



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

TO: Indiana Superintendents
High School Principals and School Counselors

FROM: Josh Garrison, *Chief of Staff*, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

DATE: November 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Update Regarding House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1245-2019: FAFSA Data Share Agreement

Indiana has one of the most generous college financial aid systems in the United States (U.S.), ranking first in the Midwest and fifth in the nation in need-based financial aid. Each year Indiana makes available more than \$400 million in state aid to Hoosier students. Unfortunately, every year thousands of high school seniors miss out on this opportunity by failing to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Indiana's priority deadline of April 15.

In 2015, Indiana joined the U.S. Department of Education's FAFSA Completion Initiative to ensure more students have funding for education and training beyond high school. This initiative allows the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (Commission) to provide high schools with the names of seniors who have completed the FAFSA. As a result, high schools can target outreach efforts to those students who have not completed the FAFSA.

HEA 1245-2019

To ensure all high schools have access to this information, HEA 1245-2019 required all Indiana high schools, or their school corporations, to enter into FAFSA Data Share Agreements with the Commission. The Commission provided the opportunity in June 2019 for schools and corporations to sign agreements that last from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2029.

If an agreement is signed, those who have School Admin or School User access in [ScholarTrack](#) will be able to access the "Excel Senior FAFSA Completion Report" in ScholarTrack. If current school users do not have this access in ScholarTrack, one representative from the school or corporation should e-mail schools@che.in.gov to receive instructions on entering into an agreement that will continue through June 30, 2029.

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 167-2023

Recently the Commission shared a [communication](#) regarding Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 167-2023, which requires high school seniors to file the FAFSA or affirmatively opt out of filing by April 15. That communication includes details about tracking FAFSA completion, sending a [FAFSA model notice](#) and the processes for students to opt out. Given the new requirement, the Commission encourages schools or corporations to enter into FAFSA Data Share Agreements with the Commission by December 31, 2023. The 2024-2025 FAFSA is expected to open in December 2023.

The Commission requests for schools to safelist emails from @che.in.gov and @subscriptions.in.gov so FAFSA communications can be sent directly to students. This will allow the Commission to partner with counselors and educators on FAFSA outreach.



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Questions

High school and school corporation partners may send questions to schools@che.in.gov or to their [Regional Outreach Coordinator](#).

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