FBİSD

Financial Aid 101







House Bill 3 Financial Aid Requirement

In 2019 the 86th Texas Legislature established a financial aid graduation requirement for all Texas high school seniors.







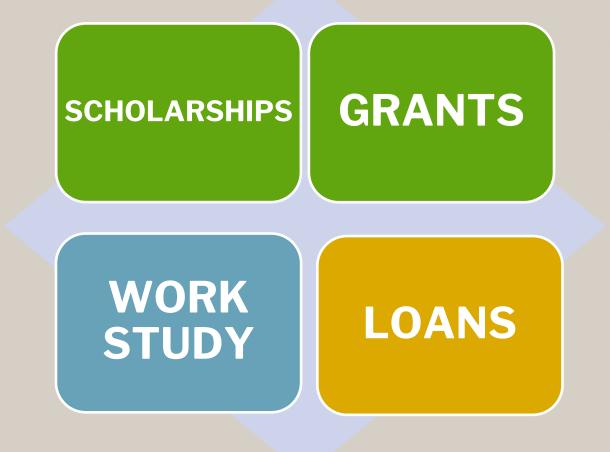
What is Financial Aid?

Any grant, scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student pay for college. It may be based off of "need", "merit", or a combination of both.





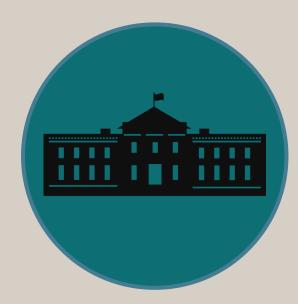
Types of Financial Aid







Sources of Financial Aid



Federal Government



State Government



Colleges and Universities



Private Institutions



Sources of Financial Aid

Work-Study (Earned Money)

- Provides part-time jobs for students with financial need
- Money does not go directly toward the student's bill
- Award range: \$500-\$6,000 (varies by school/student)
- No longer a question on the FAFSA.
 Given upon request.









Sources of Financial Aid

Loans (Borrowed Money)

Subsidized Loan (Sweet)

- Need-based
- Government pays the interest while student is enrolled at least half-time.

Unsubsidized Loan (Unsweet)

- NOT need-based
- Student responsible for all interest that accrues

Current interest rate 7.94% for ungraduated borrowers



Repayment begins 6 months after student graduates or drops below half-time

Multiple repayment options

No prepayment penalty





What are Scholarships?

- Scholarships are free money that the student does not have to pay back
- They can bridge the gap between the Cost of Attendance (COA) and the amount of money the student has saved for college or trade school
- Academic scholarships are based on GPA, test scores and academic achievements
- Merit scholarships stem from success in sports, arts or community service
- Needs-based scholarships support students who demonstrate financial need
- Specialized scholarships are targeted at specific demographics, majors or career paths
- Scholarships can be funded by colleges or external organizations such as the Houston Rodeo





Scholarships

https://bit.ly/scholarships **ACHS**



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS Home Page Calendar SchooLinks Testing College Planning Applying to College Financial Aid **Dual Credit Career Planning** Military Student with Special Needs **Graduation Requirements**

Students can begin their scholarship search as early as ninth grade and should apply for as many scholarships as they feel comfortable with.

(Obviously, the more you apply for, the better your chances.)

SCHOLARSHIPS PER GRADE LEVEL MAKE SURE YOU MEET EVERY REQUIREMENT BEFORE APPLYING!!!!

9th Grade 10th Grade 11th Grade 12th Grade

Students can apply for scholarships to help pay for the cost of college. There are a variety of ways to access scholarships. Students can find these scholarship opportunites through...

- 1. SchooLinks Go to "Finances" and then click "Scholarship
- 2. Colleges and Universities Most colleges offer scholarships through their admissions office, financial aid office, and/or campus departments. Since each college varies students should contact the school directly or go to the college website to inquire about campus scholarships, the application process, and deadlines.
- 3. Raise.Me A micro-scholarship site where students can earn money from colleges beginning in the 9th grade for making good grades, taking SAT and ACT tests, visiting colleges, etc. The money can add up quickly!
- 4. Internet Scholarship Search Students can use websites to search for scholarships. Usually students need to create an account and profile so scholarships can be matched to the students' criteria and elgibility. Students should NOT have to pay for any resource to find scholarships.

Access Scholarships College Answer College Greenlight Fast Aid Fast Web Get Schooled Sallie Mae Scholarships Scholarship America Scholarships 360 scholarships.com School Soup Expand All

(\$1,000)	
Too Cool to Pay for School Scholarship (\$1,000)	>
5 Strong Scholarship Foundation	>
Coca-Cola Scholarship	>

Around the Corner from College Scholarship

- College Board Scholarship
- **Dell Scholar Program**
- **Hispanic Scholarship**







Finding Scholarships in SchooLinks



https://youtu.be/E8CrYTK3878?feature=shared







FAFSA/TASFA

Applying for the FAFSA/TASFA

 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or Texas Application for State Financial Aid

- Enables students to apply for
 - Loans
 - Grants
 - Scholarships
 - Work-study programs
- Both opened on October 1
 - Apply by January 15th to get priority aid!
- All seniors will complete a FAFSA, TASFA, or opt-out form as a graduation requirement









FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS



FAFSA

- US Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Refugee or Asylum
- Visa (check Visa site for eligibility requirements)



TASFA

- Born outside the US
- No citizenship or residency
- HS Grad/GED
- Temporary Residents (DACA/Work Permit)



CSS Profile

- Open to all students
- Required by some private colleges as listed on CollegeBoard
- \$25 for initial application, \$16 for additional schools (waiver available)





Financial Aid Timeline

Created FSA ID
Submit College apps

December January

Collect Award Letters
Award Letter Analyzer
Narrow Decisions

May June





October November Submit FAFSA/TASFA
CSS Profile*
Review FSS
Verification

February
March
April

May 1st Deadline
Decision Day
Freshman Orientation







Priority Deadline

- Texas Priority
 Deadline:

 January 15th, 2026
 Students can miss out on
- Texas grants: TEXAS, TPEG, TEOG
- Institutional grants: Tuition Guarantee Programs





Financial Aid Eligibility Overview

FAFSA

- U.S. Citizens
- Permanent Residents
- Refugee or Asylum Granted
- Child of T-Visa or U-Visa

TASFA

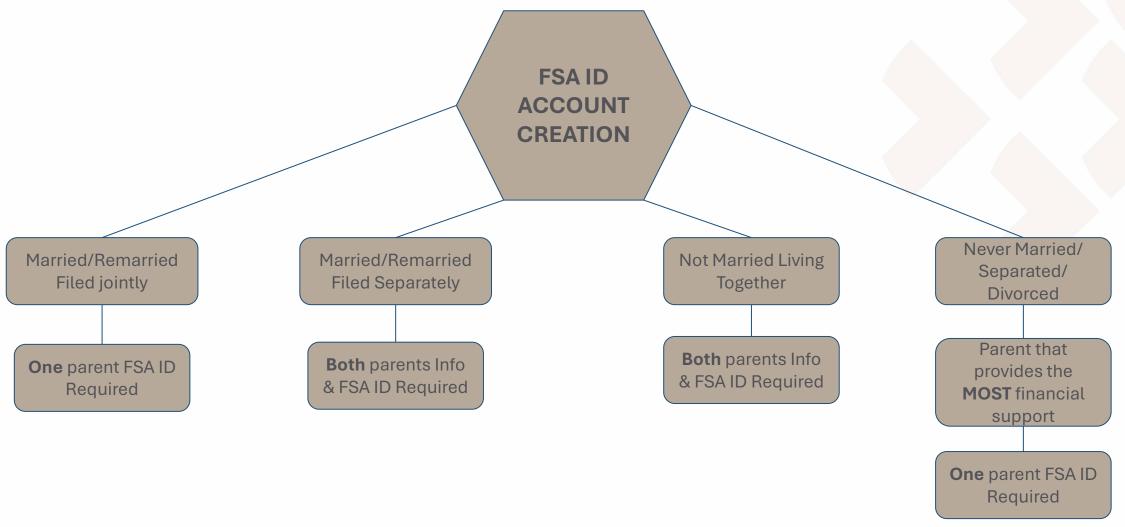
- DACA
- Temporary Work Permit
- Undocumented students
- Waiting for legal status
 *Must have lived in TX for 3yrs







FSA ID: Who Needs to Create One?







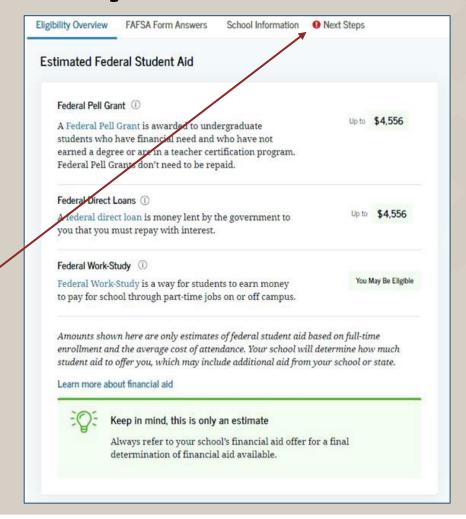
FAFSA Submission Summary

The FAFSA Submission Summary

It is broken into four tabs:

- Eligibility Overview
- FAFSA Form Answers
- School Information
- Next Steps

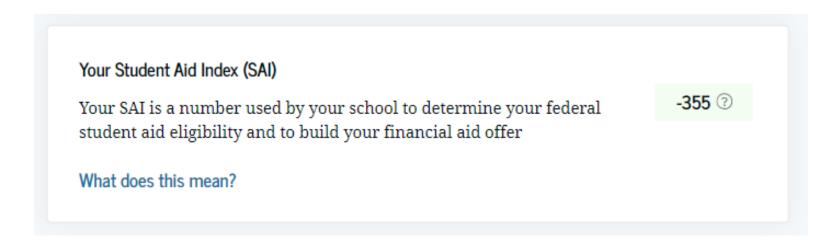
Sections that need attention will be labeled with red exclamation point







FAFSA: Student Aid Index



SAI (Student Aid Index)

 eligibility index number that a college or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid the student would receive.

Student Aid Index of -1500 to 0 gives student full Federal Pell Grant: \$7,395

If you SAI is over 0, you will subtract that # from 7,395 to get your award amount.

Steps to complete the FAFSA!

Step 1. Student

Studentaid.gov

Create FSAID

Step 2. 2026-27 FAFSA form

Invites Contributor

Completes
Student Section

Step 3. Parent/Contributor

Studentaid.gov

Create FSA ID

Step 4. 2026-27 FAFSA form

Completes Parent Section

FAFSA Complete





What is the TASFA?

 It is a free application that collects information to help determine eligibility for state (or institutional) financial aid programs administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas.

Requirement:

 Must have lived in Texas for at least 3 years leading up to graduation





Each Texas high school student is required as a condition of graduation to complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) or opt out, as required by Texas Education Code (TEC), Title 3, Section 28.0256. All students interested in applying for financial aid are encouraged to first review the FAFSA. Filling out the FAFSA allows a student to be considered for a broader range of financial aid options than filling out the TASFA. The FAFSA allows a student to be considered for federal, state, and institutional financial aid opportunities. If a student completes the FAFSA, the student **should not** complete a TASFA.

Students who do not complete a FAFSA may complete a TASFA to be considered for state financial aid programs. Remember that failing to fill out a FAFSA means that the student will not be considered for any federal financial aid programs.

State financial aid programs require that a student is a Texas resident.

The 2026-27 state financial aid priority application deadline for many institutions of higher education is **January 15**, **2026**. It is important to complete and submit this application with all required documentation to the financial aid office **on or before January 15** to be considered for the most financial aid possible.

To complete this application, answer the items within each applicable section. If a question does not apply to you, answer N/A for not applicable. For clarification on certain items, refer to the **TASFA Notes on pages 7-13**. If you have further questions about this form, contact the financial aid office at your institution. More information on the TASFA can be found at https://www.highered.texas.gov/students-families/tasfa/.

Note: Personal information collected on the TASFA is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

SECTIO	SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION							
DEMOGRAPHI	DEMOGRAPHICS							
1. Last Name	Last Name		2. First Name		3. Middle Initial			
4. Date of Birth		5. What is your Social Security Number (SSN), Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), Deferred Action						







TASFA: Which Documents Are Needed?

- □ 2026-2027 TASFA Application
 - Complete online TASFA: bit.ly/eTASFA (Case-sensitive)
- □ Copy of 2024 Tax Transcript
- □ Residency Affidavit
 - Must be notarized
- ☐ Selective Service Registration form
 - Male students only
- □ Copy of 2024 W-2
- ☐ Copy of Signed 2024 Income Taxes
- □ Copy of IRS Non-filer form (Parent)



Gather the following applicable information to complete your 2026-2027 financial aid application by January 15th:

2026-2027 TASFA Application

- Complete Online TASFA: bit.ly/eTASFA
- · Complete Paper TASFA(engl/span): bit.ly/paperTASFA

Copy of 2024 Tax Transcript

- Request Online: bit.ly/IRS-TT
- Request by Mail: bit.ly/IRS4506-T
- Request by Phone: 1-800-908-9946

Residency Affidavit

- Needs to be Notarized
 - Ask your CCRA who offers it free on campus.

Selective Service Registration Form

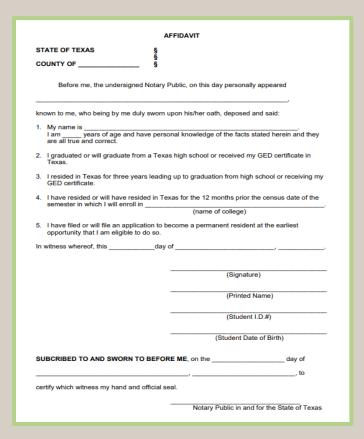
- Male Students Only
- Copy of 2024 W-2
- Copy of Signed 2024 Income Taxes
- Copy of IRS Non-filer form (Parent)

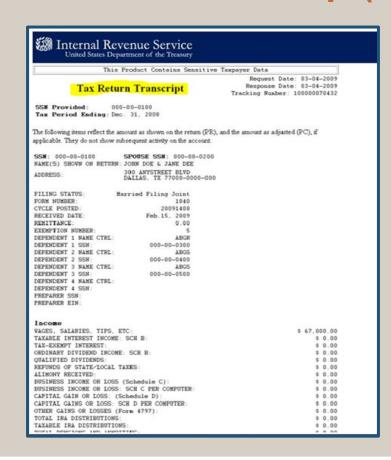




Gather Documents

Notarized Affidavit 2024 Tax Transcript(s)





Affidavit

- Get it notarized for FREE!
 - Ask your CCRA who offers it free on campus.

Tax Transcript

- Request Online: bit.ly/IRS-TT
- Request by Mail: bit.ly/IRS4506-T
- Request by Phone: 1-800-908-9946





Requesting Tax Transcripts



4506-T Request for Transcript of Tax Return ► Do not sign this form unless all applicable lines have been completed. OMB No. 1545-1872 ▶ Request may be rejected if the form is incomplete or illegible. ► For more information about Form 4506-T, visit www.irs.gov/form4506t. Tip. Use Form 4506-T to order a transcript or other return information free of charge. See the product list below. You can quickly request transcripts by using our automated self-help service tools. Please visit us at IRS gov and click on "Get a Tax Transcript..." under "Tools" or call 1-800-908-9946. If you need a copy of your return, use Form 4506, Request for Copy of Tax Return. There is a fee to get a copy of your return. 1a Name shown on tax return. If a joint return, enter the name 1b First social security number on tax return, individual taxpayer identification 2b)Second social security number or individual taxpayer identification number if joint tax return 3 Current name, address (including apt., room, or suite no.), city, state, and ZIP code (see instructions) 5 If the transcript or tax information is to be mailed to a third party (such as a mortgage company), enter the third party's name, address, and telephone number. Caution: If the tax transcript is being mailed to a third party, ensure that you have filled in lines 6 through 9 before signing. Sign and date the form once you have filled in these lines. Completing these steps helps to protect your privacy. Once the IRS discloses your tax transcript to the third party listed on line 5, the IRS has no control over what the third party does with the information. If you would like to limit the third party's authority to disclose your ranscript information, you can specify this limitation in your written agreement with the third party. 6 Transcript requested enter the tax form number here (1040, 1065, 1120, etc.) and check the appropriate box below. Enter only one tax form changes made to the account after the return is processed. Transcripts are only available for the following returns; Form 1040 series. Form 1065, Form 1120, Form 1120-A, Form 1120-L, and Form 1120s. Return transcripts are available for the current year and returns processed during the prior 3 processing years. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days Account Transcript, which contains information on the financial status of the account, such as payments made on the account, penalty assessments, and adjustments made by you or the IRS after the return was filed. Return information is limited to items such as tax liability and estimated tax payments. Account transcripts are available for most returns. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days Transcript. Available for current year and 3 prior tax years. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days Verification of Nonfiling, which is proof from the IRS that you did not file a return for the year. Current year requests are only available r June 15th. There are no availability restrictions on prior year requests. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days . Form W-2, Form 1099 series, Form 1098 series, or Form 5498 series transcript. The IRS can provide a transcript that includes data from these information returns. State or local information is not included with the Form W-2 information. The IRS may be able to provide this transcript information for up to 10 years. Information for the current year is generally not available until the year after it is filed with the IRS. For example, W-2 information for 2011, filled in 2012, will likely not be available from the IBS until 2013. If you need W-2 information for retirement purposes, you should contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days Caution: If you need a copy of Form W-2 or Form 1099, you should first contact the payer. To get a copy of the Form W-2 or Form 1099 filed with your return, you must use Form 4506 and request a copy of your return, which includes all attachments. Year or period requested. Inter the ending date of the year or period, using the mm/dd/yyyy format. If you are requesting more than four unust attach another Form 4506-T. For requests relating to quarterly tax returns, such as Form 941, you must ente each quarter or tax period separately. Caution: Do not sign this form unless all applicable lines have been completed. Signature of taxpayer(s). I declare that I am either the taxpayer whose name is shown on line 1a or 2a, or a person authorized to obtain the tax information requested. If the request applies to a joint return, at least one spouse must sign. If signed by a corporate officer, 1 percent or more shareholder, partner, managing member, guardian, tax matters partner, executor, receiver, administrator, trustee, or party other than the taxpayer, certify that I have the authority to execute Form 4506-T on behalf of the taxpayer, Note: This form must be received by IRS within 120 days of the Signatory attests that he/she has read the attestation clause and upon so reading declares that he/she Phone number of taxpaver on line Sign

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page :

Form 4506-T (Rev. 7-2017

4506-T Form

- IRS Non-Filer Letter (if no taxes filed)
- Request Tax Transcript

Request Online: bit.ly/IRS-TT Request by Mail: bit.ly/IRS4506-T Request by Phone: 1-800-908-9946

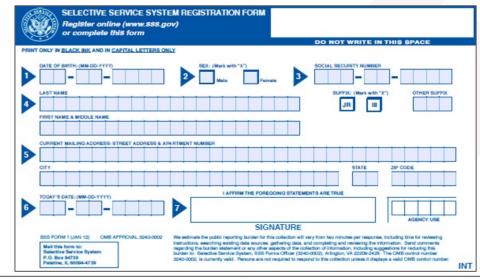




Selective Service Registration*

Male Students:

- Fill & mail out Selective Service Registration form
- Male student must be at least 18 years old
- Should receive SS Registration card within 30 days of mailing it
- Keep a copy of registration form. Most universities will allow just a copy of registration form and can submit card later.
- Make sure student SIGNS the SS card









Earnings Statement

What if my parents don't file taxes and don't have an SSN, ITIN, etc.?

- Special circumstance for nonfilers
- Must be signed & notarized
- Explain situation of each student.
- FormSwift: templates provided to create letter explaining special circumstances.

Full Date To Whom It May Concern: I, Parent Name, work in general construction in Houston. I do not have a Social Security Number. I also do not have an ITIN. I did not file taxes for the year 2020. I provide financial support for my daughter, Student Name. My approximate yearly earnings for 2020 were of \$XX,XXX.

Sincerely,

Parent Name
Parent Number

Templates: bit.ly/Swiftforms





TASFA Submission Steps

1. Gather

Gather required documents and work with advisor to complete TASFA application

2. Complete & Review

Collect documents & fill out any college-specific forms.

Triple-check all documents

3. Submit

Submit electronically *OR* mail out *OR* deliver in-person

4. Follow Up

Follow up with colleges to confirm your Texas residency status. May be asked to submit "Core Residency Questionnaire"













Fulfilling Graduation Requirement

- To meet this Texas graduation requirement, students must complete one of the following:
- Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Submit the TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid)
- Submit a signed Opt-Out Form if you do not qualify for either.
- Once completed, students must upload proof in SchooLinks by submitting:
- A screenshot of your FAFSA/TASFA confirmation page (with your name visible), or
- A copy of your signed Opt-Out Form

Need help? Watch this short tutorial:

How to Upload Financial Aid Confirmation in SchooLinks





Financial Aid Application — Workshop —





WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2025

Ms. Walea

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Almeta Crawford HS
Cafeteria

Bring the following with you:

- 2024 Tax Return (1040) & W-2s for student and parent(s)
- Social Security Number(s) (if applicable)
- Parent and student email addresses
- FSA ID username & password (for FAFSA only)
 create at studentaid.gov/fsa-id
- Proof of income (if taxes weren't filed)
- last 3 pay stubs or income statement
- Identification (driver's license or state ID)
- Laptop







FOLLOW THE CCR CENTER ON





























Time to create your accounts!

FAFSA: studentaid.gov

TASFA: bit.ly/eTASFA (case-sensitive)

USE YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS!!