



Dear Colleagues and Financial Aid Administrators,

As you are all aware, the implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act and the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE Act) were both signed into law in 2020 and 2019 respectively. These two laws represent a massive overhaul of federal student aid, including changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, the eligibility calculation, the way IRS tax data will be exchanged to provide income information on the FAFSA, and many policies and procedures for schools that participate in the Title IV programs.

With the implementation of these two laws along with the end to the Federal Direct Loan repayment pause and the reinstatement of Federal Income Verification V1 verifications, the financial aid community will no doubt experience an administrative burden based on all the changes that include but are not limited to retraining financial aid staff, educating the campus and those we serve, revising policies and procedures, revisiting awarding practices, and adjusting financial aid processing timelines.

In April 2023, College Presidents received a letter from the U. S. Department of Education to inform them of the significant changes ahead, anticipated impact on the financial aid process, schools, and administrators and what it will take to make this a successful transition. This included encouraging additional institutional resources, training, and staffing, all with the goal of reducing non-compliance risks and audit findings.

We are sending this joint statement today to show support for the financial aid community that includes all NYS schools in preparation for this monumental year ahead; we understand the scope of what it will take to make this happen. It is our hope that the financial aid community along with their colleagues and campus partners will all work together with patience and grace. We are in this together and will need all the support we can get!

We encourage you to forward this joint statement to your senior leadership and partners to help them understand the challenges your financial aid office will face – knowing that each campus has its own challenges - and hopefully start a dialog to work together and provide any necessary support in a joint effort to be student centric and maintain compliance.

Our fondest financial aid regards,

Patti (Beers) Donahue, NYSFAAA President  
Patti Noren, SUNYFAP President  
Patti Thompson, SUNY Administration