2025-26 FAFSA form changes

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| **FAFSA PDF**  |
|  | **Current text** | **New text** | **Applicable to online?** |
| Other Circumstances section title (question 6) | Student Other Circumstances | Student Homelessness | Yes |
| Unsub only question (question 8) | Are the student’s parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn’t have an unusual circumstance, such as those listed in question 7, that prevents them from contacting the parents or obtaining their information? *If the answer is ”Yes,” a financial aid administrator at the student’s school will determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan* ***only.*** *If the student is approved for this option, they will not qualify to receive other types of federal student loans (including Direct Subsidized Loans), federal grants, or Federal Work-Study programs.* | Are the student’s parents refusing to provide their information on this FAFSA form? *This response must be “no” for the student to be eligible for Federal Pell Grants and most other types of federal aid.*Note to GDIT: Please add the following text to the Notes section for this question: *If the answer is ”Yes,” a financial aid administrator at the student’s school will determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan* ***only.*** *If the student is approved for this option, they will not qualify to receive other types of federal student loans (including Direct Subsidized Loans), federal grants, or Federal Work-Study programs.* | No, since we’ve already made this change in 2024-25 and it should just be rolled over. |
| Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms (page 11) | Enter the net worth of the student’s businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.  | Enter the net worth of the student’s businesses and for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them.  | Yes |
| Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms (page 17) | Enter the net worth of the parent’s businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.  | Enter the net worth of the parent’s businesses and for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them.  | Yes |
| Contact Information notes (page 21) | We will use your email address to communicate with you electronically. Forexample, when this FAFSA form has been processed, the student and parent willbe notified by email. Your email address will also be shared with your state andthe colleges listed on your FAFSA form to allow them to communicate with you.If you are homeless or have no stable address, you can provide an address whereyou can reliably receive mail. If you secure a permanent address during the school year, we recommend that you update your address in your FAFSA form.Common country codes: US (United States), CA (Canada), and MX (Mexico).For U.S. territories, use their state code as their country code (for example, PR for Puerto Rico). | We will use your email address to communicate with you electronically. Forexample, when this FAFSA form has been processed, the student and parent willbe notified by email. Your email address will also be shared with your state andthe colleges listed on your FAFSA form to allow them to communicate with you. We suggest using an email address you’ll continue to have access to after you leave school.If you are homeless or have no stable address, you can provide an address where you can reliably receive mail. If you secure a permanent address during the school year, we recommend that you update your address in your FAFSA form.Common country codes: US (United States), CA (Canada), and MX (Mexico).For U.S. territories, use their state code as their country code (for example, PRfor Puerto Rico). | No, already handled when setting up FSA ID |
| Certification statement updates |  | Add the following language to the certification statement(s) as appropriate (add below existing text for each contributor type in the section titled “Signatures”)For students:Additionally, by signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, you authorize the Department to disclose all information provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to the institutions you have identified herein, state higher education agencies (in your state of residence and the states in which the institutions identified herein are located), and designated scholarship organizations to assist with the application, award, and administration of Federal financial aid programs, State financial aid programs, institutional financial aid programs, and designated scholarship programs. Notwithstanding this authorization, the name of an institution that you select to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution.For contributors (parent/spouse):Additionally, by signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, you authorize the Department to disclose all information you provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to the institutions identified herein, state higher education agencies (in the student’s state of residence and the states in which the institutions identified herein are located), and designated scholarship organizations to assist with the application, award, and administration of Federal financial aid programs, State financial aid programs, institutional financial aid programs, and designated scholarship programs. Notwithstanding this authorization, the name of an institution the student selected to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution. | No, since we’ve already made this change in 2024-25 and it should just be rolled over. |