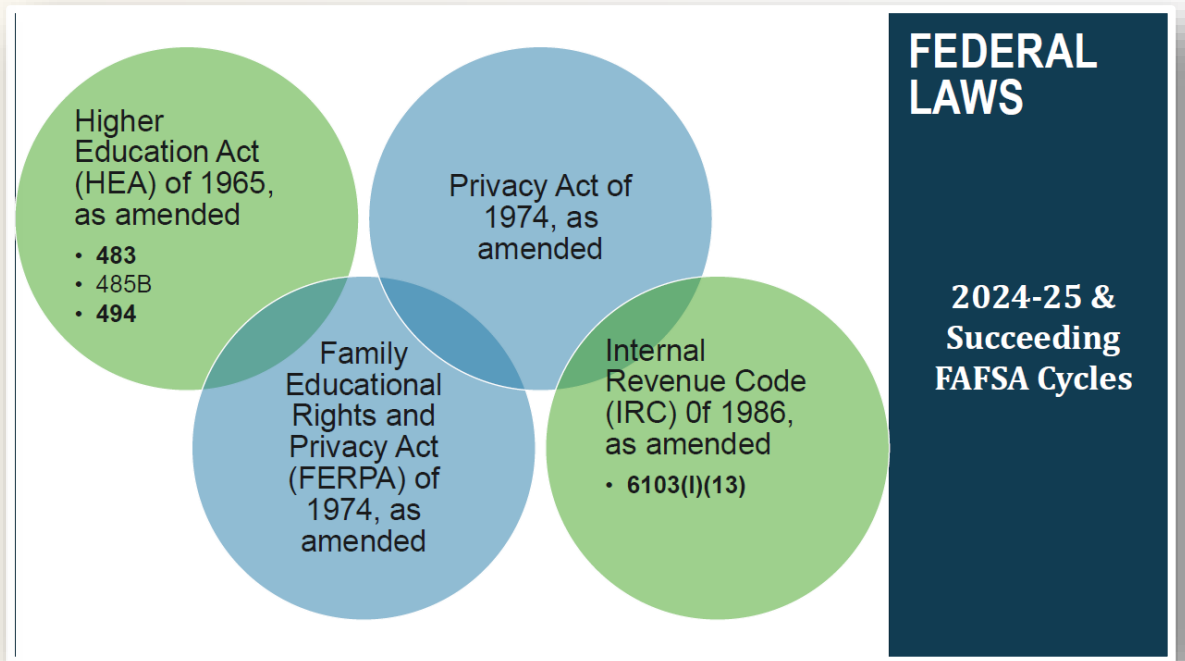
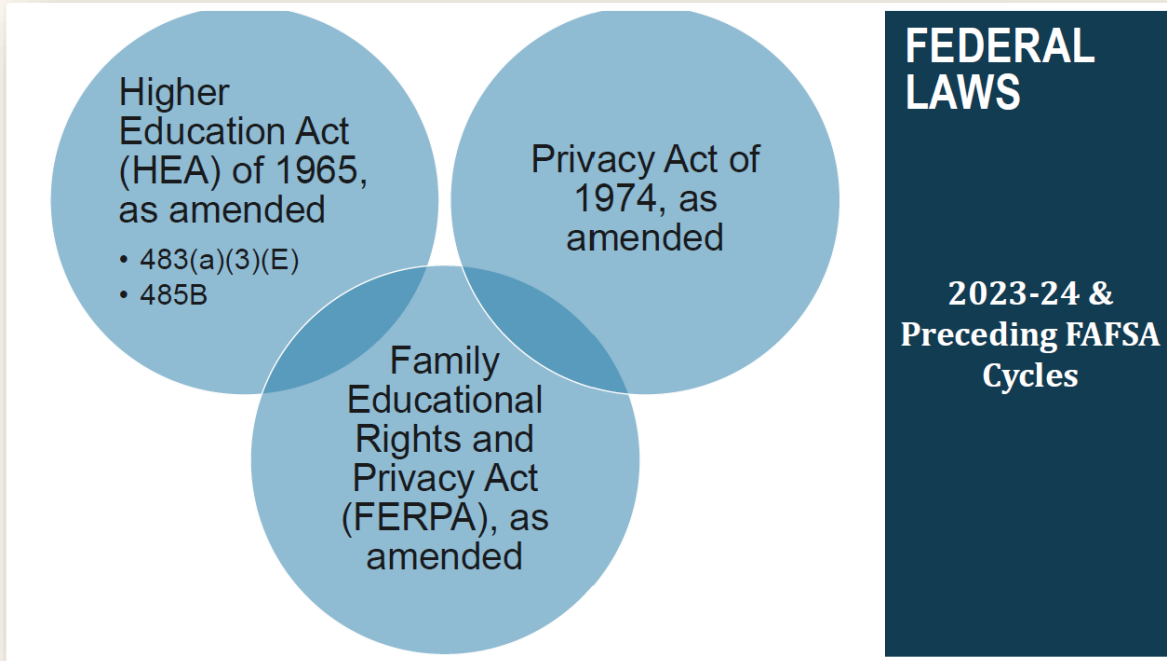
- FWS Reporting
- Gainful Employment
- Financial Value Transparency
- Federal Loan Return to Repayment
- Borrower Defense
- Financial Responsibility
- Certification Procedures
- Administrative Capability
- Ability to Benefit



Short-Term Considerations

- Receipt of FAFSA data delayed until end of Jan/early Feb 2024
- Enrollment decision potential delays
- Systems needs: Financial Aid Management Software must respond to these significant changes on a condensed timeframe; strong need for systems support and testing
- Staffing priority shifts
- Training financial aid staff and campus partners
- Using appeal funds
- Opportunity for new policy and equity
- Policy and procedure manual updates
- Need for new and updated communications
- Anticipating higher volume of students seeking support related to changes
- Second review of packaging may be needed later in the process for 24-25
- Preparing for lots of conversations with families in April 2024

Additional Laws Regarding Data Handling



A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue patterned shirt, is sitting at a laptop. He is looking down at a white smartphone he is holding in his hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery.

Long-Term Needs

- Campus-wide procedures for handling FTI
- Finding alternate sources to use for Institutional Research that relied on FAFSA data
- Review of staffing levels

Cross-Campus Support Needed

- IT and systems support is crucial
- Communications plan
- Enrollment management concerns
- More compliance oversight needed
- Engaging all offices on campus
- Updating policies and procedures (beyond just financial aid offices)
- Reviewing systems
- Data security review
- Website updates to reflect changes



Opportunities

- Benefits for institution embracing and supporting the changes
- Possibility of more applicants/more Pell funding

Resources

- [FAFSA Simplification Web Center \(nasfaa.org\)](https://nasfaa.org)
- [Federal Student Aid Estimator | Federal Student Aid](#)
- [Course: Training Videos, Section: FAFSA Simplification \(ed.gov\)](#)
- [FAFSA Simplification Information | Knowledge Center](#)
- [FAFSA Simplification Updates & Resources - MEFA](#)