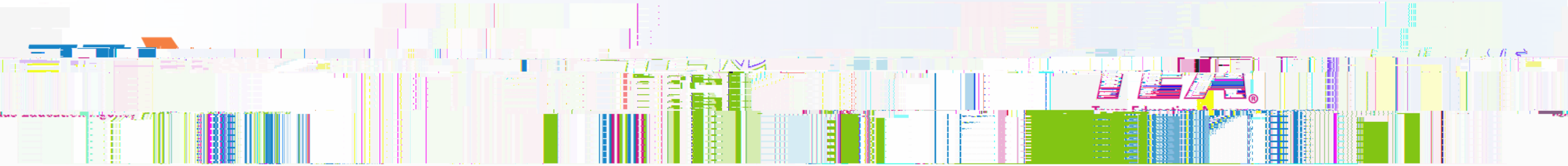




# Financial Aid Application

Graduation Requirement

# Agenda



# Texas Commission on Public School Finance

-income eighth-graders enroll in college four years later; the other 60 percent (at an average Pell grant award of \$4,010 per student per year) conservatively represent over **\$300 million** per year per cohort of **untapped federal resources available for their post-secondary education.**\_

# HB 3 Changes – Financial Aid Application Requirement

# HB 3 Changes – Anticipated Commissioners Rules

## Completion of the FAFSA

The student has submitted the FAFSA application and the submitted application has been successfully processed by the Office of Student Financial Aid at the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

## Completion of the TASFA

# HB 3 Changes – Support from TEA

TEA will provide the following resources to support districts with implementing the new rules.

- f* A standard notification for students and parents that explains the financial aid requirement, including the requirements for and differences between FAFSA and TASFA

# HB 3 Changes – Anticipated Commissioners Rules







# What is FAFSA?

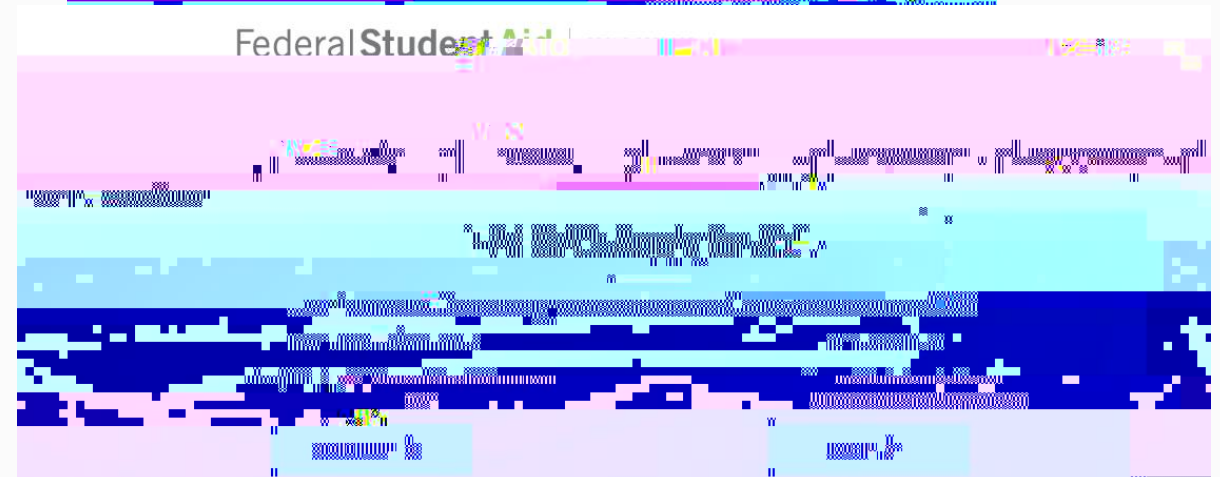
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# Completing the FAFSA: How to Apply

Students log in at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to apply online.

Students may also apply using one of the following methods to file a FAFSA:

- ✚ Fill out the form in the myStudentAid mobile app
- ✚ Print out a FAFSA PDF from the [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) site and mail the FAFSA for processing



# Completing the FAFSA involves many steps



## Getting Started

Before completing the application, a student will need to

- ‡ gather required documentation;
- ‡ register (or already be registered) with the Selective Service System, if male and 18;
- ‡ identify colleges and universities (up to 10) to which to send financial information; and
- ‡ create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID\* -- online application only.

Parents (and the student, if applicable) will need to have filed their income tax returns for the year prior to filing the FAFSA (e.g., 2020 taxes filed when applying during the 2021-2022 school year for the 2022-2023 FAFSA cycle).

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them to electronically sign the FAFSA.

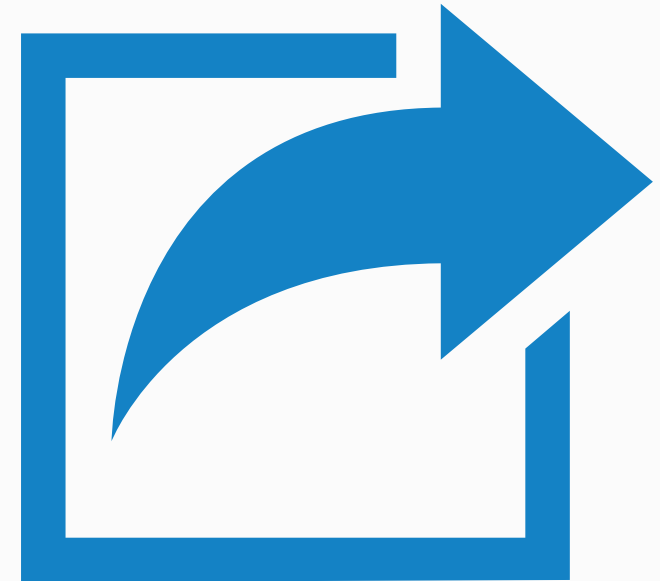
# Completing the FAFSA involves many steps

## Submitting the FAFSA

Once the initial steps are complete, the student will have to complete and submit the application either online or on paper.

• After submitting the FAFSA, students should check their account on FAFSA.gov 3-5 business days after submission to verify the status of an application. If the account indicates that the application was successfully processed, the student has completed the Texas graduation requirement to complete a financial aid application.

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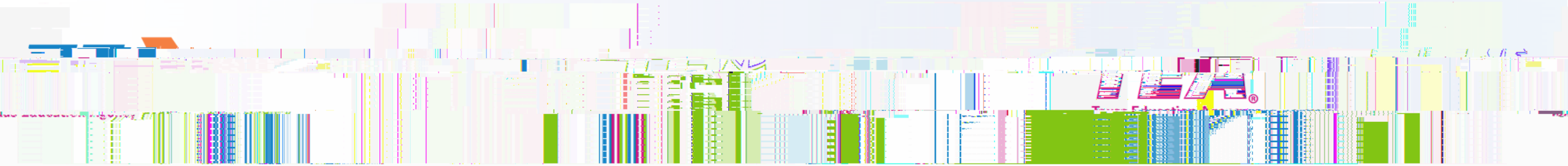
# Completing the FAFSA: Documents Needed to Apply

Documentation	Student	Parent/ Guardian (student dependents only)
Social Security Number (SSN)	Required for online form	Required for online form
Drivers license	If the student has a license	
Alien registration number	If the student is not a U.S. citizen but eligible for federal financial aid	
Federal tax information or returns including IRS W-2 information	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Records of untaxed income, e.g., child support received, interest income, veterans noneducation benefits	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Information on cash, savings and checking account balances, investments, and business and farm assets	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>





USDE umm



# Completing the FAFSA: Resources

To support districts in successful implementation of this requirement, TEA will work on the following:

- f* Form a new team dedicated to **Counselor, Advisor, and Student Supports**, offering a clear point of contact and communication channel for district employees
- f* Partner with

## Key Takeaway

New resources to support the implementation of the financial aid application requirement will be made available to counselors and schools in Fall 2020.

# Tracking FAFSA Completions and Submissions

*f*The ApplyTexas Counselor Suite hosted by UT Austin provides student level data from the USDE (via MOU with school districts) about FAFSA submissions and completions.

*f*From late October-June, data is released twice weekly. The first report is added to the ApplyTexas site by mid- to late October and is updated in ApplyTexas (UT) 2.3 Tm0 g0 C

# TASFA

# What is TASFA?

- ‡ The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to determine eligibility for state (or institutional) financial aid programs administered by IHEs in the state of Texas.
- ‡ Students who are classified as Texas Residents who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA must complete the TASFA or opt out to meet the new graduation requirement.

FAFSA covers federal and state financial aid opportunities. Students should complete FAFSA if they meet FAFSA eligibility. Students do not need to complete both the FAFSA and TASFA.

# 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Changes - TASFA

- ‡ Recent legislation (HB 2140) requires the THECB to adopt procedures to allow students to complete and submit a common TASFA form by electronic submission.
- ‡ The electronic application submission process for state financial aid must be available for applications submitted for the 2022-2023 academic year.
- ‡ THECB must appoint an advisory committee to develop recommendations to assist with procedures for the electronic submission.
- ‡ Advisory committee recommendations must be submitted to the legislature January 1, 2021.

\*TEA is working with THECB to coordinate requirements related to TASFA

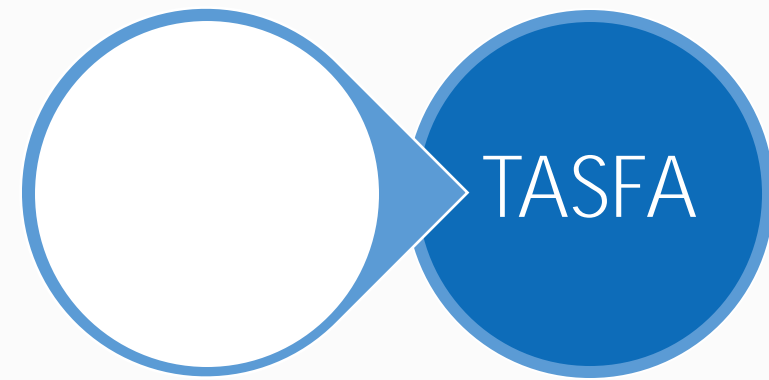






# Completing the TASFA: Resources

Many of the state and local programs and organizations that provide resources and support for completing the FAFSA also assist counselors and students and parents with TASFA.



## Key Takeaway

Districts may want to begin exploring opportunities to partner with state and local entities to provide families with support to complete the FAFSA and TASFA to meet the requirement.

# Opt Out

# Opting out of FAFSA/TASFA

A student may opt out of the financial aid application graduation requirement if

- ‡ a parent or guardian submits a signed form;
- ‡

# Opting out of FAFSA/TASFA

TEA will provide the approved opt-out form in Spring 2021 for districts to use.

The form will be made available in English, Spanish, and other languages common in Texas schools.

Districts and charter schools will need to collect and manage opt-out data locally in order to report exceptions annually through the Public Education Information Management System in the Texas Student Data System (TSDS PEIMS).



# Frequently Asked Question



Question

How will TEA approve opt-out forms?



Answer

TEA will not approve forms submitted by school districts. TEA will develop and make available on the TEA website, prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, an opt-out form for use by districts and charter schools.

# Reporting Requirements

# Reporting Requirements-PEIMS

Districts will be required to report the financial aid application graduation requirement in TSDS PEIMS for each student.

A new data element and code table will be added to TSDS PEIMS for the graduate record beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

Schools will report the following in the fall (Submission 1) for graduates:

<b>Financial-Aid-Application-Indicator</b>
01 Financial application form completed
02 Exception filed

To track the manner in which a student completed the graduation requirement for the student record, this data element will also be entered in the Texas Records Exchange (TREx) System.

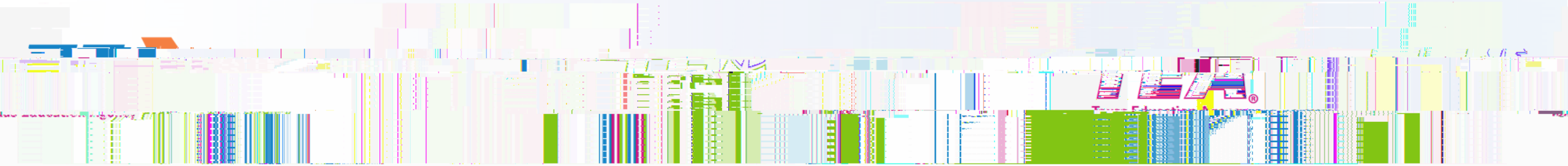


# Reporting Requirements-TREx

Districts will also need to indicate that the graduation requirement has been met on the high school transcript.

An additional data element will be added to TREx to enable districts to indicate the month and year the student completed the graduation requirement on the transcript beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

Common Name		XML Name	ComplexType
FINANCIAL-AID-APPLICATION-REQUIREMENT-MET-DATE		MetDate	
Definition			
<p>Indicates the month and year the student completed the graduation requirement on the transcript beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.</p>			
Element ID	Element Name	Required?	ComplexType
FINAIDREQMETDATE	MetDate	No	DATE



# Reporting Requirements – Next Steps

- f* TEA is exploring options with THECB to streamline data collection systems for monitoring and reporting FAFSA information.
- f* TEA will also work with THECB to coordinate reporting requirements related to TASFA.

## Key Takeaway

Districts will enter financial aid application data in their local student information systems beginning with students enrolled in 12<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2021-2022 school year. In 2022-2023, districts will begin reporting financial aid application completion data in TSDS PEIMS on the graduate record in the fall (Submission 1).

# Advisory Committee

# Advisory Committee

- ‡ The advisory committee will be composed of
  - ‡ School counselors
  - ‡ School administrators
  - ‡ Stakeholders to represent the needs of interested students
- ‡ The advisory committee is expected to meet four to six times between January and December 2020

## Key Takeaway

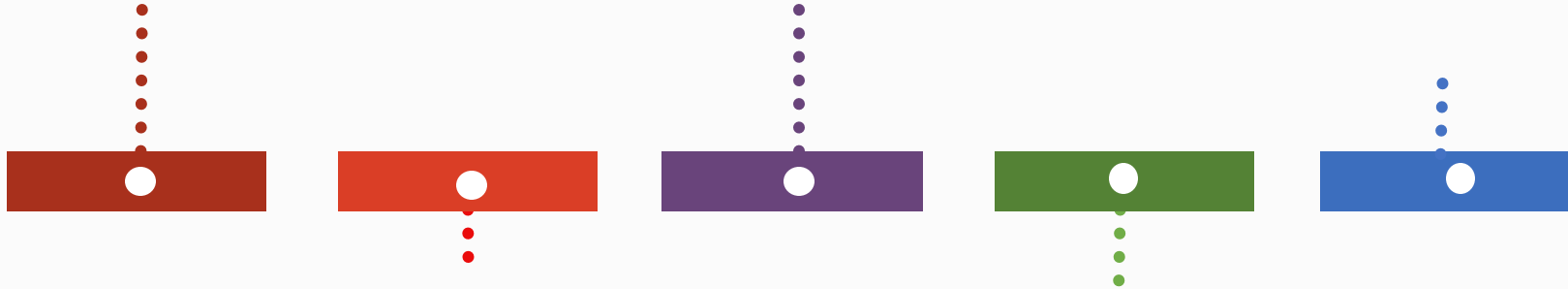
Apply to serve on the advisory committee using the online application at <https://www.txetests.com/acn/ACNForm.php>

# Advisory Committee

The advisory committee will make recommendations regarding the following:

- ‡ Information districts must provide to students
- ‡ Timelines for distribution of the FAFSA or TASFA and opt-out form to students
- ‡ Timelines for submission of a completed opt-out form
- ‡ The method by which a student must provide proof of completion and submission of the FAFSA or TASFA
- ‡ Resources to be provided by TEA

January/February  
2021



January 2020

TEA convenes  
advisory committee

# Next Steps for School Districts and Charter Schools

## Beginning Now

### Recommended

- 9 Identify local partners who can provide additional assistance as soon as possible
- 9 Initiate an MOU to access the ApplyTexas Counselor Suite with THECB if there is not already one in place for your school or district
- 9 Encourage counselors to take the Texas OnCourse at 31( )-15(a)-349(F)790.7(F)0-S addIS n7( )18( )



# Next Steps for School Districts and Charter Schools

# Frequently Asked Question

No. This requirement applies beginning with students enrolled in 12th grade during

# House Bill 3 Resources

Stay tuned for the most up-to-date information from TEA on the implementation of House Bill 3



[tea.texas.gov/HB3](http://tea.texas.gov/HB3)

Visit [tea.texas.gov/HB3](http://tea.texas.gov/HB3) for the most up-to-date information



[HB3info@tea.texas.gov](mailto:HB3info@tea.texas.gov)

Email [HB3info@tea.texas.gov](mailto:HB3info@tea.texas.gov) with any questions



# Thank you!

For Additional Questions:

[HB3info@tea.texas.gov](mailto:HB3info@tea.texas.gov)

Include the Financial Aid Application in the subject line