

FSA's Partnerships

FSA aims to be the most trusted and reliable source of student financial aid information and service in the nation. Our national outreach and awareness efforts are designed to educate and inform students, parents, and other borrowers about applying for, maintaining, and repaying federal financial aid.

To this end, we have developed several key strategic partnerships – both formal and informal – with government, nonprofit, and private organizations in order to spread our messages as far and wide as possible. Partners, in addition to financial aid professionals and others, have access to the [FSA Financial Aid Toolkit](#), a variety of free tools and resources, available to help students, parents, and other borrowers learn about federal student aid.

The Internal Revenue Service

In an effort to help federal agencies streamline transactions for citizens and reduce redundant data entry, the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) at the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) partnered to greatly reduce the time required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA completion is a key indicator of whether a student will eventually enroll in college, and encouraging students to complete the student aid application is a major priority for the Department of Education. Previously, it typically took more than an hour to complete the FAFSA.

Among other things, FSA's partnership with the IRS allows students (if applicable) and parents of prospective students to automatically import their tax data into the FAFSA. This enhancement led to the average application completion time to drop to about 20 minutes. This partnership also greatly improved the accuracy of the information on the FAFSA, since the transferred tax data already has been validated by the IRS.

U.S. Department of Treasury and Intuit, Inc.

In 2014, the Department of Education, Treasury, and Intuit, Inc. – makers of Turbo Tax – announced an innovative public-private partnership to raise awareness about income-driven repayment plans and other repayment options for federal student loan borrowers. For the past two tax-filing seasons, Intuit featured messaging to more than 18 million users on its Turbo Tax Online tax preparation software to let users know their options for repaying federal student loans.

Separately, Treasury and Education included a message on the back of envelopes containing 2013's tax refund checks to raise awareness of federal student loan repayment options. Approximately 25 million of these envelopes were mailed to tax filers in 2014.

U.S. Department of Treasury and H&R Block

Similar to the collaboration with Intuit, the Department of Education also is partnering with H&R Block to provide information to raise awareness about income-driven repayment options. Beginning this year, H&R Block – one of the largest tax preparers in the country – is incorporating information about income-driven repayment options in tax tips accessible to users of H&R Block's online tax preparation software and to visitors to the H&R Block website.

Specific Campaign-Related Partner Outreach

Throughout the year, FSA conducts targeted outreach campaigns aimed at students, parents, and other borrowers. Campaign topics include completing the FAFSA and loan repayment. During each campaign, the primary goal is to educate borrowers. Past campaigns have utilized social media, targeted e-mails, and the use of message- and resource-sharing via strategic informal partners.

Other Active Partnerships

Government	Nonprofit
Health and Human Services/Children's Bureau	Amateur Athletic Union
Job Corps	American School Counselor Association
Office of the First Lady REACH Higher Initiative	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
U.S. Military Services	Local chapters of the Boys and Girls Club
White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaskan Native Education	Council for Opportunity in Education
White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	National Association for College Admission Counseling
White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans	National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics	National College Access Network
White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities	National Council of Higher Education Resources
White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy	National Education Association
	Local chapters of the United Way
	Local chapters of the YMCA