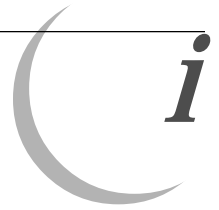

Introduction



This publication is intended for financial aid administrators and counselors who help students begin the student aid process—filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, verifying information, and making corrections and other changes to the information reported on the FAFSA.

CHANGES FOR 2002-2003

There are only minor changes to this volume, and some of those are changes in the application processing system:

- Schools will no longer have the option to request Renewal FAFSAs from the CPS for mailing to students. Instead, the CPS will automatically mail Renewal FAFSAs to eligible students.
- Schools will no longer have the option to request an electronic file of Renewal FAFSA data (known as the RAD file).
- Schools will receive an electronic file that lists all students who gave their school code and who are eligible for a Renewal FAFSA. This file will identify if the student received a paper Renewal FAFSA or a PIN mailer.

For more information on changes to the renewal application process, see Action Letter #1, GEN-01-10, August 2001.

New guidance has been given relating to dependency overrides and the treatment of box 14 items on IRS W-2 forms. See chapter 2 for more information.

The number of verification codes has been reduced to just three as a result of the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) project; see chapter 3.

Note that when parents are mentioned it refers to the parents of dependent students. When “you” is used it refers to the primary audience of the Handbook—financial aid administrators at colleges.

Our office’s name has changed from Student Financial Assistance to Federal Student Aid, so SFA has been replaced throughout this volume with FSA.

We appreciate any comments that you have regarding the Application/Verification Guide and all the volumes of the Federal Student Aid Handbook. We do add comments and clarifications based on your suggestions, so please contact us at sfaschoolspubs@ed.gov to let us know how to improve the Handbook so that it is always clear and authoritative.