PHEAA
State Grant & Special Programs Update

James L. Preston
Elizabeth McCloud
## 2017-18 Appropriations

### 2017-2018 COMMONWEALTH APPROPRIATIONS

#### PHEAA OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State Grant Program</td>
<td>$272.891</td>
<td>$352.029</td>
<td>$272.891</td>
<td>$273.391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Assistance Grants (IAG) Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matching Funds Program</td>
<td>12.496</td>
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<td>Horace Mann Bond-Leslie Pinckney Hill Scholarship Program</td>
<td>.697</td>
<td>.697</td>
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<td>Cheyney University Keystone Academy Program</td>
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<td>Higher Education for the Disadvantaged (Act 101)</td>
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<td>Higher Education for Blind or Deaf Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania Internship Program Grants</td>
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<td>.350</td>
<td>.350</td>
<td>.350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready to Succeed Scholarships</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>5.000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$321.289</strong></td>
<td><strong>$404.140</strong></td>
<td><strong>$308.414</strong></td>
<td><strong>$321.789</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency*
Award History

Average and Maximum State Grants to Pennsylvania College Students, 2007 to 2017

Academic Year Maximum Grant  Academic Year Average Grant

`PHEaa
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency`
2017-18 State Grant Awards

• Early FAFSA worked!
  – July Memo to Schools:
    • Fall and Winter term awards = Final
    • Spring awards = Tentative
  – Cancellations from Fall rosters
    • Tracking slightly ahead of prior year, but not a dramatic difference
Application History

Pennsylvania State Grant Recipients
The change in the number of State Grant recipients from 2016-17 to 2017-18, per County

This map represents each county’s change in the number of State Grant recipients from 2016-17 to 2017-18, as of August 1, 2017. For each county, the first value represents the number of 2017-18 State Grant recipients and the second value represents the decrease or increase in the number of State Grant recipients from 2016-17. Overall, the number of State Grant recipients in Pennsylvania increased by 2,804 students or 1.78% from 2016-17 to 2017-18.
Application History

Pennsylvania Non-Renewal (First-Time) State Grant Recipients

The change in the number of non-renewal State Grant recipients from 2016-17 to 2017-18, per County

This map represents each county's change in the number of non-renewal State Grant recipients from 2016-17 to 2017-18, as of August 2, 2017. For each county, the first value represents the number of 2017-18 non-renewal State Grant recipients and the second value represents the decrease or increase in the number of non-renewal State Grant recipients from 2016-17. Overall, the number of non-renewal State Grant recipients in Pennsylvania increased by 2,311 students or 2.94% from 2016-17 to 2017-18.

A non-renewal student is either a first-time student or a student who previously attended school, but did not receive a State Grant award during the spring term of the previous academic year.

PHEaa
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
## Application History – 6-Month Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2016-17 as of 7-1-2016</th>
<th>2017-18 as of 4-1-2017</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAFSA</td>
<td>State Grant</td>
<td>FAFSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania Independent Four-Year Colleges and Universities</td>
<td>114,645</td>
<td>92,292</td>
<td>86,222</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Universities</td>
<td>75,257</td>
<td>68,610</td>
<td>52,281</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania State-Related Universities</td>
<td>87,264</td>
<td>78,587</td>
<td>67,805</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Independent Two-Year Colleges</td>
<td>7,938</td>
<td>7,637</td>
<td>3,661</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Community Colleges</td>
<td>83,838</td>
<td>81,184</td>
<td>53,805</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Hospital Schools of Nursing</td>
<td>2,166</td>
<td>1,904</td>
<td>1,321</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Postsecondary Business, Trade, and Technical Schools</td>
<td>23,533</td>
<td>22,602</td>
<td>14,004</td>
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<td>Out-of-State Institutions</td>
<td>88,371</td>
<td>69,517</td>
<td>68,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>8,503</td>
<td>6,658</td>
<td>5,554</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total All Institutions</strong></td>
<td>491,515</td>
<td>428,991</td>
<td>353,239</td>
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Application History

[Graph showing application history from 1-Apr to 1-Oct with two lines representing 2016-17 and 2017-18]
## Application History

### FAFSA and State Grant Applications 2016-17 vs. 2017-18 May 1 Deadline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FAFSA Applications</th>
<th></th>
<th>State Grant Applications</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>2016-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-YR Private</td>
<td>103,536</td>
<td>109,333</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
<td>85,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSHE</td>
<td>66,062</td>
<td>67,323</td>
<td>1.91%</td>
<td>60,972</td>
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<tr>
<td>State-Related</td>
<td>77,599</td>
<td>80,167</td>
<td>3.31%</td>
<td>70,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-YR Private</td>
<td>4,889</td>
<td>4,240</td>
<td>-13.27%</td>
<td>4,708</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>65,016</td>
<td>71,817</td>
<td>10.46%</td>
<td>63,357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>1,911</td>
<td>5.64%</td>
<td>1,616</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTT</td>
<td>17,658</td>
<td>18,230</td>
<td>3.24%</td>
<td>17,039</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out-of-State</td>
<td>71,634</td>
<td>80,474</td>
<td>12.34%</td>
<td>57,633</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>4,555</td>
<td>6,208</td>
<td>36.29%</td>
<td>3,364</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>412,758</strong></td>
<td><strong>439,703</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.53%</strong></td>
<td><strong>365,250</strong></td>
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</table>

### FAFSA and State Grant Applications 2016-17 vs. 2017-18 as of October 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FAFSA Applications</th>
<th></th>
<th>State Grant Applications</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>2016-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-YR Private</td>
<td>130,052</td>
<td>132,064</td>
<td>1.55%</td>
<td>103,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASSHE</td>
<td>82,703</td>
<td>82,288</td>
<td>-0.50%</td>
<td>74,570</td>
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<tr>
<td>State-Related</td>
<td>96,476</td>
<td>97,298</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
<td>86,182</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-YR Private</td>
<td>7,080</td>
<td>5,847</td>
<td>-17.42%</td>
<td>6,776</td>
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<td>Community College</td>
<td>112,472</td>
<td>111,842</td>
<td>-0.56%</td>
<td>108,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>2,368</td>
<td>2,416</td>
<td>2.03%</td>
<td>2,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTT</td>
<td>31,647</td>
<td>27,948</td>
<td>-11.69%</td>
<td>30,513</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out-of-State</td>
<td>105,574</td>
<td>109,242</td>
<td>3.47%</td>
<td>82,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>11,284</td>
<td>11,491</td>
<td>1.83%</td>
<td>8,991</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>579,656</strong></td>
<td><strong>580,436</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.13%</strong></td>
<td><strong>503,469</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
2017-18 State Grant Awards

• Spring Award reduction still necessary

• Likely range of reduction to awards:
  – $23 off of the minimum adjusted award
  – $195 off of the maximum award

• Updated awards coming soon!
Meanwhile…

- 2018-19 activity is underway
  - October 1 - application window opened
  - SGF also available October 1
- Budget request submitted to Governor
2018-19 Processing

- Total 2017-18 FAFSA applications on the system as of October 15, 2016 -- 29,750

- Total 2018-19 FAFSA applications on the system as of October 16, 2017 -- 34,396

  - Currently up 16%, but with one extra day in the 2017-18 count
2018-19 Processing

- **Mid-October:**
  - SGF emails
  - Paper Status Notices and postcards

- **Last week of October:**
  - Grant Applicant Status (GAPS) reports

- **Mid-November:**
  - FAA Status Listings/transmission
  - Student Display (FG59)
  - Partner Interface activated
2018-19 Early Estimator

• Waiting for 2018-19 Pell Charts

• All schools must use for State Grant estimates
  – Provide uniform awards across sectors and schools
  – Awards must be +/- $100 of Early Estimator
Contributions and earnings to these accounts are exempt from being used in the calculation of eligibility for any state financial aid programs.

Just like the Pennsylvania Tuition Assistance Program (PA 529 Plan), the State Grant Program will exclude these account amounts from the “net worth of investments” when calculating an EFC.

Effective with the 2018-19 Academic Year, able.gov account information is reportable via the State Grant Form (SGF).
For a school listed as a 2 through 10 choice on the FAFSA:

- Cannot see the student’s record in the State Grant system (FG59 or Partner Interface, including FG0B and FG7E).
- Estimates will not be provided via displays, status listings, or status transmissions.
- It is possible to not have the ability to view a student’s State Grant record and then be able to view it if subsequent activity from the student changes the first school choice.

- The planned OE Code ordering of schools on the 2018-19 FAFSA for State Grant Agencies did not happen!
2018-19 Special Consideration

- PHEAA will use estimated 2018 income for special consideration requests.

- October 2018 validation conducted to review accuracy of estimates.
## 2018-19 State Grant and Special Programs Budget Request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State Grant</td>
<td>272.891</td>
<td>273.391*</td>
<td>300.730</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Assistance Grants</td>
<td>25.749</td>
<td>25.749</td>
<td>27.036</td>
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<td>2.246</td>
<td>2.358</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.047</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheyney University Keystone Academy</td>
<td>1.813</td>
<td>1.813**</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>120.6%</td>
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<td>Horace Mann Bond-Leslie Pinckney Hill Scholarship</td>
<td>0.697</td>
<td>0.697</td>
<td>1.200</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Internship Program Grants</td>
<td>0.350</td>
<td>0.350</td>
<td>0.350</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready to Succeed Scholarships</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$321.289</strong></td>
<td><strong>$321.789</strong></td>
<td><strong>$353.844</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.0%</strong></td>
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</table>

*The 2017-2018 appropriation includes $500,000 that likely will be directed by the General Assembly to Mansfield University once the 2017-2018 fiscal code is finalized.

**It is contemplated that, once the 2017-2018 fiscal code is finalized, the General Assembly will direct $500,000 of Agency resources to the program.
Distance Education

• DE Pilot sunsets at end of 2017-18
• Legislation in process to integrate DE into overall State Grant program for 2018-19
  – HB 1653
  – SB 53
• Talking points and op-ed language available for school use
Distance Education

- Eligible institutions are headquartered and domiciled in PA
- PHEAA Board has authority to manage cost to the program of DE awards
- Updated reporting mechanism for each recipient’s classroom vs. online credits
- No more SGDEPP reporting after 2017-18 AY
PA State Grant Program Trends

Pennsylvania State Grant Program Trends

FAFSA® & State Grant Applications

State Grant Recipients

State Grant Award Volume

State Grant Funding

State Grant Purchasing Power

State Grant Maximum Award

PHEAA
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
Minimum number of weeks of enrollment decreased to 5 weeks

Continued decline in summer program participation

- 2015: 10,424 awards ($11,585,623)
- 2016: 8,280 awards ($10,236,403)
- 2017: 7,799 awards ($9,536,493)
IAG

• 2016-17 *per capita* of $644

• Received flat funding for 2017-18

• Estimated *per capita* for 2017-18 is $634

  – Advance payment coming soon
Incomplete State Grant Records

- Email campaign to reduce incomplete records
- Sending to prior-year applicants
- Goal to complete files by April 1 deadline
Other Sibling Audit

- Process ran in late September
  - Last run in 2014, will be annual moving forward

- Students selected have reported a higher number enrolled than can be verified in our system

- Students selected for the review need to complete a form and submit verification of a family member's enrollment (e.g., copy of the class schedule, tuition bill, letter from the registrar, etc.)
Bona Fide Five-Year Program

- Permits up to an additional year of State Grant eligibility
- Reported through the annual cost collection effort
- PHEAA review of reported programs revealed many programs misreported
- Reaching out to a few schools again this year
Out-of-State Awards

• Reciprocal states for 2017-18 include DC, DE, MA, OH, VT, and WV

• Reminder: Eligibility for unique programs of study at schools in non-reciprocal states discontinued beginning with 2017-18
Beginning with reviews covering the 2016-17 Award Year:

- Error Rate calculations will be based on mis-payment of a student award by plus or minus $50. This includes non-payment of funds to an eligible student.
- An Administrative Findings section will address concerns with program administration
- A Program Improvement Plan (PIP) may be required to address findings
ACICS

- Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools lost recognition from USDE
- ACICS appealing ruling
- Schools remain accredited during the appeal
- SG regulations require accreditation

- Notify PHEAA immediately upon gaining new accreditation! ProgramReview@PHEAA.org
Partner Interface Filtering Tips

- June 2017 resource for schools
- Available on pheaa.org
OC/WebConnect

• Did you know that you can view the status of your State Grant, RTSS, and SGDEPP information in OC/WebConnect?

• Check out **FG3S** in OC/ WebConnect to view the status of your disbursements, refunds, and rosters. In the Program Type field, use “G” for State Grant, “S” for RTSS, or “D” for SGDEPP.
Faxes

• Schools may contact State Grant and Special Programs to verify receipt of faxed correspondence

• Note: Faxes take up to 24 hours to show in the proper queue
  • Please wait 24 hours before calling in to check
  • Email is best: staff will respond in 24-48 hours
Speaking of Emails…

Program Mailboxes - Automated responses now generated

From students, schools, partners:
- StateGrantandSpecialPrograms@pheaa.org
- granthelp@pheaa.org
- sghelp@pheaa.org
- specialprograms@pheaa.org
- swsp@pheaa.org
- rtss@pheaa.org
- eap@pheaa.org
- bdbg@pheaa.org
- path@pheaa.org
- patip@pheaa.org
- nets@pheaa.org
- paetg@pheaa.org

For use of schools ONLY:
- IAG@pheaa.org
- act 101@pheaa.org
- matchingfunds@pheaa.org
- sgdepp@pheaa.org
- pegp@pheaa.org
- High School Access@pheaa.org
E-Sign is in the works!

- E-Sign = “No Sign”
- Applicants will continue to complete the State Grant Form
- No longer will have to print, sign, and mail the signature pages

Rollout planned for Spring 2018!
Training Webpage

• PHEAA.org/training
  – Program Integrity staff created a one-stop shop
  – Covers every PHEAA-administered program (except NETS)
  – For schools, employers, and partners

• Student resources, memos, and apps
  – Still available in Doc Library or on program webpages
Education is of the utmost importance to us here at PHEAA.

That is why we want to ensure that our school, employers, and community partners have easy access to various resources in one easy-to-use location. From this page you will be able to:

- View training events
- Sign up for educational workshops
- Locate resources for many of the PHEAA-administered programs

**Partner Interface Training**

Let us help you keep current with the latest tools for postsecondary schools to report and verify key components used in evaluating eligibility and disbursement for State Grant awards.

**State Grant and Special Programs Resources**

View and download a wide range of resources that will provide you with program-specific information essential for your staff and students.

**Training Events**

View our training events, including those sponsored by Pennsylvania Financial Aid Training (PFAT), Pennsylvania School Services, and Pennsylvania State Grant and Special Programs.

**K-12 Counselor Workshops**

To ensure you have the tools students need to reach their educational goals, we offer free workshops for high school counselors and teachers.
PHEAA.org/LivingSituation

- Assists students with selecting the correct living situation when completing a Status Notice for the PA State Grant Program
- Directions for students when they are considered Independent for federal aid but Dependent for State Grant
- Guidance on two types of living situations:
  - “In the care of a person (guardian)/appointed entity”
  - “Unmarried and in my own care”
NEW! FWS Program Webpage

http://www.pheaa.org/partner-access/federal-work-study.shtml
# RTSS-SGDEPP Reconciliation Page

- Page 4 of FG3S

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<th>RECONCILIATION DETAIL SUMMARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AWARDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTUAL DISBURSED AMOUNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL COLLEGE REFUND</td>
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<td>TOTAL PROGRAM REVIEW REFUND</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
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<td>REMAINING FUNDS DUE</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
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<td>NEEDS CERTIFIED</td>
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<td>CERTIFIED</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEAN ROSTER NEEDED</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>RECONCILED NO</td>
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**Key: F1=HELP F2=FG3Y F3=EXIT F4=SUMMARY F5=RFR F6=FG3M F7= F8= F9=PRT F10=PAGEBK F11=PAGEFWD F12=CAN**
Patriot Act

- Effective 2018-19:
  - Students listing a P.O. Box address will continue to receive a letter requesting that a physical address be submitted.
  - State Grant records will no longer be held from processing for eligibility due to only having a P.O. Box on file.
Customer Experience (CX)

Social Media
- PHEAA Brand on Facebook and Twitter

Sentiment Surveys
- Began sending to State Grant applicants over the summer

Email Campaign
- Effort to reduce incomplete State Grant records
Outreach

• Updated *PA Student Aid Guide* and many other publications available at pheaa.org
Outreach

- 14 Access Partners ready to assist with financial aid nights, FAFSA Completion events, and other outreach activities
- Contact Will Lindsey at wlindsey@pheaa.org
Questions? Comments?

• Elizabeth McCloud
  – 717.720.1600
  – emccloud@pheaa.org