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From: [Washington College Grant \(WSAC\)](#)
Subject: 2024-25 Family Size Guidance
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Hello FAA Colleagues!

In an effort to continue sharing the work that WSAC is doing alongside the State Aid Advisory Workgroup, we wanted to provide the financial aid community with some decision-making guidance. The Better FAFSA/WASFA FAQs at <https://wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources> have also been updated to reflect these decisions. (Note: This is a working document that is updated as decisions are made.) Please take the time to review the FAQs, as there is some additional information about QER calculations with the change in enrollment intensity, as well as how State Work Study (SWS) earnings are to be handled.

Family Size Guidance

With the Better FAFSA updates for the 2024-25 Academic Year, the number of family members in college is no longer a factor in the need analysis.

WSAC worked directly with the State Financial Aid Workgroup, and conducted a survey with the financial aid community, asking for input regarding alignment with the federal change or continuing to adjust the household size for more than one in college – for state aid purposes only. The support was strong, showing that schools preferred to align with the FAFSA when awarding State aid, but also wanting to recognize potential impacts to continuing students.

WSAC conducted a review of prior year data for 2022-23 to see how many students receiving state aid would have been impacted. The numbers were surprisingly low and out of 91,762 students – about 2,500 students statewide would move to a different MFI category and just over 1000 students would be ineligible.

This means that, starting for the 2024-25 academic year, you will no longer increase the family size by one for every family member who will be in college/apprenticeship. This specifically means you will not increase the household size that is then applied to the Median Family Income (MFI) eligibility chart.

FAA's continue to have broad discretion in using Professional Judgement (PJ) and may choose to exercise PJ to adjust other data elements related to Cost of Attendance (COA) or income elements related to SAI that reflect costs associated with additional family members enrolled in college/apprenticeships. Schools will need to keep proper documentation, and

changes must be submitted on a corrected FAFSA/WASFA, aligned again with the professional judgment you are allowed for federal aid.

Note: You can refer to the Federal Student Aid Handbook, Chapter 5, Special Cases as a reference: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/fsa-handbook/2023-2024/application-and-verification-guide/ch5-special-cases>

Please note that if a student's COA, or income elements related to SAI, were already adjusted on the FAFSA/WASFA to accommodate the change in family size, then you may not do another adjustment for the same reason for State aid. Instead, you would use the previously processed adjustment for determining state aid eligibility.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for all you do!



Washington Student Achievement Council

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