WFAA Conference
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The WASFA, From Applying To Awarding

WSAC Presenters

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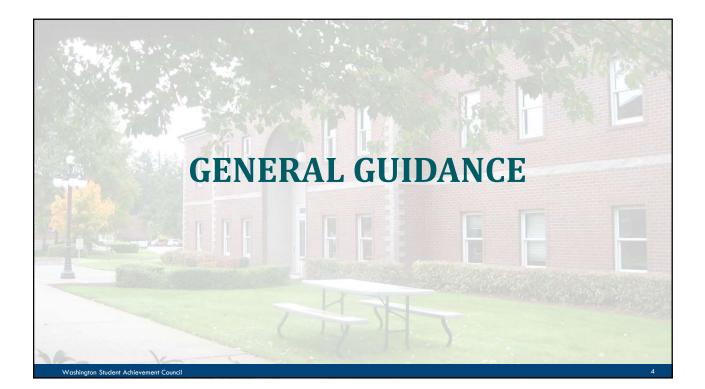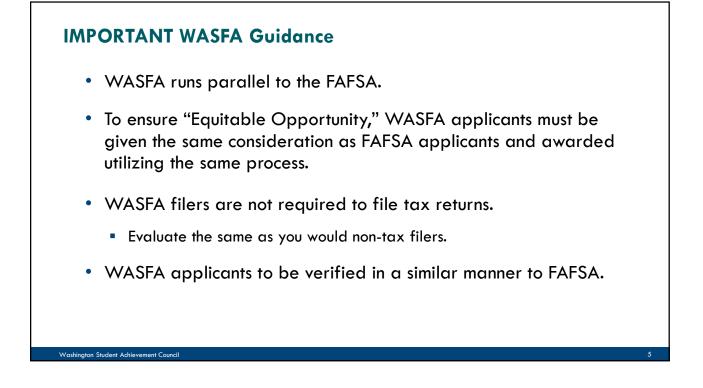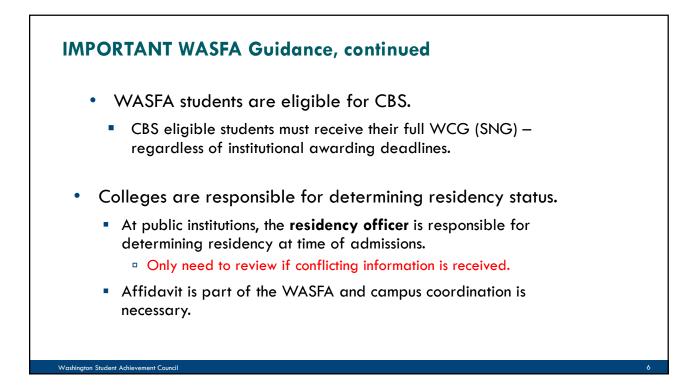victorf@wsac.wa.gov   360-753-7623
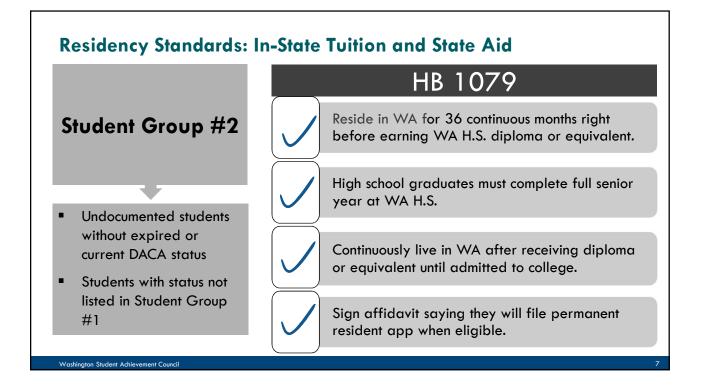
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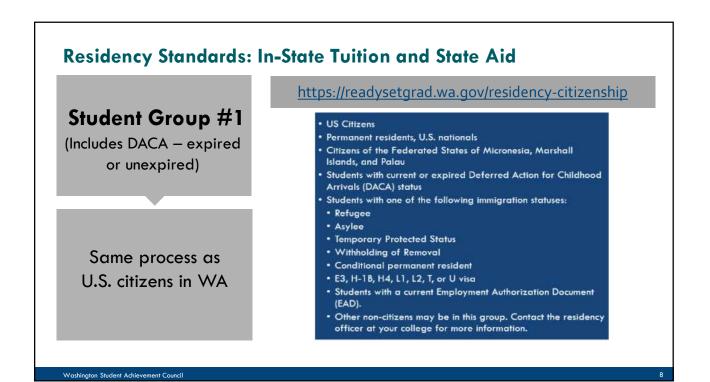**Agenda**

Washington Application for Student Financial Aid (WASFA)

- General Guidance

- Completing the WASFA – Student/Parent

- Portal
  - Accessing applications
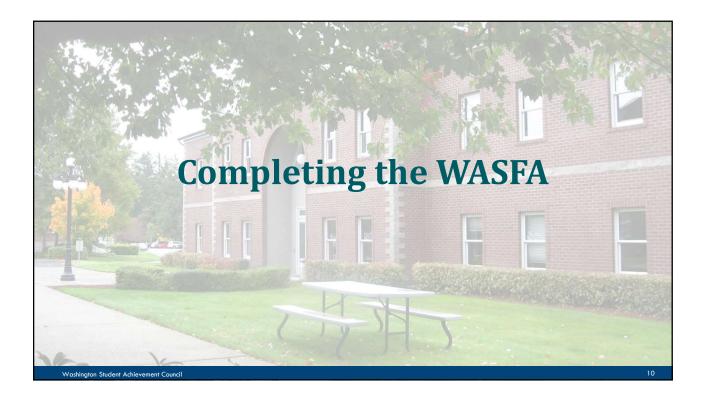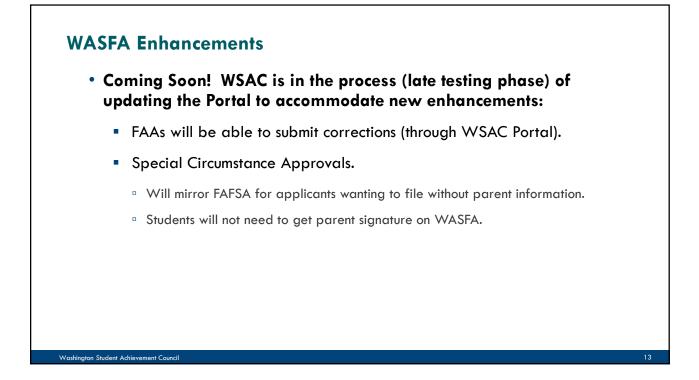 - Sneak peak on making corrections

GENERAL GUIDANCE

IMPORTANT WASFA Guidance

- WASFA runs parallel to the FAFSA.

- To ensure "Equitable Opportunity," WASFA applicants must be given the same consideration as FAFSA applicants and awarded utilizing the same process.

- WASFA filers are not required to file tax returns.
  - Evaluate the same as you would non-tax filers.

- WASFA applicants to be verified in a similar manner to FAFSA.

IMPORTANT WASFA Guidance, continued

- WASFA students are eligible for CBS.
  - CBS eligible students must receive their full WCG (SNG) – regardless of institutional awarding deadlines.

- Colleges are responsible for determining residency status.
  - At public institutions, the **residency officer** is responsible for determining residency at time of admissions.
    - Only need to review if conflicting information is received.
  - Affidavit is part of the WASFA and campus coordination is necessary.

Residency Standards: In-State Tuition and State Aid

Student Group #2

↓

- Undocumented students without expired or current DACA status
- Students with status not listed in Student Group #1

HB 1079

✓ Reside in WA for 36 continuous months right before earning WA H.S. diploma or equivalent.

✓ High school graduates must complete full senior year at WA H.S.

✓ Continuously live in WA after receiving diploma or equivalent until admitted to college.

✓ Sign affidavit saying they will file permanent resident app when eligible.

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Residency Standards: In-State Tuition and State Aid

Student Group #1

(Includes DACA – expired or unexpired)

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Same process as U.S. citizens in WA

https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/residency-citizenship

- US Citizens
- Permanent residents, U.S. nationals
- Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau
- Students with current or expired Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status
- Students with one of the following immigration statuses:
  - Refugee
  - Asylee
  - Temporary Protected Status
  - Withholding of Removal
  - Conditional permanent resident
  - E3, H-1B, H4, L1, L2, T, or U visa
- Students with a current Employment Authorization Document (EAD).
- Other non-citizens may be in this group. Contact the residency officer at your college for more information.

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WASFA Application Statistics

- Applications are up from 2016-17.
- Number of WASFA students served in SNG and CBS increasing each year.

Year	App Count 6 months	App Count Full Cycle	SNG Awards	CBS Awards
2019-20	3,287	n/a	n/a	n/a
2018-19	3,120	4,946	2,194	919
2017-18	2,948	4,614	1,972	694
2016-17	2,832	4,708	1,832	531
2015-16	2,418	3,686	1,516	355

Data run date: April 30
Awards based on Final Interim Reports

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Completing the WASFA

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WASFA Enhancements

- **NEW and available NOW!**
  - Student WASFA account is green
  - Parent WASFA account color to red
    - Will be able to quickly identify if a student is in the wrong account.

WASFA Enhancements

- **NEW and available NOW!**
  - WSAC now has the ability to provide students and their parents with their Security Answers.
    - Student or parent will need to verify their account information with WSAC staff.
    - WSAC will email the Security Answer to the email address used to create the WASFA account.

- **Special Circumstance Question**
  - Mirror's FAFSA for applicants wanting to file without parent information.
  - Students will not need to get parent signature on WASFA.
    - Currently, FAAs will need to work with student on approving.

WASFA Enhancements

- **Coming Soon! WSAC is in the process (late testing phase) of updating the Portal to accommodate new enhancements:**

  - FAAs will be able to submit corrections (through WSAC Portal).

  - Special Circumstance Approvals.

    - Will mirror FAFSA for applicants wanting to file without parent information.

    - Students will not need to get parent signature on WASFA.

WASFA Application Guide

WSAC has added a step-by-step user guide to the WASFA page on readysetgrad.org as a resource to students, families, and those who assist them in completing the WASFA.

The user guide focuses on the following areas:

- ❑ How to access the application
- ❑ New and returning users
- ❑ Creating an account
- ❑ Completing demographic and income information
- ❑ Obtaining parent signature
- ❑ Making changes to a WASFA
- ❑ Next steps after filing a WASFA

Access the user guide at www.readysetgrad.org/WASFA and click on WASFA Application Guide.

Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

http://readysetgrad.org/wasfa

- Washington colleges use for state and institutional need-based aid awarding.

- Students complete each year.

- Available beginning October 1 of each year.

WASFA Data and Privacy

- Data collected on the WASFA can only be used for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for state financial aid programs.

- The privacy statement for applicants can be found at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa and on the WASFA registration page.

WASFA Privacy Statement

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) administers state financial aid including the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant), the College Bound Scholarship, and the Washington Application for State Financial Aid, or WASFA, for undocumented individuals. The Council is committed to providing opportunities and support to ensure every Washington student is able to pursue education beyond high school.

Regarding concerns that students, parents, and other partners may have about the confidentiality of information submitted on the WASFA, the purpose of the application is to provide eligibility information to colleges and universities in Washington that offer the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant) and the College Bound Scholarship. WSAC shares application information with campuses listed by the student so those schools may determine eligibility for resident tuition and financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families. Washington is a state committed to providing opportunities to students and protecting the rights of families.

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PORTAL

WASFA Interface

- Use the WASFA interface in the WSAC Portal to access your institution's WASFA applicants.
  - View results onscreen or download results in .csv or ISIR format.
  - Option to select all applicants for a particular year and/or only new transactions.
    - Transactions are considered new until downloaded in ISIR format.
  - Many ways to search for individual students:
    – SSN/DACA/ITIN, WASFA ID, Name, DOB, etc.

- Access the WASFA interface under Programs > WASFA.
  - You must have WASFA permissions in the Portal to access applicant information.
  - Contact your institutional administrator if you need WASFA permissions.

Accessing WASFA Applicants

- FAAs can access applicants via the WSAC Portal
  - Applicant information is available in the WSAC interface the day after student submits WASFA.
  - New permissions group specifically for WASFA.
  - ISIR and .csv Download available.

WASFA Interface Search Options

Must Select Academic Year

Show New transactions only

ISIR or .csv download option

Search Tips:
- Leave fields blank to search for all applicants
- When searching, ensure you have correct Academic Year selected

WASFA Residency Report

On the WASFA Interface, select the Residency Data Only radio button, click search:

Results display on screen, or can be downloaded into .csv file. http://portaldev1/

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WASFA Corrections

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WASFA Corrections

On the WASFA Interface, search for your student and click on the name:

WASFA Corrections

On the WASFA Application Detail Page look for the recent transaction and click on the Edit button.

WASFA Corrections

Locate the field you want to change by navigating through each tab across the top.

WASFA Corrections

Click into the field you want change and proceed to the Review/Submit tab to save your corrections.

WASFA Corrections

The Review/Submit tab displays the changes made. Double check for accuracy and click on the Submit Corrections button.

_____ – 2019-2020 #52

| | Student Details | Residency | Education | Dependency | Income | Parent | Review/Submit |

Field	Original value	New value
Middle Initial		M
Student Or Spouse Dislocated Worker		No
Students Adjusted Gross Income From IRS Form		7800
Students Exemptions Claimed	1	0
Students Income Earned From Work	0	8500
Students Tax Filing Status		Single
Students Tax Return Completed	Will not file	Already completed
Students Typeof Tax Form Used		1040EZ
Students US Income Tax Paid		700

Submit Corrections

WASFA Corrections

You have successfully submitted your corrections.

Corrections Submitted

Your corrections were submitted successfully.
A new transaction should be created overnight with the corrections applied.

Return to application

WASFA Corrections

The application detail screen will now display your pending correction. Please note that a new transaction will be created overnight.

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Questions?

Thank you for joining us!

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