FAIS Summary of Changes for 2020-21 Submission

1. The most significant change/clarification for FAIS 2020-21 is data element DD85 has been renamed from Aid Category Award Amount to Financial Aid Disbursement Amount. The FAIS layout and header record reflects this name change. The definition in the Data Dictionary has been modified to reflect MHEC's expectation that institutions report aid disbursed. Institutions that will have difficulty adhering to this definition should contact Barbara Schmertz at barbara.schmertz@maryland.gov, with concerns or questions.

2. New data element edit checks added for FATAL errors:
   When DD77 – Financial Aid Application Status is equal to zero (0), meaning there is no FAFSA, the following seven fields require the specific values shown below:
   - DD142 – Parent 1 Highest Grade Level must be blank
   - DD143 – Parent 2 Highest Grade Level must be blank
   - DD78 – Family Size must be blank
   - DD79 – Dependency Status must equal zero (0)
   - DD80 – Commuter Status must equal zero (0)
   - DD81 – Expected Family Contribution must equal 9999999 (unknown)
   - DD83 – Adjusted Gross Income must equal 99999999 (unknown)
   When there is no FAFSA (=0) and these fields do not contain the proper values, fatal errors will display on the edit report.

3. New data element edit checks added for WARNINGS:
   - DD81 – When Expected Family Contribution > 9999999 or equal to 999999, 999999, 9999, 999, 99, or 9
   - DD83 – Adjusted Gross Income > 99999999 or equal to 9999999, 999999, 99999, 9999, 999, 99 or 9
   - DD84 – Amount of Award is equal to DD85 – Aid Category Code
   A new warning will display if one of first two statements are true. The goal is to notify user to review the populated field to confirm the entry making sure it should not be unknown.
   For the third statement, a warning will display if the amount equals the aid category code.

4. The records in the FAIS file must be submitted as a comma separated formatted file with a .csv extension. **PLEASE DO NOT** include spaces between commas in the .csv file. The FAIS header must be downloaded and submitted with the file.

5. <mark>THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO THE FAIS LAYOUT FOR 2020-21</mark>.

6. Updated award amounts are highlighted on the Award Range chart.

7. There are no new aid categories. Due to COVID-19 the aid categories remain for the FAIS 2020-21 year. If you have questions regarding the range chart, please submit inquires to mac2help.mhec@maryland.gov.

8. *Please do NOT leave blank spaces between the commas in the file.*