FIVE KEY FACTS ABOUT FAFSA CHANGES

Federal legislation made changes to the FAFSA form and calculations of need intending:
- a more streamlined application process
- a better user experience for the FAFSA form
- overall expanded eligibility for federal financial aid
- reduced barriers for certain student populations

1. The 2024-25 FAFSA will not be available until December 2023
   - Usually opens on October 1 each year but changes have caused delay for this year
   - September thru February: Coordinated communication campaigns and FAFSA completion events

2. The Student Aid Index (SAI) is replacing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
   - Students and families will see a different measure of ability to pay for college and will also experience a change in the methodology used to determine aid
   - SAI is not the same as EFC; Pell eligibility and level of financial need used to be directly linked to EFC but no longer the same under SAI

3. Eligibility for the Pell Grant (and need-based aid in general) is changing
   - The new formula generally expands Federal Pell Grant eligibility by linking eligibility to family size and federal poverty level
   - Number of the household/family members that are in college (“Number in College”) is removed as a factor in the formula which could reduce eligibility for some students

4. How the FAFSA is completed and how IRS data are imported is changing
   - Changes to definition of which parent must complete and “sign”
   - FSA ID and valid email address required for each person contributing information on FAFSA
   - Parents who do not have SSN or ITIN to obtain FSA ID will have additional steps but should be able to complete/submit FAFSA
   - Each FAFSA contributor must separately provide consent to import Federal Tax Information directly from IRS into the FAFSA

5. Estimator tool available but has had bumpy rollout (September and October 2023)
   - Federal processor of the FAFSA released a tool for students and families to estimate their eligibility ahead of 2024-25 FAFSA opening in December (https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator)