



CHESLA™

Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority

High School Guidance Counselors from Across Connecticut Seeking Assistance in Navigating New FAFSA Application Attend Summit Convened by CAPFAA and CHESLA

November 2023

In an effort to provide valuable assistance to Connecticut students and families to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of financial aid for higher education, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) joined forces with the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (CAPFAA) to offer an information session to the state's high school counselors on November 9. The seminar covered a range of topics, including FAFSA simplification 101, how Connecticut is supporting students in completing the new FAFSA, how schools are implementing the new FAFSA, and state aid for financing higher education. Presenters and panelists included state and national experts.



The FAFSA is the gateway to various federal and state aid programs, scholarships, grants, and student loans, making it an essential application for students who require financial assistance. For this reason, it is a vital tool for students and their families seeking financial assistance to pursue higher education, and it is essential to stay updated on any changes to ensure students can access the resources they need to achieve their academic goals.

"Completing the FAFSA is a critical step in the college application process," said Josh Hurlock, CHESLA Assistant Director. "The recent changes to the FAFSA can be confusing for students and their families. Through our collaboration with CAPFAA, we are able to provide information and resources to counselors and college readiness advisors, so that they are well equipped to support their students in navigating the paying for college process."

Jeanette W. Weldon, CHESLA Executive Director, highlighted the importance of this joint effort: "CHESLA's mission is Connecticut students in their pursuit of higher education. By collaborating with CAPFAA, we can better educate our about the changes to the FAFSA and help students access the financial aid they need to achieve their academic goal



Julie Savino, Sacred Heart University Associate Vice President, Student Financial Assistance, emphasized the collective goal of raising awareness about the FAFSA changes and the importance of completing it. "Our aim is to assist Connecticut students in securing the financial aid they need to make their educational dreams a reality. By working with CHESLA, we can ensure that students are well-informed and well-prepared to navigate the FAFSA process successfully."

The partnership between CHESLA and CAPFAA reflects a shared commitment to supporting Connecticut students and their families as they seek to make their educational aspirations a reality.

For more information about the recent changes to the FAFSA, resources available for students and their families, and details about the past informational seminar, please contact Dan Giungi at dgiungi@chefa.com.

About CHESLA:

The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) is a state-chartered, quasi-public authority created to provide cost effective education loans and other resources to Connecticut students and their families. CHESLA had been supporting students and families in achieving their educational goals since 1982. For more information, visit www.chesla.org.

About CAPFAA:

The Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (CAPFAA) is a professional organization dedicated to supporting the efforts of financial aid professionals in Connecticut higher education institutions. CAPFAA's mission is to provide professional development, networking opportunities, and advocacy for the financial aid community in Connecticut. For more information, visit www.capfaa.org.