

Good morning,

Please see below for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- New FAFSA Identity Verification
- Pitt launches tuition-free initiative for Pennsylvania residents at regional campuses
- Youth Talent request for the SWAN Conference

[All of our FAFSA resources in one place.](#)



Important Update: New FAFSA Identity Verification Starts April 26

The office of Federal Student Aid recently [announced](#) a new real-time verification system that could impact students experiencing homelessness. Here's what you need to know.

Starting April 26, 2026, the FAFSA will screen all applicants to verify their identity while they submit the form. While most applicants may not notice a change to the FAFSA process, some students may be asked to take a picture of their government-issued photo ID before they submit the FAFSA.

How will this work?

If students are selected for this type of ID verification, they will receive a prompt in the FAFSA form with instructions for taking a picture of their ID. If they started the FAFSA on a computer or laptop, they will be given a QR code to complete this process on a phone or tablet before returning to the FAFSA form.

Students will not need to log in again on a phone to complete this process, and the number for the phone used does not need to match the student or parent's account.

Applicants will receive live, automated feedback on photos and instructions for completing the process 24/7, and photos will be reviewed and processed in real time.

Once this step is completed, the student can return to the FAFSA to sign and submit the form.

What if a student does not have an ID or is unable to complete this process?

This process has a short window and cannot be saved or completed at a later time. If a student is not able to complete the verification when prompted, **they can still submit the FAFSA**, but they will need to provide an ID to the financial aid office before they can receive financial aid.

To learn more about this verification process, watch the video below.



Recommended next steps:

- **Start the conversation early.** If you work with high school students experiencing homelessness, have conversations about the importance of having an ID and other vital documents and help them apply for IDs. We encourage these conversations to happen before the student is completing a FAFSA, preferably Junior year or earlier.
- **Connect students to resources.** The National Network for Youth's [I Am Here: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth](#) can help students apply for IDs and other important documents.

- **Follow up on financial aid.** Encourage students to contact their financial aid office to confirm all requirements are met, even if they have already accepted an aid offer.

Questions? [Contact Caleb McKay](#), SchoolHouse Connection's Senior Manager of FAFSA Completion. We're here to help.

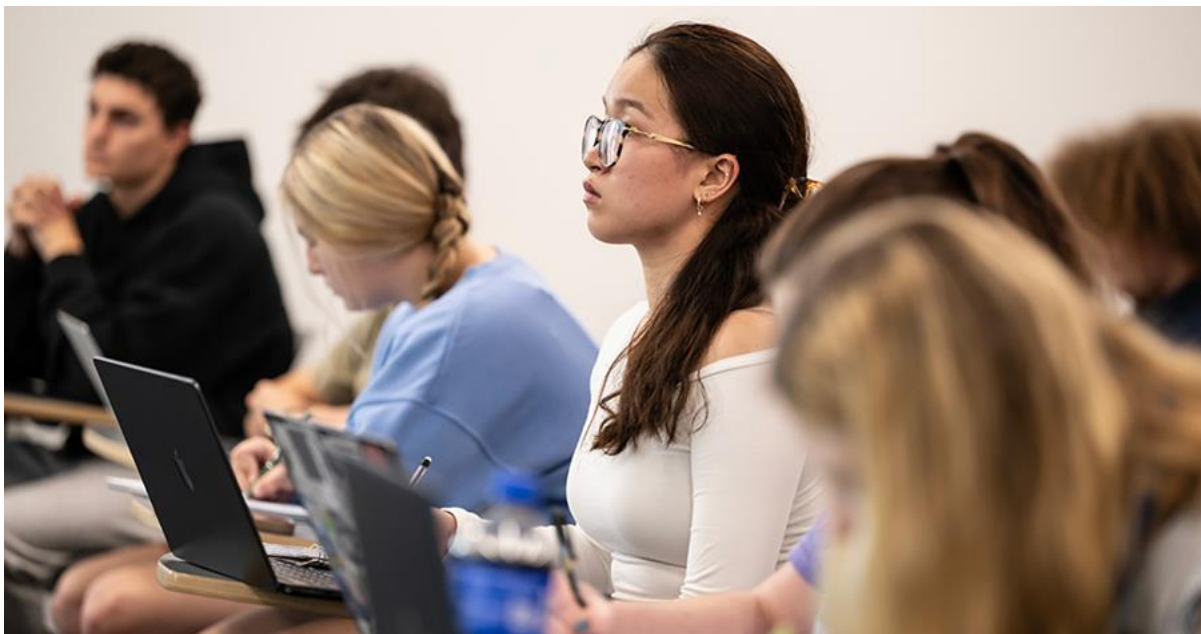
Additional Resources

- [I've Been Selected for Financial Aid ID Verification—What Do I Do?](#)
 - [Video: FAFSA Real-Time ID Verification Updates Explained | April 2026](#)
 - National Network for Youth's [I Am Here: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth](#)
 - FSA Electronic Announcement ([APP-26-03](#)) [FAFSA Real-Time Fraud Detection](#)
 - [ID Verification Explained: Impact on Homeless Youth](#)
 - [ID Verification Explained: Avoiding Delays and Overpayments](#)
 - [SchoolHouse Connection FAFSA Page](#)
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University of
Pittsburgh

Pittwire Today



Pitt launches tuition-free initiative for Pennsylvania residents at regional campuses

Beginning this fall, eligible students at the Bradford, Greensburg and Johnstown campuses, and in the Titusville nursing program, will pay \$0 in tuition through the [Pitt Regional Campus Tuition Pledge](#).

VOCE

Lights, Camera, Action! Do you know of a creative foster/adoptive youth willing to share their talent through digital art. A photo or file submitted can showcase a variety of creations: visual arts and photography, pottery, sculpture, and jewelry design, can be shared with the attendees of the 34th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference at the Kalahari!

The SWAN Conference planning committee is looking to showcase youth talents during the opening session. The session is meant to inspire professionals, families, and advocates who work with children and families across Pennsylvania.

If interested, please complete the attached form <https://cvent.me/e93zYz> and submit along with digital art by May 22, 2026.

We look forward to showcasing our talented youth.



Have a great weekend.

Thank you,