# 2023-24 FAFSA® UPDATES

Tanika Mangum Outreach Specialist





#### **AGENDA**

- The FAFSA® Form
- Preparing for the FAFSA® Form
- FAFSA® Updates
- Key Aspects of the FAFSA® Form
- Federal Student Aid Tools & Resources
- Question & Answer



# THE FAFSA® FORM

#### FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

#### WHY YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THE FAFSA®

Your college uses your FAFSA® data to determine your federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA® data to award their own aid. After submission, you'll receive your *Student Aid Report*.



# PREPARING FOR THE FAFSA® FORM



#### WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE FAFSA®



- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau)



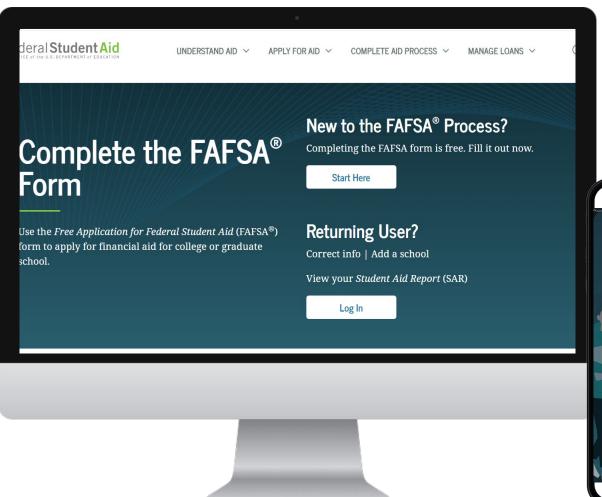
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- be enrolled at least halftime to be eligible for Direct Loan Program funds



- having a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate
- completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law; or
- enrolling in an eligible career pathway program and meeting one of the "ability-tobenefit" alternatives can apply in certain situations including for non-U.S. citizens, students with criminal convictions, and students with intellectual disabilities



## WHERE TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA®



# **FAFSA.GOV**Desktop or Mobile





#### WHAT YOU NEED TO COMPLETE FAFSA®

#### **MUST HAVE**

Student FSA ID

Parent FSA ID

\*You can not use the same username and password





## WHEN TO COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA®

#### **MUST FILE**

High School Senior Year and every year in college.

The Free Application opens every October 1st.



# Tax Info

#### IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL (IRS DRT)

The IRS DRT is the fastest, most-accurate way to transfer your tax information into your FAFSA® form. You will be able to review your information before you submit it.

# The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT)

EASY

Transfer info with the click of a button.

**FAST** 

Instantly retrieve your info.

**ACCURATE** 

Correctly fill in your info.

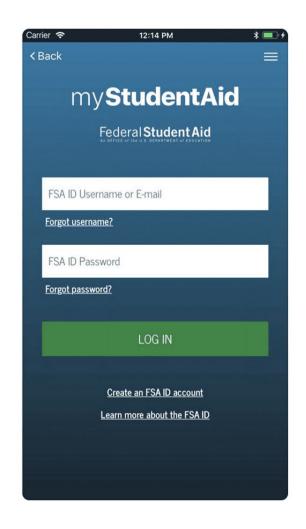
NOTE: You will know that your federal tax return information has been successfully transferred because the words "Transferred from the IRS" will display in place of the IRS information in your FAFSA form.



# FAFSA® UPDATES



#### MOBILE APP RETIREMENT





### FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION ACT

Represents a significant overhaul of federal student aid, including the FAFSA form, need analysis, and many other policies.

#### Notable changes for 2023-24

- Removal of sex question
- Removal of register for selective service question
- Removal of drug conviction question
- Incarcerated students form

## **INCOME THRESHOLD INCREASE**

#### **Auto Zero Amount Increase:**

• \$27,000 to \$29,000

#### **INCARCERATED FORM**

#### **Incarcerated Applicant Form**



July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



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#### **Notes:**

- Same questions as standard FAFSA form
- Differences are purely administrative
- Not a separate form different address will alert for a specialized heading



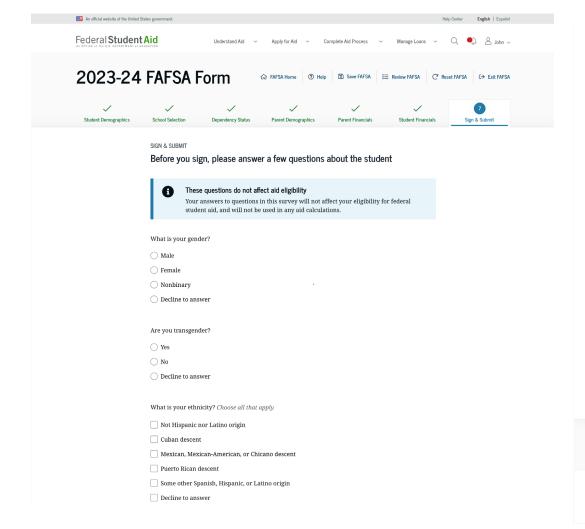
## CHANGES TO SAR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Additional guidance has been added directing students with special circumstances to work with their financial aid administrators:

"Because you indicated you were homeless or at risk of being homeless, your application is not considered complete, and we have not calculated your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). For your application to be completed, you must contact the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and provide them with documentation to verify your special circumstance.

If you are eligible for renewal of your independent student status and your circumstances remain unchanged from when your independent status was first determined, your Financial Aid Administrator may assist you with any questions about your renewal eligibility."

## **DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY**





What is your ethnicity? Choose all that apply.	
☐ Not Hispanic nor Latino origin	
☐ Cuban descent	
Mexican, Mexican-American, or Chicano descent	
Puerto Rican descent	
Some other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin	
Decline to answer	
What is your race? Select one or more races.	
White	
Black or African American	
Asian	
Chinese	
☐ Filipino	
Asian Indian	
Vietnamese	
☐ Korean	
☐ Japanese	
Some other Asian origin	
American Indian or Alaska Native	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
☐ Decline to answer	
Previous	
OMB No. 18450-0001 • Form Approved • App. Exp. 08/31/2025	
FOLA   Privacy   Notices   USAgov   Edgov   Security	

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## KEY ASPECTS OF FAFSA®



#### **DEPENDENCY STATUS**

#### **INDEPENDENT STATUS**

An independent student is one of the following:

- ✓at least 24 years old
- ✓ married
- ✓a graduate or professional student
- ✓ a veteran or a member of the armed forces
- ✓ an orphan or a ward of the court
- ✓ someone with legal dependents other than a spouse
- √an emancipated minor
- ✓ someone who is homeless at risk of being homeless
- ✓ legal guardianship

#### **DEPENDENT STATUS**

A dependent student does not meet any of the criteria for an independent student and must report information about his/her parent(s) on the FAFSA® form.



## **GUARDIANSHIP - WHAT IF...**



## I DON'T LIVE WITH MY PARENTS

It doesn't matter if you don't live with your parent or parents; you still must report information about them. Other people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you.



# UNABLE TO PROVIDE PARENT INFORMATION

You may be able to submit your FAFSA® form without parent information despite being considered a dependent student due to special circumstances.



## I HAVE AN UNWILLING PARENT

You can't be considered independent of your parents just because they refuse to help you with the FAFSA® form. You can submit your FAFSA® form under special circumstances. You will not get an EFC and can only be considered for unsubsidized loans.



## I HAVE A NONCITIZEN PARENT

Your parents' citizenship status does not affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA® form doesn't even ask about your parents' status.

#### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES STATUS

## IN SITUATIONS SUCH AS THE ONES BELOW, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA® FORM WITHOUT PARENT INFORMATION DESPITE BEING CONSIDERED A DEPENDENT STUDENT:

- Your parents are incarcerated.
- You have left home due to an abusive family environment.
- You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).
- You are older than 21 but not yet 24, are unaccompanied, and are either homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

If you are filling out the FAFSA® form online or on the myStudentAid mobile app, you will be asked whether you are able to provide information about your parents. If you are not, you will have the option to indicate that you have special circumstances that make you unable to get your parents' information. You will then be able to submit your application without entering data about your parents. You will not receive an EFC and must immediately contact the financial aid office at your college.



#### **FAFSA® PROCESS**

ONE **TWO FOUR** THREE FAFSA® form is College reviews Student reviews award processed by FSA; Student completes the student receives a information and package and compares FAFSA® form and signs Student Aid Report assembles award to other award letters; with FSA ID (SAR); college receives package for the student determines information if listed on which college to attend student FAFSA® form



# THE FEDERAL STUDENT AID TOOLS AND RESOURCES



#### ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

## FAFSA DEADLINES FOR STATE AID

States and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. But, since aid is limited, you have to meet the deadlines!

StudentAid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/fafsa-deadlines

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Federal Student Aid does not offer scholarships. However, here is a source of information on scholarships.

<u>StudentAid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships</u>



## FEDERAL STUDENT AID TOOLS & RESOURCES

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**





@FederalStudentAid

@FAFSA



@Federalstudentaid



Youtube.com/FederalStudentAid

**FAFSA.GOV** 

**STUDENTAID.GOV** 

**EMAIL ANYTIME** 

CHAT WITH A LIVE AGENT

1-800-4FED-AID 1-800-433-3243

#### Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–11 p.m. Eastern time (ET)

Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Eastern time (ET)

We are closed on federal holidays, the day after Thanksgiving and on December 24th.

We are open on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, and Washington's Birthday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. ET.

Hearing Impaired? TTY calls only. 1-800-730-8913



## **QUESTIONS**

