From: Conner, Dede - KDE Division Director **Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:53 AM

To: All State KSIS Contacts

Subject: KSIS Notification: FAFSA Reminder

The information from KHEAA, below, was shared with superintendents yesterday in the <u>Commissioner's Monday Message</u>. You can help spread the message by sharing this information with your high school seniors and their families through Campus Portal or other communication tools.

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) reports 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rates are down 44%. With changes in the FAFSA this year, there have been challenges, but students must complete the FAFSA to access financial aid resources they need after graduation. If interested, you can access <u>FAFSA completions by high school</u> online to see numbers of applications submitted and completed compared to last year for your schools.

Please help by reminding your high school seniors of the importance of the FAFSA. Campus Portal is a quick way to target seniors with the message below.

Students Can Still Get Money to Help Pay for College and Postsecondary Training

As the school year wraps up, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) wants students to know there is money available to help with all types of education beyond high school. Both the federal and state governments have need-based funds for students attending two-year, four-year and technical and trade schools. There are also financial aid resources for families who may not be eligible for need-based funds.

The only way for students to know how much money is available is to complete a 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA collects information from students and their families to determine how much money they may qualify for to help pay for college.

It is important for families to complete the 2024-2025 FAFSA as soon as possible to ensure they have access to the maximum amount of federal and state aid, as some programs are first-come, first-served. There may also be additional steps they need to complete before it's time to attend college in the fall.

There are many resources to help students and families understand the FAFSA process and even get hands-on assistance:

- Step-by-step guide to how start and complete the FAFSA
- KHEAA offers information on state grants and scholarships
- Where to start to get a student aid account and file your FAFSA
- FSA ID Creation Guide
- FAFSA Walk Through
- FAFSA Completion Guide
- <u>Contact a KHEAA Outreach Counselor for one-on-one help</u>

Coming Soon

Get in-person help every Wednesday in June from 2-4 p.m. local time at sites across Kentucky. Check KHEAA social media for locations and updates.

If you've filed your FAFSA and need to know what's next, join us and our partners at GEAR UP Kentucky for the June webinar. Check back on KHEAA and GEAR UP's social media for links to register.

The <u>Facebook event</u>, <u>GEAR UP + KHEAA FAFSA First Aid Virtual Parent Night Webinar</u>, is on June 4 at 6:30 p.m. ET.

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