



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 10, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, School Leads, School Counselors
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Updates on Completing Financial Aid Applications (P.L. 2025, c.95)

This broadcast provides updates to local educational agencies (LEAs) on the requirements under [P.L. 2025, c. 95](#) (amending P.L. 2023, c.295). This amendment contains changes that LEAs must implement to remain compliant with State law. P.L. 2025, c. 95 requires public school students to complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. The law applies to the graduating classes of 2026 and 2027 and allows a student who is 18 or older, the student's parent or guardian if the student is under 18, or the school counselor to complete a waiver form exempting the student from this requirement.

Key Changes Under P.L. 2025, c.95

- A waiver template or form developed by LEAs shall require the student, parent or guardian, or school counselor, as applicable, to provide only the student's name, telephone number, email address, date, and signature of the individual submitting the waiver;
- A LEA shall not use or disclose any waiver or any personal information contained within a waiver without the informed consent of the student or the student's parent or guardian, consistent with applicable federal and State-level protections of student educational records, including, but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. s.1232g); however, nothing in P.L. 2025, c.95 shall be construed to prohibit, or in any way restrict, any action that is consistent with federal law;
- A LEA that develops and uses a waiver is required to include language consistent with the prohibition on disclosure in a prominent location on the waiver; and
- Nothing in P.L. 2025, c.95 is to be construed to invalidate a waiver submitted prior to the effective date of July 8, 2025.
- All waivers are subject to the provisions of the law regarding the prohibition on disclosure, regardless of whether they were submitted before or after July 8, 2025.

Key steps/actions

1. Review local policies, procedures, and forms to ensure alignment with the changes under P.L. 2025, c.95.
2. Update any waiver forms and data collection practices accordingly.
3. Inform students, parents, and guardians about the changes.
4. Maintain documentation of completed applications and waivers submitted as required by law.

Waiver and Guidance

The NJDOE has developed template [forms](#) that LEAs may use to obtain waivers from parents/guardians or school counselors. Use of those specific template forms is optional; P.L. 2025, c.95 does not require use of any State-provided waiver form. LEAs may obtain parental/guardian or school counselor waivers in any manner consistent with the requirements of P.L. 2025, c.95.

Contact Information

For additional information regarding this graduation requirement, please contact the NJDOE's Office of Career Readiness at FinAidGradReq@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group