



# TASFAA

*encourage • promote • facilitate • inspire • motivate*

## **Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA)**

### **State Recommendations**

The Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) advances student access to higher education by providing professional development for its diverse members, advocating for informed public policies, and facilitating forums on financial aid topics. TASFAA represents over 133 colleges and universities and has over 2,200 members that support students working to achieve their dream of postsecondary education. TASFAA members are at the front lines of access and success for students across Texas and work to act as strong fiduciaries of the federal government's investment in Title IV financial aid programs.

TASFAA has three continued priorities as the State of Texas Legislature prepares for the 2023 session. These include:

- **Align the State's SAP policy with the Federal policy**  
Federal and state student financial aid programs require recipients to be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward earning their postsecondary credentials or degrees. However, the misalignment between federal and state SAP standards (e.g., different minimum GPAs, not calculated in the same time frame, and do not have the same warning/suspension process) can create a barrier to a student's ability to progress towards their degree. TASFAA supports legislation that would bring state aid SAP policies in line with federal policies or be handed over to schools to determine so they can align policies (federal, state, and institutional). Such SAP alignment would aid communication to and understanding by students of the SAP requirements, facilitate their persistence and graduation, and thus, support the State's 60 x 30 higher education strategic plan.
- **Allow TEOG to be Treated the Same as TEXAS Grant**  
The Required Matching rule for TEXAS Grant states, "Institutions are required to cover any tuition and required fees that are not covered by the amount of the TEXAS Grant using other non-loan funds from federal, state, institutional, or outside sources." The Required Matching rule for the TEOG Grant has the same wording with the exception that the Pell Grant is excluded as a matching fund option. TASFAA recommends that the matching rule for both funds align and the Pell Grant be allowed for TEOG as a matching fund option.
- **Eliminate the Selective Service and Drug Conviction Eligibility Requirements**  
With the early implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act's removal of Selective Service registration and Drug Conviction requirements for Title IV Eligibility, we would like the State of Texas to consider removing these requirements for students applying for state aid as well as for students who are otherwise eligible for a State of Texas exemption or waiver.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact TASFAA President Robert Merino at [president@tasfaa.org](mailto:president@tasfaa.org)