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State of New Jersey
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY
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DAVID J. SOCOLOW
Executive Director

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Dear Local Educational Agency Leads and Administrators of Nonpublic Schools:

Completing a financial aid application is the first step in making education after high school possible for New Jersey students. To assist you in supporting your Class of 2022 seniors in exploring their postsecondary options, the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) launched an efficient and secure way to identify which of your current 12th graders still need to complete a financial aid application.

When a New Jersey student completes a financial aid form – either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®]) or the New Jersey Alternative Application for Financial Aid that is completed by New Jersey Dreamers – they become eligible for New Jersey’s College Promise, offering a tuition-free pathway to an associate or bachelor’s degree at one of our state’s public institutions of higher education, through the Community College Opportunity Grant and the Garden State Guarantee.

These crucial financial aid applications are also the required starting point for students to access many other valuable financial aid programs. Once a student submits their applications, they are considered for financial aid from the federal government, the State, and individual colleges, universities, and trade schools, including Pell Grants, Tuition Aid Grants (TAG), and the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF).

To encourage your students to complete financial aid applications, the counselors or approved personnel at the high school(s) within your district can use the New Jersey Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS) to upload a roster of 12th grade students with only the following data elements: students’ first names, last names, dates of birth, and the ZIP codes in which each student resides. Once the roster is in NJFAMS, the counselor or approved staff member can run a report that will indicate which students already submitted, started, or have yet to initiate an application for financial aid. This report can be generated weekly or at any other interval that best serves the needs of your staff in guiding your students.

This new service is free. To get started, complete and submit the [Data Sharing Agreement](#).

Once we receive your signed agreement, HESAA will work directly with your district's designated staff to provide individual, secure password-protected access to updated, near real-time information about your students' progress toward completing their financial aid applications.

Using these weekly updates, your counselors will have the information they need to target their outreach to the students who might need extra help or a reminder to complete the relevant financial aid application. Students who apply for this valuable funding will be better informed about the net cost of college, enabling them to make informed decisions about their post-high school life and career choices, regardless of which path they ultimately follow.

Thank you for your partnership in championing the success of New Jersey's high school graduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David J. Socolow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David J. Socolow
Executive Director
New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority