



Pennsylvania Association of Financial Aid Administrators

PPY/Early FAFSA Panel
Slippery Rock University
March 16, 2017

OUR DISTINGUISHED PANEL

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BACKGROUND

- September 13, 2015: “Early FAFSA” and “Prior-Prior Year (PPY)” announced by White House as an executive decision.
- “PPY” is NOT “Early FAFSA”
- “Early FAFSA” coined by USDE.
- “Early FAFSA” = Beginning with 2017-18, FAFSA available 3 months earlier. October 1 instead of January 1!
- “PPY”= income used on FAFSA will be two years prior to application year rather than using the immediate prior tax year.
- Question: Did we really need Early FAFSA with PPY?

Why the change?

- Students will be able to complete federal aid application in the same timeframe as their admissions application? Will they?
- Should be an alignment between admission and aid notifications but will there?
- Students will have more time to resolve any income verification requirements or supplemental requests from FAO's. More accurate aid picture? Students and families will better understand each school's actual costs.
- So, students can make more informed decisions?
- Encourage more low income and/or first generation students to pursue higher education. But does the early FAFSA really motivate low income and first generation students to file earlier? Or does this negatively impact these students?
- Enables and encourages families to use IRS DRT.

Benefits to the Financial Aid Office

- Simplifies the FAFSA application process. More accurate data.
- Enables schools to make award notifications earlier? Will they?
- More time to provide critical counseling and advice to students?
- Conversely, longer decision period could impact negatively impact admissions yield.
- More IRS DRT's, less documents, less administrative burdens? Agree?
- Simplifies and streamlines the verification process? Less/easier verifications?
- Allows schools more time to complete the verification process?
- More accurate information sooner, less confusion, less complaints?
- Better informed decisions able college choice.

Problems/challenges for FA?

- Preparedness of enterprise systems: ED, CPS, COD, PHEAA, FAS, other?
- Updating FA systems, publications, websites, etc.
- Accurate information or a lot more estimated figures: Institutional costs, Pell Grants, Pa State Grants and institutional funds?
- More aid adjustments/more revised aid packages?
- PA Grant Deadline-May 1: Good, bad or change it?
- RTSS: First come, first serve?
- Early FAFSA-More time to negotiate?
- Conflicting information (16-17 FAFSA vs. 17-18 FAFSA), how to resolve?
- Too much to do, too little time to do it (16-17 students, now 17-18)?

More problems and challenges for FAO's?

- Financial Aid Timetable: deadlines, packaging start date for new and returning students, etc.
- Resolving FAFSA's flagged with 399 code
- Professional Judgment: increased requests, form changes, policy changes, documentation, which year's income, etc.
- Net Price Calculator impact
- Other considerations.....

USDE to the rescue!

- Early FAFSA Information Page on IFAP
- Links to Dear College Letters, Electronic Announcements, webinars and other resources.
- Early FAFSA mailbox at earlyfafsafeedback@ed.gov
- NOT a complaint box! Place to submit thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Direct all questions and complaints to: Mr. William R. Burke at
william.burke@scranton.edu