



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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Review of the 2023-24 and Update on the 2024-25 Award Years

2023-24 Updates:

During the 2023-2024 Award Year, there was a total of **\$62,566,419** in appropriated and allocated monies available to disburse South Carolina Tuition Grants: **\$27,558,624** in State Recurring Appropriations; **\$14,765,740** in Children's Education Endowment received from the Commission on Higher Education; **\$242,055** in State Funds Interest earned; and **\$20,000,000** in State Lottery Allocations.

While final figures will not be made available until after the close of FY24, as of June 14, 2024, **12,479 (+3.68%)** grants were realized out of the **26,198 (+1.91%)** commitments made. This demonstrates a show-up rate of **47.63%**. The maximum grant was \$4,800 with an average grant of \$4,391. With an application deadline of June 30, 2023, **31,981 (+1.31%)** applications were received.

2024-25 Updates:

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the agency is projected to receive a total of **\$62,574,364** in appropriated and allocated monies to be made available to disburse South Carolina Tuition Grants. The two main differences in available funds will come in the form of received allocated Children's Education Endowment funds received from the CHE, to be determined based on the percentage of fall 2023 Independent College Full-Time Enrollment for South Carolina residents on the state-wide total in August 2024. Another funding increase is realized in the total State Funds Interest available. For the 2024-25 Award Year, the authority to spend is set at \$250,000 regardless of the actual interest amount received.

At the March 11, 2024, Commission Meeting, the application deadline was extended to August 1 effective with the 2024-25 Award Year application cycle. As reported at the April 16, 2024, Special Commission Meeting, the Commission began receiving its first Institution Student Identification Record (ISIR) file on March 11th. As of June 14th, the Commission has received **25,732 total applications***, of which **21,738 (-17.10%)** are being considered Tuition Grants Applicants; **18,794 (-18.95%)** are currently tentatively eligible.

**This figure includes Invalid FAFSAs and students who have indicated they have a bachelor's degree and/or are pursuing a graduate/professional degree.*

FAFSA Processing Updates:

As of June 20th, School-initiated corrections, professional judgment, and verification updates are still not available for the 2024-2025 Academic Year. In an [Electronic Announcement \(GENERAL-24-56\)](#) posted on May 10, 2024, with a "blue note" update on May 22nd, Federal Student Aid provided an update on the processing of Paper FAFSA forms, and the timeline of the availability for school-initiated corrections. It was announced that "institutions will be able to submit corrections via the FAFSA Partner Portal (FPP) by the end of June. The FPP will allow institutions to submit corrections electronically by entering the data manually in the FAFSA Partner Portal. Batch institutional corrections via the Electronic Data Exchanged (EDE) will be

available in the weeks following FPP corrections.” This directly impacts all institutions of higher learning from assisting students with corrections to their forms, prevents schools from performing professional adjustments, and performing required reporting of V4/V5 Verification outcomes.

On June 17th, an Electronic Announcement ([GENERAL-24-72](#)) was published, explaining that batch corrections, as well as paper corrections, “will be available in the first half of August.” This announcement was published ahead of an open forum at the annual conference of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Additional clarification was provided during this forum that FSA is on-track to meet the “end of June” timeframe for individual corrections via the FPP, but that the batch correction functionality via the EDE is still undergoing testing. It was also expressed that the Department is working toward the goal of having the 2025-2026 FAFSA Form available on October 1; however, confirmation that all functionality, such as ISIR processing, corrections, etc., being made available alongside the release of the form was not provided.

Paper FAFSA forms submitted by students unable to complete the process online have not yet been processed; processing of these forms will begin “by the end of June” as well. In a June 7 FAFSA Fast News post, it was announced that more than 10.8 million FAFSA forms have been submitted for the 2024-2025 academic year, which represents 9.4% fewer forms compared to 2023-2024 FAFSA form submissions. This same post also estimated that around 60% of the paper forms received are duplicates, meaning that an initial form was completed online by the time FSA Staff began the preparations to process these forms.

There are still several known issues preventing students and their families from successfully completing and submitting their forms, as well as additional reprocessing efforts underway to address issues impacting certain applications from processing with a correct and valid Student Aid Index (SAI).

ISIR Comparison Figures:

As of June 18th, **235,369** total South Carolina ISIRs for the 2024-2025 academic year have been received for **169,308** distinct filers; **161,275** of those have a valid, non-rejected Student Aid Index.

Through June 18, 2023, **281,146** total South Carolina ISIRs were received for the 2023-2024 academic year for **188,279** distinct filers; **184,002** of those had a valid, non-rejected Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

While progress is being made in South Carolina and across the country in closing the FAFSA completion gap, SC is currently experiencing a **-12.35%** change in completed, valid FAFSA forms for the 2024-2025 academic year.