

FAFSA Update

August 2026

Nearly half of North Dakota seniors have completed the 2026-27 FAFSA

FAFSA completion among North Dakota's 2026 high school graduates is now at 49 percent, a 9.4 increase compared to the same period last year.

According to the National College Attainment Network's FAFSA data, approximately 4,600 of the states seniors have completed a 2026-27 FAFSA as of July 17.

Nationally, 60.5 percent of high school seniors have completed the 2026-27 FAFSA.

Watch for the 2027-28 FAFSA to open by October 1, 2026 for current seniors.

To complete the FAFSA, students (and their parent or parents) should create an account at StudentAid.gov.

Identity fraud detection system now in FAFSA

To thwart would-be fraudsters, the financial aid application process now includes an identity screening process.

Earlier this year, the Department of Education launched a new, real-time fraud detection capability for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Every applicant will be evaluated in real-time through a risk-based identity screening.

Applicants who display a certain level of fraud risk will be required to present government-issued identification before having access to federal student aid funds, including Pell Grants and federal student loans.

In conducting a one-time review of all previously submitted 2026-27 FAFSA forms utilizing the new screening technology, the Department estimates that by identifying and denying federal student aid to fraudsters, it will save taxpayers over \$1 billion during the 2026-27 FAFSA cycle.

FAFSA Results now available in real time

Students completing the FAFSA will no longer have to wait to view their FAFSA Submission Summary.

This summer, the U.S. Department of Education announced they have launched a processing enhancement that allows students to immediately view their FAFSA Submission Summary when signing and submitting an initial application or correction of a 2025-26 or 2026-27 FAFSA.

This enhancement will allow students to view their confirmed Student Aid Index (SAI), Federal Pell Grant eligibility, and any comment or reject codes.

The enhancement also allows students to make up to four corrections without waiting for the typical one-to-three-day processing delay between transactions. Students will be able to review and resolve issues more quickly.



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