



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents
High School Principals and Counselors

FROM: Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner for Higher Education
Jennifer McCormick, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: June 17, 2019

SUBJECT: HEA 1245-2019: FAFSA Data Share Agreement

Indiana has one of the most generous college financial aid systems in the U.S., ranking first in the Midwest and fourth in the nation in need-based financial aid. Each year, our state awards more than \$300 million in state aid to Hoosier students. Unfortunately, every year thousands of high school seniors miss out on this opportunity by failing to file the FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid—by Indiana’s April 15th deadline.

In 2015, Indiana joined the U.S. Department of Education’s FAFSA Completion Initiative to ensure more students have funding for education and training beyond high school. This initiative allows the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to provide high schools with the names of seniors who have completed the FAFSA. As a result, high schools can target outreach efforts towards those students that have not completed the FAFSA.

To ensure all high schools have access to this information, HEA 1245-2019 requires all Indiana high schools, or their school corporations, to enter into a FAFSA Data Share Agreement with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Please take a moment to complete and return the attached agreement so we can provide your high school counselors and administrators with the information they need to better support your students.

Please note, all previous agreements expire on June 30, 2019. All high schools will need to sign a new agreement even if your high school or school corporation had a prior agreement. New agreements are due prior to the 2020-21 FAFSA opening on October 1, 2019 and will be valid until June 30, 2029.

If you have any questions about the attached data-sharing agreement, please contact Barbie Martin, Director of School and Community Outreach at highschools@che.in.gov or 317-232-0455.

As always, thank you for your ongoing efforts to support student success.