

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Wolf Administration Reminds Pennsylvanians to Submit Their Free Application for Federal Student Aid**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Secretary of Education Dr. Noe Ortega today joined the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to remind Pennsylvanians to submit their [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA®) by May 1, 2022.

“From meeting graduation requirements to applying to college, contemplating a field of study to considering moving into an on-campus residence, preparing for postsecondary education can be overwhelming for many students and their families,” said Sec. Ortega. “However, filling out the FAFSA and submitting it before the PA State Grant deadline will help current and future college students check one box on their to-do list and will help determine how much financial assistance they will receive at the school they plan to attend. Federal financial aid helps make college more affordable, and helps students feel more financially prepared, whether they are stepping onto campus for the first time or are returning in the fall.”

All first-time applicants enrolled in a community college; business, trade, or technical school; hospital school of nursing; designated Pennsylvania open-admission institution; or nontransferable two-year program do have an extended deadline the first year they file: August 1, 2022.

Additionally, individuals financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic may be able to adjust their FAFSA and qualify for additional aid. More information about adjustments and eligibility can be found on the Federal Student Aid [website](#) or students may contact their institution.

“Submitting the FAFSA as soon as possible is the first step toward receiving both federal AND state student aid – including the PA State Grant Program, which is providing a \$5,000 maximum award during the current academic year”, said Rep. Sheryl Delozier, PHEAA Board member and Chair of the Board’s Executive Committee. “Unlike student loans, PA State Grants do not need to be repaid, which can help reduce or eliminate the need to borrow money, making college an affordable reality for many of our students with financial need.”

The FAFSA is an important tool for students seeking postsecondary education opportunities. Current and prospective undergraduate and graduate students should submit the FAFSA to the U.S. Department of Education to determine eligibility for federal student aid.

“When the FAFSA is not filled out, students may be leaving money on the table that potentially will fund their education,” said John W. Friend, Vice President for Admissions & Secondary Schools at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. “Ensuring that students complete the FAFSA and that families understand its importance is one of the priorities of our admissions and financial aid team.”

By filling out the FAFSA, students can receive federal grants, work study, and loans for each year of postsecondary education. Many states and colleges award aid to postsecondary students based on federal aid eligibility, and states and many colleges will award their own aid based on that data.

For more information about Pennsylvania's education policies and programs, please visit the [Department of Education's website](#). Follow PDE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#), or [Pinterest](#).

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