



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

FAFSA Fumbles: Biden's *Failed* Rewrite of Student Aid Programs

The Biden administration's rollout of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **keeps getting rockier**.

Last Friday, the Department of Education announced that roughly **200,000 student financial aid records** sent to schools included errors in the data, **resulting in lower aid estimates for those students than they were qualified to receive**.

The issue comes after several delays in FAFSA processing wreaked havoc on the college admissions cycle, **forcing many institutions to push back their commitment deadlines**.

This is on top of several calculation errors the Department has made while rolling out its new form, including:

- Failing to account for [historic inflation](#);
- Introducing a formula error that would have mistakenly expanded Pell Grant eligibility, forcing [Congress to intervene and fix it](#);
- and inadvertently creating a [glitch that prevented students](#) in mixed-citizenship status families from filling out the form, an issue that took months to address and still hasn't been completely fixed.

The Wall Street Journal's Editorial Board [highlighted](#) how FAFSA's troubled rollout reveals the administration's misplaced higher education priorities.





WORD ON THE STREET



Via Wall Street Journal:

- *“The incompetence is hard to believe...Colleges have already pushed back deadlines for students to accept admissions offers to **mid-June** so they have more time to compare financial-aid awards. Now deadlines may have to be **extended again**.”*
- *“The new FAFSA was supposed to make college more accessible. But only **32.5%** of high school seniors had submitted a FAFSA form by March 15, compared to **47.5%** at the same time last year. Applications by students who attended low-income high schools were down **38.6%**.”*
- *“**Blame the fiasco on federal student aid chief Richard Cordray, who has prioritized cancelling some \$144 billion in student loans.** Last month he called this year’s FAFSA a “better process.” Meantime, he has dunned federal student loan servicers for the government’s chaotic restart of payments after a three-and-a-half-year pandemic pause. He has yet to apologize for any of this. If Mr. Cordray were a CEO, **he’d have been sacked long ago**, but in government no one is ever held accountable.”*

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Biden administration is more concerned with [forgiving hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of student debt](#) than ensuring millions of students are receiving timely and accurate estimates regarding their financial aid.

President’s **FY25 budget proposal doubles down on his failed education policies and falls short of solving the problems he created:**

- The administration **requested a \$625 million increase** over 2023 enacted levels for the Office of Federal Student Aid to “ensure the successful administration of its financial aid programs, including the (FAFSA), through a simplified and streamlined process for students and borrowers.”
- Meanwhile, the President’s budget asks for **\$290.3 billion to “reduce the cost of and expand access to postsecondary education, and training.” including \$90 billion for “free community college.”**



In stark contrast, the [House Budget Committee's FY 2025 "Reverse the Curse" budget resolution](#) **ends current and future student loan bailouts**, ensuring the Department of Education **focuses its time and resources on necessary programs**, not President Biden's vote buying scheme.

