

OVERVIEW

After districts and public school academies (PSA) apply to receive Universal FAFSA Challenge funds, they must submit evidence that a universal FAFSA policy has been adopted no later than August 15, 2025. Typically, graduation requirements are outlined in board policy. If graduation requirements are outlined in board policy, the board policy must be updated. If local graduation requirements are not included in board policy, MiLEAP will work with the district or PSA to identify what policy changes are necessary to comply. If the district or PSA has not adopted a policy by the deadline, they must meet with MiLEAP to identify what support is needed to adopt a policy. If a policy is not adopted by the end of the fiscal year, the full award must be returned. *Frequently Asked Questions are available publicly at Michigan.gov/MiLEAP.

SAMPLE POLICY

In our district, we recognize how critical it is for students to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), or FAFSA. The FAFSA is needed to access federal scholarships and loans and is required for students to receive up to \$27,500 through the [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#)—including a pathway to earn a skill certificate or associate degree tuition-free at their local community college through the [Community College Guarantee](#). FAFSA may also be used for some trade programs.

To best position our graduates for multiple, viable post high school pathways, eliminating potential barriers and ensuring that school and district staff prioritize the support for students and families, beginning with the class of 202*, we are requiring the following:

1. Complete one of the following: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), (2) a district waiver form indicating that the student and family understand what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to complete an application. If the student is not at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated, the student's parent/guardian must complete one of these documents on the student's behalf, (3) school or district exemption that certifies to the district board that good-faith efforts were made to assist the student or the student's parent/legal guardian in either completing the FAFSA or obtaining a district waiver.

A district shall exempt a student from the requirement to complete the FAFSA if any of the following are met:

1. The student's parent or legal guardian, or the student if the student is 18 years of age or older, is an emancipated minor, or is an unaccompanied youth, has submitted a parental waiver (obtained by a [standard form provided by MiLEAP](#)) to the district exempting the student from completing the FAFSA.
2. The student is unable to complete the FAFSA because of privacy concerns.
3. All of the following are met:
 1. After a good-faith effort, the student's parent or legal guardian refuses to sign the parental waiver, is unresponsive, or cannot sign the parental waiver.
 2. The student is unable to complete the FAFSA as an independent student.
 3. The student agrees to opt out of completing the FAFSA.
 4. Other than the requirements in subsection (2) of [Sec. 67f of Public Act 120 of 2024](#), the student is on track to graduate.