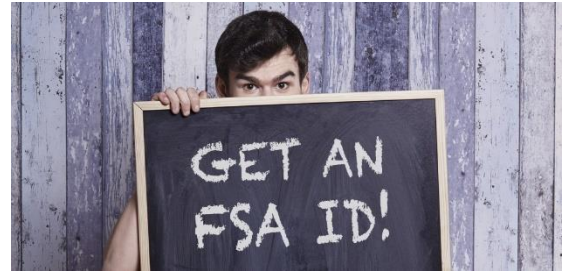


The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is needed to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid and will not be opening until sometime in December 2023

Families of current seniors should be thinking about completing financial aid applications for students to receive financial help to cover the costs of post-secondary education. With the late opening of the FAFSA, here are some things families can plan to do now:

Step 1: Obtain an FSA ID in preparation for completing the FAFSA.

Everyone who will need to include their financial information on a student's FAFSA will be required to have an FSA ID. This includes the student and at least one parent. The chart below will help you determine who in your family must secure an FSA ID. To obtain an FSA ID, go to: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>



Contributor -Student Note: All students must create an FSA ID	Contributor - Parent(s)	Scenarios
Student	One Parent	If the student is a dependent student with two married parents who filed a joint federal tax return in 2022.
Student	One Parent	If the student is a dependent student with separated or divorced parents. The parent who provided the most financial support in the last year AND the parent's current spouse if they married after 1/1/23, OR if parent was remarried prior to this date but filed taxes separately from the current spouse.
Student	One Parent	If the student is a dependent student living with a single parent (widowed or biological parents were never married, and other parent does not provide support).
Student	Both Parents	If the student is a dependent student with two married parents who filed separate federal tax returns in 2022.
Student	Both Parents	If the student is a dependent student who two parents who are unmarried but living together.

Step 2: Complete the CSS Profile (if required by school)

Approximately 250 schools and scholarship programs nationally require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA, to determine financial need. If so, this form will become available for completion beginning October 1, 2023. The Profile can be found at: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>



Students should check with all the schools they are considering to determine whether the Profile is required. A list can also be found at:

<https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>



Step 3: Determine if each school has institution-specific financial aid forms

Some schools have their own institution-specific forms that need to be completed. Students should check the Financial Aid Office website for each school they are applying to determine what is required.

Step 4: Attend a virtual workshop to learn more about financial aid

College Access Fairfax and FCPS will present a series of virtual workshops for students and their parents. Presentations are free and no sign up is required. Links are included below, and are also located on our website at

<https://www.collegeaccessfairfax.org>



- ***Paying for College - an overview of the financial aid process***

- Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM <https://myfcpsk12.zoom.us/j/94585496608>
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM <https://myfcpsk12.zoom.us/j/92313618192>

- ***Scholarship 101 - an overview of the process for applying for outside scholarships***

- Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM <https://myfcpsk12.zoom.us/j/92335926452>
- Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM <https://myfcpsk12.zoom.us/j/97178234222>

Step 5: Research and apply for outside scholarships to help pay for post-secondary education.

Beginning October 15, 2023, students may apply for one or more of the 20+ scholarship opportunities offered by College Access Fairfax. Each scholarship has individual criteria for eligibility. Descriptions and application access can be found on the Scholarship page on our website. <https://www.collegeaccessfairfax.org>



Opening Doors to the Future

Questions about the financial aid process?

Check out our website at the above address or contact us at

info@collegeaccessfairfax.org