

# News Advisory

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PHEAA Encourages Students to Complete 2025-26 FAFSA**

*Free informational sessions offered to aid in successful FAFSA submission*

**Harrisburg, PA (December 2, 2024)** – The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has announced that the recently updated 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is now available to college-bound students and families.

The FAFSA for the upcoming academic year was expected to be available on December 1, but the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released it ahead of schedule, following several months of extensive beta testing. During that testing period, the Department gathered feedback from students, parents, schools, community-based organizations, and other partners, including PHEAA, and incorporated it into the new FAFSA form.

“We are pleased to have had the opportunity to provide input into the new 2025-26 FAFSA,” said Senator Wayne D. Fontana, PHEAA Board Chairman. “It is our hope that the new form will be easier for families to navigate. But many families have unique situations and circumstances, and encounter challenges no matter how well the new form has been upgraded. At PHEAA, we are committed to assisting those students and families in overcoming those challenges and obstacles by hosting informational sessions.”

To assist students and their families in successful FAFSA completion, PHEAA is hosting two upcoming events:

### **Financial Aid 101**

Wednesday, December 4

6:00-7:00 PM (ET)

PHEAA Access Partners will present information on the financial aid application process, what types of aid are available for students, and strategies to start thinking about affordability before getting ready to apply for postsecondary school admission. Time will be built into the presentation to allow for questions regarding the financial aid process. [Register for this session.](#)

### **Financial Aid Night Hosted by PHEAA and Senator Pennycuick**

Tuesday, December 10

6:30-8:00 PM (ET)

Senator Tracy Pennycuick is pleased to invite parents and students to this important financial aid informational webinar for students who would like to pursue a higher education. This event will feature special guest speakers from PHEAA. The webinar will provide an overview of the new and changing process to apply for financial aid beginning with the 2025-26 academic year. The webinar is open to all ages and grades. The presentation will have additional time for a Q&A session. [Register for this session.](#)

“We encourage every student who dreams of higher education to seek affordable financial aid,” said James H. Steeley, PHEAA President and CEO. “Every student should submit the FAFSA as the first step in determining if they qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, PA State Grant, need-based scholarships, institutional awards, and federal student loans. We are here to ensure their success in submitting the FAFSA, providing free, accessible resources.”

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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/>.