

# FAFSA/CADAA Review and Updates Q&A

## FAFSA CORRECTIONS OR FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY (FSS) RELATED QUESTIONS

1. I have had students who submitted their application on January 4th and their status still says, "in review." My understanding is that the form is not "submitted" until all the numbers (steps) turn to check marks.
  - a. All students who have submitted a 2024-25 FAFSA are currently "in review." FAFSA Submission Summaries (FSS) and FAFSA corrections will not be available until the first half of March. Until then, no action is needed by the student as long as they received that confirmation e-mail that the FAFSA was submitted.
2. How can students withdraw or add a school from the FAFSA list after submission? Will students receive notification that the information has been submitted to schools and then they can go back in and add additional schools?
  - a. Students can add/remove schools from their FAFSA by making a correction to their application. FAFSA corrections are not yet available; based upon estimations for completing that work, the Department will begin transmitting batches of FAFSA information (ISIRs) to schools and state agencies in the first half of March, which will include the updated SAI tables. FSA anticipates catching up with the majority of ISIR transmissions to schools in the weeks following the beginning of ISIR delivery.
3. I heard in another workshop that students must relist their colleges if adding new ones. Otherwise, the initial colleges listed will not see any updates. Is this correct?
  - a. No, the initial list of colleges will receive the information and it will be in their system. Then the student can go in and update the FAFSA with additional schools and they will also receive the information. This will not erase the data for the initial schools.
4. If students have more than 20 colleges, how will they know that the first 20 have received the information before they add their additional schools?
  - a. The only way a student can be assured that the first 20 schools received a transcript of their FAFSA/CADAA is to wait at least 10 days after receiving their FSS before removing and re-adding more schools.
5. A student incorrectly checked the question requesting the willingness of the parent to provide their information. Will they be able to correct this once the FAFSA allows corrections?
  - a. Yes, they will!
6. One college says their FAFSA deadline is 1/15 and my student submitted FAFSA form on 1/15. If FSS is not available till late Jan/early Feb, how will it impact financial aid application with that college?
  - a. Schools are going to have to adapt to the timelines as they will not be receiving the information from FSA until late January. I would recommend the student contact the school about the deadline. It's likely the school has already made adjustments but hasn't updated it on their website yet.

## FSA ID (STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT) QUESTIONS

1. Is there a waiting period to access the application after creating the FSA ID?
  - a. No - students can apply with the FAFSA as soon as they have their FSA ID. Keep in mind that right now the FAFSA application is taken "down" on occasion for continued updating during this soft launch period.
2. How do we advise our students that are having trouble creating an FSA ID for their parents without SSN?

- a. That has been a challenge for many people. Federal Student Aid provides these instructions: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-22/studentaidgov-account-creation-individuals-without-social-security-number-beginning-2024-25-fafsa-processing-cycle-updated-dec-27-2023>. However, there are some known issues with that process that Federal Student Aid (FSA) will resolve. The student/parent may have to contact FSA help for assistance by phone or email: 800-433-3243. <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact>
3. Do parents need to create an FSA ID before they complete the financial questions on the application, or can they create FSA ID at the end when they need to sign it?
  - a. Students and parents should create an FSA ID *prior* to applying for the FAFSA.
4. A parent created an FSA ID previously in years past. Can they still use that?
  - a. Yes, the parent will use the same FSA ID they previously created.
5. A parent I worked with had created an FAFSA ID 10 years ago but now she is neither able to retrieve the details nor create a new account. How can this issue be resolved?
  - a. If the parent already has an FSA ID, they should not create a new one. If the parent no longer has access to the email account or phone number that is associated with their FSA ID, they should contact the FSA Information Center (FSA IC) for assistance with unlocking their account: <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact>
6. Can parents without an ITIN still create an FSA ID?
  - a. Copied from FSA: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/undocumented-students>: "Starting in December 2023, parents or spouses will be able to create a StudentAid.gov account without having an SSN to access their portion of your FAFSA form. On the 2024–25 FAFSA form, if the parent or spouse is completing their own section and doesn't have an SSN, the SSN will be blank and disabled. If the parent or spouse has an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), they should add it to the FAFSA form. If they don't have an ITIN, they should leave that question blank".
7. What is the process for students/parents who must complete the paper FAFSA due to the lack of SSN record? I'm confused by the entering 000000000 for the SSN, as I had been told not to do that with the new system.
  - a. If the parent is unable to create an FSA ID, and/or does not want to complete the on-line form, there will be a PDF version they can complete and mail in. That will be the only time they will use all zeros for their SSN. These situations should be few, as the Dept of Education encourages applicants and contributors to complete the form online. Right now, there are problems with verifying parents without SSNs. Federal Student Aid is aware that this process is not working as intended, and CSAC is hopeful they will have this fixed, or will create a workaround soon.
8. Parent has a work SSN and files 2022 taxes under that SSN and not their ITIN. Parent was able to set up an FSA ID with their work SSN. The parent is not a legal resident; what date do they enter for the date of legal residence? Is this safe for the parent to continue?
  - a. CSAC defines CA residency as having lived in the state for one year + one day. The IRS and Dept of Ed do not share this information with Homeland Security.
9. When creating an FSA ID, what should a parent/student do if, their phone number or SSN is already tied to another account, but they never created one before?
  - a. They would need to contact FSA. They can email, call, or live chat: <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact>
10. Regarding creating the FSA ID, do parents who are divorced, filing separately, etc. each create an FSA ID? Or does only one parent create the FSAID?

- a. Only 1 parent will need an FSAID if were filed jointly. Both parents would create FSA IDs if they filed taxes separately. If divorced but remarried, the new spouse/stepparent will need to create an FSA ID, along with the parent signing the FAFSA for the student.
11. Does it matter which parent creates the FSA ID? Is it only the one that has the higher income?
    - a. For married parents, it doesn't matter which parent sets up the FSA ID, as joint income and savings info will be reported. For divorced or unmarried parents, the parent who provides the most financial support will establish the FSA ID and complete the FAFSA with their information.
  12. Students have mentioned that someone other than their own parents claim them on their taxes. Whose tax and income information should be reported in the Parent section?
    - a. Only a biological or custodial (adoptive) parent can contribute to student FAFSAs, regardless of who claims them on their taxes.
  13. I have a student whose parent is in Mexico and trying to create their FSA ID. They cannot get past the Address screen because it is asking for a phone number, but a foreign number is not accepted. Suggestions?
    - a. If they are applying for a NON SSN FSA ID, they will need to complete the online submission, or they can try and contact the FSA hotline for help with this:  
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/help-center/fsa-customer-service-center/service-centers-for-students/federal-student-aid-information-center-fsaic>
  14. A student has her own SSN and is filing her FAFSA. Biological mom lives in Mexico and does not have an email. The student currently lives with a godmother, but she is not her adoptive or legal parent. Can the student create the FSA ID for the parent, and will the parent's finances need to be reported?
    - a. The parent will need to set up an email address in order to create an FSA ID to sign and provide consent on the FAFSA. The parent who provided the most financial support of the students will need to provide 2022 income and assets, converted into US dollars.

## FEDERAL STUDENT AID INFORMATION CENTER (FSAIC)

1. What is the email and phone number students and families can use to contact FSAIC for any questions or issues they are having?
  - a. The phone number is 1-800-433-3243. FSAIC also has a list of contact centers that can help them: <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact>
2. Parents who do not have a social security number have been calling the number for FSAIC and either their call is not answered, or they all told the applications has issues that have not been fixed and they need to call later. Will there be a fix for this?
  - a. Unfortunately, the processing center has been inundated with calls regarding this issue. Currently, there is no fix for this nor timeline for when this will be resolved.
3. When are the issues with the new FAFSA application going to be fixed? Is there a timeline?
  - a. FSA is saying right now the FAFSA is in a soft launch period. They are updating this webpage of Open Issues you can view them here: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-issue-alerts>

## WEBGRANTS

1. I do not see any of my students in WebGrants. Is this because of the late FAFSA start date? Or is this more of a district issue?
  - a. Federal Student Aid will not send CSAC the student's FAFSA information until later this month. When we receive the information, it will be loaded into WebGrants. For CADAA filers, CSAC is also waiting to load the information into WebGrants. Please sign up for our communications to stay updated with WebGrants: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/pod/subscribe-listserv>
2. Given the FAFSA processing delays, when should students create their WebGrants 4 students account?
  - a. Students will not be able to create the WebGrants accounts until we receive their FAFSA's once processed in March.

## INCOME/ASSET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION QUESTIONS

1. What does the SAI mean?
  - a. The Student Aid Index (SAI) is an eligibility index number that a college's or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid the student would receive if the student attended the school. This number results from the information that the student provides in their FAFSA® form.
2. Do schools handle informal separation differently (married parents but informally separated and no longer living together) or is there a set practice? And do you know if schools will eventually ask for documentation?
  - a. If your parents are divorced, separated, or never married, and don't live together, the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months is the contributor and must provide their information.
  - b. "Separated" means no longer living together. It's possible colleges may ask for supporting documents, but I do not see any change over previous years re: separated parents. <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-to-complete-fafsa-if-parents-divorced-separated>
3. A student has an annuity but is not receiving any income from this investment. Does this need to be listed as an asset?
  - a. If it is in the student's name, it is their asset and gets reported under "Other Investments". If it's in the parent's name, and the student is the beneficiary, it's the parent's asset.
4. Will scholarships affect a student's SAI?
  - a. Scholarships are not required to be reported on the FAFSA. Scholarships are factored into the financial aid offer but not the SAI.
5. How can parents assign a value to small businesses for FAFSA purposes? Do you have any advice on messaging we give to families as they determine this?
  - a. Families should check with an accountant or tax professional if they need assistance with assigning a value to their small business, family farm, income-generating property, etc.
6. If the 529 plan is under the name of a grandparent (set up by them), does it need to be reported on the FAFSA?
  - a. No
7. If a parent was widowed during the year of 2022 and the taxes were filed jointly, would they have to manually input the income of just the widowed parent?

- a. The data retrieval tool should bring in the total income. The student will most likely need to submit a request to the financial aid office for professional judgement so they can make an adjustment to the income.
8. Do students and parents use 2022 tax return documents for 24-25 FAFSA?
    - a. Yes, that is correct.
  9. The FAFSA form continues to state that entering financial information does not make the parent/contributor financially responsible. Does this mean parent loans are no longer being offered?
    - a. No, parent loans are still available. The Dept of Ed just wants to let parents know that by completing the FAFSA they aren't required to pay for their student's college expenses.
  10. Why do some parents have to enter income information and some parents do not have to input numbers? Does it have to do with their FSA ID being created recently?
    - a. If the parent just created their FSA ID, their FSA ID is pending verification which can take 2-48 hrs. During this period, they cannot automatically transfer income information.
  11. I had students and parents work on the FAFSA; however, they were not asked for any income questions in the parent section. What does that mean?
    - a. They provided consent to have the IRS provide their tax info, so they don't need to enter anything.
  12. Is there a different calculation or income threshold for single parent retirement although still considered middle-income?
    - a. Retirement income is not considered when it comes to financial aid. There is an income and asset chart on the CSAC website: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/cal-grant-income-and-asset-ceilings>

## DEPENDENCY QUESTIONS

1. Do our students who were in foster youth "at any time" have the opportunity to report their guardian's income on their FAFSA or will it automatically make them an independent student?
  - a. If a student was in foster care any time since they turned age 13, they are considered independent. If they were in foster care before age 13, they can still submit the FAFSA without parent information by answering "Yes" under the "Student Unusual Circumstances" question on the FAFSA form. They would receive a "Provisional SAI" and need to follow-up with their college's Financial Aid Office to appeal for special circumstances. They should NOT include the relative on the FAFSA unless that relative has legally adopted them.
2. If a student's parent is currently incarcerated, are they considered an independent student? Do they need to contribute their parent's financial information?
  - a. If students have an unusual circumstance, select "Yes" under the "Student Unusual Circumstances" question on the FAFSA form. Once the student answers, they will be considered provisionally independent as they will be able to skip questions about parents on the FAFSA form and submit it without a parent signature.
3. I have a student who has been staying in a shelter. The address listed in our SIS is the address of the shelter, would this be the address the student lists on their FAFSA, even though it is not a permanent address for the student?
  - a. They should use an address where they can get mail. They could use the shelter, until they are no longer there. They would then need to update their address on the FAFSA site.
4. For family size, do students have to go based on the number of people on their parents' tax documents? Can students include other people in the household who are not listed on parents' taxes if they provide most of their financial support?

- a. Yes, the FAFSA has a question that asks if the parent's family size is different from the number included on their 2022 tax return. The parent can answer "yes" that it is different, and they will be prompted to enter the actual number of family size.
- 5. For independent students, is the household size one? Number of students in college also one?
  - a. If students are single with no dependent children, then the answer to the household size and the number of students in college will both be "1".

## OTHERS

1. Is there a FAFSA prototype where we can see the actual application process?
  - a. Federal Student Aid made a FAFSA Prototype available where you can walk through the application:
 

[https://mkfkz9.axshare.com/?p=fafsa\\_preview\\_landing&c=1&code=fcef31d78eb2e603867688036472e143&id=i42fu5](https://mkfkz9.axshare.com/?p=fafsa_preview_landing&c=1&code=fcef31d78eb2e603867688036472e143&id=i42fu5)
  - b. For the CADAA, CSAC hosted a line-by-line webinar, and it is recorded here:
 

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrrltxwNlks>
2. Can we get a more detailed description of what selective service is?
  - a. Selective Service is no longer a requirement in CA to receive financial aid although it remains a requirement for the federal government. Here is a link for additional info:
 

[https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/gsa\\_2022-34.pdf?1653425036#:~:text=U.%20S.%20Selective%20Service%20Registration&text=This%20change%20is%20in%20line,state%20financial%20aid%20in%20California](https://www.csac.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/gsa_2022-34.pdf?1653425036#:~:text=U.%20S.%20Selective%20Service%20Registration&text=This%20change%20is%20in%20line,state%20financial%20aid%20in%20California)
3. Where will students go to sign up for selective service now?
  - a. Males between the ages of 18-25 sign up for Selective Service through the Selective Service System: <https://www.sss.gov/>
  - b. Undocumented males will need to register through mailing in a paper application:
 

<https://www.sss.gov/register/immigrants/>
4. For FAFSA: do 9 UC campuses count as 9 schools or as 1 UC school?
  - a. Each UC counts as one school. Students should add each UC if they want their FAFSA listed to that specific campus.
5. Do students living at home for college have to notify financial aid offices to adjust their aid?
  - a. Each school will have their own process for determining the budget to use for students. Students do not need to proactively provide this information.
6. If the student is selected for verification because the IRS retrieval tool wasn't available, would the student need to send in a tax transcript to each individual school they applied to or only the one they are selecting to go to?
  - a. They will need to submit to the institution they choose to attend.
7. What happens if students or parents don't consent to information retrieved from the IRS?
  - a. The student will not be eligible for Federal or State financial aid.
8. Do we know what questions parents are asked to verify their identity when they finally get someone to answer their call?
  - a. Questions will be basic demographic questions, such as addresses, or phone numbers previously used.
9. If a student's first name is 3 names long, but there is a limit on the length for FSA ID creations, should they write out as much as they can or what should they do?
  - a. Students should add as much of their first/last name as they possibly can when creating their FSA ID, even if there are not enough characters to fit the entire name(s).
10. Do you have an updated list of what students and parents should bring to financial aid workshop for the 2024-2025 FAFSA?
  - a. Student and parents should gather the following documents:

- i. Social Security number or Alien Registration number if you are not a U.S. citizen but an eligible noncitizen
  - ii. 2022 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and/or other records of money earned
  - iii. Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
  - iv. Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- 11. Students have gotten to the parent invitation section but cannot go beyond that page to fill out the student information. Do parents need to accept the invitation for students to complete their section?
  - a. Once a student gets to the invitation section, they have already completed the student information. The parent will login to complete the parent information section.
- 12. What form is deleted after 45 days of inactivity?
  - a. An incomplete FAFSA will be deleted after 45 days of inactivity.
- 13. Our school is a consortium- we are co-located with 3 other academies-- and the application was not allowing students to select our specific school. How should we proceed?
  - a. Every school should have their own ID. If you are not set up that way in WebGrants you will need to contact School Support at CSAC for assistance. (888) 294-0153 or Email: [schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov](mailto:schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov)
- 14. Is California considered a freely associated state?
  - a. No. The Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and several other countries are.
- 15. A student can't sign and submit for some reason. They keep getting bounced back to previous questions (already answered). What can be done so the form is submitted?
  - a. They must have missed a required question. Even some of the fields that are typically "zero" for students must have a zero value entered.
- 16. Is there a way to get certified in helping students with the FAFSA if you are a school Counselor?
  - a. CSAC offers a Train the Trainer Program to provide training and resources to host your own Cash for College workshops where parents and students can receive assistance in completing their FAFSA or CADAA. You can sign up for a webinar here: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/cash-college-train-trainer-program>
- 17. Can an undocumented student apply?
  - a. Undocumented students will not be able to apply with the FAFSA. Instead, they will fill out the CADAA: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing>

## CADAA QUESTIONS (STUDENT ACCOUNTS)

1. How would a student know if their SSN is through DACA?
  - a. If their SSN card has the text, "Valid for work only with DHS authorization," the SSN is through DACA. If they do not know, they will choose "yes" or "no". If they choose "no," they will be asked if they are a U.S. citizen/permanent resident and will give the student prompts to guide them to the correct application. You can try this out yourself in the first few questions: <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/landing>
2. If a student's two long last names don't fit in one box, should they fill out what they can? Or include only one last name?
  - a. They should type out their full last name as far as it will go. If their legal name includes two last names, they must include both last names. It is OK if it is cut off.
3. Is there no distinction for a "renewal" applicant? And will they still need to answer the affidavit questions?
  - a. That is correct. A renewal student will submit the CADAA and the affidavit each year.
4. What if a student is separated from their partner and is going through the motion of filing for divorce, would they indicate separated or married?

- a. The marital status for student and parents is based on the date the application is filed, so if they are not divorced yet, the answer to marital status is separated. For the 24-25 FAFSA/CADAA, separated students are no longer considered Independent for financial aid purposes if they don't meet any of the other independent requirements and are not over the age of 24.
5. Will students need to have completed the 3 years criteria when they apply to CADAA? What if a student will complete the 3 years after high school graduation?
  - a. Many students will be filing the CADAA their senior year of high school, so the application says, "I have graduated or will graduate with a California high school diploma or equivalent." If the student has completed 3 years by the time they start their first term of college attendance, then they meet the requirement. The student does not need to wait until they graduate high school to file the CADAA.
6. If a student becomes a permanent resident after the student completes the CADAA, should they first contact CSAC and then do FAFSA, or do FAFSA and then contact CSAC?
  - a. The student should complete the FAFSA, then contact their college to have them assist with sending CSAC a G-55 Application Conversion form: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/student-forms>
7. If a student has been granted asylum, would they fill out FAFSA instead? And if they haven't been granted it, do they fill out the CADAA?
  - a. Asylum Granted is an eligible noncitizen status and allows the student to complete the FAFSA. If the status is Asylum Pending and the student meets the AB 540 eligibility requirements, the student can submit the CADAA.
8. Will the AB540 affidavit be included in the application?
  - a. Yes, the affidavit is included on the 2024-25 CADAA.
9. Is the student required to complete the AB540 affidavit to submit the CADAA?
  - a. Yes. The AB 540 affidavit is now part of the student section in the CADAA and the questions must be completed to submit the application.
10. What if a student doesn't meet AB540 criteria? What will the application prompt the student to do?
  - a. If the student answers no to meeting AB 540, then this message will be shown: "Based on the responses you provided, we are unable to determine your eligibility to file a California Dream Act Application. We encourage you to speak with your high school counselor or an administrator in the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend for guidance."
11. What if students move in-and-out of CA, should they use the first date they moved here or the most recent date they moved back in?
  - a. The date they established CA residency (typically, after 1 year + 1 day in CA). If they left CA but returned before residency was established in the other state, they can use the original date that established CA residency.
12. How can students determine their financial eligibility for CADAA before they apply?
  - a. Students can refer to our Cal Grant and Middle Class Scholarship income/asset ceilings to see if they would qualify for one of these programs: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/cal-grant-income-and-asset-ceilings> and <https://www.csac.ca.gov/middle-class-scholarship>
13. When should students start to set up their WebGrants account/portal?
  - a. Students can create a WebGrants4Students account after their FAFSA or CADAA has been processed. For FAFSA applicants, this may be up to 8-10 days after their FAFSA was submitted. For CADAA applicants, it may take only 1-2 days after their CADAA is submitted since the CADAA also uses the WebGrants system.
14. If students do make an income, will they have to put their bank information or taxes?
  - a. The student will need to report any 2022 income on their 2024-2025 CADAA. If they earned more than the IRS filing threshold, they are required to file taxes and enter their tax information on the application.
15. Is scholarship or DSIG considered income?



- a. Students should only include DSIG as income if they reported it as income on their taxes. Students should speak to an accountant or tax advisor for more information regarding claiming DSIG as income on their tax return.
16. For foster youth students, can they complete the CADAA without parent info?
    - a. Yes, foster youth students can complete the CADAA without parent info. The student will need to follow up with their Financial Aid Office for clarification of what documents are needed to verify their foster youth status.
  17. What if a student has children, but is not married?
    - a. If the student has a child or dependent(s) for whom they provide MORE than 50% financial support, they are considered independent for CADAA purposes. Parent information would not be required, even if the student is unmarried.
  18. If the student says yes to the unusual circumstances question about being at risk at home, and the college determines that is correct, how does the college communicate that back to CSAC?
    - a. If they indicate they have unusual circumstances preventing them from contacting their parent/providing parent info, CADAA will recognize that and will skip that portion on the application. Then, the college Financial Aid Office will make a correction to the student's CADAA to indicate that the student has unusual circumstances.
  19. For the Special Circumstances section: If they answer that they are Unaccompanied and/or Homeless then they will be required to have documentation to prove this correct?
    - a. For CADAA purposes, the student can submit the application without parent information if they have answered "yes" to being an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth. The student's college Financial Aid Office will likely require documentation as students should check with their college's Financial Aid Office for specific documentation requirements.
  20. What address should students use if they are currently homeless?
    - a. FSA advises students to use an address where they can reliably receive mail. This may be, for example, the address of a relative, friend, or social service agency that has given the student permission to use that address. See GEN-23-06 for more information: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-04-14/unaccompanied-homeless-youth-determinations-update>.
  21. If students have dual enrollment classes and will be taking summer college courses (prior to first year of college), will they still be considered a first-time freshman?
    - a. It depends on how many units they have earned. Typically, if a student has less than 30 semester units or less than 45 quarter units, they are still considered a first-year freshman.

## PARENT QUESTIONS

1. Does a parent need to provide an email to electronically sign the FAFSA or the CADAA?
  - a. Yes, for the FAFSA the parent will need to provide an email so they can create their FSA account and to receive the notice that they need to electronically sign. An e-mail account is not required for the CADAA application, but recommended if the parent has one.
2. Are parents required to have an ITIN to sign the CA Dream Act Application? Are they going to need to submit identification verification?
  - a. No, parents are not required to have an ITIN to complete their section of the student's CADAA. There is no identity verification requirement for parents on the CADAA.
3. Are parents going to continue using a PIN number to sign the CADAA as they have previously, or has this changed?
  - a. No, there is no longer a Parent PIN. To sign the CADAA, parents will provide a digital signature that does not require a login.

4. Would a student qualify to apply if they were recently granted refugee status but they: 1) didn't attend a high school here in CA and 2) parents live overseas?
  - a. Students who have been granted asylum are considered Eligible Non-Citizens and may file the FAFSA. There is no requirement that the parents must live in the U.S. for a student to file either a FAFSA or a CADAA. However, if the student did not graduate from California High School, they may not be eligible for state aid. We recommend that they check with the financial aid office of the college they plan to attend.
5. What if the parents do not file taxes? What would the students have to do?
  - a. If the parents did not file taxes in 2022, they can answer 'No' to "Did or will your parents file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040NR?" and any related follow up questions. If the parents plan to file, or think they may file, they can indicate "Will File" as opposed to saying they are not going to file.
6. It's mentioned only one parent's information will need to be reported if they are "legally separated", just to be clear "informal separation" is not allowed?
  - a. The requirement to answer "separated" is that the parents are maintaining separate households and separation is intended to be permanent. So, if the parents are living apart in separate households, they are considered separated.
7. What if student's parents are separated and going through the motion of filing for divorce, would they indicate separated or married?
  - a. If parents are living in separate households, and separation is intended to be permanent, they can indicate separated. If they do not meet these criteria, they are still married.
8. If a student indicates that they have unusual circumstances preventing them from contacting their parent/providing parent info, will they still be able to complete the CADAA or will it be considered an unofficial transaction?
  - a. If they indicate they have unusual circumstances preventing them from contacting their parent/providing parent info, CADAA will recognize that and will skip that portion on the application, but the application will be considered incomplete. The student must immediately contact the financial aid office of the college(s) they plan to attend.
9. If both students' parents are remarried which parent & stepparent income is reported?
  - a. The parent that provides more than 50% financial support will provide their financial information, as well as their spouse if they are remarried and filed taxes married-filed joint. Typically, this will be the parent with whom the student lives.
10. What if the parents live in another country? What date should they put under California residency?
  - a. If the parent(s) are CA residents living in another country, they use the date they established CA residency. If they permanently moved to another country and are no longer CA residents, they would indicate they are not CA residents.
11. Does the system let students know when they do need to have their parents re-sign vs when the student does not?
  - a. The application has comment codes on the confirmation page that indicate if a parent needs to still sign the application.
12. Does the Dream Act have a time limit on when the parent needs to submit their info in relation to when the student submits theirs? (ex. FAFSA must be within 45 days.)
  - a. The application is considered incomplete until there is a parent signature (if the student is dependent) but does not "time out" like the FAFSA. It still must be submitted by the April 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline (this year only) to get consideration for most aid.