Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD

State Financial Aid Monthly Webcast

October 18, 2023

Topics of Discussion

Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) Updates

Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program

Texas First Program

Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP) Payment Requests

Deadlines and Reminders

# Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

Updates

2023-24 Online TASFA Updates

The 2023-24 Online TASFA is available!

TASFA webpage:

- Students can use a decision tree to determine if they should complete the TASFA or FAFSA
- FAQs and other resources are available to help navigate online TASFA

https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/empowering-our-students/tasfa/
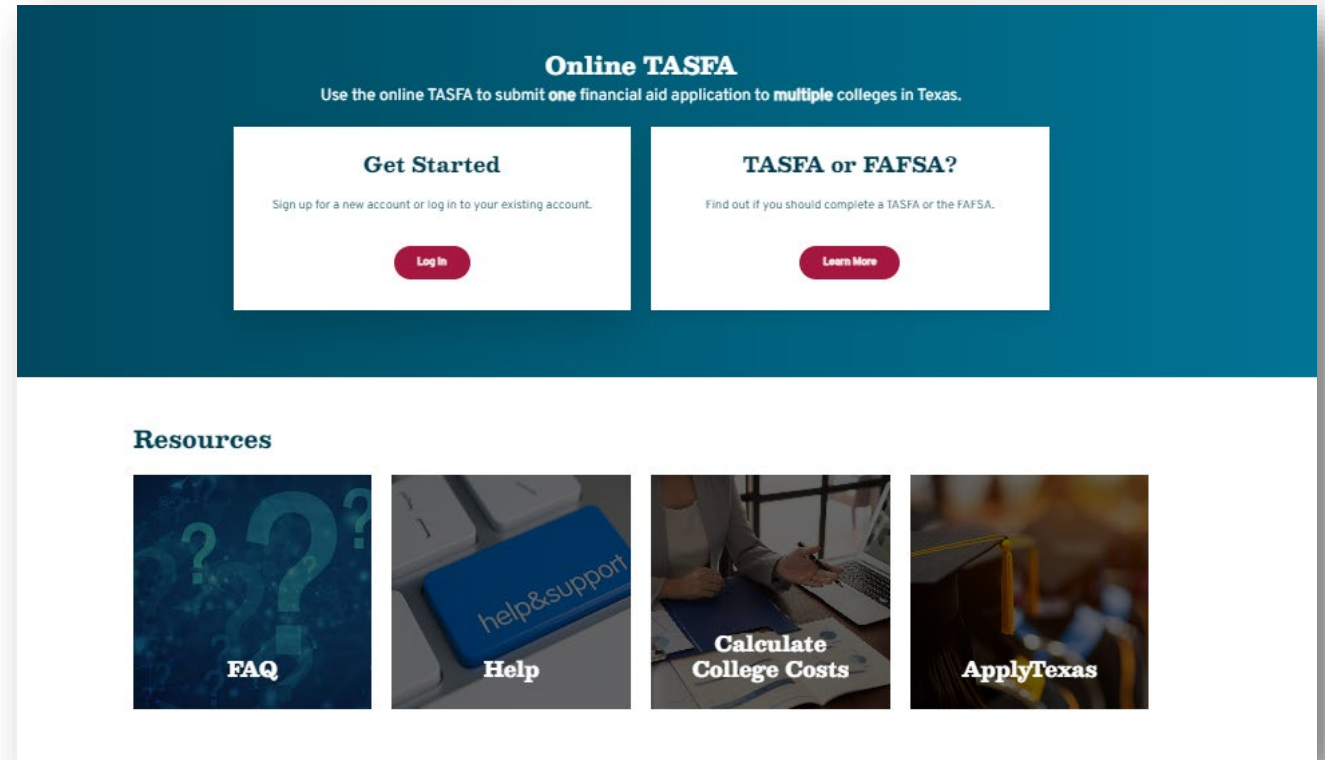
2023-24 Online TASFA Resources and Reminders

Institutional Resources:

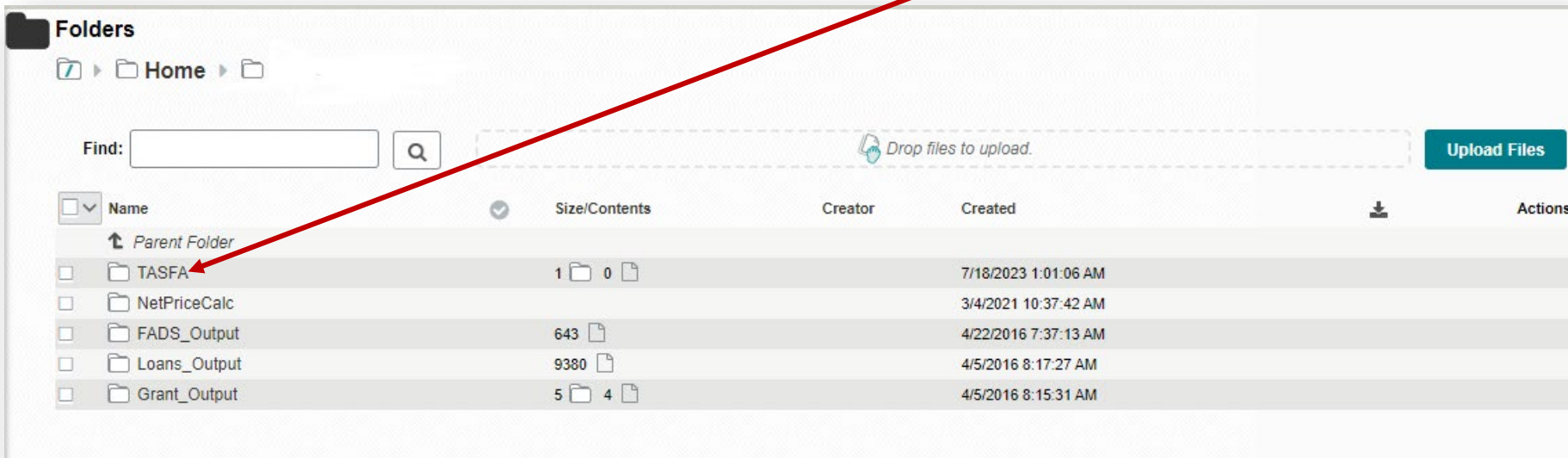**Trainings**

- TASFA Webcast June 29, 2023 [Video]
- TASFA Webcast June 29, 2023 [PDF]

Reminder: Institutions should be checking the TASFA output file in MOVEit to download files.

File Layout

- Online TASFA FY 2024 File Layout- Revised June 2023 [PDF]

Folders

/ ▶ 🗀 Home ▶ 🗀

Find: [_____] 🔍   Drop files to upload.   **Upload Files**

	Name		Size/Contents	Creator	Created	⬇	Actions
	⬆ Parent Folder						
☐	🗀 TASFA		1 🗀 0 📄		7/18/2023 1:01:06 AM		
☐	🗀 NetPriceCalc				3/4/2021 10:37:42 AM		
☐	🗀 FADS_Output		643 📄		4/22/2016 7:37:13 AM		
☐	🗀 Loans_Output		9380 📄		4/5/2016 8:17:27 AM		
☐	🗀 Grant_Output		5 🗀 4 📄		4/5/2016 8:15:31 AM		

2024-25 TASFA Updates

FAFSA Simplification Act impacts on the 2024-25 TASFA:

- Only prioritizing changes on the TASFA that are needed for SAI components
- Paper TASFA form will be released the same time as FAFSA
- Paper draft copy will be shared with institutions prior to the public release
- Development changes are in progress, but the online form will not be available until after FAFSA is released
- Revised file layout will be sent prior to the online release

ALERT: State priority deadline for **2024-25** is now **March 15, 2024,** as a result of these delays.

2024-25 TASFA Changes Overview

- *Removing* approx. 20 questions from the TASFA

- *Adding* approx. 11 questions from the FAFSA

- *Updating* approx. 13 questions to align with FASFA

TASFA 2024-2025
TEXAS APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID

THECB
Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD

What will remain on the TASFA:

- Selective Service Registration Status Question
- Student and Parent Dislocated Worker Questions
- Housing Plan Question

Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)

FAST Program Overview

Purpose:

The FAST program provides funding to participating public institutions of higher education so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students.

FAST program webpage:
https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/supporting-our-institutions/community-college-finance/fast/

FAST FAQs: https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/supporting-our-institutions/community-college-finance/fast/fast-faqs/
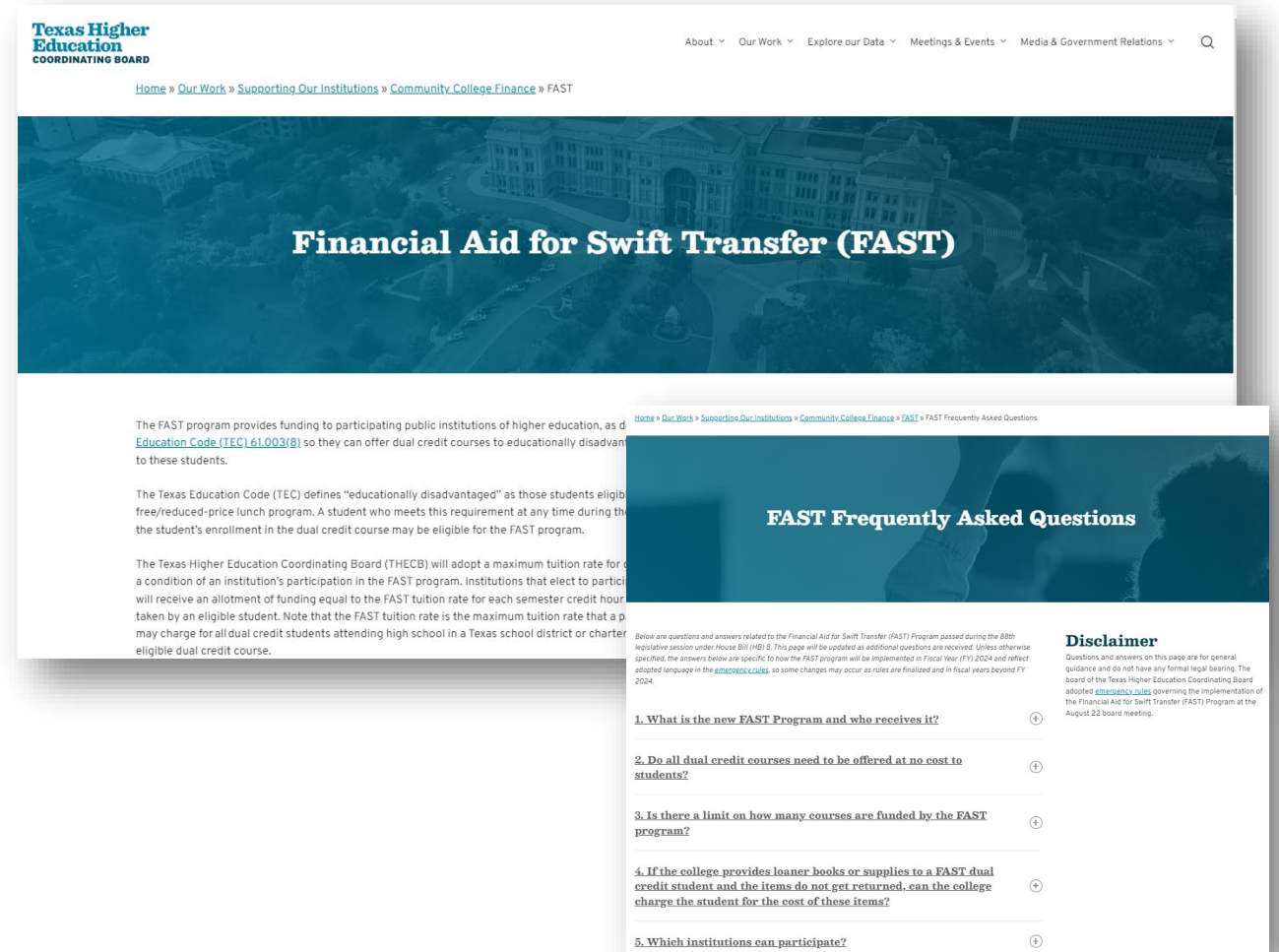
FAST Program Eligibility

Eligible students **must**:

- Enroll in an eligible dual credit course at a public school district or charter school (i.e., eligible for Foundation School Program funding); and

- Take a course offered through an institutional agreement, as outlined in TAC, Section 4.84, from an institution of higher education that has opted to participate in FAST; and

- Qualify for free/reduced-price lunch in **any** of the four school years prior to the academic year in which they enroll in the dual credit course.

FAST Process Flow

Each semester, an institution will complete two processes related to the FAST program.

#1 - Roster Process

An institution securely uploads a roster file of registered dual credit students via MOVEIT to the THECB to confirm if they were reported as "educationally disadvantaged" to Texas Education Agency (TEA) in the prior four school years.

#2 - Certification Process

The THECB will combine the institution's data with TEA's data to generate a report of eligible student enrollments for FAST funding. The THECB will provide the report to institutions for their review and certification, after which THECB will disburse funding to the institution.

More information will be provided to clarify this certification process.

FAST Program Participation Agreement

The program is **optional** for public institutions of higher education; but Institutions are required to complete a program participation agreement (PPA) to opt-in or out each year.

Note: A memo was sent on **August 31, 2023.**
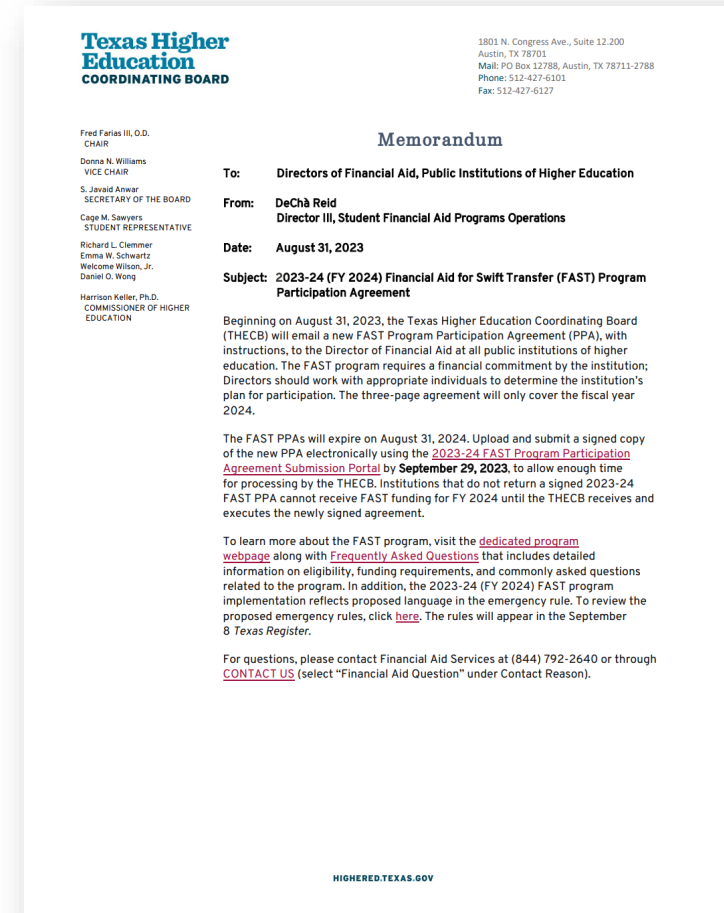
Texas First Program

Texas First Program Resources

Texas First Program Factsheet: https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/guidelines-manuals/texas-first-program-fact-sheet/

Texas First Program resource section in Student Financial Aid Programs webpage: https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/empowering-our-students/the-texas-first-program/

Texas First Program

NEW! The purpose of the Texas First Program is to allow public high school students demonstrating college readiness to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement and receive a scholarship, *as a state credit*, to attend any eligible public institution of higher education (as defined in TEC, Section 61.003). This program includes two major components: *1. Early High School Completion; and 2. Scholarship.*

The Texas First Program Scholarship is authorized by TEC, Title 3, Chapter 56, Subchapter K-1, Section 56.221. Rules for administering the scholarship can be found in TAC, Title 19, Chapter 22, Subchapter T. To learn more, visit the dedicated program webpage that includes detailed information on program and eligibility requirements.

- Texas First Program Fact Sheet
- Texas First Eligibility Confirmation Form – *for High School Counselors and Administrators*

Texas First Program
FACT SHEET

Texas Higher Education COORDINATING BOARD

Program Authority and Purpose:
The purpose of this program *(in conjunction with the Texas First Program Diploma)* is to promote efficiency in the state public education system and encourage the enrollment of high performing students at Texas public research and emerging research institutions of higher education (see Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter T).

Eligible Institutions:
All Texas public institutions of higher education, defined in TEC, Title 3, Section 61.003, are required to apply the state credit offered to an eligible, enrolled student through this program.

Program Eligibility:
To receive a scholarship, *as a state credit*, a student **must**:
- be enrolled at an eligible institution;
- be a resident of Texas;
- be registered for Selective Service, or be exempt; *and*
- have graduated early from high school under the Texas First Program with the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

Discontinuation of Eligibility:
A state credit awarded to an eligible student expires at the end of the first academic year following the student's graduation from high school. If any portion of a state credit is unused, the remaining amount may be applied to subsequent semesters ONLY if it is within the first academic year following the student's graduation from high school.

Scholarship Certificate:
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will issue a certificate to eligible students indicating the amount of state credit a student has available if enrolled at an eligible public institution. To receive a certificate, the student's high school counselor (or administrator) **must** verify that the student has met all eligibility requirements for the Texas First Program Diploma and its Distinguished Level of Achievement.

Award Amounts:
The amount of state credit offered to the student is contingent on the number of semesters the student graduates early and the maximum annual (two semester) Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant award amount for the applicable academic year, which is determined by the THECB (see TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Section 22.555).

Upon enrollment of an eligible Texas First Early High School graduate, the institution must apply a state credit to the student's charges that is equal to the lesser of:
- the amount of the state credit available to the student; *or*
- the student's actual tuition, mandatory fees, and other costs of attendance at the institution.

Note: The amount of state credit offered to a student may *NOT* be considered in the calculation of any state or institutional need-based aid awards or the calculation of the student's overall financial need, unless the combination of the credit and other federal, state, and institutional financial aid (excluding work-study and loan programs) exceeds the student's estimated total cost of attendance (COA).

Institutional Rosters:
Program rosters containing a list of students who have been issued a scholarship certificate can be accessed via the institution's **Grant_Output** folder in MOVEit DMZ. Roster updates will be made available on the Friday of every week that new students are added; otherwise, any previous roster upload will remain in place. MOVEit DMZ does not generate a "file upload" notification, so institutions should determine their file retrieval frequency.

Processing Funds:
The THECB will reimburse each eligible institution the amount of state credit applied to an eligible student's account during the *preceding* academic year. The institution's annual Financial Aid Database (FAD) submission will be used to calculate the reimbursement amount (see TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Section 22.556) .

For questions, call Financial Aid Services at (844) 792-2640 or send an inquiry through CONTACT US (select "Financial Aid Question" as the Contact Reason).

Address: 1801 N. Congress Ave., Suite 12.200, Austin, TX 78701 • Mail: PO Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711-2788
Phone: 512-427-6101 • Fax: 512-427-6127

HIGHERED.TEXAS.GOV

Texas First Program Overview

The Texas First Program is designed to keep Texas' best and brightest on a direct track to postsecondary education here in our great state.

Note: Effective **September 1, 2023**, the number of institutions of higher education that are eligible to award the Texas First Scholarship to eligible Texas First Diploma graduates expands from ten institutions to <u>all</u> Texas Public Institutions of Higher Education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges.

ALL public institutions of higher education are required to participate in the program.

Texas First Program Webpage :
https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/empowering-our-students/the-texas-first-program/

Texas First Program Components

Diploma	Scholarship
Enables eligible students to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement and receive a Texas First Scholarship.	Enables eligible students to receive a scholarship for one or two semesters at an eligible institution of higher education.

Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible a student **must**:

- be enrolled at an eligible institution;

- be a resident of Texas;

- be registered for Selective Service, or be exempt; and

- have graduated early from high school with a Texas First Program Diploma (also referred to as the Texas First Early High School Completion Program).

State Credit

Upon enrollment of an eligible Texas First Early High School graduate, the institution must apply a state credit to the student's charges that is equal to the lesser of:

- the amount of the state credit available to the student; or

- the student's actual tuition, mandatory fees, and other costs of attendance at the institution.

Note: The amount of state credit offered to a student may NOT be considered in the calculation of any state or institutional need-based aid awards or the calculation of the student's overall financial need, unless the combination of the credit and other federal, state, and institutional financial aid (excluding work-study and loan programs) exceeds the student's estimated total cost of attendance (COA).

State Credit

Maximum State Credit Amount: TEXAS Grant maximum award

Example:

Award year: 2023-24

State Credit available: $5,887

Student's Tuition and Fees, and other COA: $4,500

The amount of state credit the school will apply to the student's charges is **$4,500** because it is the <u>**lesser**</u> of the maximum amount of state credit available to the student.

Texas First Scholarship Institution Process Flow

Confirmation of Eligibility

HS administrator verifies student meets eligibility requirements to graduate early with a **Texas First Program Diploma and send a confirmation form to THECB**.

Scholarship Certificate

THECB will issue a certificate to eligible students and provide recipient rosters to institutions.

Roster Retrieval

School retrieves (download) rosters through the MOVEIT DMZ portal in the Grant_Output folder.

Apply State Credit

Institutions applies state credit to the student's charges.

Request Reimbursement

Institution reports state credit on annual Financial Aid Database submission to calculate the reimbursement amount.

Recipient Rosters

- Recipient rosters includes a list of **all** eligible students who have been issued a certificate.

- Roster updates occur when new certificates are issued.

- Institutions are **not required** to collect scholarship certificates issued by THECB to the student.

Certificate Date	Student First Name	Student Last Name	Social Security Number Last Four Digits Only	Date of Birth	Certificate Award Amount (Recipient may receive state credit up to award amount.)
8/10/2023	John	Doe	1234	1/1/2003	$5,387
8/4/2023	Jane	Doe	1234	1/1/2003	$10,774

Grants and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP)

GAPP Landing Page

Based on access users will have up to three tiles that allow them to view the following details:

Institutional Profile
- Institution Details
- Staff Rosters
- Financial Aid Program Rosters
- Intent to Participate Requests

Allocations
- Allocations
- Student Count

Requests
- Payment Requests
- Transfer Requests
- Return of Funds
- Update Student Count
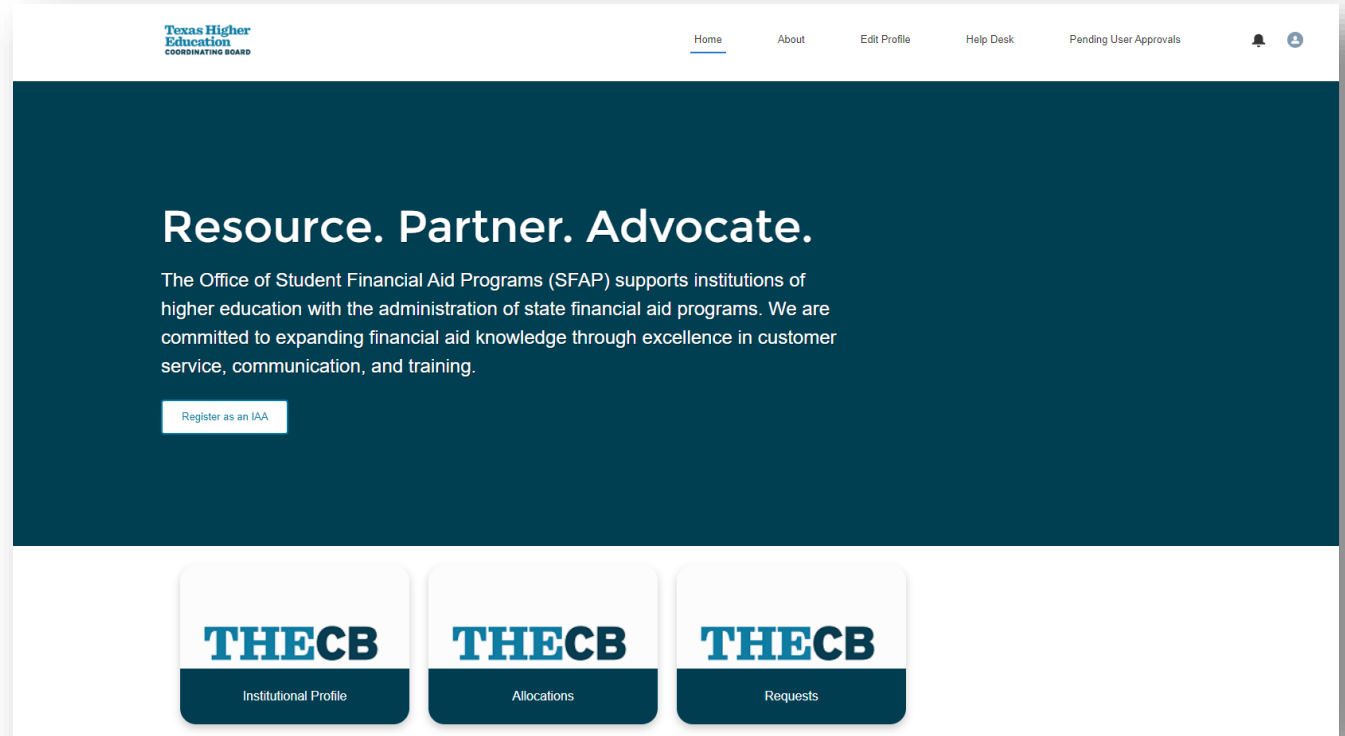
GAPP Walkthrough SFAP Webcast August 24, 2023
User Access Guide SFAP Webcast August 31, 2023
Requests Tile Guide SFAP Webcast September 13, 2023

Payment Requests
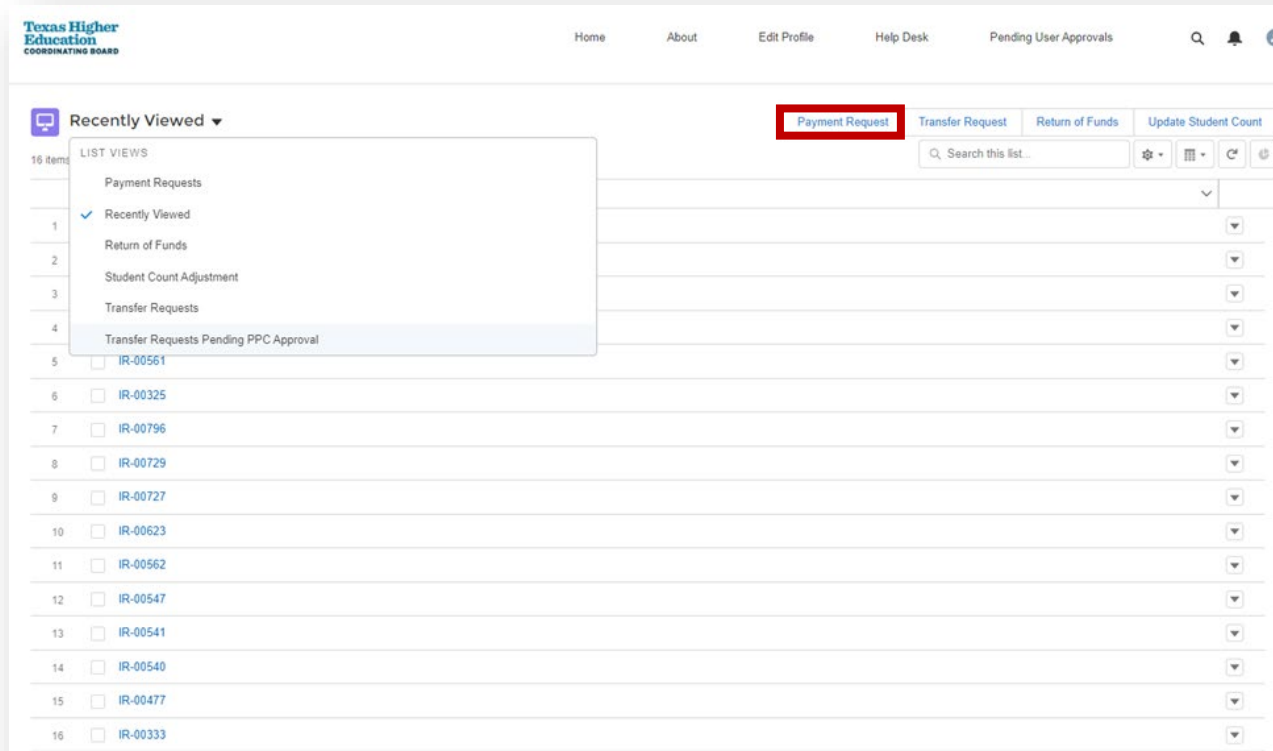
GAPP Landing Page
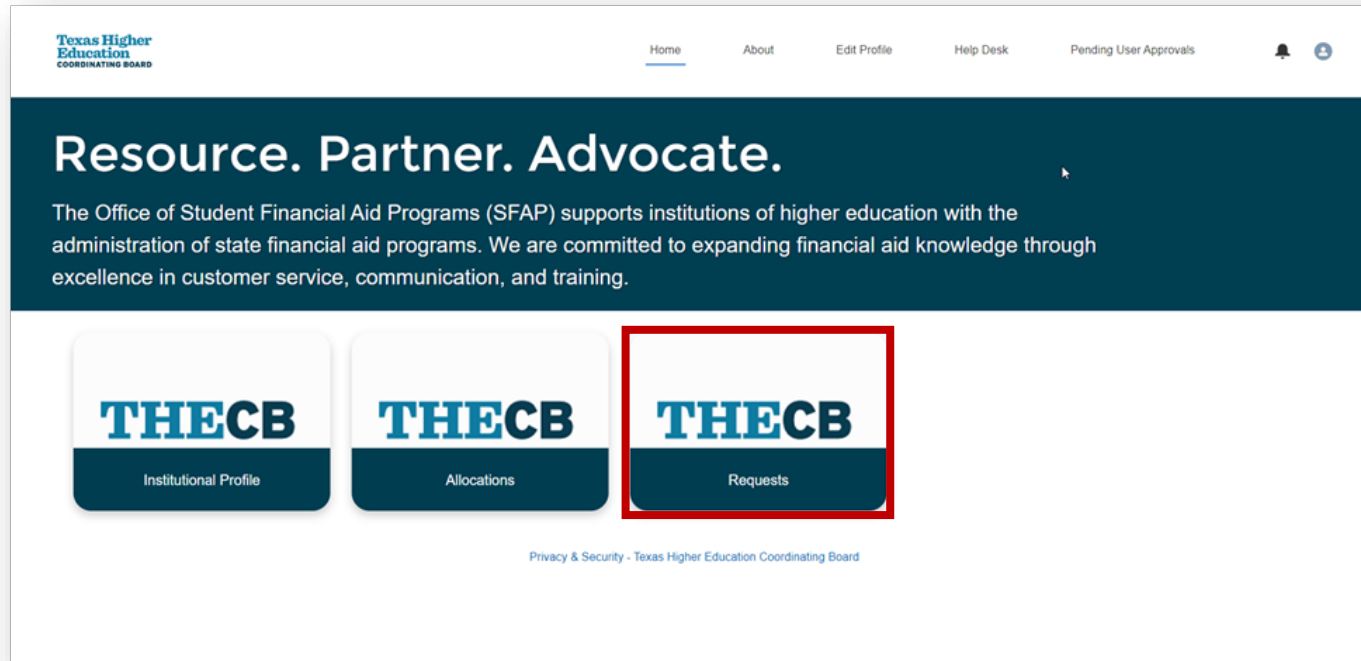
To submit a request, institutions will need to click the **Requests** tile from the Home screen.

Note: Access must be granted before payment requests can be made. For a walkthrough on GAPP user roles, refer to the SFAP webcast held on August 31, 2023.

Requests Page

To initiate the payment request process, click **Payment Request**.

Payment Requests

Complete the Payment Request form by filling in the following information:

1. Select the program. The fiscal year and remaining allocation amount will auto populate

2. Enter request amount

3. Enter number of students

4. Check the acknowledge box

5. Submit

Note: If there are no new students, enter "0" (zero) for number of students.

Payment Requests

Requests can be canceled before THECB reviews it.

Note: THECB will start processing payment requests October 23, 2023.

Help Desk

GAPP Help Desk Ticket

- Streamlined process that allows users to submit and track GAPP program inquiries to THECB.

- Users can access the helpdesk anywhere in the platform by clicking on **Help Desk** on the homepage menu**.**
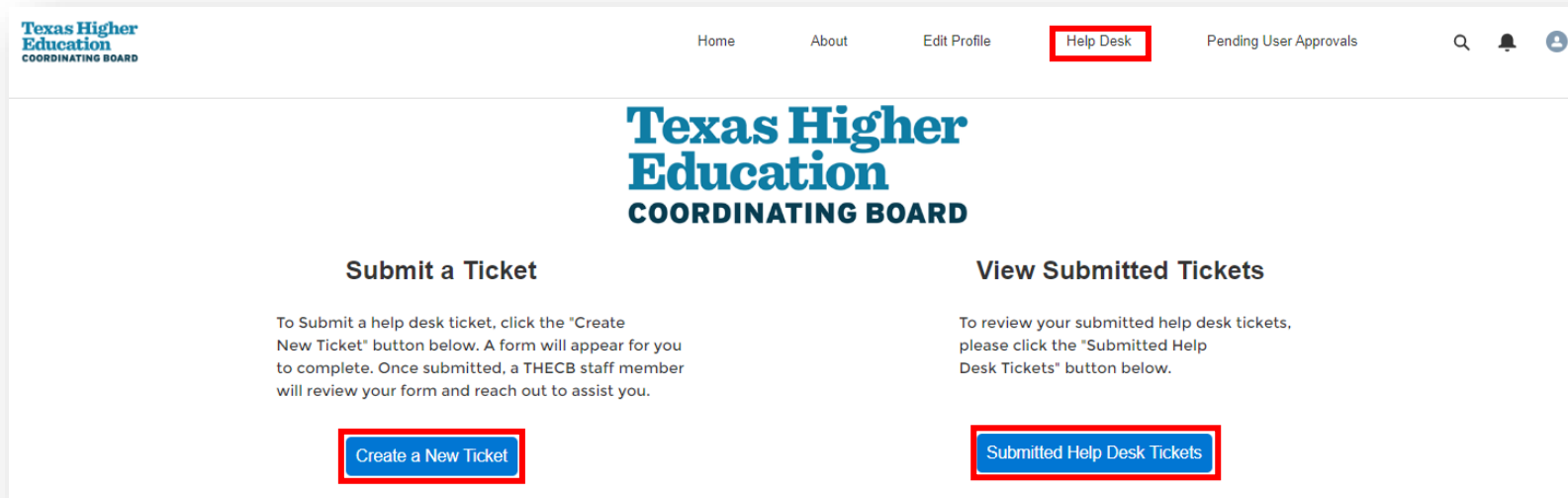
Create a New Ticket

- Complete all the required fields including a description of the issue.

- Categorize the inquiry by **Request Type** and **Program Type.**

- Documentation can be uploaded in an inquiry, if necessary.

Deadlines, Reminders & Notifications

Deadlines, Reminders, & Notifications

Deadlines

- Deadline to submit FY 2023 State Campus-Based Report - **October 20, 2023**
- Deadline to complete FY 2024 User Access Annual Review - **November 10, 2023**
- Deadline to submit FY 2023 Bilingual Education Program EOY Report – **November 13, 2023**
- Deadline to certify FY 2023 FAD Cycle 3 – **November 13, 2023**

Reminders

- Reminder: Initial deadline to submit FAD Cycle 3 – **October 16, 2023**
- Reminder: THECB Website Survey – **October 13**
- Reminder: Agency Closed – **November 23 through November 24, 2023**

Recent Notifications

- Bilingual Education Program 2022-23 (FY 2023) EOY Report **October 17, 2023**
- 2023-24 (FY 2024) User Access Annual Review Memo **October 13, 2023**
- The Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP) is LIVE! Memo **October 5, 2023**
- ALERT: Award History Tool Memo - **September 25, 2023**
- Financial Aid Database (FAD) FY 2023 Reporting Cycle 3 Memo - **September 22, 2023**

Contact Student Financial Aid Programs

The following phone line is available for the public:

Texas Financial Aid Information Center
- Public Line: **(888) 311-8881**

Borrower Services
- Student Borrowers (Cosigners): **(800) 242-3062**

Contact Financial Aid Services in one of the following ways:

FAS Institutional Phone Line
- Institutions Only: **(844) 792-2640**

**Phone Line
Hours of Operation:**
Mon-Fri
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Closed 12-1 daily)

Texas Higher Education

COORDINATING BOARD

Thank You!