



WSAC Spring Workshops 2025 June 2025





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- We will utilize the Q&A feature for questions. Please ask anything using that feature!
- Reactions are available! Let us know what you think.





# Today we'll be covering:

- General Overview of the WASFA
- The WASFA Application (Student Experience Portal)
- Accessing WASFA information in the WSAC Portal and Corrections Process
- Known Issues & Workarounds
- Questions

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# Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

# WASHINGTON APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID (WASFA)

The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) form is for people who **do not** file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. People who complete a WASFA form are applying for state aid only.

There are various reasons people may choose to complete a WASFA instead of a FAFSA. For example:

- Student or their parent(s) are undocumented or do not qualify for federal financial aid because of their immigration status.
- Student's parent(s) or family member(s) do not wish to file a FAFSA.
- Student or family have privacy concerns about filing a FAFSA.
- Student or their parent(s) do not and will not file federal income taxes.
- Student has Federal loans that are in default.
- Repayment owed on federal grants.



Students should

complete only one

application, either

the FAFSA or the

WASFA.

Both applications qualify a student for state financial aid, so a

student should only complete the WASFA if that is the right choice for them.



# WASFA Questionnaire can be found at: <u>https://wsac.wa.gov/WASFAelig</u>

#### Should you complete a FAFSA or a WASFA?

If you are unsure if you should complete a FAFSA or a WASFA, complete the <u>WASFA Questionnaire</u> for more information; however, anyone uncomfortable with submitting a federal FAFSA form can use the WASFA to apply only for state aid.

#### WASFA QUESTIONNAIRE

The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is for people who choose not to file a federal FAFSA application. applying for state aid only. There are various reasons people choose to complete a WASFA instead of a FAFSA. For example:

- · You or your parent(s) are undocumented or do not qualify for federal financial aid because of your immigration status
- Your parent(s) or family member(s) do not wish to file a FAFSA.
- You have privacy concerns.
- You or your parent(s) do not and will not file federal income taxes.
- You have federal loans that are in default.
- You owe a repayment on federal grants.

After you complete the WASFA, the college(s) or program(s) you choose will determine whether you meet <u>state residency req</u> <u>eligibility</u>. State financial aid could include Washington College Grant (WA Grant), College Bound, Passport to Careers, Nation

The following questions will help you decide which application to complete, recognizing that anyone can choose to file a WAS reason, you have filed both a FAFSA and a WASFA for the same year, please notify your financial aid office to avoid any delay









WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families.

- Data collected on the WASFA can only be used for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for state financial aid programs.
- WSAC takes the privacy of personal information extremely seriously and is committed to taking all available measures to protect student data.
- WSAC supports students and families in making decisions that best fit their educational goals and risk considerations.





• WSAC Privacy statement on financial aid applicant privacy can be found at <u>wsac.wa.gov/wasfa (January 2025)</u>

#### **WASFA Privacy Statement**

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) administers state financial aid including the Washington College Grant, the College Bound Scholarship, and the Washington Application for State Financial Aid, or WASFA. The Council is committed to providing opportunities and support to ensure every Washington student is able to pursue education beyond high school.

Regarding concerns that students, parents, and other partners may have about the confidentiality of information submitted on the WASFA, the purpose of the application is to provide eligibility information to colleges and universities in Washington that offer the Washington College Grant and the College Bound Scholarship. WSAC shares application information with campuses listed by the student so those schools may determine eligibility for resident tuition and financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families. Washington is a state committed to providing opportunities to students and protecting the rights of families.

Read WSAC's statement on financial aid applicant privacy (Español)

# Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)



- The WASFA may be used to determine residency
  - The residency affidavit is a part of the WASFA





# Requirements for students with any immigration or citizenship status:

Maintain a primary residence in Washington for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before their first term at the college determining residency.

- Residency is typically determined at the time of admission.
- All students complete an affidavit as a part of the WASFA application.



At public colleges, the residency officer determines residency.

- The financial aid office should work directly with their residency officer if they find conflicting information.
- The financial aid office should share the residency report with their residency office.

At private colleges, financial aid administrators determine residency.

 The financial aid office will need to resolve any conflicting information. A student should not be asked to do a paper affidavit if they did the WASFA.



The WASFA is similar to the FAFSA questions, annual availability, and annual completion.



- - Typically Opens October 1st2026-27 WASFA anticipated to open on time.
  - Application closes on June 30th each year
  - Students need to complete the application annually at <u>wsac.wa.gov/wasfa</u>



- To begin the WASFA application, a student can log into their existing account or create an account (new students only).
- The student will need to provide the following:
  - Email address
  - Password
  - Name
  - DOB
  - SSN or ITIN (if they have it)
  - WASFA ID (if they submitted a WASFA in prior to 2015)





# When a student creates a WASFA account, the following question is asked:

Are you eligible to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or have you already submitted a FAFSA?

OYes ONo

- If the student answers "no", they will be directed to create a WASFA Account.
- If the student answers "yes", they will see the following:

● Yes ○ No

If you're uncomfortable submitting a FAFSA, you can use the WASFA for state aid but won't qualify for federal aid. If you've already completed a FAFSA, no second application is needed. To file a WASFA, select "No" and continue with the application.



Once a student logs in or completes the account sign-up they will enter their account Dashboard.



To access or complete an application, students will need to enter the Documents tab.



Once students select an application year to complete, they will be guided through the application by section.

Applicants can see where they are in each section and can save and exit at any time.







Once the applicant reaches the Washington State Information section, they will answer residency questions, including the residency affidavit:

- 1. Earn a high school diploma, GED, or diploma equivalent before your first term at the college determining residency,
- Maintain a primary residence in Washington for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before your first term at the college determining residency. The Washington residence must be for purposes other than college. (Note: If you take any courses at another Washington college during the prior 12 months, you cannot have taken more than six credits in any given term. If you exceed that limit you must prove that you have a Washington residence for noncollege reasons), and,
- 3. Promise that one of the following is true:
  - You will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States as soon as you are eligible to apply. And, that you are also willing to engage in activities designed to prepare you for citizenship, including citizenship or civics review courses, or
  - ✓ You are a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. permanent resident.



If the student answers that they will not meet the eligibility requirements of the affidavit, they are presented with an additional question:

Do you have a current or expired DACA status, a current work authorization card, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or a U	visa? *	
¿Tiene un estado DACA actual o vencido, una tarjeta de autorización de trabajo actual, un Estado de Protección Temporal (1	TPS) o una visa U?	
⊖ Yes		
No		
This field is required		
Students with one of these statuses may be eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid. Los estudiantes con uno de estos estados pueden ser elegibles para la matrícula estatal y la ayuda financiera del e	stado.	



# If the applicant answered no/will not meet eligibility to both questions, they receive the following message:

Based on your responses, we are not able to determine your eligibility for state financial aid and in-state tuition. We recommend completing the application and contacting the financial aid office at your college for more information, and to inquire about additional financial aid resources that may be available.

We also encourage you to create a profile on our scholarship-matching website, www.thewashboard.org. Doing so will enable you to view and apply for scholarships that you may be eligible for.

Según sus respuestas, no podemos determinar su elegibilidad para la ayuda financiera estatal y la matrícula estatal. Le recomendamos que complete la solicitud y se ponga en contacto con la oficina de ayuda financiera de su universidad para obtener más información y consultar sobre otros recursos de ayuda financiera que puedan estar disponibles.

También le recomendamos que cree un perfil en nuestro sitio web de búsqueda de becas, www.thewashboard.org. Esto le permitirá ver y solicitar las becas que puede obtener.

This is important to note, because it means that a student can complete a WASFA, even if their eligibility as a resident hasn't been determined.



#### During the Dependency Determination, a dependent student can indicate if they cannot provide parent information due to unusual circumstances and a description of what some of those circumstances would be.

#### Student Unusual Circumstances

Circunstancias inusuales del estudiante

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?

¿Circunstancias inusuales impiden que el estudiante se comunique con sus padres o contactar a sus padres representaría un riesgo para el estudiante? Yes; Sí

() No

1 This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school. A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they:

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- Are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- . Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- Are a victim of human trafficking;
- · Are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- · Are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents, and have not been adopted.

If the student's circumstances resulted in their not having a safe, stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the question on the previous page about being unaccompanied and homeless.

Esta información nos ayudará a evaluar la capacidad del estudiante para pagar la escuela. Un estudiante puede estar experimentando circunstancias inusuales si:

- · Se fue de casa debido a un ambiente abusivo o amenazante;
- · Están abandonados o separados de sus padres, y no han sido adoptados;
- · Tienen estatus de refugiado o asilado y están separados de sus padres, o sus padres están desplazados a un país extranjero;
- Es víctima de trata de personas;
- Está encarcelado, o sus padres están encarcelados, y el contacto con los padres representaría un riesgo para el estudiante; o
- · De otra manera no pueden contactar o localizar a sus padres y no han sido adoptados.

Si las circunstancias del estudiante resultaron en que no tuviera un lugar seguro y estable para vivir, se le puede considerar un joven sin hogar y debe revisar la respuesta a la pregunta de la página anterior sobre no estar acompañado y sin hogar.

Are the student's parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student does not have an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting the parents or obtaining their information?

¿Los padres del estudiante no están dispuestos a proporcionar su información, pero el estudiante no tiene una circunstancia inusual que les impida comunicarse con los padres u obtener su información?

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🔵 Yes; Sí
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Once a student agrees to the disclosure and reviews application, they can consent to sign electronically.

Dependent students will need to invite a parent to sign their application after they are done signing.

	Exit		
<ul> <li>Student Information</li> </ul>	Step 1: Signature Options		
✓ Student College or Career School Plans	Great work! You've completed all the required steps for the WA Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) 2024-2025. Now it's time to review the WA Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) 2024-2025, sign the form and submit the form for processing. Please select one of the signature options below to sign and submit the		
✓ Student Circumstances	WA Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) 2024-2025.		
<ul> <li>Student Family Information</li> </ul>	Select the <b>Electronically Sign Forms</b> option for the fastest option for processing financial aid forms. You will have the option to review all information prior to submitting it. You will also be able to print copies of all forms signed electronically.		
<ul> <li>Student Financial Information</li> </ul>	If you want to sign your form with an electronic signature, please select this option below.		
✓ Student School List	Selecting <b>Or choose another option</b> is not an electronic signature option and requires that you print your completed forms, review them for accuracy, and then provide a wet signature and upload or send your form. This process is manual and		
✓ Additional Questions	may result in delays in processing your financial aid forms and receiving your financial aid funds. If you do not want to electronically sign your forms, please		
	select this option below.		
ී E-Signature	1/3		
	E-SIGN DOCUMENT		
	OR CHOOSE ANOTHER OPTION		



Parents will receive an invitation to sign the WASFA. To avoid confusion, parent and student WASFA accounts will display their account type and their registered name.

- When the student logs into their WASFA, the welcome message on their Documents page will display as "Hello Student!"
- When the parent logs into their WASFA, the welcome message on their homepage will display as "Welcome Parent!"
  - The registered name for both parent and student accounts will also display on the top right-hand corner next to the profile figure.

MAD TEST Q	• A Dashboard	oldius. 💟 🛡 🕅
Filter By:       Select       Status:       Image: Submitted (1)       Image: Status S		Documents
	Documents	Your WASFA Applications
	Ø Useful Links	
WASFA Applications		Hello Student! PLEASE CLICK ON ' <b>Sh</b>
Welcome Parent! PLEASE CLICK ON 'Show Full Info' in bottom right corner to read this entire message.		Information about your WASFA appl of the academic year you are applyi
Thank you for taking the time to review and electronically sign your student's WASFA application. To get started, please click on Review and Update to begin the process.		
Show Full Info		My Documents



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financial aid » about financial aid » wasfa

#### WASFA (WASHINGTON APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID)





#### **Application Resources**

- 2025-26 WASFA Application Guide English (word) (PDF) Spanish (word) (PDF)
- 2025-26 Sample WASFA PDF
- 2024-25 WASFA Application Guide English (word) (PDF) Spanish (word) (PDF)
- 2024-25 Sample WASFA PDF

 WASFA Guides can be found at

## wsac.wa.gov/wasfa.

 For more detailed information on account creation or application completion process.



Year	App Count at 6 months*	App Count Full Cycle	WCG Awards**	CBS Awards**
2025-26	6,024	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024-25	4,767	9,360	N/A	N/A
2023-24	3,261	8,410	3,067	544
2022-23	3,178	7,201	2,782	601
2021-22	3,177	6,557	2,673	693

• As of 3/31 of each application year. As of 6/17/25 for the 25-26 (6 month) and 24-25 AY (full count)

• Awards based on Final Interim Reports, unduplicated headcount

Applications and WCG awards continue to increase, while we see a decrease in CBS awards. Paper applications now available for Prison Education Programs (PEP)





## Access WASFA information in the portal at Programs ---- WASFA

	Search WASFA Applica	ations Home V   Pro	grams 🗸   WASFA
	Academic Year	School	
	2025-2026 ~		~
	Last Name	First Name	Email
To view all students for c		Applicant ID 🕄	Date Of Birth
given academic year, select the year and click		Transaction Date - from	to
on search.	Only show new transactions*	MM/dd/yyyy	MM/dd/yyyy
	Q search CSV 🖺 ISIR 🖺 page size.	an be exported via CSV or ISIR	

First

Previous

2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 Next Last

Showing 1-10 of 217 results



- Residency information is available in the WSAC portal with the option to download CSV. file
- New and updated applications are loaded into the WSAC portal every night
- You will only be able to see a student's WASFA if they added your school.



### Access WASFA information in the portal at Programs ---- WASFA

Home - | Programs - | WASFA

	Academic Year			School		
	2025-2026	~				~
	Last Name		)	First Name	Email	I
Click on CSV residency rep students			]	Applicant ID 🚯	Date (	Of Birth MM/dd/yyyy
	Conly show new tr Transactions are conside CSV	red NEW until downloaded in ISIR format	• Re	esidency Data Only	ata (	Only
	The data in this rep	ort reflects student application responses. All reside	ency	determinations should be completed, and verified if necessary, at the institu	ition.	

### Search WASFA Applications

Corrections now available for the 2024-25 academic year!





Reasons to correct a WASFA application:

- 1. Adding a confirmed ITIN or SSN
- 2. Correcting incorrect demographic information
- 3. Dependency Override determination after student answered "yes" to Other or Unusual Circumstances questions
- 4. Professional judgment corrections to income



- Corrections are made and submitted through the WSAC portal.
- WASFA team will update the student's application with your changes directly with our application provider (Regent).
- The WASFA Team will send a secure message from WCG email through the WSAC Portal to the person who messaged or created a correction in the WSAC Portal with an attached PDF of the application with changes (*new step in process*).
- Once the team receives the affidavit message, we will submit the changes, and an updated transaction will be available in the WSAC Portal within 2 business days.



Student Demographics	2024-2025 Transaction 53 Edit
SSN or DACA	
ITIN	
Students Name	
Students Date of Birth	
Address	
Students Permanent Phone Number	
Students Email Address	
Students Marital Status	Never Married
Gender	Male
Ethnicity	
Race	
Is Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin	Yes - Mexican, Mexican American or Chicano
Have Children You Support	
Students Number In College	1
Born before 01-01-2001	no
Students Family Size	1
Correction Process Date	

After searching for a student, click on their name to access all WASFA transactions.

On the latest transaction, you will have the option to edit a student's WASFA.







- 2024-2025 #	53
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First name		
Middle name	Middle name	
Last name		
Suffix	Suffix	
Date of Birth		
Gender	Male	•
Race	Prefer not to answer	•
Is hispanic	Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano	٠
	Mailing Address	
Address		
City		
State	Washington	۵

After clicking on the Edit button, you'll be directed to the editing screen.



From here, you can edit any information on the application.

Click on the Review & Submit Corrections button to submit corrections.

Washington

Phone number	
Phone number	



### Before submission, you will be shown the changes made to double-check.

Student Details	Residency	Education	Dependency	Income	Parent	Review/Submit	
	Field			Origi	nal value		New value
	Parents Ema	il Address					
	Parents Seco	ondary Email Ad	ddress				
	Students Nu	mberin College	2	2			3
			Submit Correct	ions Can	cel Correcti	ions and Return	

Corrections are processed nightly, so a new transaction should show within 2 business days after the WASFA team receives affidavit message.



Professional judgement can be done by editing the WASFA, similar to how professional judgement is processed with the FAFSA.

- The process needs to be consistent and documented, just like it would be with a FAFSA filer.
- There is nothing to indicate PJ has been done when editing the WASFA except in the circumstance of a Dependency Override.
  - If approved, you will want to click on the "Approve unusual circumstances" button for Dependency Overrides.
    - If not approved the student would need to add their parent/s information to have a valid WASFA.

Unusual CircumstancesyesUnusual Circumstances Approved🖒 Approve unusual circumstances



When a student creates multiple WASFA accounts, this will create multiple WASFA IDs.

If you find a student has multiple IDs in the portal there are couple steps that must be completed to resolve the issue.





- 1. If the student has multiple SSN and/or ITIN numbers, confirm what number is correct.
  - > If the student has a confirmed SSN they should be awarded on that number.
  - > If they do not have an SSN, but have an ITIN, they should be awarded on that number.
  - If the student doesn't have either, they need to be awarded on their WASFA number. WASFA numbers start with 98\*\*\*\*\*\*.
- 2. Once the correct ID has been determined and student is awarded in CSAW on the correct ID, send a secure message to the Washington College Grant inbox via the portal, including the following:
  - Student Name
  - > ID that they should be awarded on
- 3. WSAC will merge the student records.





Student or parent is getting stuck in "Step 2: View My Forms" portion of the electronic signature section.

We usually see this happen with mobile devices (cellphones/tablets) &with the Safari browser. The electronic signature process works best with a computer/desktop (versus a mobile device) and Google Chrome or Firefox as the preferred internet browser.

ISSUE



# ISSUE SAI miscalculations for dependent students (25-26 AY)



The SAI formula was programmed incorrectly by our application servicer (Regent). A fix was implemented at the end of May.

- SAI calculation formula is now accurate.
- Our application servicer will be running a process to update SAI's for impacted students who submitted a WASFA before the fix was implemented.
  - Timeframe for process TBD



# Dependent student stuck in "inprogress" status and not able to send parent invitation signature.

Process we must initiate from our end/ in our system. Please have any impacted students reach out to us and we will work with them to resolve the issue and provide further guidance on next steps.

ISSUE

Workaround



WSAC can provide students and their parent/s with assistance on technical issues and any other questions!

Parents and students can email WSAC at <u>wasfa@wsac.wa.gov</u>, providing WSAC with their WASFA account email address and identifying information.





DAY/DATE/TIME	SESSION TITLE AND PRESENTER
June 24 10:00 – 11:30 d	State Financial Aid Training for CTCs Carlie Curlee (WSAC) and Kelly Forsberg (SBCTC)
June 24	WG-A
1:00 – 2:00 pn	n Lyle Irimata and Remy Plate
June 25	<b>College Bound from A to Z</b>
2:00 – 3:00 pn	<b>n</b> Carlie Curlee and Kathie Pham
June 26	Passport to Careers
1:00 – 2:00 pn	n Dawn Cypriano-McAferty



A short survey will pop up after this presentation. Please let us know how we did and what you'd like to see in the future. Your feedback is important to us!







# Thank you for joining us! Contact Us at wasfa@wsac.wa.gov