New FAFSA Provisions for Homeless and Foster Youth

These new FAFSA provisions for unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) and foster youth are in effect for the 2023-2024 award year. Although these changes aren’t reflected on the homeless and foster care FAFSA questions, these provisions are in effect now per guidance from The U.S. Department of Education.

1. Homeless and foster care status does not need to be redetermined every year.
2. Determinations of unaccompanied homeless and foster youth status must be made as quickly as practicable.
3. The list of officials and programs authorized to verify that an applicant is an UHY has expanded. (See the full list here)
4. Financial aid administrators must accept certain documents if an institution requires documentation that a student was in foster care when the student was 13 or older. (See the full list here)
5. Financial aid administrators must make a determination of UHY for youth who cannot get determinations from other authorities.
6. Financial aid administrators must make UHY and foster youth determinations following the processes outlined in the law - it is not a matter of professional judgment.

For more information and resources on the FAFSA and unaccompanied homeless youth, see SchoolHouse Connection’s FAFSA page.