

Financial Aid Information Night Q&A

It is strongly recommended that all contributors [create](#) their FSA ID account before starting the FAFSA form as it takes several days to verify the account.

FAFSA Questions

Answer

What is the deadline to apply for FAFSA?

Each FAFSA application stays open and available for approximately 18 months. The 2025-26 FAFSA application will open by December 1, 2024 and is college terms Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026. It is beneficial to the student to submit the FAFSA as early as possible because federal funds are the first to be distributed and may be exhausted if the student waits until the last hour to submit the application.

The 2025-26 FAFSA will stay open until 11:59pm Central time on June 30, 2026 – however each college may have its own deadline. Be sure to check what their financial aid priority deadline is.

The State of Texas financial aid priority deadline for Class of 2025 is February 15, 2025. Additional forms may be required; private and two-year institutions may have different deadlines. Check with institution Financial Aid office at the college you plan to attend.

Do seniors fill out 2024-2025 FAFSA or the 2025-2026 FAFSA?

Current Seniors (Class of 2025) will need to fill out the 2025-26 FAFSA when it opens. If they plan on starting classes at their college during the summer of 2025 and would like to request financial aid, they will also need to complete the 2024-25 application and then reach out to their college to request financial aid (summer financial aid is not automatic).

Will parents need an FSA ID as well?

Yes, parents – or any person who will be a contributor on a student's FAFSA – will need their own FSA ID.

“Contributor” is a new term, and is anyone (student, student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or parent's spouse) who is required to provide information on the FAFSA form, sign the FAFSA form, and provide consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS into the form. [See more here](#).

If one of the parents doesn't have social security are they not able to have account?

Parents who don't have a Social Security number (SSN) will be able to create a StudentAid.gov account to access and complete their portion of the FAFSA form. (This applies for 2024–25 and future forms.)

If the parents are married and filing jointly, do both parents need an ID or just 1

If parents filed taxes jointly, only one parent is required as a contributor and will report information for both parents.

If parents did not file taxes jointly, then both parents are contributors. Their individual information, consent and approval, and signatures will be required on the FAFSA form.

[Is My Parent a Contributor Infographic](#)

So both of my parents have to make an account?

If they will both be individual contributors to your FAFSA, yes. It depends on how they filed their taxes and their marital status.

[Is My Parent a Contributor Infographic](#)

Can you explain which parent should fill FAFSA if they are divorced, and they don't live together?

According to the Federal Student Aid website, the individual information, consent and approval, and signature of the parent who provided more financial support of the past 12 months will be required on the FAFSA form, and this parent will be identified as a contributor.

If this parent is married/remarried, the stepparent will also be identified as a contributor on the FAFSA form if they didn't file their taxes jointly with your parent.

[Is My Parent a Contributor Infographic](#)

We moved to USA in September and my daughter will graduate from high school in May 2025. I haven't filed IRS. So how it will work for my daughter??

If your daughter is a US Citizen she will be able to complete the FAFSA. If she is not a US Citizen (or Permanent Resident), she will need to complete the TASFA if she will attend college in Texas.

She may also be an eligible noncitizen for FAFSA. See this [webpage](#) to determine if she is an eligible noncitizen and will be able to file FAFSA.

So, you do add stepparents even though they're not adopting the student?

If the stepparent files taxes Married Jointly with the birth parent, then both are contributors and both may need a FSA ID.

If a student is working and not dependent on his parents, does he still need to show the Tax returns of his parents

If a student can answer Yes to any of the questions at this [link](#), they can be considered an independent student. If all questions receive a No answer, the student is considered Dependent and will need parent contributors for the FAFSA.

If biological parents are separated or divorced, are they required to contribute information on the FAFSA application?	The parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months will be required on the FAFSA form. If that parent has remarried, the stepparent may also be a contributor depending on how taxes were filed.
What is the year of tax return for 2025-2026 application?	The 2025-2026 FAFSA will require information from Tax Year 2023 (these are the taxes filed in April 2024)
How does attending grad school affect child's being classified as independent?	Per the Federal Student Aid website, an independent student is one of the following: at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, an emancipated minor or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
If I am on a visa, can I still apply for financial aid	You may be considered an eligible noncitizen. See this webpage to determine if you are an eligible noncitizen and will be able to file FAFSA.
When they ask for assets, do we have to include our 401K retirement?	No. For FAFSA, assets don't include: the home in which you live, the value of life insurance, ABLE accounts, UGMA and UTMA accounts for which you are the custodian but not owner, retirement plans (401(k) plans, pension funds, annuities, noneducation IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.)
Does FAFSA need to be filled out every year even if my student does not take out a loan?	Yes. The FAFSA application must be filled out annually to continue receiving financial aid while enrolled in college.
How do you connect parent ID to student ID?	When the student completes the student section of the FAFSA, they will be asked to provide their contributors' information. Contributors will receive an email invitation with a link to access the student's FAFSA. See this YouTube video for clarification on Contributors.
We were told that FAFSA opens Dec 1st. To confirm, if my child is graduating in May 25, do we apply for the 25-26 FAFSA?	Federal Student Aid notified us earlier this year that the 2025-2026 FAFSA would open in December. If your child is graduating in Spring 2025, they will need to complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA once it opens.
Mom, dad and student needs a FSAID right now	Student and all contributors will each need their own FSA ID.
When you create a FAFSA account you use the student info, correct?	The student will start the FAFSA with student information. When filling out the student part, the student will be asked to enter their contributor's information. The contributor(s) will receive an email link to complete their portion and provide consent. (Contributor should already have their FSA account established when student send the invitation to ensure there are no issues.)

If parents are divorced and child living with one parent what is the family size? 2 or 3?

The FAFSA will walk you through who in the household can be counted.

If my student doesn't qualify for any aid via FAFSA, should he apply for TASFA?

TASFA is state aid for students who are not eligible to submit the FAFSA. If your student is eligible to submit FAFSA, colleges in Texas will also look at eligibility for state aid. In this case TASFA would not be submitted.

When completing FAFSA, should I use my Guardian's income. He is an uncle and provided accommodation for me now, but I will be independent and self-supporting in college.

This depends on your status with your guardian. Was this a legal process through the courts? Or are you just living with him with parent providing power of attorney for school enrollment? If this is the case, you may still need to have your parents as contributors and complete their part, even if they live outside the U.S.

Eligibility for the FAFSA also depends on the student's status. Is the student a citizen? Or is he an eligible non-citizen? How long has the student resided in the United States? How long has he lived in Texas? He should discuss his individual situation with the CCR Advisor at school to obtain the best information.

If my parents live overseas, no SS and minimal income, how should I complete the parent section.

Your parent overseas should be able to create an FSA ID without a social security number. You will invite them to contribute and they can enter their information manually.

Does this apply for out of state college as well?

FAFSA covers colleges in the United States.

I will have two children going to college, so each child needs to apply for FAFSA?

Yes. Each student submits his/her own application for financial aid. They will have the same parent contributor(s).

I currently have another student in college, so I already have a FSA ID. Should I use my current FSA ID for my senior applying for the 2025 FAFSA?

Yes. You can only have one FSA ID, which you can use for yourself and as your children's contributor.

Is it mandatory to apply FAFSA?

If you are eligible to apply for FAFSA and have the financial need, you should submit FAFSA as you may be eligible for grants and work-study that have no repayment requirement. As well, in Texas, it is a graduation requirement to submit a financial aid application or opt-out of submitting a financial aid application. But documentation of either option is required to be submitted to the high school.

I filled out the 2024/25 FAFSA form that opened on Oct 1st in error instead of this upcoming form for 25/26 session. Will this be a problem for us? What would we need to do now? Can we still fill the 25/26 FAFSA application?

There is no problem, but you will need to submit the 25-26 FAFSA in order to receive financial aid for the 25-26 school year.

Contributor income is checked via tax returns, but how does FAFSA check assets?

The contributor section of the FAFSA will ask about assets and contributors enter this information manually.

As a follow up, if my child is a high school junior, should I submit FAFSA for 25-26 or wait until next Fall?

You mentioned talk to the financial aid advisor. Which Financial Advisor? In the high school or at the institution of higher learning?

Who should submit TASFA?

If my nephew is dependent until next year May (as he is turning 18 in May 2025) but he is living with us (uncle and aunty) ...They are not my guardian and their parents live in another country, who do i put as parents/guardian?

Does he qualify or can he apply for FAFSA?

Students in the Class of 2026 will wait until the Fall of their senior year to Complete the 26-27 FAFSA.

Any questions about Financial Aid awards for college should be addressed to the Financial Aid office of the college. The CCR Advisors at the high school campuses can answer questions about the submission of the FAFSA any many other questions but will also refer students to the Financial Aid office at the college for further explanation.

TASFA – Texas Application for State Financial Aid – is for students who are not eligible to submit the FAFSA. This is normally non-US Citizens or undocumented students. To be eligible students must have resided in Texas for at least three years.

FAFSA does not consider the income of relatives (like you and your spouse) unless you are his legal guardians.

Since your nephew is under 24 years old and has no legal guardianship assigned, he will most likely be considered a *dependent* for FAFSA purposes. This means his biological parent's financial information will need to be included on the FAFSA application, even if they live in another country.

Eligibility for the FAFSA also depends on the student's status. Is the student a citizen? Or is he an eligible non-citizen? How long has the student resided in the United States? How long has he lived in Texas? He should discuss his individual situation with the CCR Advisor at school to obtain the best information.

NOTES:

- YouTube videos showing how to prepare for the 2025-26 FAFSA (four short videos about applying, contributors, creating FSA ID, and gathering the information needed to file):
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtr3wy4M_CJ18cBXJb2r5mzyFoh9e9mcl

Complete walkthrough of FAFSA 25-26 with examples from FAFSA Demo account:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSOOk8AI6eM>

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SchoolLinks Questions

Does a parent have access to SchoolLinks?

Answer

Yes, a student can share a link with their parent directly from their SchoolLinks account to ensure the parent is connected to the correct student(s). For students under

18, the high school counselor or CCR advisor can also provide the link to the parent. However, if the student is 18 or older, only the student has access to share the parent link. [Steps for students to share a link with their parents to join their SchoolLinks account](#)

Can parents access all the scholarship information through their SchoolLinks account or is it only accessible through the student account?

Parents should be able to access the Scholarship Matching screen and view scholarships. Scholarships will be listed under the Finances menu.

How will we log into school links if we don't have access to our school emails?

Students who do not have access to their school email account should ask their teacher or Librarian for help. To log into SchoolLinks, students need to log into FBISD 1Link, and then Clever.

Scholarship Questions

Is the Niche Scholarship legit?

Answers

Yes.

Where can I look for Scholarships?

The best place to start is the Scholarship Matching in SchoolLinks. There is a huge database of scholarships from across the country, but there are also specific district-posted scholarships that are added every week. Students should be looking at scholarships on a weekly basis and have a goal to submit *at least one scholarship application per week!*

There are also many scholarship search engines online. The key thing to remember is that you should never pay someone to help you find scholarships! It does take work to search, find, and apply for scholarships...but the more you submit, the better your chances.