



Update on StudentAid: Account Creation for Individuals Without a Social Security Number

Update:

The Department of Education has issued an important update regarding StudentAid.gov account creation for individuals without a Social Security Number (SSN). The changes aim to streamline processes, enhance privacy, and reduce unnecessary data collection.

Key takeaways:

1. Closing of IDVerification@ed.gov Email

- The email account used for submitting identity proof for manual identity validation has been discontinued to protect student and family privacy.

2. Elimination of Manual Identity Validation for FAFSA Submission

- Individuals without an SSN will no longer need to complete manual identity validation to submit the FAFSA form.

3. Validation of Parents and Spouses Without SSNs

- Parents and spouses contributing to FAFSA without an SSN are not required to undergo identity validation as they cannot use the direct data exchange with the IRS.

4. Planned Long-Term Solution for Identity Validation

- The Department is developing a secure, automated system to replace manual validation. This is expected to be implemented by the **2026-27 FAFSA** cycle.

5. Institutional Responsibility for Student Validation

- Colleges and Universities will continue to validate the identity and citizenship of eligible students without SSNs before disbursing federal student aid. Fraud mitigation measures, including program reviews and interagency referrals, remain in place.

Links to resources:

- **Full memo** [Update Regarding StudentAid.gov Account Creation for Individuals Without a Social Security Number](#)
- [Can I create a StudentAid.gov account if I don't have a Social Security number?](#)
- [How do I verify my identity if I create an account and don't have a Social Security number?](#)
- Webinar: January 9th: [Supporting Students from Mixed-Status Families Through the FAFSA](#)

We want to acknowledge that financial aid is ever-evolving and understand that we are learning together to best support our students. We appreciate your patience in helping all students access and accurately complete the FAFSA to pursue higher education.

-Financial Aid Task Force
