

STATE OF NEW YORK

1983--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 18, 2023

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, ADDABBO, CHU, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, MYRIE, RYAN
-- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to
the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended,
ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to notice of post-secondary financial aid programs

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Article 14 of the education law is amended by adding a new part VI to read as follows:

PART VI

UNIFORM FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION

Section 694-c. Financial aid materials.

694-d. Financial aid presentation.

694-e. Affidavit.

694-f. Reporting.

694-g. State sponsored scholarships.

§ 694-c. Financial aid materials. The corporation shall create a uniform presentation on the availability of post-secondary financial aid programs, including training on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) and application for aid available to individuals meeting the requirements of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision five of section six hundred sixty-one of this article. The corporation, in conjunction with the department, shall distribute the presentation materials to all schools throughout the state which educate students through twelfth grade. Each school shall be required to use such materials when complying with the provisions of this part and shall not be permitted to create their own versions of such presentation materials.

§ 694-d. Financial aid presentation. 1. Each school in this state which educates students through twelfth grade shall be required to

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 conduct oral presentations on post-secondary financial aid programs,
2 using the materials developed by the corporation under section six
3 hundred ninety-four-c of this part, to high school seniors at least once
4 during the school year. Presentations that include training on complet-
5 ing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) and the appli-
6 cation for aid available to individuals meeting the requirements of
7 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision five of section six
8 hundred sixty-one of this article, shall be given to all students in the
9 same presentation or presentations and students shall not be separately
10 presented to on the basis of the type of aid they may qualify for.

11 2. Each high school senior shall be required to complete an affidavit
12 form, signed by both the student and student's parent or legal guardian,
13 or, if the student is eighteen years of age or older or legally emanci-
14 pated, signed solely by the student, certifying that the student
15 attended the presentation described in subdivision one of this section
16 or received a written copy of the materials from such presentation. Such
17 affidavit shall declare that the student intends file a FAFSA or an
18 application for individuals meeting the requirements of subparagraph
19 (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision five of section six hundred sixty-
20 one of this article, or neither type of aid. The affidavit shall couple
21 together both the FAFSA application and the application for individuals
22 meeting the requirements of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivi-
23 vision five of section six hundred sixty-one of this article in the same
24 grouping.

25 § 694-e. Affidavit. 1. The commissioner shall create a uniform affida-
26 vit required under this part. Such affidavit form shall be made avail-
27 able in the twelve most common non-English languages spoken by limited-
28 English proficient individuals in the state, based on the data in the
29 most recent American Community Survey published by the United States
30 Census Bureau. The commissioner may, in their discretion, offer such
31 form in up to four additional languages beyond the twelve most common
32 languages. Such form shall be distributed in English and any additional
33 languages requested by a school district to each school district in this
34 state. Schools shall be required to use the uniform version of the affi-
35 davit form described in this subdivision when complying with the
36 provisions of this part and shall not be permitted to create their own
37 versions of such form.

38 2. The commissioner shall distribute the affidavit form to all schools
39 educating students through the twelfth grade. Each school shall be
40 required to collect the affidavit from students and/or parents or legal
41 guardians and transmit such forms to the commissioner for the data
42 reporting purposes described in this part. Each school shall be required
43 to report to the commissioner, on the first of July of each year: (a)
44 the total number of completed affidavit forms; (b) the total number of
45 twelfth grade students in the prior academic year; and (c) the antic-
46 ipated number of twelfth grade students in the coming academic year. The
47 commissioner shall then compile and submit such data to the corporation
48 for the purposes of compiling the report described in section six
49 hundred ninety-four-f of this part.

50 § 694-f. Reporting. 1. The higher education services corporation shall
51 be required to produce an annual report containing:

52 (a) the total number of completed affidavit forms and total and antic-
53 ipated number of students, per school and on an aggregated statewide
54 basis, as provided in section six hundred ninety-four-e of this part;

1 (b) the total number of FAFSA applications filed in the prior academic
2 year, and how such number compares to the number of applications filed
3 in the previous five years;

4 (c) the total number of applications for aid available to individuals
5 meeting the requirements of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdi-
6 vision five of section six hundred sixty-one of this article in the
7 prior academic year, and how such number compares to the number of
8 applications from the previous five years.

9 2. Such report shall describe the effect, if any, that the commission-
10 er believes that the affidavit forms required under this part have had
11 on the number of completed FAFSA applications or applications for aid
12 available to individuals meeting the requirements of subparagraph (ii)
13 of paragraph (a) of subdivision five of section six hundred sixty-one of
14 this article.

15 3. The corporation shall send the annual report to the commissioner,
16 the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the chair of the
17 senate committee on education, the chair of the senate committee on
18 higher education, the speaker of the assembly, the chair of the assembly
19 committee on education, and the chair of the assembly committee on high-
20 er education by the first of September of each year. The president of
21 the corporation and the commissioner shall post the annual report on the
22 corporation or department's website by the first of September of each
23 year.

24 § 694-g. State sponsored scholarships. The commissioner, in consulta-
25 tion with the higher education services corporation, shall create and
26 distribute a uniform notice describing state-sponsored scholarships,
27 financial aid, and assistance available to students attending college or
28 post-secondary education, including FAFSA and awards available to
29 students meeting the requirements of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a)
30 of subdivision five of section six hundred sixty-one of this article,
31 application deadlines for such scholarships and assistance, and informa-
32 tion on general college application deadlines, to all schools educating
33 students through twelfth grade. Such schools shall be required to
34 distribute such notice to high school seniors no less than four times
35 during the school year and to high school juniors no less than two times
36 during the school year.

37 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July one year after
38 the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the
39 commissioner of education and president of the higher education services
40 corporation shall commence any regulatory action needed for the imple-
41 mentation of this act.