



FAFSA Update And Finish Line to the FAFSA Campaign

Julie Sainz

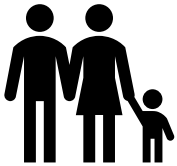
Director, FAFSA and College Access Initiatives

April 12, 2024

FAFSA Update- Technical Issues

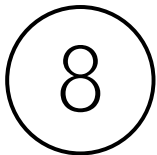


Several Issues have been resolved however, technical Issues still exist



March 13th, FSA:

- Updates were made to issues affecting students with mixed-status families
- The online FAFSA is now working for almost all students
- Limitations/workarounds remain



Dependency Question- FSA Revised wording- Confusion still remains

ISIR DATA Update

30% Impacted

FSA began to release a limited number of ISIRs

March 12th

Small Batches of ISIR's Received

FSA discovered an error in the Student Aid Index (SAI) calculation-excluding all assets for students.

March 21st

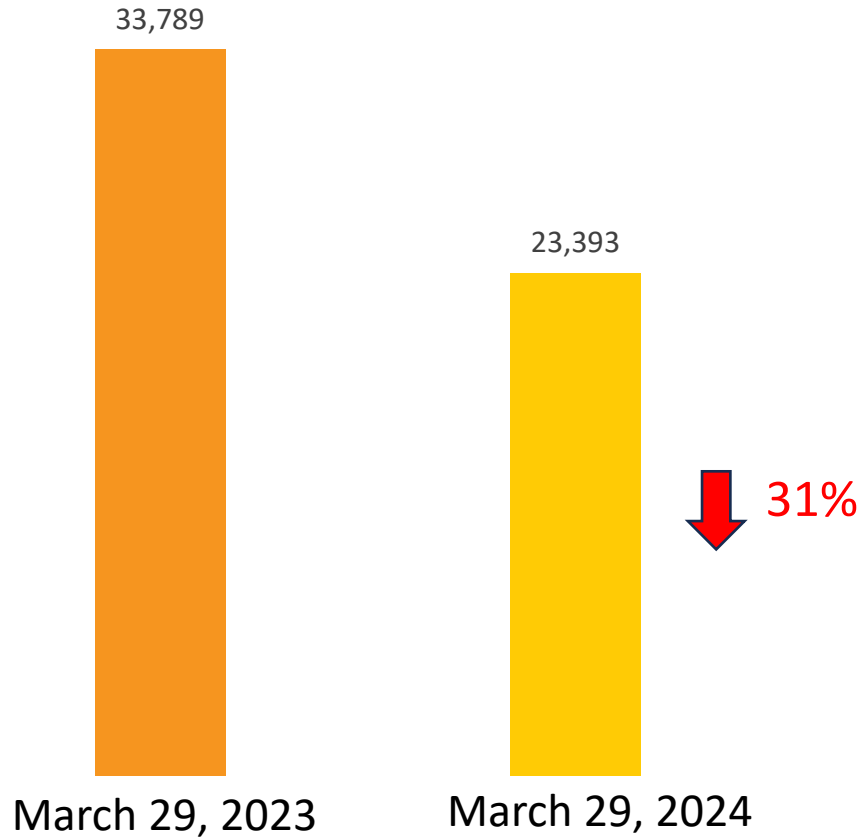
FSA acknowledges 3 issues concerning tax data reported on (ISIRs).

March 29th

FAFSA Corrections and updates







First Half of April

Recent FAFSA Submission Data



National Average 35%

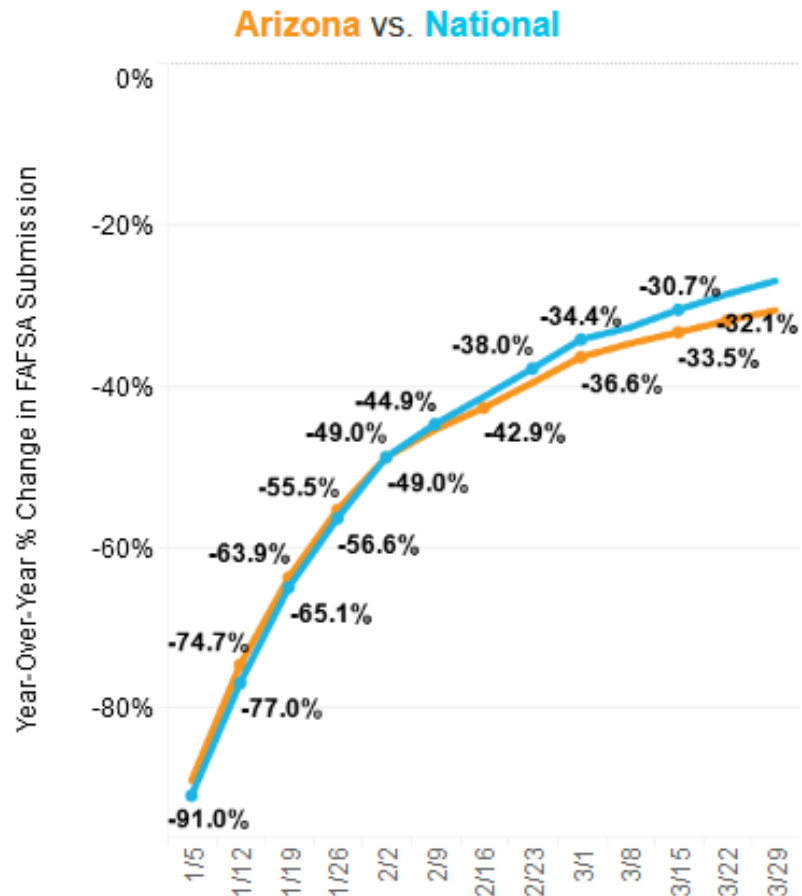
2024 State Rankings

State	Rank	%
	46	26.3%
	47	25.7%
	48	24.3%
	49	23.2%
	50	22.6%
	51	17.3%

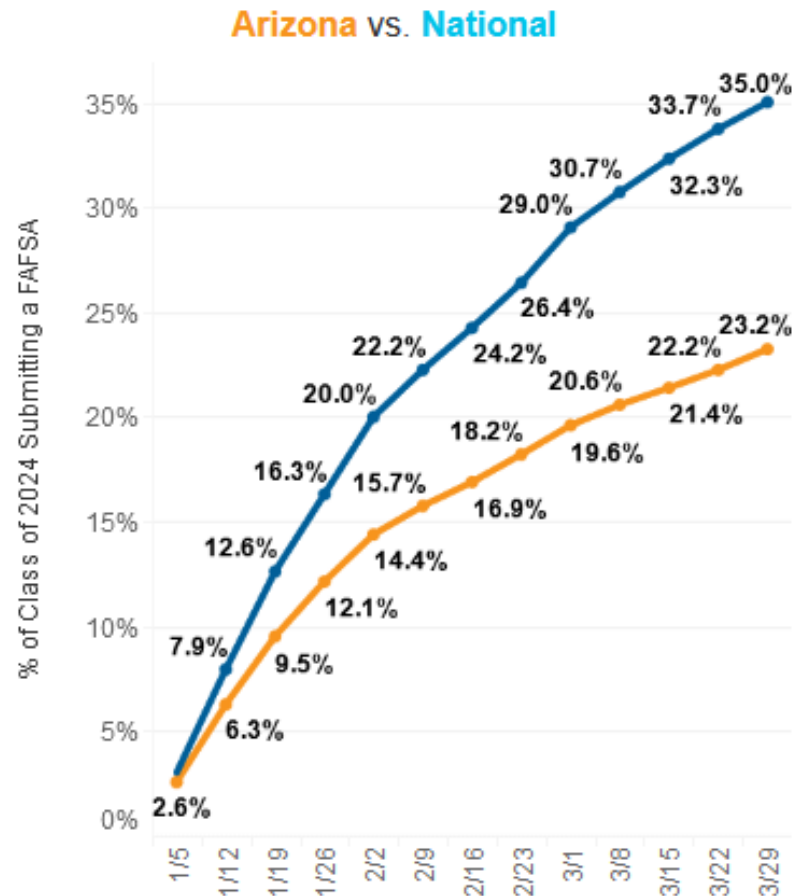
*Data only contains information on *submissions*, meaning some FAFSAs will need corrections contained in the total.

FAFSA Performance: Arizona vs. National

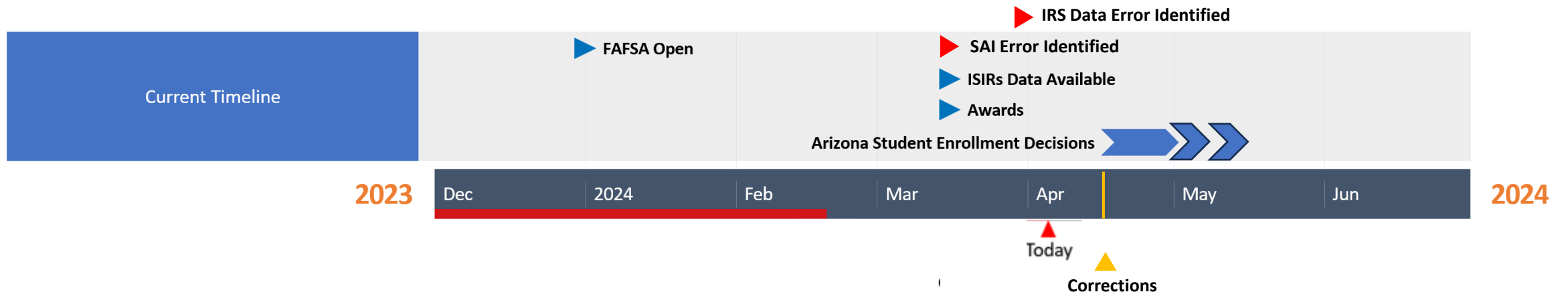
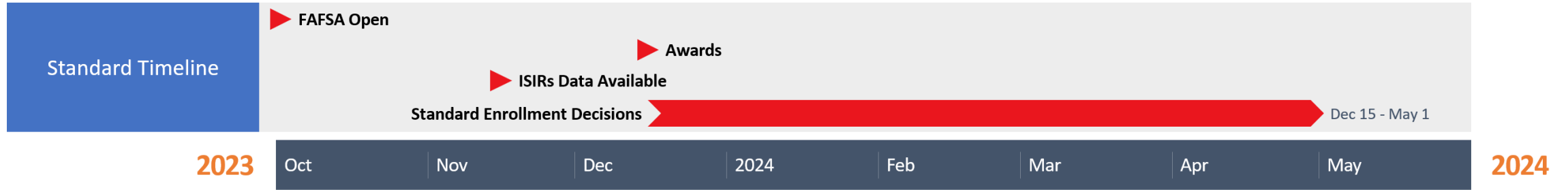
Year-Over-Year % Change in FAFSA Submissions



Estimated Percent of Seniors Submitting a FAFSA



Federal FAFSA Data Delays



Finish Line to the FAFSA Campaign



Arizona FAFSA hotline

Students and families can call the Arizona FAFSA Hotline at 1-833-293-2372. FAFSA experts are available between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

[CALL NOW](#)

Schedule an appointment

Students and families can schedule a one-on-one appointment with a local FAFSA expert. All appointments take place virtually via Zoom, Google Meet or Microsoft Teams.

[APPOINTMENTS](#)

College access centers

Additional Arizona organizations providing FAFSA support include:

[Be A Leader Foundation](#)
[College Connect Tempe](#)
[College Depot](#)
[Metropolitan Education Commission](#)
[Tri-University Events](#)
[Alianto](#)

April 2024

Month | Week | Day | List

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4 • 2:00pm UA/Arizona FAFSA drop ins • 4:00pm Pima FAFSA Event • 4:15pm ASU Weekly virtual sessi	5	6
7	8 Alianto FAFSA event	9 • 5:30pm UA/Arizona FAFSA filing wt	10	11 • 2:00pm UA/Arizona FAFSA drop ins • 4:15pm ASU Weekly virtual sessi	12	13 • 10:00am Ask Benji Capital One F2
14	15 • 2:00pm FAFSA Money Mondays • 5:30pm UA/Arizona FAFSA filing wt	16	17 • 5:30pm UA/Arizona FAFSA filing wt	18 • 2:00pm UA/Arizona FAFSA drop ins • 4:15pm ASU Weekly virtual sessi	19	20
21	22 • 2:00pm FAFSA Money Mondays • 5:30pm UA/Arizona FAFSA filing wt	23	24	25 • 2:00pm UA/Arizona FAFSA drop ins • 4:15pm ASU Weekly virtual sessi	26	27
28	29 • 2:00pm FAFSA Money Mondays	30 • 5:30pm UA/Arizona FAFSA filing wt	1	2	3	4

<https://collegereadyaz.com/fafsa/>

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
KATIE HOBBS

Proclamation

WHEREAS, filling out the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) is the first step for students in securing financial aid to make college more affordable; and
WHEREAS, students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to enroll in college, persist in their coursework, and successfully obtain a degree; and
WHEREAS, over the last three years, Arizona high school graduates missed out on nearly \$300 million in Pell Grant funding by not completing their FAFSA; and
WHEREAS, federal delays and technical glitches have plagued the roll out of this year's FAFSA, which has caused a dramatic reduction in filers in Arizona and across the country; and
WHEREAS, just 21 percent of Arizona high school seniors have completed the FAFSA, nearly 35 percent less than at this time last year; and
WHEREAS, state and local governments, universities and college access organizations are working together to ensure Arizona students reach the finish line by completing their FAFSA.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 2024, as

FINISH LINE TO THE FAFSA MONTH

and encourage all Arizona high school seniors and current college students to complete the FAFSA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-sixth day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Eighth.
ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 2, 2024

Dear Arizona's Superintendents, Principals, Counselors, Educators and Community Partners:

As we approach the end of the school year, I am reaching out to enlist your support in a crucial initiative that directly impacts the future of our graduating seniors: completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

April marks "**Finish Line to the FAFSA Month**," and I am reaching out to educational leaders like yourself, along with school counselors, nonprofits, colleges, universities, students, and families, to join forces in ensuring that as many students as possible successfully navigate the FAFSA application process.

Filling out the FAFSA is the first step to qualify for federal financial aid and for many scholarships, including the Arizona Promise program. However, this year has presented unique challenges and delays for FAFSA submissions. As a result, Arizona's student submissions are down significantly from this same time last year.

This decline translates to nearly 11,000 fewer Arizona seniors who have completed the FAFSA compared to 2023—a staggering figure with potentially far-reaching consequences for our students' higher education aspirations. In light of these challenges, it's imperative that we come together as a community to reverse this trend and ensure that our students receive the financial support they need to pursue their educational goals.

This is a pivotal moment that necessitates the collaborative efforts of our entire community to ensure that more Arizona students complete the FAFSA before graduation. I am asking for your partnership to raise awareness about the FAFSA, organize events, and provide support to graduating seniors.

There are a number of ways that you can help, including:

- **Hosting a FAFSA completion event** for students and families
- **Integrating FAFSA completion activities into the school day**, if feasible, to facilitate student participation.
- **Collaborating with partners**, such as college resource centers, nonprofits, or postsecondary institutions to support students with their FAFSA applications.
- **Sharing resources** with your students and families (see below)

In addition, Arizona offers numerous resources to aid your students and their families in completing their FAFSA, including:

1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
602-542-4331 • www.azgovernor.gov

Arizona FAFSA Challenge Newsletter



As we dive into week two of our month-long Finish Line to the FAFSA initiative, our goal remains clear: to raise awareness of the FAFSA, empower high school seniors to complete this vital form and provide extensive support to students and families across Arizona.

As of March 29, 23 percent of Arizona high school seniors have submitted a FAFSA form. While progress is evident with nearly 500 seniors completing the FAFSA in the past week alone, we still find ourselves down by 31 percent compared to last year. Together, we can bridge this gap and ensure that every student has access to the financial aid they deserve.

Arizona FAFSA Submissions
(as of March 29, 2024)



Arizona College Connect

The U.S. Department of Education has begun releasing the FAFSA data nationwide following the recent delay and we have uploaded all FAFSA records received into Arizona College Connect. In the system, you will be able to view the FAFSA status of your high school seniors to assist with these efforts.

Visit Arizona College Connect

Stay informed!

To bolster our efforts, we invite you to explore the many FAFSA events and resources available statewide on CollegeReadyAZ.com/FAFSA. Let's come together to ensure that every student has the support they need to cross the finish line to their higher education dreams!



FAFSA events happening this week

April 8-10: Aliento is partnering with Telemundo to deliver FAFSA information for families during its 11 a.m., 4:30 and 10 p.m. newscasts. These segments will be conducted in Spanish and will cover various FAFSA topics each day.

April 9: Join the UArizona Virtual FAFSA Filing Workshop from 5:30-6:30 p.m. A fantastic opportunity to receive guidance on navigating the FAFSA process!

April 11: Aliento, in collaboration with Telemundo, is hosting a live FAFSA phone bank for students and families in Spanish. Call 602-648-3940 on Thursday, April 11 from 6-8 p.m to get your FAFSA questions answered.

April 11: UArizona Virtual FAFSA Drop-Ins will be available from 2-4 p.m. Drop by for personalized assistance with your FAFSA application.

April 13: The Ask Benji Capitol One FAFSA Workshop is taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 15: Students can register for the FAFSA Money Mondays which will kick off virtually on April 15 from 3-6 p.m.

FAFSA event details and RSVPs

Arizona College Connect

Innovative FAFSA database that provides authorized high school and district personnel with their student-level FAFSA information and other college attainment data.



The new data portal is funded by a seed grant from Helios Education Foundation and developed through a data partnership with the Arizona Department of Education.

Summer Support

- Regional FASFA Workshops: Easy Valley, West Valley, Metro Phx, N. AZ (Rural Focus), Tucson
- Virtual FAFSA Workshops (English/Spanish)
- Virtual FAFSA Appointments
- AZ FAFSA Hotline
- Strategic Outreach
- Student and Parent FAFSA info Mailer
- Social Media Campaign/Media Buys





Thank You