

FAFSA® Information for 2024 Seniors



Seniors and Parents,

This letter contains information regarding the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)** - the application used to determine eligibility for multiple types of financial aid for college or career school.

This letter compiles information provided by Federal Student Aid about the FAFSA® process. You may find more information at StudentAid.gov.

All students pursuing postsecondary education should plan to complete the FAFSA® as it is the only way a student becomes eligible to be considered for Pell Grants, Work-Study, and subsidized student loans through Federal Student Aid. Many colleges and universities also require the FAFSA® to be on file to apply scholarship dollars that have been awarded.

Federal Student Aid has changed the FAFSA® this application year, so please note the following as you prepare your family to complete the process:

- 2024 seniors will complete a 2024-2025 FAFSA® as students are applying for money for NEXT school year.
- The 2024-25 FAFSA® form will launch in December 2023.
- Everyone that participates in the FAFSA® form for a student is called a "contributor." Contributors must provide information for a student's FAFSA® to be considered complete; however, they are not required to contribute money to a student's expenses for college.
- Most high school students must have at least one parent as a contributor on the FAFSA®.
- All contributors must have their own StudentAid.gov account and must complete their individual portion of the application.
- All students and contributors must provide consent to have their federal tax information transferred directly into the FAFSA® form from the IRS via direct data exchange.

Because of these extensive changes to the application, additional instructions regarding this year's FAFSA® application process will be shared with students at the end of first semester or the beginning of second semester. I will partner with high school counselors and teachers to visit each campus after the application becomes available to share information on the FAFSA® with groups of seniors during the school day. Packets of information will also be distributed with information for both students and parents on how to complete each portion of the application.

Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 290-3-1-.02 (21) states that all seniors must submit a FAFSA® prior to graduation OR certify a non-participation waiver. Counselors will make non-participation waivers available as soon as the Alabama State Department of Education releases the form for this school year - usually around the same time the FAFSA® opens for completion.

A resource site has been created for your use at bit.ly/EC29FAFSA (case sensitive). You can also scan the QR code below. As new information about the updated FAFSA® becomes available, it will be added to the site. If you need assistance, you may contact your college's financial aid office, your high school counselor, or me.

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FAFSA Resource Site
BIT.LY/EC29FAFSA