

# FAFSA

## PARENT GUIDE



DEPENDENT STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS LOG IN TO THE FAFSA SEPARATELY AND COMPLETE THEIR OWN SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION. **AS A PARENT CONTRIBUTOR, FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO COMPLETE YOUR SECTION OF THE 2026-27 FAFSA .**

### GATHER INFO

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- 2024 federal tax forms (1040 and all schedules)
- Total current amount in checking and savings account(s)
- Net worth (value minus debt) of current stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, etc.
- Net worth of investment/rental property/rented portion of your home
- Net worth of business(es) and/or for-profit agricultural operation(s) with 100+ full-time employees
- Amount of child support received in the past year for all children
- Federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc.) received in 2024 and 2025

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### CREATE AN FSA ID

An FSA ID is a StudentAid.Gov account username and password you create to gain access to the US Department of Education's online systems. Your FSA ID serves as your legal signature when completing the FAFSA. To create an FSA ID you'll need your Social Security Number (if applicable) and your own email address.

*NOTE: For the 2026-27 FAFSA, parents without SSNs are able to immediately access the FAFSA and submit it after creating an FSA ID. Manual identity validation has been waived for the 2026-27 FAFSA.*

### CHECK YOUR EMAIL

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Check your email to find the invitation and use the code to access your child's FAFSA, or you may go directly to [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) and click on "Accept an Invitation".

If you have not received the invitation email:

- check your spam/junk folder
- confirm correct email address was used to send an invitation
- ask your child to log back into their FAFSA and share the invite code

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### PROVIDE CONSENT

Consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI) from each participant on the FAFSA. Your consent and approval allow the US Department of Education to obtain your federal tax information automatically from the IRS. **If consent and approval are not provided by the student and all contributors on the FAFSA, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid**, including grants and loans. All participants must provide consent and approval even if they did not file a US federal tax return or any tax return at all.

### SIGN & SUBMIT

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Providing your signature is the final step in successful FAFSA completion. Before you sign, review the Summary Page of all your answers for accuracy.

Remember, the US Department of Education will not calculate a **Student Aid Index (SAI)** if any of the required signatures are missing, which means the student will not be able to receive federal student aid. Once signed and submitted, your child will receive a confirmation email with next steps.



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