

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our friends at Cash for College want us to share some important information with you.

**Did you know. . .**

- Your senior needs your help to access funds to pay for programs at two- and four-year colleges and universities.
- Students can access up to **\$6,495** in grants and many thousands of dollars in work study and loans from the federal government through the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Most families in Alabama qualify for aid. The only way to know for sure is if you apply!
- The earlier students apply, the more potential aid they can receive!

**How to Get Started:**

As a parent or guardian, there are a few key steps to take to help your student complete the FAFSA. For many families, these are the primary actions, although situations vary and some families may need to take additional steps.

**1) Determine if your student is considered a dependent and whose information should be reported on the FAFSA.** Review this [questionnaire](#) and complete the steps below if your student is a dependent (most students are!) for the purposes of federal student aid.

**2) Go to [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) and create a log-in called an FSA ID.** It serves as a username and password for Federal Student Aid websites like [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) and [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). Your student also will need to create one on their own and may have already completed one at school.

**3) Enter demographic and financial information so the government can identify your family's need.** In order to ensure students receive adequate aid, the FAFSA asks some detailed questions about income. The information it collects remains confidential with your FSA ID log-in. Most families who filed taxes will easily and quickly pull their information from their previously filed taxes through the IRS Data Retrieval tool via the application. For families that did not file or filed incorrectly, there will be a couple extra steps to capture their financial information.

**4) Sign the application with your parent FSA ID online once it is completed.** Your student will need to sign it too with their FSA ID. If you cannot sign electronically, you can submit the signature page by mail. The form is not considered submitted until this final step is complete.

There are resources to help complete the FAFSA! Your student's school can help. You can also refer to this detailed article for parents about completing the application: <https://studentaid.gov/articles/fafsa-for-parents/>

**If you have questions or want more assistance, we are here to help!** Please contact your student's high school counselor, career coach, or Cash for College. We have included their contact information below.

Together, we can provide a bright and successful future for the class of 2022!

Sincerely,

