



National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs
FAFSA Design Team Meeting
April 14, 2014

The comments provided below represent feedback and observations from a variety of sources.

- 1) The high school graduation question should permit only selection from the online, dropdown list. In anticipation of the FAFSA Completion Project, make the FAFSA high school a required field and not allow students to type in high school names. This will prevent nonexistent high schools from appearing when working out these agreements with schools and/or LEAs. If the school is not listed, have an "other" and "foreign" school option. Add the date of high school graduation.
- 2) Permit non-Title IV schools to be listed on the FAFSA college list for those institutions that offer only state financial aid. Currently, these students are filing paper FAFSAs and leaving the school blank.
- 3) Many states no longer offer the GED. Revise to say "high school equivalency" or similar descriptor.
- 4) Provide a clarification for modified high school diploma (attendance certificates) versus standard high school diplomas. Have a hint message explaining the difference to students and indicating that a standard high school diploma is needed for Title IV eligibility.
- 5) It would be helpful if when a student selected a college to add to the FAFSA, it indicates in which Title IV programs the school participates, TEACH, Perkins, etc.
- 6) On the work-study question - just make it yes or no. Take the "don't know" out as an option. Students feel that they need to correct their application for that one answer.
- 7) Add language to the income tax question. It needs to read, "What was your tax liability for last year" and then explain it as federal withholding minus any refund or plus any amount that you owe. Of course, that does not cover every circumstance so a calculator or a link to one would be a good addition.
- 8) When the student/parent signs with their PIN, they have to scroll down to click on the "agree" and then scroll back up to click on the "SIGN" box. It would be easier if the PIN number, the SIGN box and the "agree" button were all together.
- 9) Some applicants are getting confused about the PIN(s). They think they can use the same PIN they used to e-file their federal taxes as the PIN on the FAFSA. Specifically, there is the section of the FAFSA, where they can link to their taxes, and a PIN is requested. They think they need to put their PIN for federal tax filing there rather than use the PIN for the FAFSA.
- 10) The question in the Parent Demographic section says, "As of today, what is the marital status of your legal parents (biological and/or adoptive)? You can click on the word "parents" and get the "Who is considered a parent?" explanation. This question is confusing because they talk about biological and/or adoptive, yet in the table it tells them to use parent and stepparent information if parent is remarried.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine A. Zuzack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Zuzack".

Christine A. Zuzack
President, NASSGAP