Recommendations for the Development of an Online Application for State Financial Aid

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
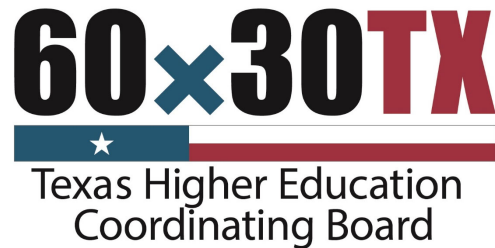
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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
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Recommendations

Procedure
- Require institutions of higher education to accept the TASFA to verify student eligibility for state financial aid.
- Establish an online TASFA (e.g., an online, fillable PDF, printable form) that collects all data necessary to calculate an Expected Family Contribution, an index number that colleges use to determine how much financial aid an applicant is eligible to receive, following federal methodology to be consistent and using that template as the standard form.

Development and Costs
- The Texas Legislature provide funding for the development and maintenance of the online TASFA.

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Recommendations

Technical and Functional Revisions

o Include a privacy statement on the online TASFA that assures the state will not share information with any institution other than those identified by the applicant.

o Offer a Spanish language translation as an option for the application.

o The online TASFA include helpful pop-up information that explains the questions and sections of the application.

o Keep the student and parent signature process as simple as possible while still protecting against fraud.

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