



Ready, Set, FAFSA! Virtual Financial Aid Events

Fact Sheet for Schools and College Access Programs

Free college and financial aid events are available to Minnesota students and families via Zoom! The series, running Tuesday evenings February 7 through 28, will cover general financial aid information, details on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Minnesota Dream Act for undocumented students, and other ways to pay for college. Please let students in your community know about this opportunity. To access tools and materials to promote these events in your school or program, access our [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#) and [Social Media Guide](#).

What are the dates, topics and suggested audience?

All sessions are at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights and will last approximately 45-60 minutes. Participants can ask questions in the chat. Participants can attend any number of sessions (choose dates during registration). Suggested audience is 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

- **February 7: Understand and Prepare to Apply for Financial Aid** | 10-12th grade students
- **February 14: Apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA)** | 12th grade students
- **February 16 (Thursday): Apply for Financial Aid (Dream Act)** | 12th grade undocumented students
- **February 21: Understand Your Offer Letter** | 12th grade students
- **February 28: Scholarship Search** | 10-12th grade students

Who are the presenters?

- Tara Winchester, State Financial Aid Program Administrator at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Tara Pribnow, The College Place Director at ECMC
- Jesús Hernández Mejía, Dean of Financial Aid at Gustavus Adolphus College
- Jeff Olson, Director of Financial Aid at Bethel University

Will this information be offered in other languages?

Yes! All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. In addition, there will be financial aid professionals during each session who can answer questions in the chat in Spanish, Somali and Hmong if needed. We plan to record the presentations as well.

How can students and families participate?

All sessions will be on Zoom, but space is limited. Students and families can register at the following link: bit.ly/readysfafsa. Session materials and recordings will be posted on the same page after each event.

Is there a scholarship for students?

Students who attend any of the sessions or watch a session recording will be eligible to win a \$500 scholarship (one entry per session attended) awarded by ECMC The College Place Minnesota.

What tools are available to help promote these events?

The [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#) includes information about virtual financial aid events for school/program newsletters, email messages and social media posts to engage students and families. It includes:

- **Ready-made graphics** in two sizes (square and rectangle), in two formats (.png and .pdf) and in four languages (English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong).
- **Short blurbs for family communications** to include in newsletters, emails, texts.
- **[A social media guide](#)** with 16 images and corresponding captions to share on Instagram, Facebook and/or Twitter accounts.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

- Beth Barsness, Beth.barsness@state.mn.us | Minnesota Department of Education
- Kathleen Klima, Kathleen.klima@state.mn.us | Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Tara Pribnow, tpribnow@ecmc.org | ECMC The College Place Minnesota