

# PHEAA UPDATE

DECEMBER 2023



## PHEAA News:

- The 2024-25 FAFSA is scheduled to be released by December 31. Students and families can access the form on [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Families should create their Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID) at least 4 days prior to completing the FAFSA. As part of the step authentication, families can also download an [authenticator app](#) which can be used to assist families with logging in even when cell and internet service isn't available.
- The Pennsylvania Legislature established the [Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program](#) in 2022 to help emergency services recruit, retain, and provide educational assistance to those individuals willing to put their lives on the line for their fellow Pennsylvanians. This program provides tuition or loan assistance to active volunteers who qualify based on their service and other criteria.
- You can suggest the [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#) to students and families; it provides an estimate of how much federal student aid they may be eligible to receive. These estimates are based on the Student Aid Index (SAI), used to determine federal student aid eligibility.
- As announced last month by Federal Student Aid (FSA), the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) will be available by December 31, 2023. With PHEAA's new platform, GrantUs, not launching until early 2024, this means there will be a gap between when students can begin completing the FAFSA and when they are able to complete the PA State Grant Form (SGF) or Status Notice, if necessary. When GrantUs is available for students, PHEAA will send an email from [noreply@grantus.pheaa.org](mailto:noreply@grantus.pheaa.org) with an invitation to create an account and complete the SGF or Status Notice, if required. To keep up to date with the project, visit [pheaa.org/GrantUs](https://pheaa.org/GrantUs).
- After January 16, 2024, PHEAA will require all external users to use multi-factor authentication (MFA) to access our system applications including high schools who use our system to access student FAFSA completion reports on our PageCenterX system.

We are requiring Cisco Duo for the MFA requirement. Cisco Duo provides a choice of two enablement methods. PHEAA recommends that all users consult with your Information Technology staff to decide which of the two enablement methods will work best for your organization.

- **Option 1 - Cisco Duo Mobile Application:** User downloads the free application to a smartphone for convenient access.
- **Option 2 - Short Message Service (SMS) Passcode:** User receives a one-time passcode via SMS/text message.

GrantUs, PHEAA's new portal, will also require multi-factor authentication for all users. The MFA options available for GrantUs will be restricted to Microsoft Authenticator or Google Authenticator. Additional information about the GrantUs MFA requirements will be shared ahead of the platform launching.

Questions about Cisco Duo MFA should be directed to the PHEAA Help Desk at 1-877-398-4237 or 717-720-3000.

## PA Forward Student Loans

Once the holidays are over, your seniors will be working through their last term of high school! If they're wondering how they're going to pay for higher education next fall, they may find the solution with PA Forward. PHEAA's PA Forward Student Loans offer affordable options with several benefits and a variety of repayment options for PA residents planning to attend school in and out of state. Reference [pheaa.org/PAForward](https://pheaa.org/PAForward) to help them with the planning process.



## Industry News:

### U.S. Department of Education Releases New Data Highlighting How the Simplified, Streamlined, and Redesigned Better FAFSA® Form Will Help Deliver Maximum Pell Grants to 1.5 Million More Students

The Department of Education [released data](#) showing that the 2024-25 FAFSA will expand Pell Grant eligibility, helping 610,000 new students gain eligibility. Additionally, 1.5 million more students will receive the maximum Pell Grant, bringing the total number of students eligible for the maximum Pell Grant amount to more than 5.2 million.



## Resources:

### FSA Partner Emails

With so many changes happening, it's important to stay current! [Sign up](#) for Federal Student Aid partner emails to keep up to date on their announcements.

### FAFSA Line by Line Webinar

PHEAA Access Partners will present an overview of the 2024-25 FAFSA process to guide students and families through a step-by-step process of filing the FAFSA and PA State Grant applications. This webinar is scheduled for February 21, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM (ET). Register at [pheaa.org/virtual](https://pheaa.org/virtual).



**FUN FACT!**

Did you know the snowiest city on earth is in **Japan**? Amori City in northern Japan receives **26 feet of snow** on average every year.

Learn more fun facts about winter at [mentalfloss.com](https://mentalfloss.com)