



Maryland Higher Education Commission
 Office of Student Financial Aid
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LATE FAFSA/MHEC ONE-APP

Appeal Criteria / Required Documentation 2026-2027 Academic Year

The Maryland Higher Education Commission understands that students may experience circumstances that result in them failing to meet certain requirements for consideration or reinstatement of State grant and scholarship programs. Therefore, the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has developed an appeal process for certain allowable programs and circumstances that allows students to request (re)consideration of a State award

Appeal Process

1. Students determine if they meet the criteria to submit an appeal based off the program and allowable appeals under that program.
2. Student gathers all required documentation for the appeal.
3. Student completes the [2026-27 MHEC Grant and Scholarship Appeal Request Form](#), uploading all required documentation, by the published deadline.
4. OSFA staff will review the appeal and make a determination within 45 business days, unless the student is informed otherwise.

Important Reminders

- Appeals must be submitted through the Appeal Request Form and will not be accepted by any other means.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have provided all required documentation for their appeal. Incomplete appeal requests will be denied.
- It is the student's responsibility to submit their appeal by the published deadline. Late appeals requests will be denied.

2026-2027 Late FAFSA/MHEC One-App Appeal Information	
Eligible Programs	Guaranteed Access Grant Educational Assistance Grant
Appeal Opens	March 3, 2026
Appeal Closes	July 1, 2026
Allowable Reasons for Appeal	Required Documentation
Serious injury of student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter explaining student's circumstances that includes detailed timeline • Letter or documentation from medical practitioner verifying injury and impact on student
Serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter explaining student's family member's circumstances that includes detailed timeline • Letter or documentation from medical practitioner verifying injury and impact on family member
Serious emotional difficulties of student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter explaining student's circumstances that includes detailed timeline • Letter from medical practitioner, psychologist, social worker, counselor, or advisor supporting and confirming explanation of circumstances
Other extenuating circumstance(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter explaining student's circumstances that includes detailed timeline • Supporting documentation that validates explanation

Please Note: Late FAFSA/MHEC One-App appeals are evaluated based on the **entire period** during which the FAFSA/MHEC One-App was available. For the 2026-27 academic year, both applications opened in October 2025. Students who had the opportunity but chose not to submit their FAFSA/MHEC One-App until on or after the March 1 deadline, and whose reasons for the delay are within their control, will likely have their appeals denied unless they provide documented justification as specified above that accounts for why they were unable to submit at any time between October 2025-March 1, 2026.