

The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance



ACTION LETTER

Action Letter #2
April 2024

2024-25 Priority Deadline Extension Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Dear Colleague:

This Action Letter serves to announce the extension of the priority deadline for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for MASSGrant program eligibility. **The priority date is moved from May 1, 2024, to July 1, 2024, for the 2024-25 academic year.** MASSGrant is Massachusetts' primary, need-based grant program available to qualifying students at public and private postsecondary institutions. The federal FAFSA, or the state equivalent MASFA if applicable (see next section, below), must be completed for a student to be considered for MASSGrant. Full time, Pell Grant-eligible students who complete a FAFSA by the priority deadline are guaranteed MASSGrant support, provided all program eligibility criteria are met.

The decision to extend the FAFSA priority deadline comes in response to a March 26, 2024 , from the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona asking state leaders to be flexible with 2024-2025 award requirements and requesting assistance from state leaders to help motivate students to complete and submit the 2024-2025 FAFSA. The Commissioner of Higher Education is announcing that Massachusetts, like other states, will extend its priority FAFSA filing date. Despite the later deadline, the Department of Higher Education still encourages students to complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible, for planning and budgeting purposes, with the ultimate goal of helping students gain access to the MASSGrant and other state, federal and institutional financial aid for which they may be eligible.

Tuition Equity Law/Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid

Students who are undocumented and qualify as High School Completers under the state's new Tuition Equity Law should complete the newly created state alternative to the FAFSA, [the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid \(MASFA\)](#). The July 1, 2024 extended deadline will also apply to students who seek to access state financial aid through the MASFA.

Institutions are invited to contact the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance at 617.391.6070, if they have any questions or need further clarification about the above update.

Thank you,

Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance
(617)391-6070