

News Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHEAA Celebrates FAFSA Week of Action

Nationwide observance encourages FAFSA completion for financial aid

Harrisburg, PA (April 15, 2024) – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), in conjunction with Senator Maria Collett, joins the White House and U.S. Department of Education (ED) in celebrating FAFSA Week of Action, April 15 – 19, and encouraging college-bound students and their families to complete the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

Filing the FAFSA online is the first step in determining if you qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, PA State Grant, scholarships, institutional awards, and federal student loans.

During FAFSA Week of Action, PHEAA financial aid experts will be joining Senator Maria Collett on Tuesday, April 16 during a free webinar, FAFSA Line by Line, and guiding attending students and their parents through a step-by-step process of filing the FAFSA and PA State Grant application for the 2024-25 academic year. The webinar is open to all ages and grades. The presentation will take place from 6:00 - 7:30 PM with additional time at the end for a Q&A session.

You can [register for this event through PHEAA](#).

“Financial aid is critical for so many of us to pursue dreams of postsecondary education, but applying for that aid can feel daunting – especially for first-time FAFSA filers,” said Senator Collett. “During FAFSA Week of Action, I’m pleased to host a free webinar with PHEAA to help Pennsylvania students and their families navigate the application process with confidence and unlock the resources they need to chart their own course.”

“Unfortunately, FAFSA submissions are down compared to this time last year,” said Senator Wayne D. Fontana, Chairman of the PHEAA Board of Directors. “Without this critical first step in applying for financial aid, many students will not be able to afford higher education or may incur enormous student loan debt. PHEAA was established to create affordable access to higher education. As per our mission, we join the White House and ED in promoting the importance of the FAFSA during FAFSA Action Week.”

This webinar is just one in a series of free events, in person and virtual, that PHEAA hosts or co-hosts to assist college-bound students and their families in planning for and affording higher education.

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“Preparing for postsecondary education can be a daunting task,” said James Steeley, PHEAA President & CEO. “At PHEAA, we are pleased to share the knowledge and experience of our Higher Education Access Partners to aid everyone in making the important decisions about their educational future.”

PHEAA will host [FAFSA Completion Events](#) through the end of April at various locations throughout the Commonwealth. You can learn about and register for more free higher education planning webinars, hosted by PHEAA financial aid experts, at pheaa.org/virtual/.

A recent episode of PHEAA's podcast, “Higher Education Access Corner,” discusses how FAFSA delays have made it harder for students to choose the right college or career school. Host Tiffanie DeVan shares which factors to consider when picking the perfect school in [“Spring Into Action: Are You Ready?” on YouTube](#).

PHEAA Higher Education Access Partner Amy Sawdey joins Karen Rubican, Pennsylvania Department of Education School Counselor Advisor, in the free webinar for school counselors, “Coming Down to the Wire!” to discuss recent changes to the FAFSA, provide a general understanding of the financial aid process and how to guide students through the 2024-25 FAFSA application process. School counselors can [register to attend here](#).

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About PHEAA

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1963 to provide affordable access to higher education for PA students and families. Through the years, PHEAA has evolved into one of the nation's leading providers of student financial aid services, including the Commonwealth's first state-based student loan program – PA Forward. PHEAA also serves millions of students through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, and other programs.

PHEAA conducts student loan servicing operations nationally as American Education Services (AES).

PHEAA's press releases are accessible at <https://www.pheaa.org/about/press-releases/>.