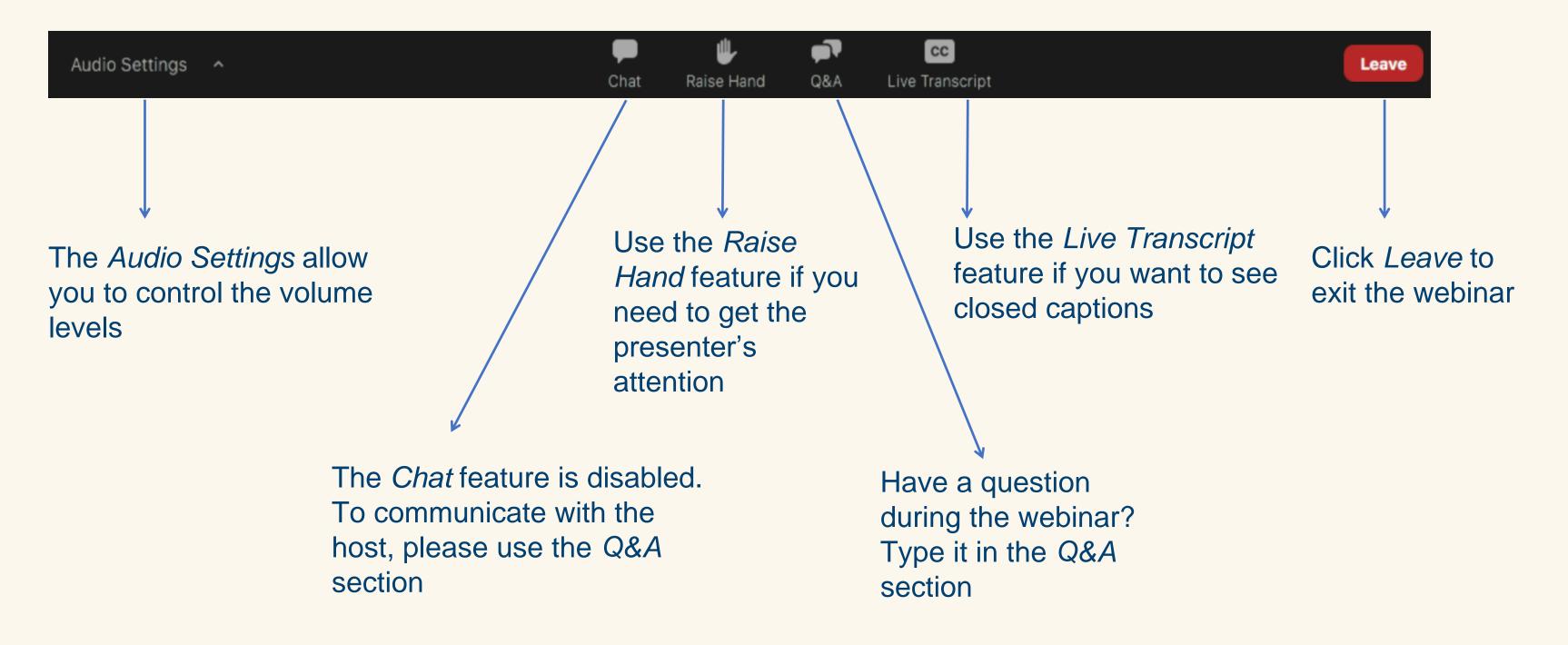
# A Deep Dive into the FAFSA®

**A MEFA Institute Webinar** 



## How to Participate

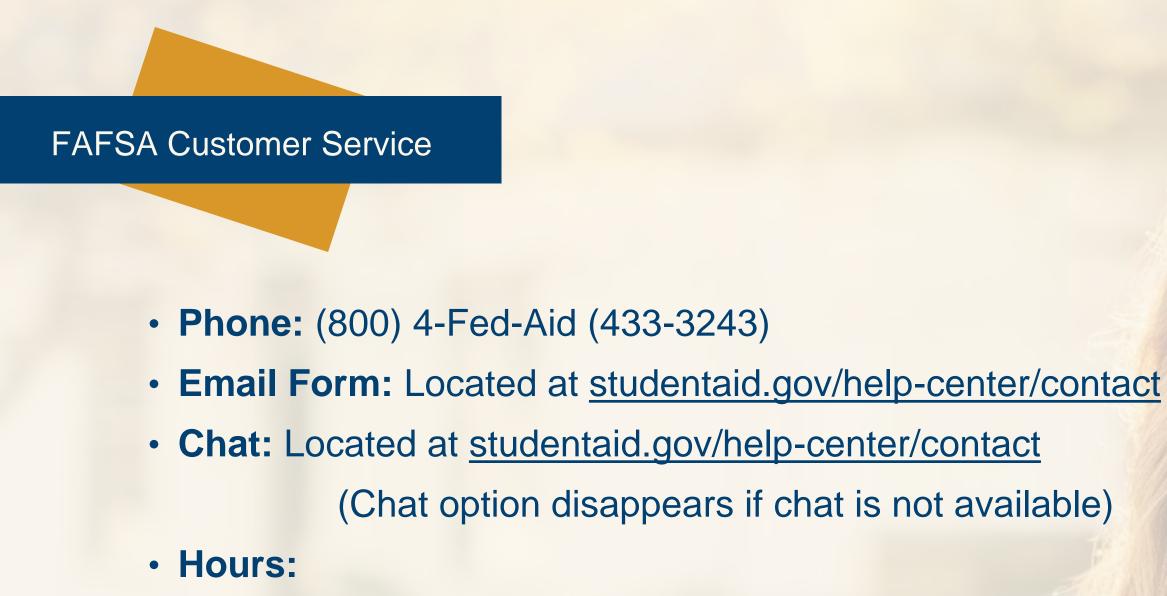




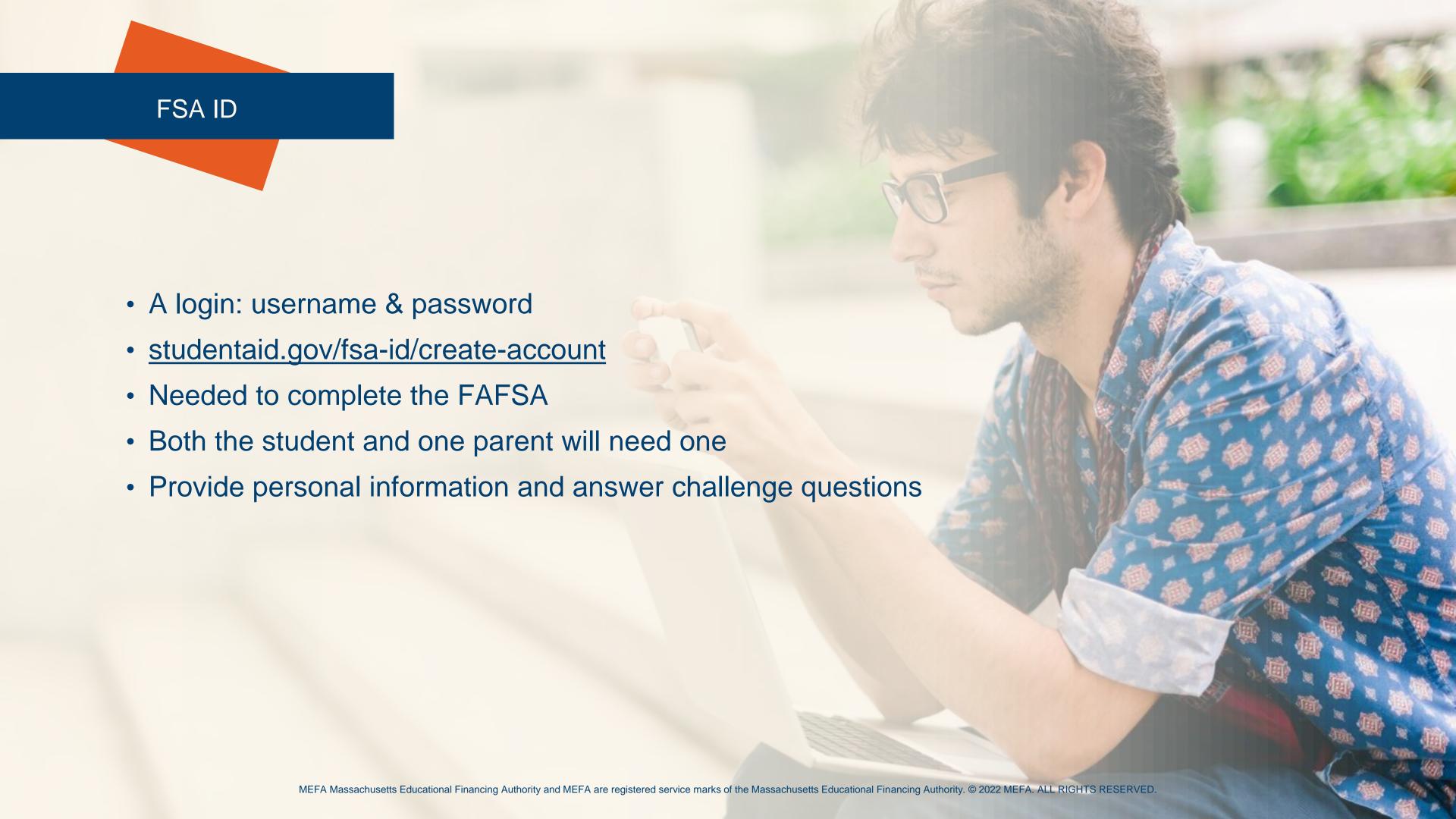
### About the FAFSA

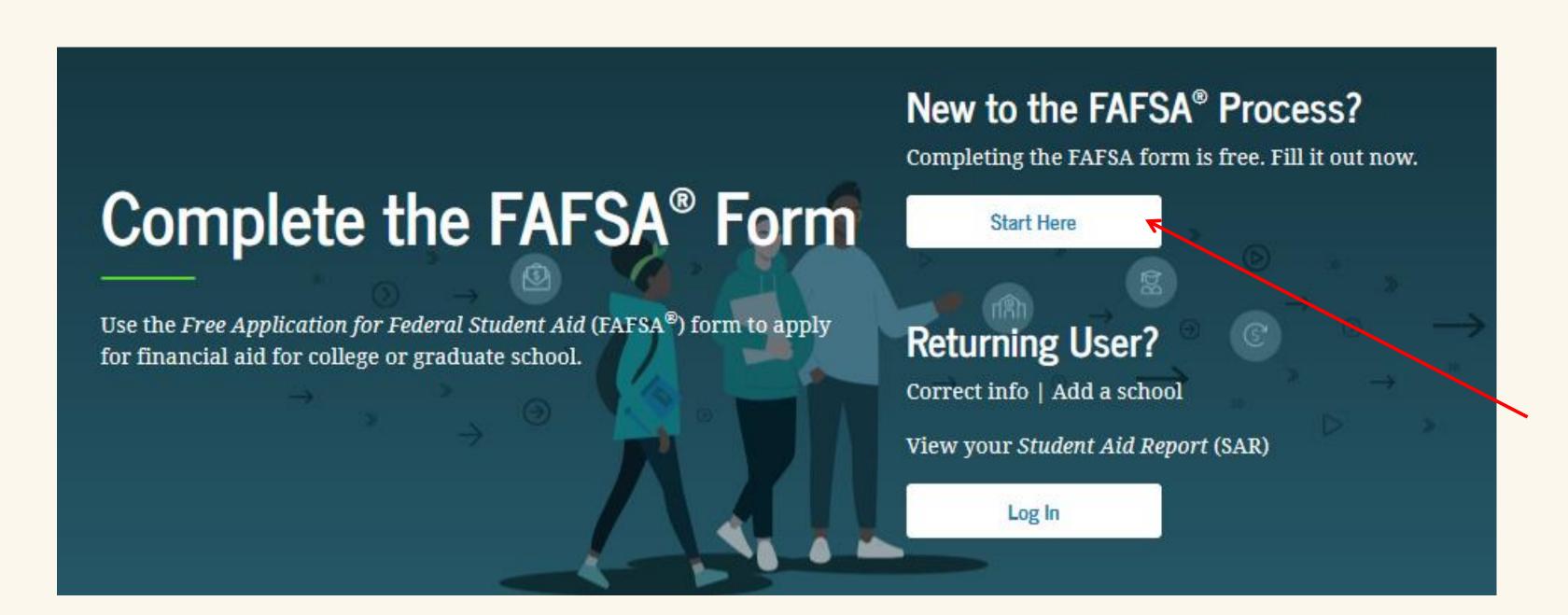
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- FREE form (NEVER pay to submit the FAFSA): fafsa.gov
- FAFSA demo site: <u>fafsademo.test.ed.gov</u>
- Required by all colleges/universities for federal & state (& some institutional) aid
- Opens October 1st
- Complete and submit ASAP and before the earliest college deadline (!!)
  - Early Action/Decision: Usually a fall deadline
  - Regular Decision: Usually a Feb or March deadline
- Complete online, but can find a full FAFSA PDF online
- Online skip logic removes questions not applicable to individual students/parents
- Must be completed each year (one for every child)
- Tip: If an answer is zero or the question does not apply, students/families should enter 0
- Application may ask you to check for errors on a question. Type the answer again
- Note: students/families may have other financial aid applications required





- Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-11 p.m. ET
- Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. ET
- Help icon The at the top of each page leads to:
  - -FAQs
  - Search
  - Link to contact information





Start here



### FAFSA® Deadlines

Many states and colleges set priority deadlines by which you must submit the FAFSA form to be considered for the aid programs they administer. There is also a federal deadline each academic year.

Select your state of legal residence and the school year for which you're applying for federal student aid.

State	
Type response	
Year	
Select Year	~
View Deadlines	

<u>View All State FAFSA Deadlines</u>



### Complete the Form

Completing the FAFSA form has never been easier. Get an overview of what you'll need and the steps involved.



### Find FAFSA Help

Learn how to fill out the FAFSA form and browse common FAFSA help topics.



### **Renew Your Form**

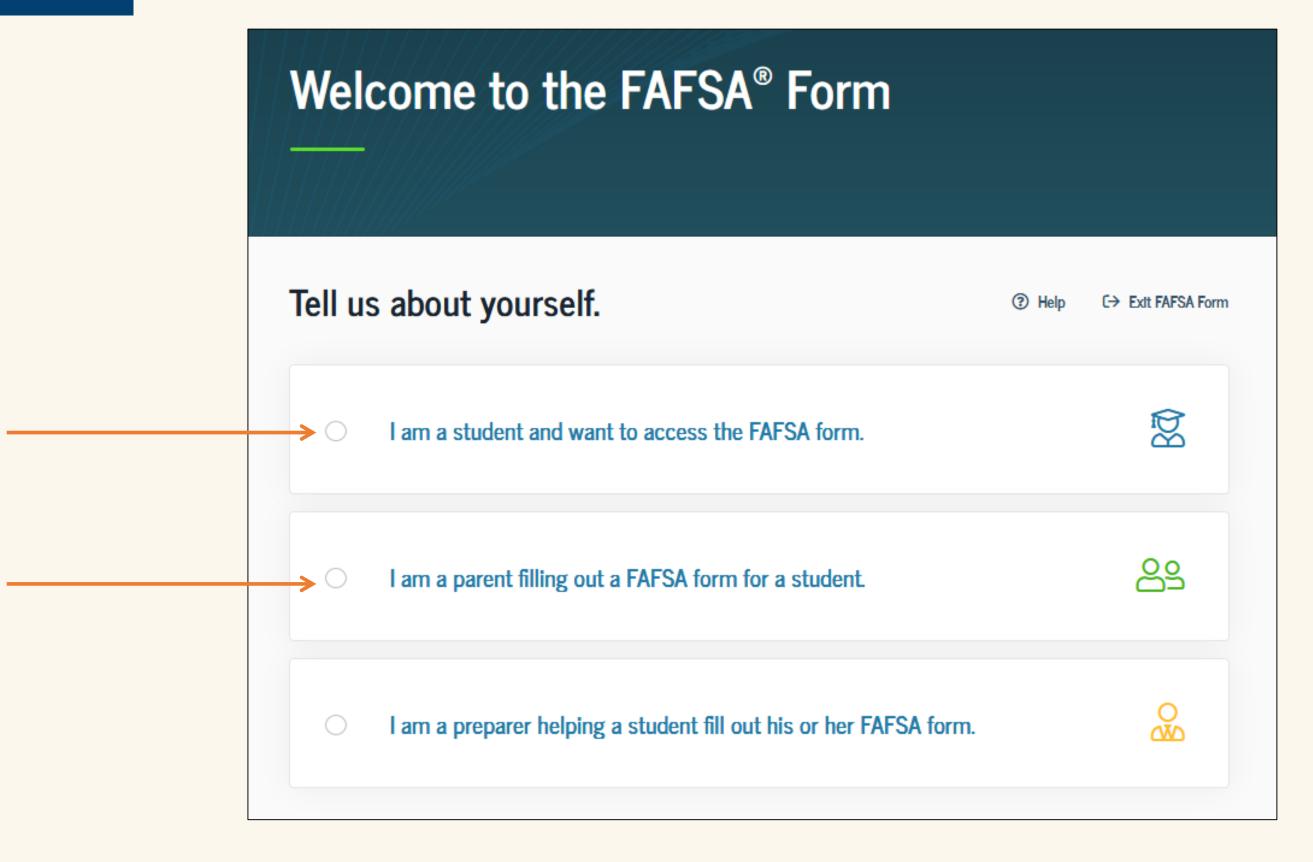
You must submit a FAFSA form for each school year in which you want to be considered for federal student aid.

Review what to expect

Get FAFSA help

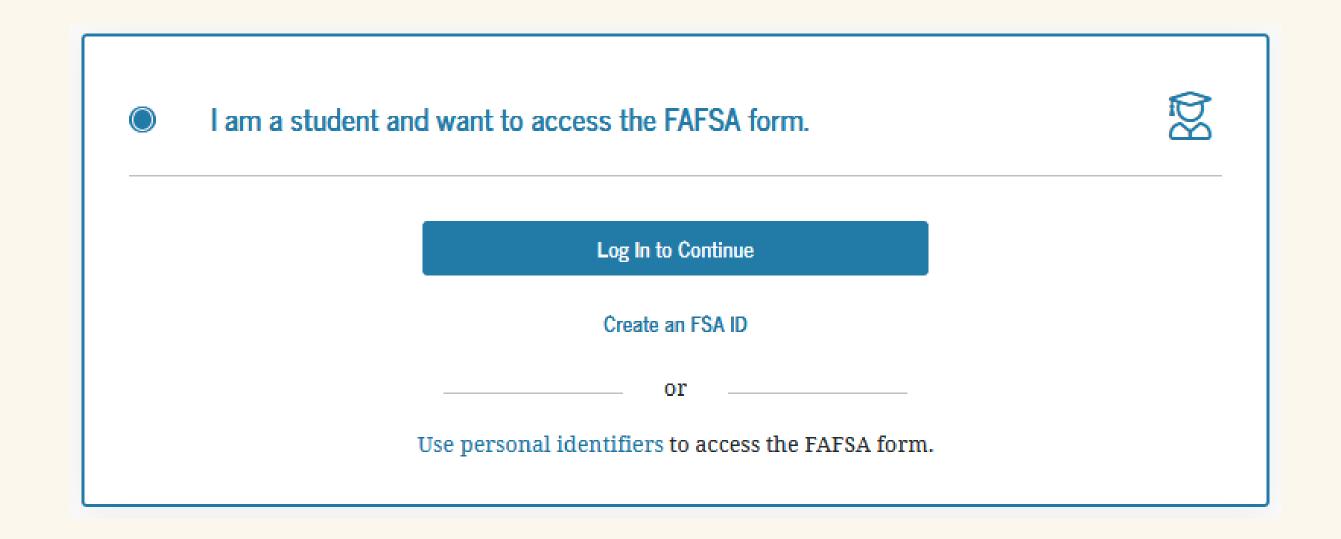
Get info on FAFSA renewal

## **Get Started**



## For Students

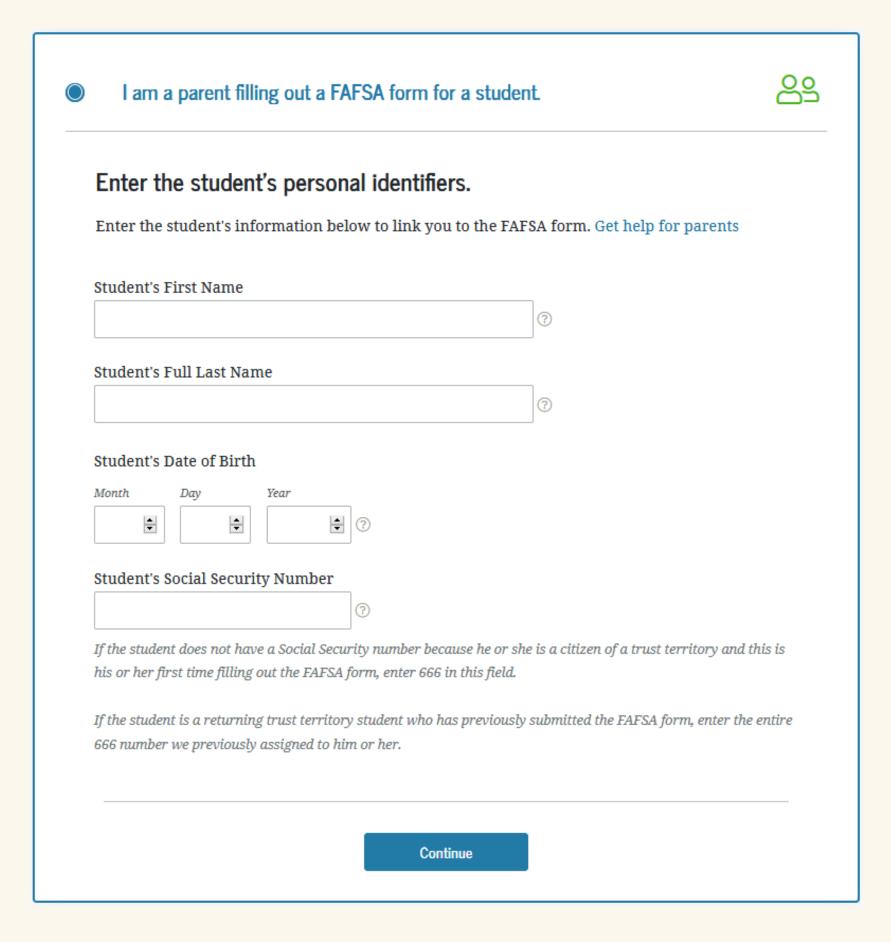
- Log in with the FSA ID username and password
   OR
- Create an FSA IDOR
- Use personal identifiers (name, DOB, SSN)



## For Parents

### Enter the student's:

- Name
- DOB
- SSN



### Disclaimer

### Please Read Before Continuing

You are accessing a U.S. federal government computer system intended to be solely accessed by individual users expressly authorized to access the system by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Usage may be monitored, recorded, and/or subject to audit. For security purposes and in order to ensure that the system remains available to all expressly authorized users, ED monitors the system to identify unauthorized users. Anyone using this system expressly consents to such monitoring and recording. Unauthorized use of this information system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties. Except as expressly authorized by ED, unauthorized attempts to access, obtain, upload, modify, change, and/or delete information on this system are strictly prohibited and are subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1030, and other applicable statutes, which may result in fines and imprisonment. For purposes of this system, unauthorized access includes, but is not limited to:

- any access by an employee or agent of a commercial entity, or other third party, who is not the
  individual user, for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain (regardless of
  whether the commercial entity or third party is providing a service to an authorized user of the
  system); and
- any access in furtherance of any criminal or tortious act in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or any state.

If system monitoring reveals information indicating possible criminal activity, such evidence may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

Accept

Decline

## **Getting Started**

- Select START 2023-2024 FAFSA Form
- FAFSA will alert the family if the student needs to create an FSA ID
- The parent will also need an FSA ID

## Student's FSA ID Status:

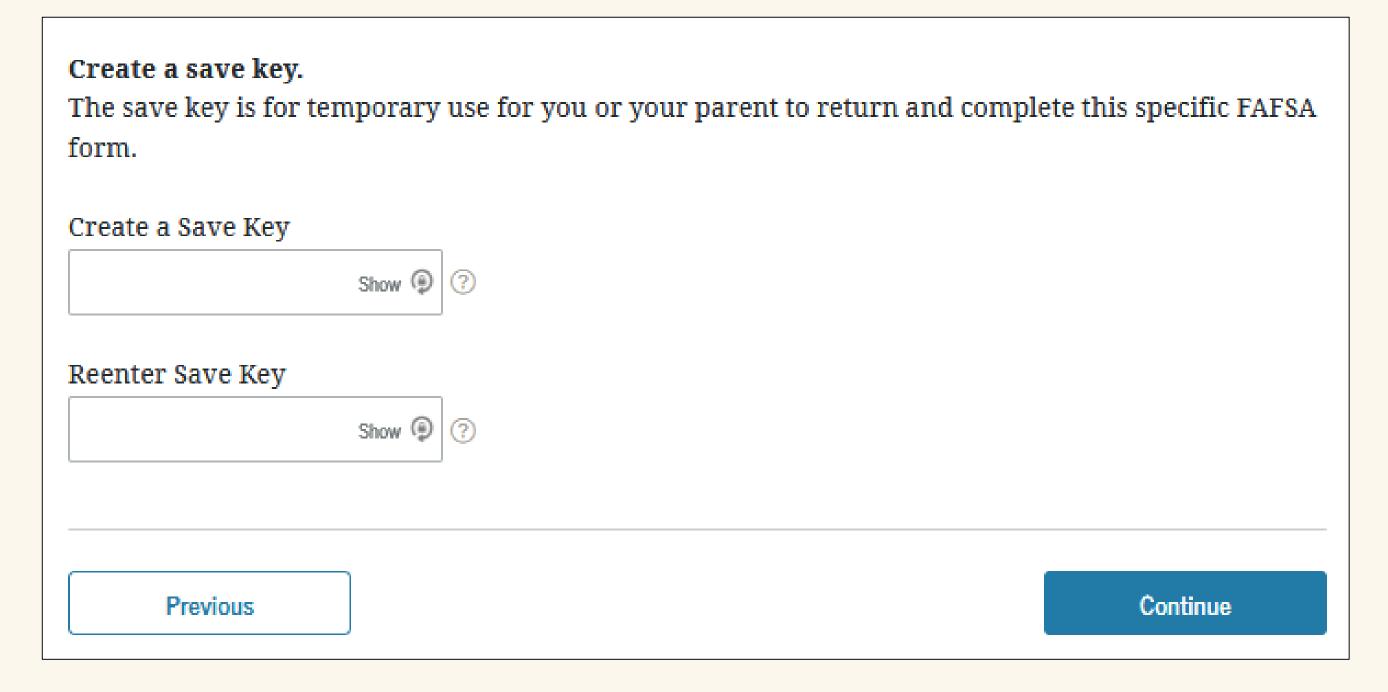
Last Successful FSA ID Log In:

Create an FSA ID

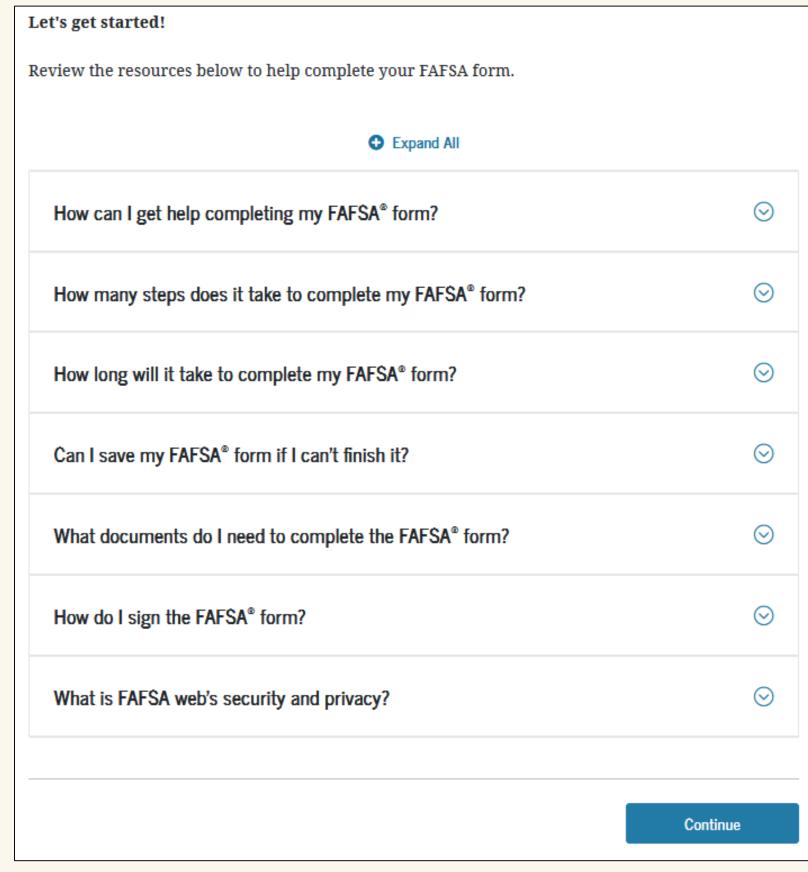
There is no FSA ID on file for the information you entered.

## Save Key

- The Save Key allows the student or parent to return to the FAFSA later
- A FAFSA can be saved for 45 days

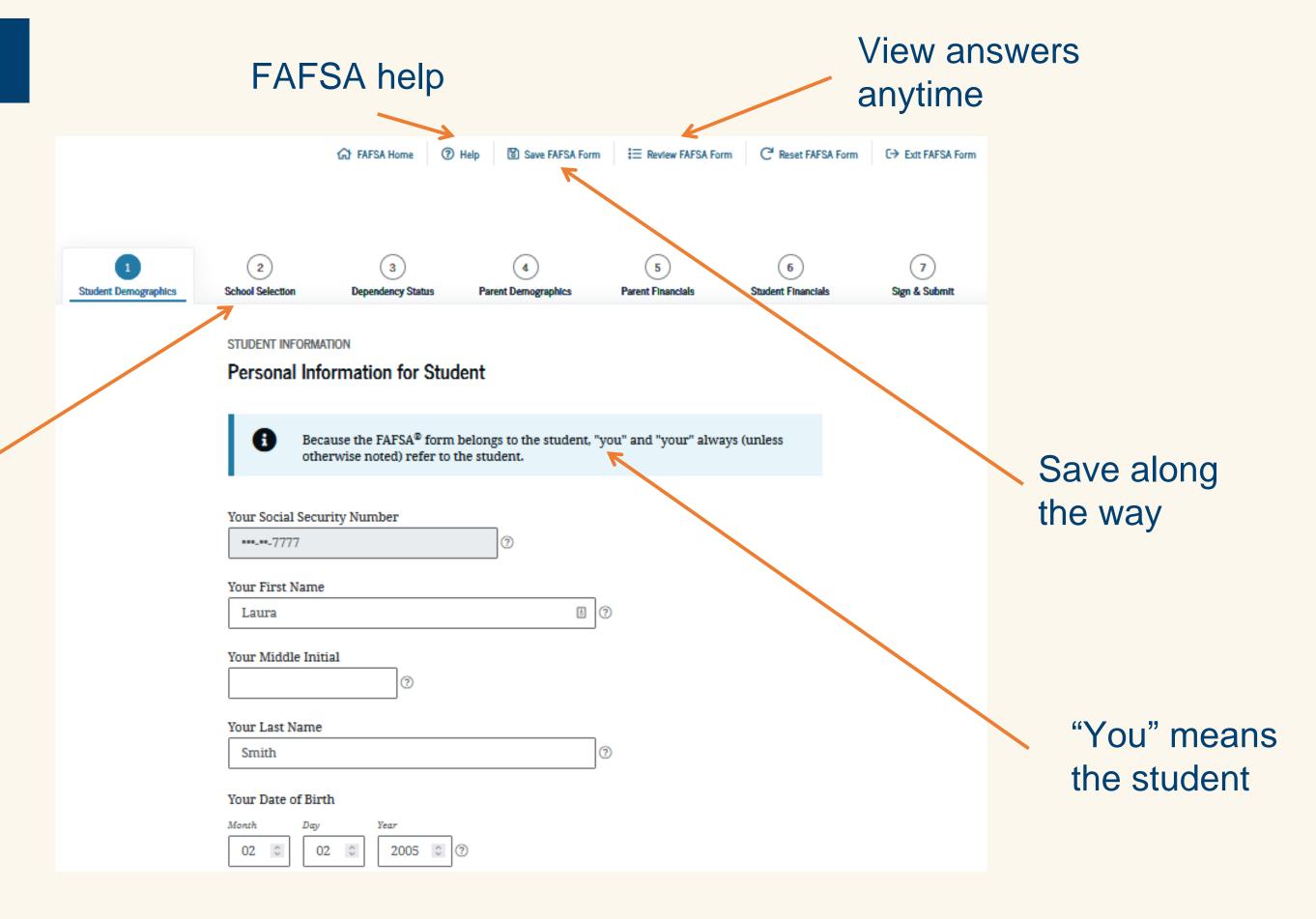


## Introduction

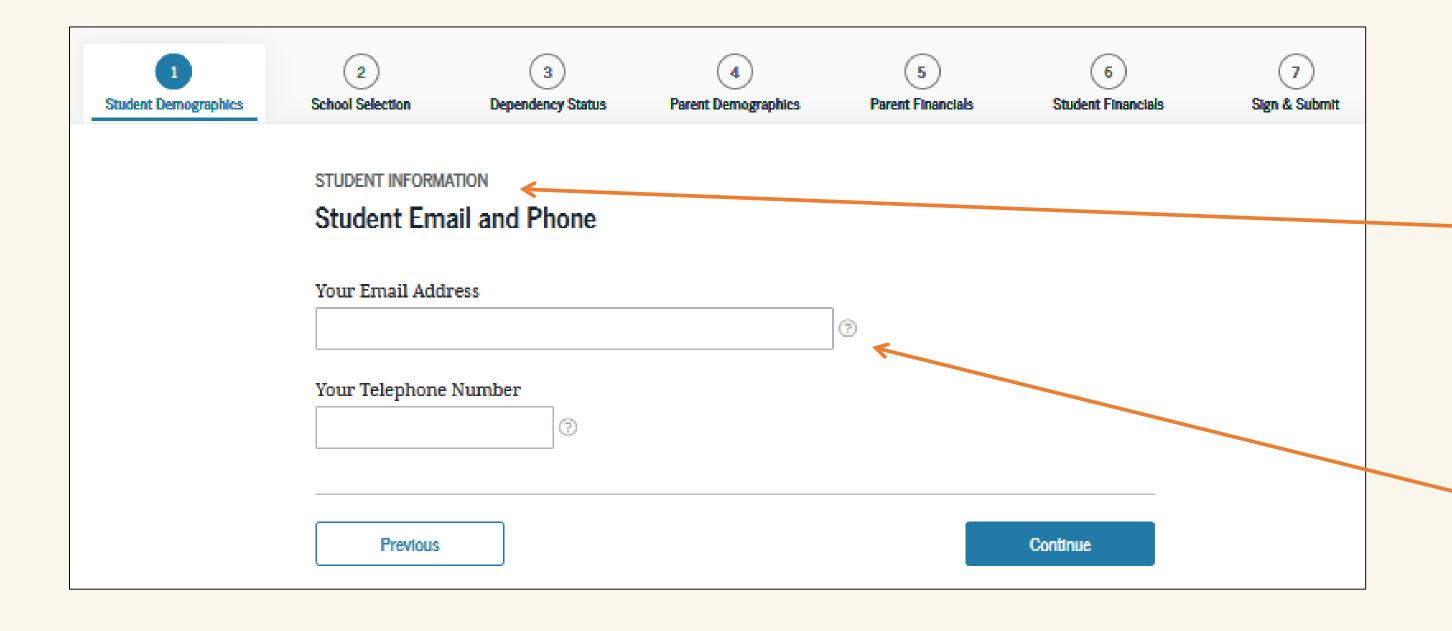


Tips

Tabs for each section



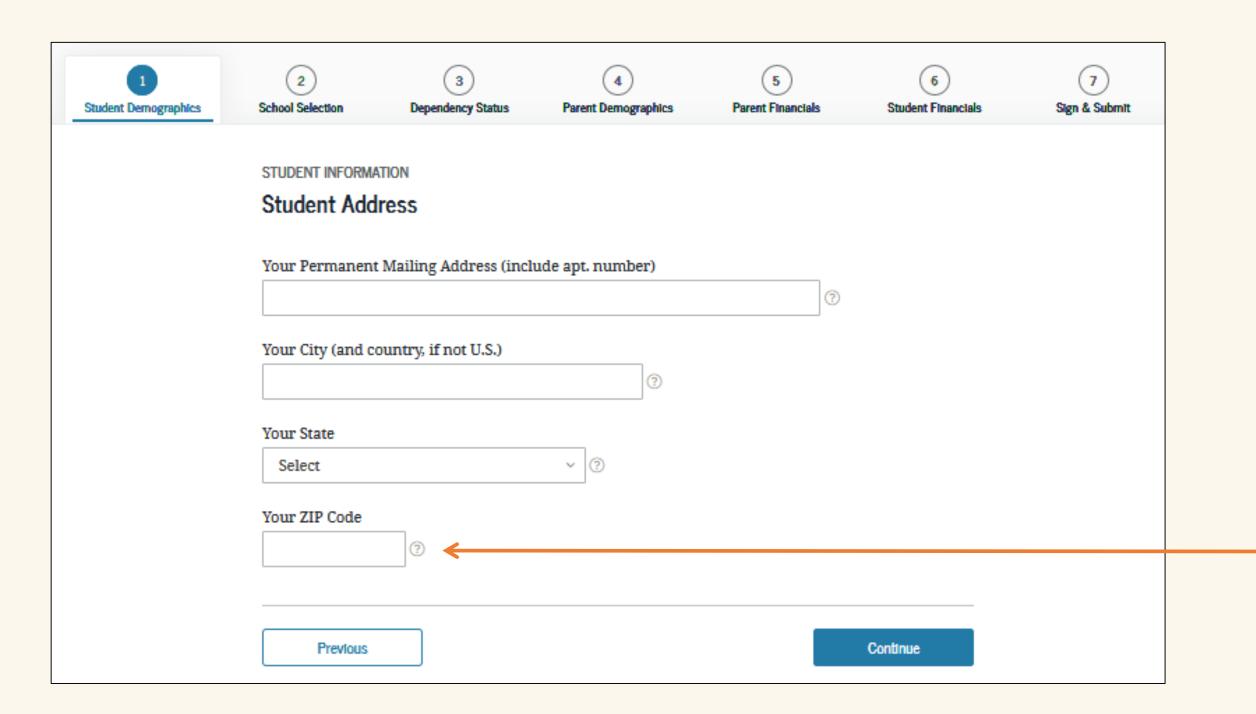
## **Student Information**



Student or parent information label

Students should use an email address that they check often.

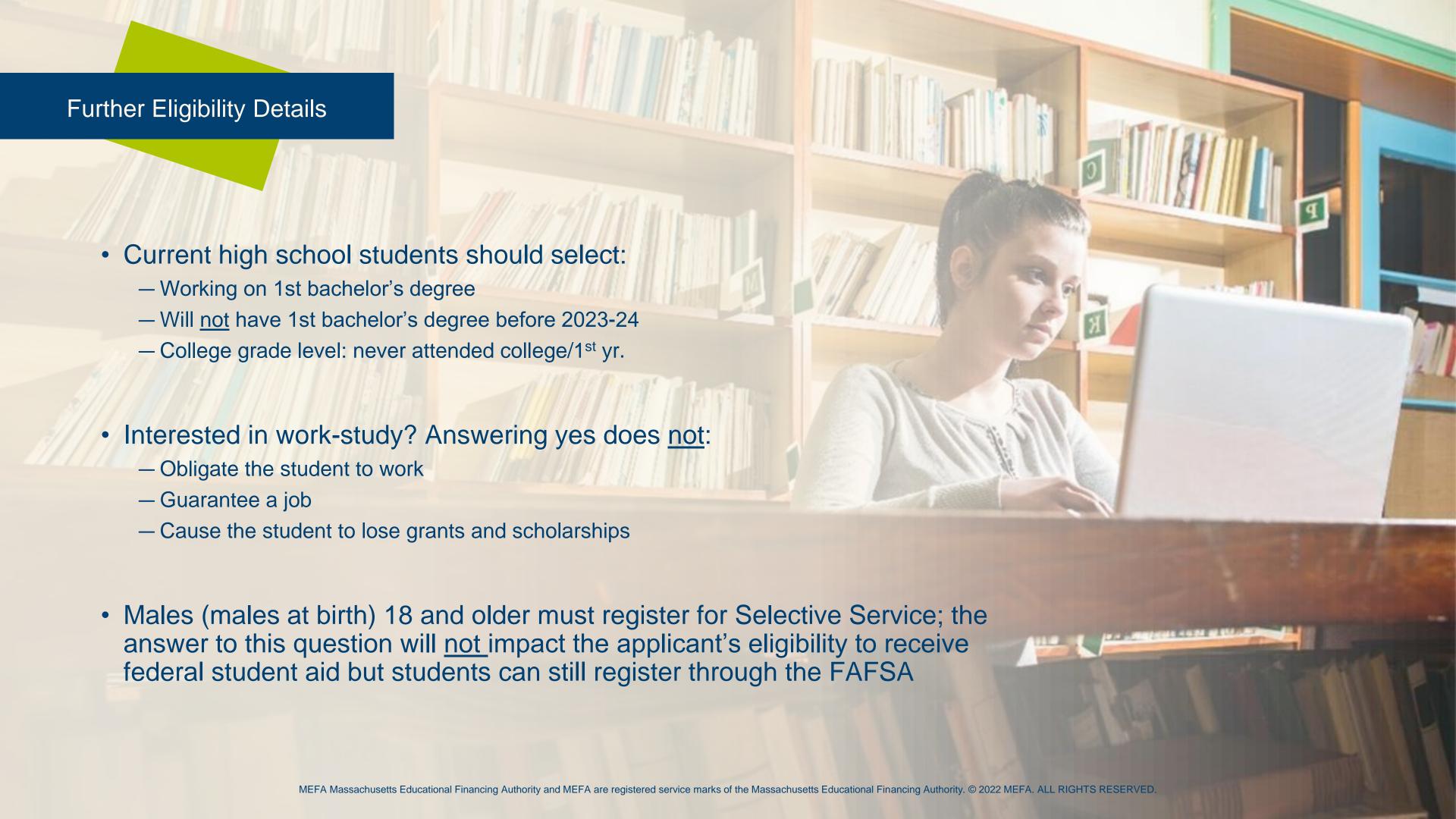
## **Student Information Continued**



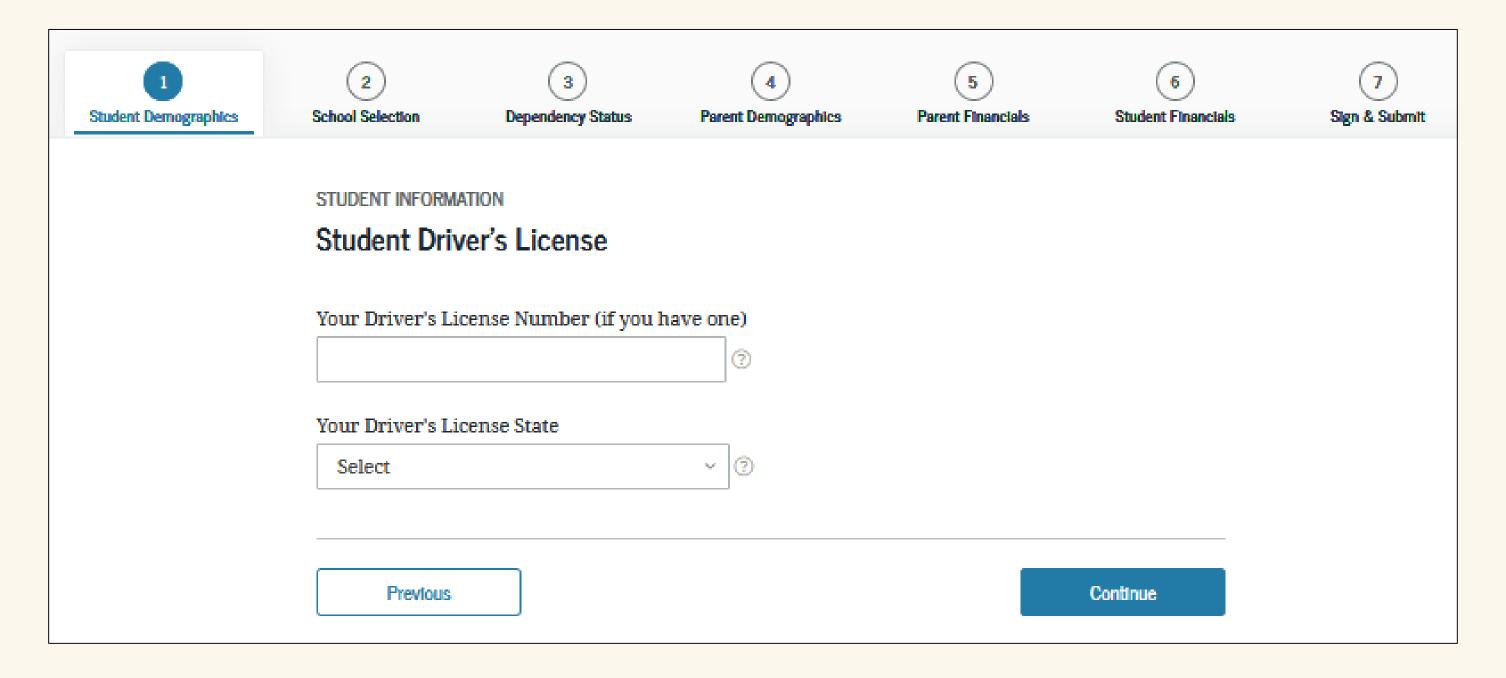
If student lives in a foreign country, select "Foreign Country" in the state drop-down and put 00000 for ZIP code

## What Students are Eligible for Federal Financial Aid?

- U.S. citizens
- Eligible non-citizens, including:
  - U.S. Nationals
  - Permanent Residents
  - Carriers of Arrival-Departure Records (I-94)
  - Holders (student or parent) of a T-visa
  - "Battered immigrant-qualified aliens"
  - Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau.
- Citizenship status will be verified by:
  - the Social Security Administration (citizens)
  - the Department of Homeland Security (eligible non-citizens)

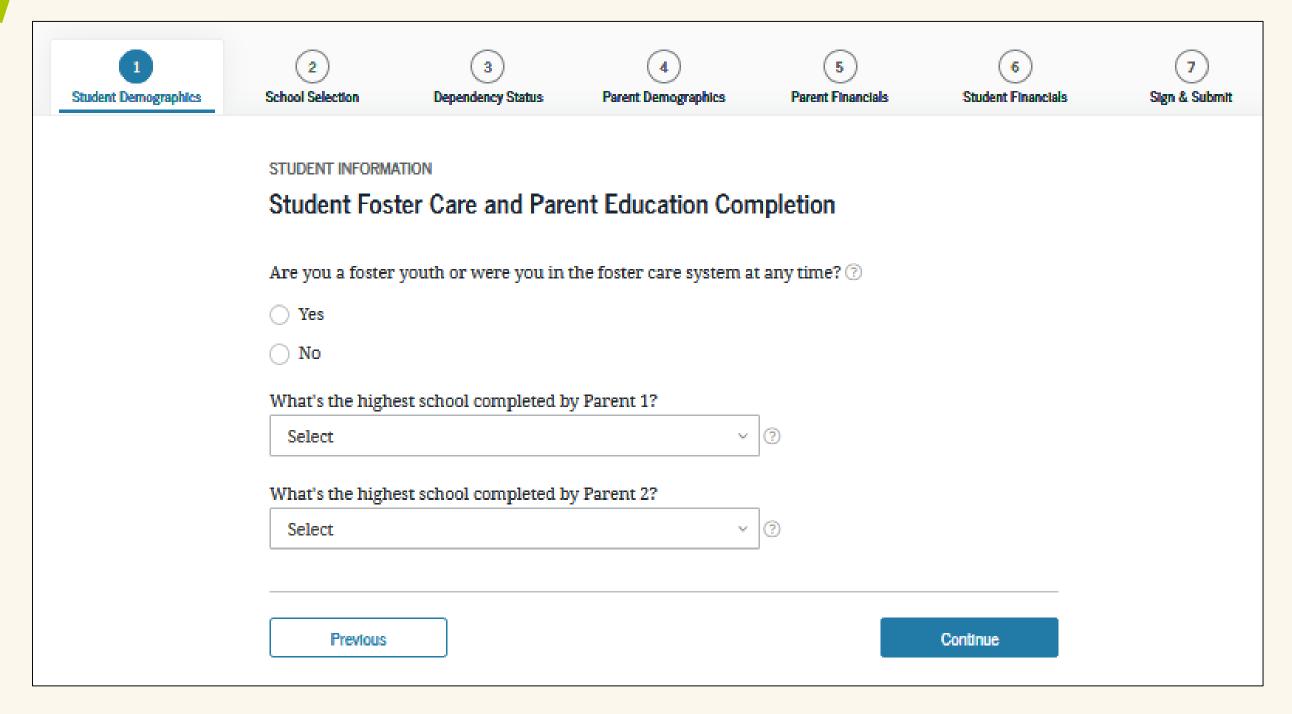


## Student Driver's License



Driver's license information is not required

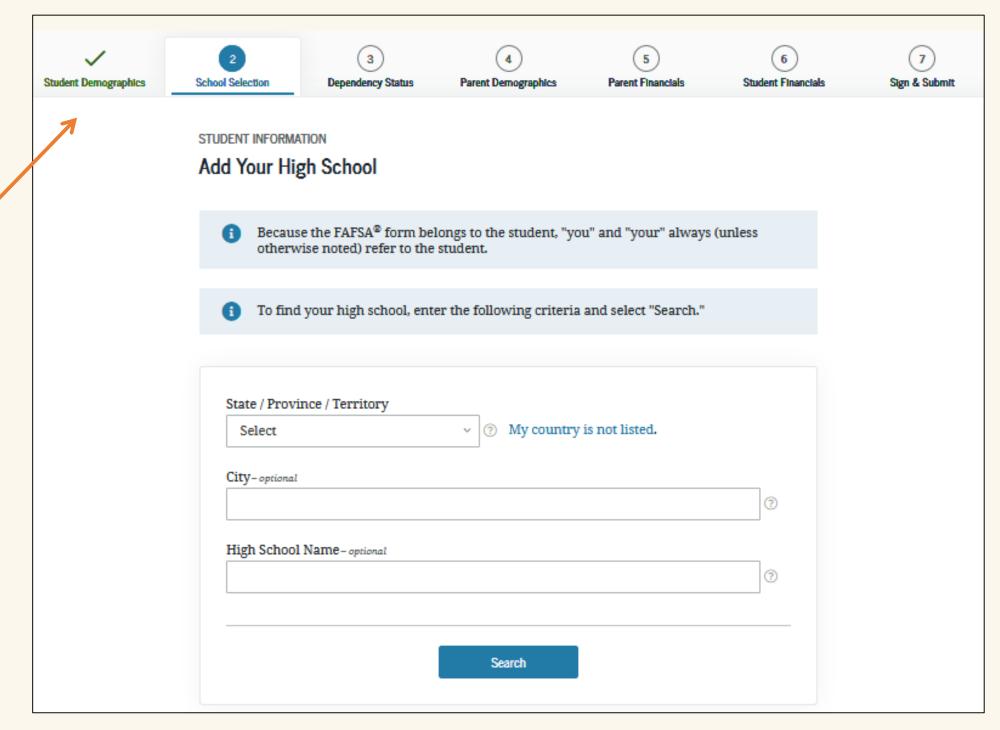
# Foster Care Information & Parent Education



Foster care and parent education information is not required

## **High School Information**

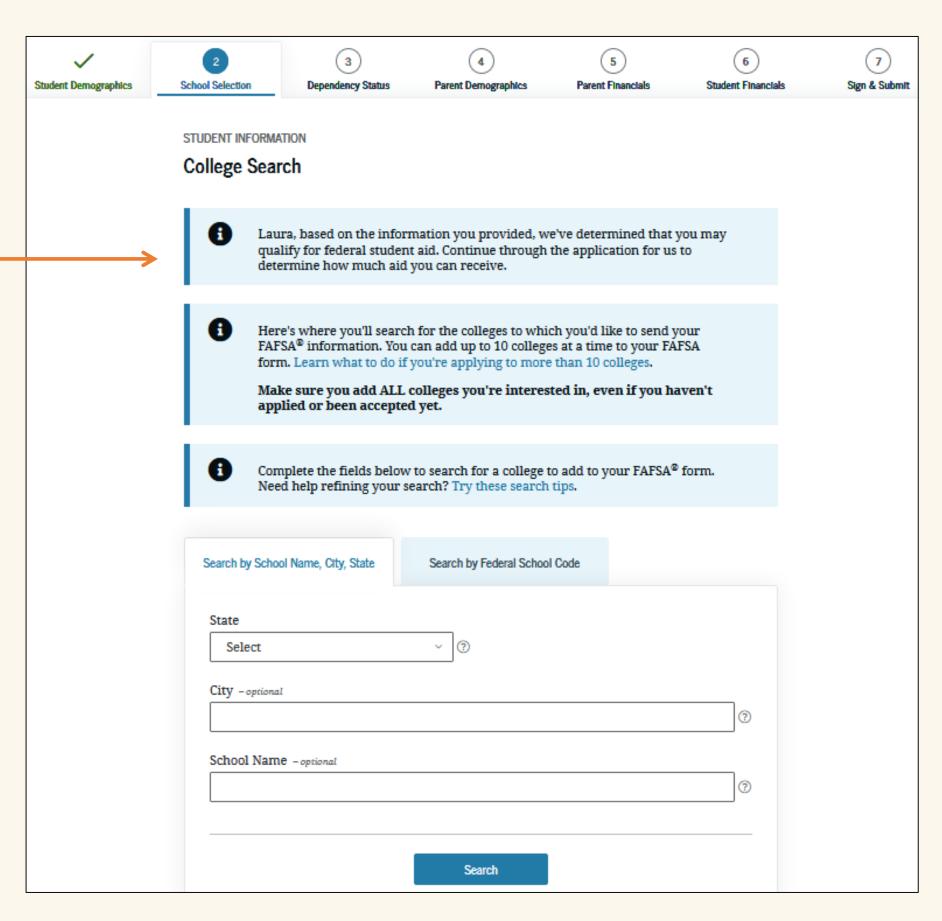
Green font and checkmark indicates section is complete



If high school diploma is selected, the student will have to list a high school

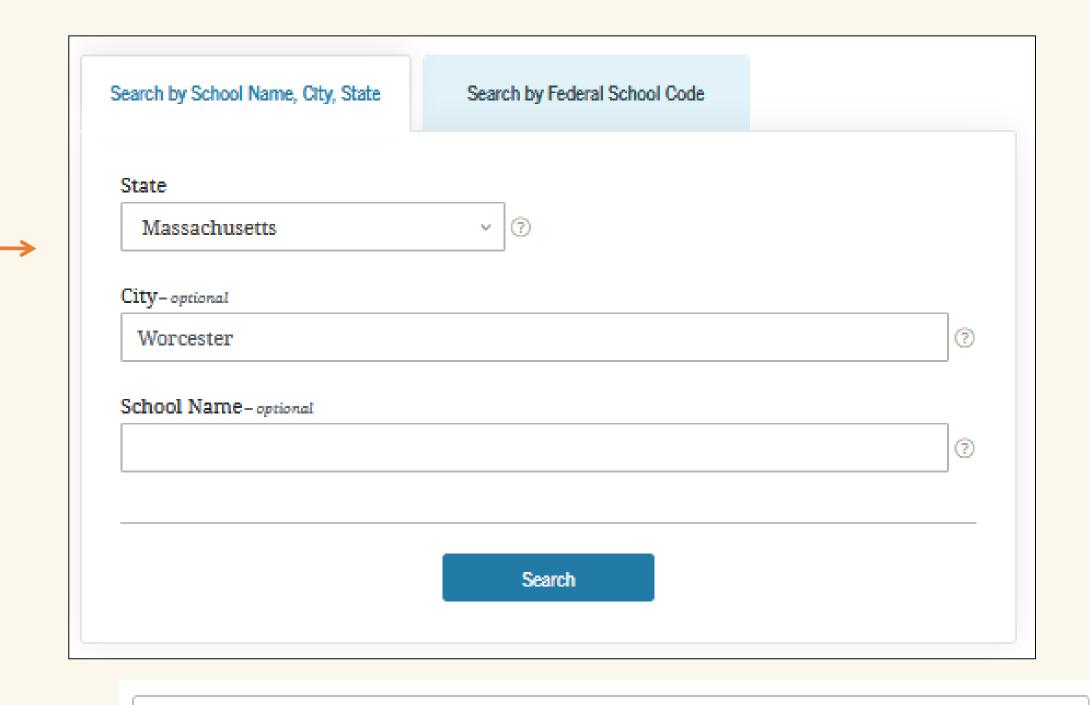
## Eligible for Aid & College Search

NOTE: "may qualify for federal student aid" could mean student loans only



### **School Selection**

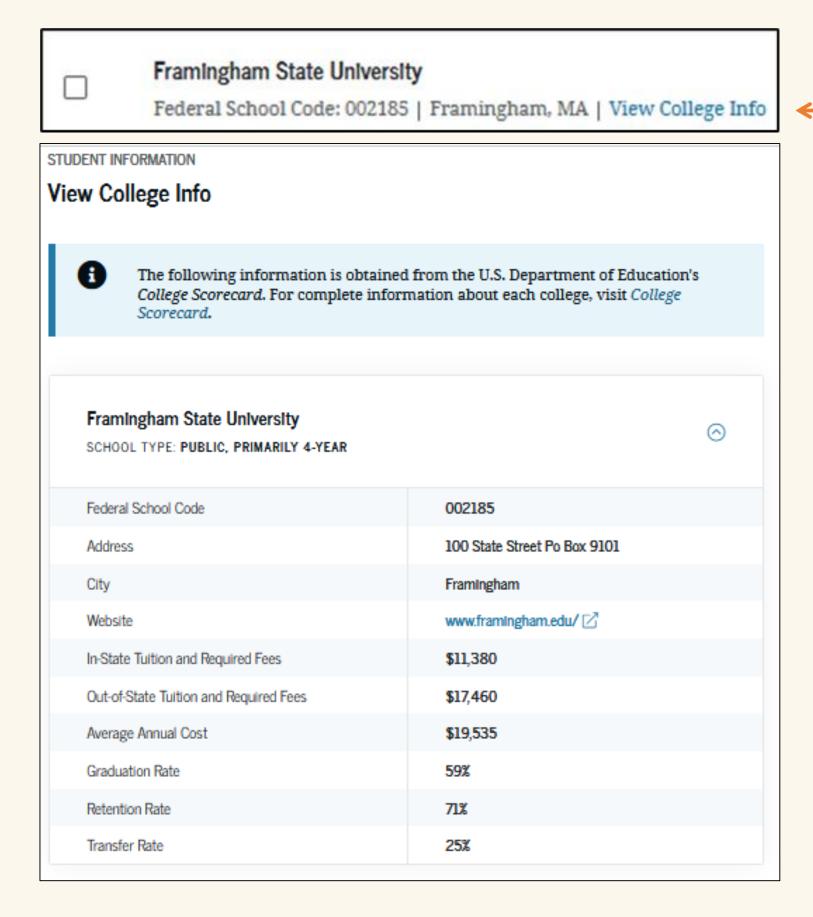
- Find and select up to 10 colleges or universities
- For more than 10 schools: Students should wait 3-5 days after submitting the FASFA to remove current schools and add new ones
- Check the box to select a school



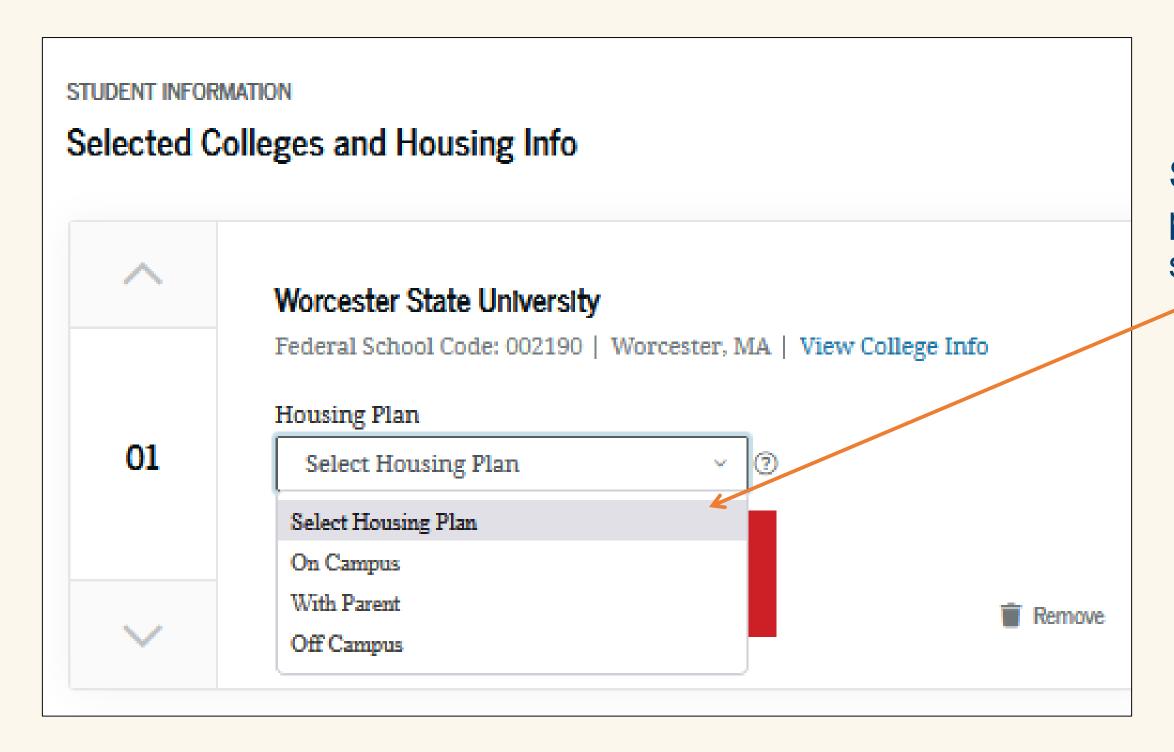
Worcester State University

Federal School Code: 002190 | Worcester, MA | View College Info

## View College Info



## Housing



Select the housing plan for each school

Housing selection affects the college total cost and may affect financial aid

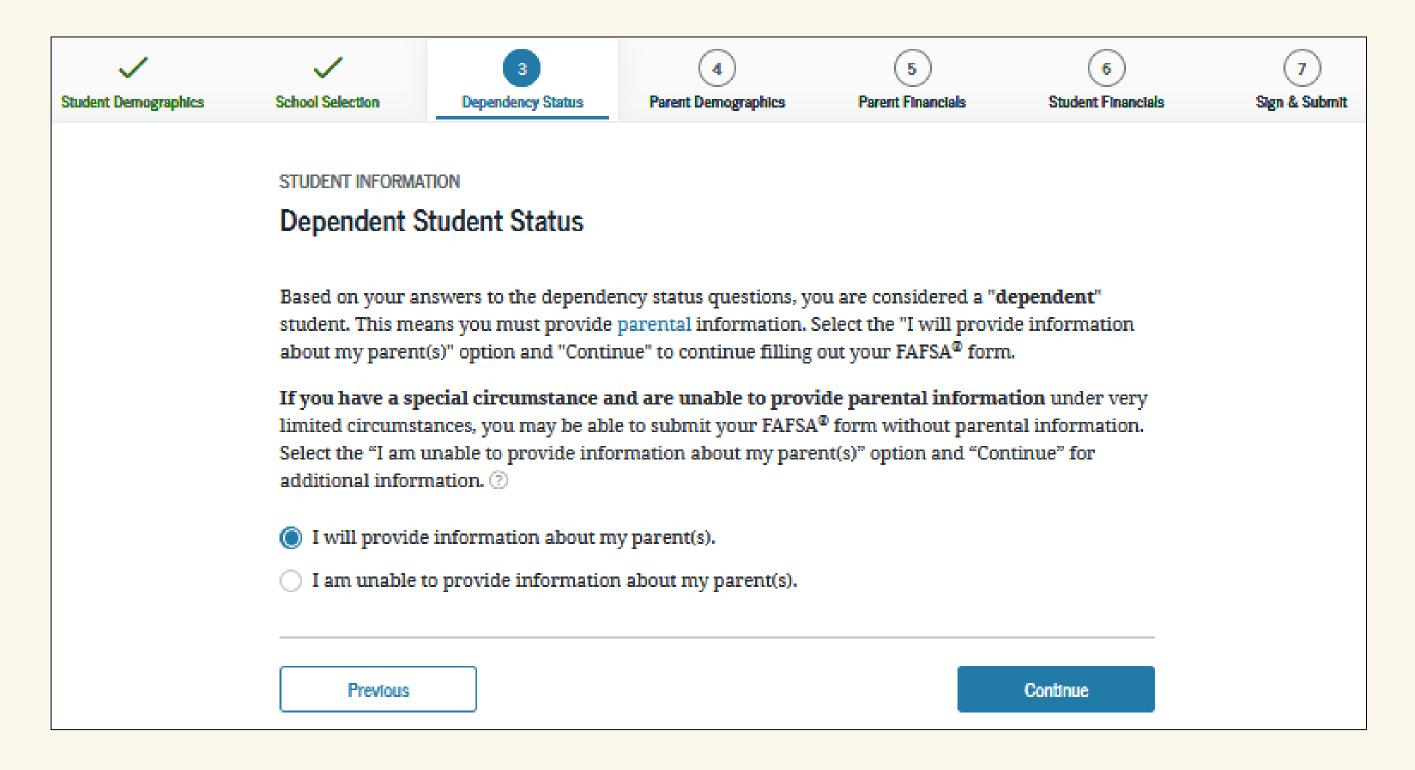


### Questions on:

- Marital status
- Pursuit of a graduate degree
- Birthdate
- Dependents who receive your support
- Active duty military or veteran
- If since turned 13: orphan, foster care, ward of the court
- Emancipated minor
- In legal guardianship
- Homeless

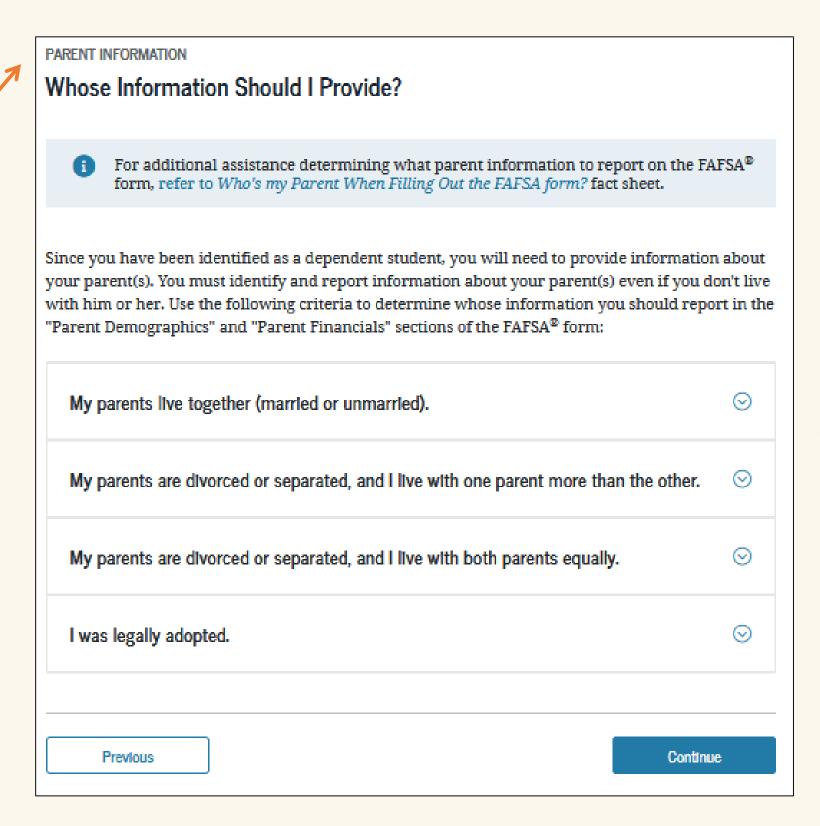
Independent students do not have to report parent data

## **Providing Parent Data**



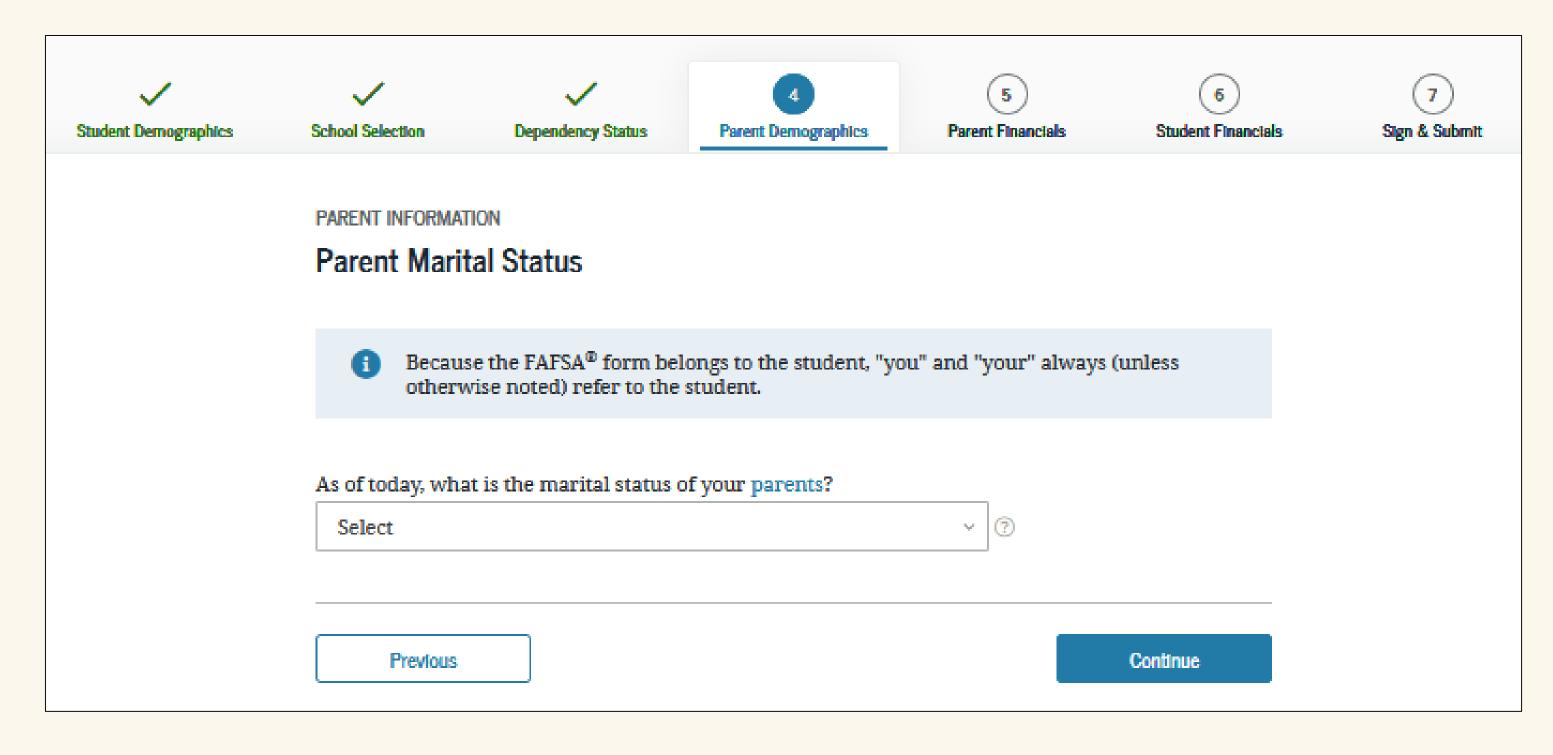
# Parent Information Requirements

Now in the Parent Information section



Explanation of whose information you will report for parents

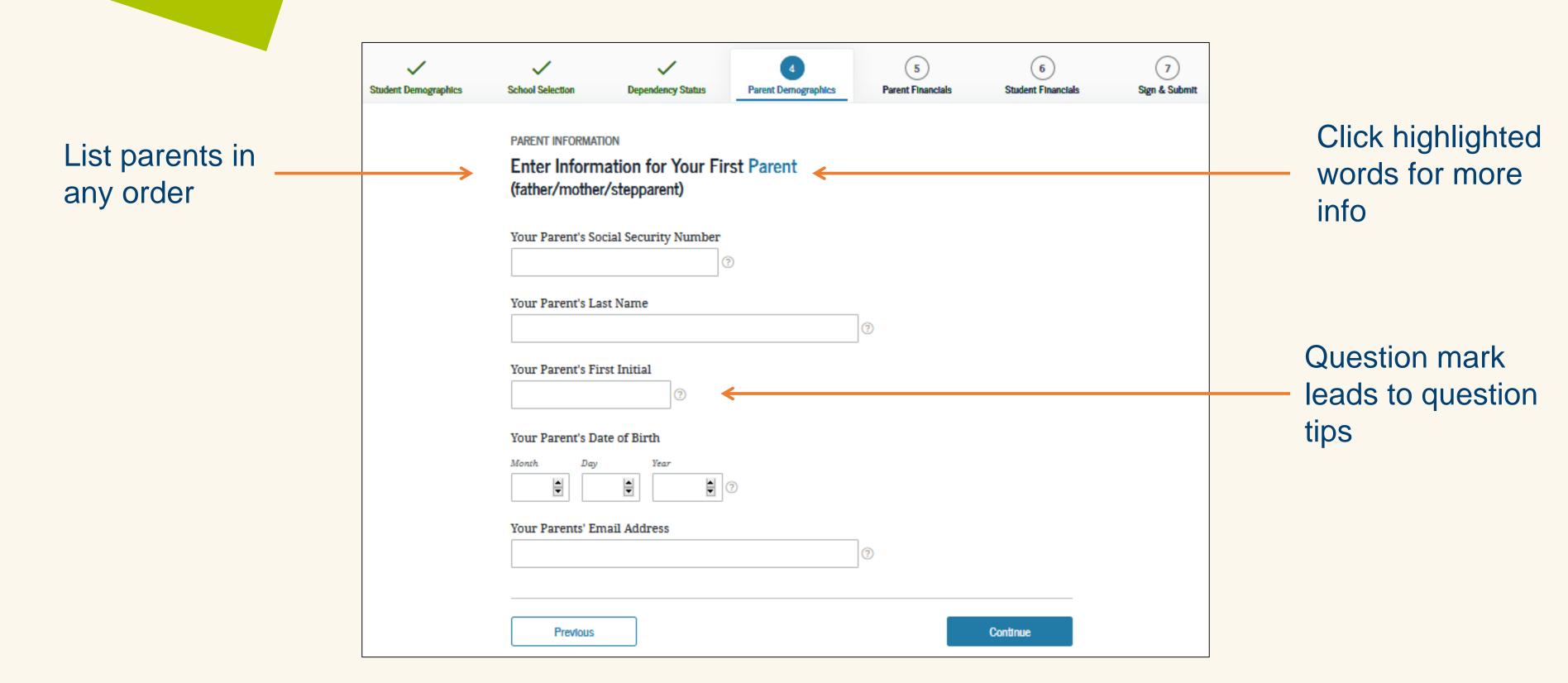
## Parent Marital Status Selection



### Who is Considered a Parent?

- Biological or adoptive parent(s), and certain step-parents
- Include both parents if parents are married or are not married but live together
- Married parents include same-sex couples
- If separated but living together, select "Married"
- In the case of divorce or separation, provide information only about the parent the student lived with more in the last 12 months, and step-parent if that parent is remarried

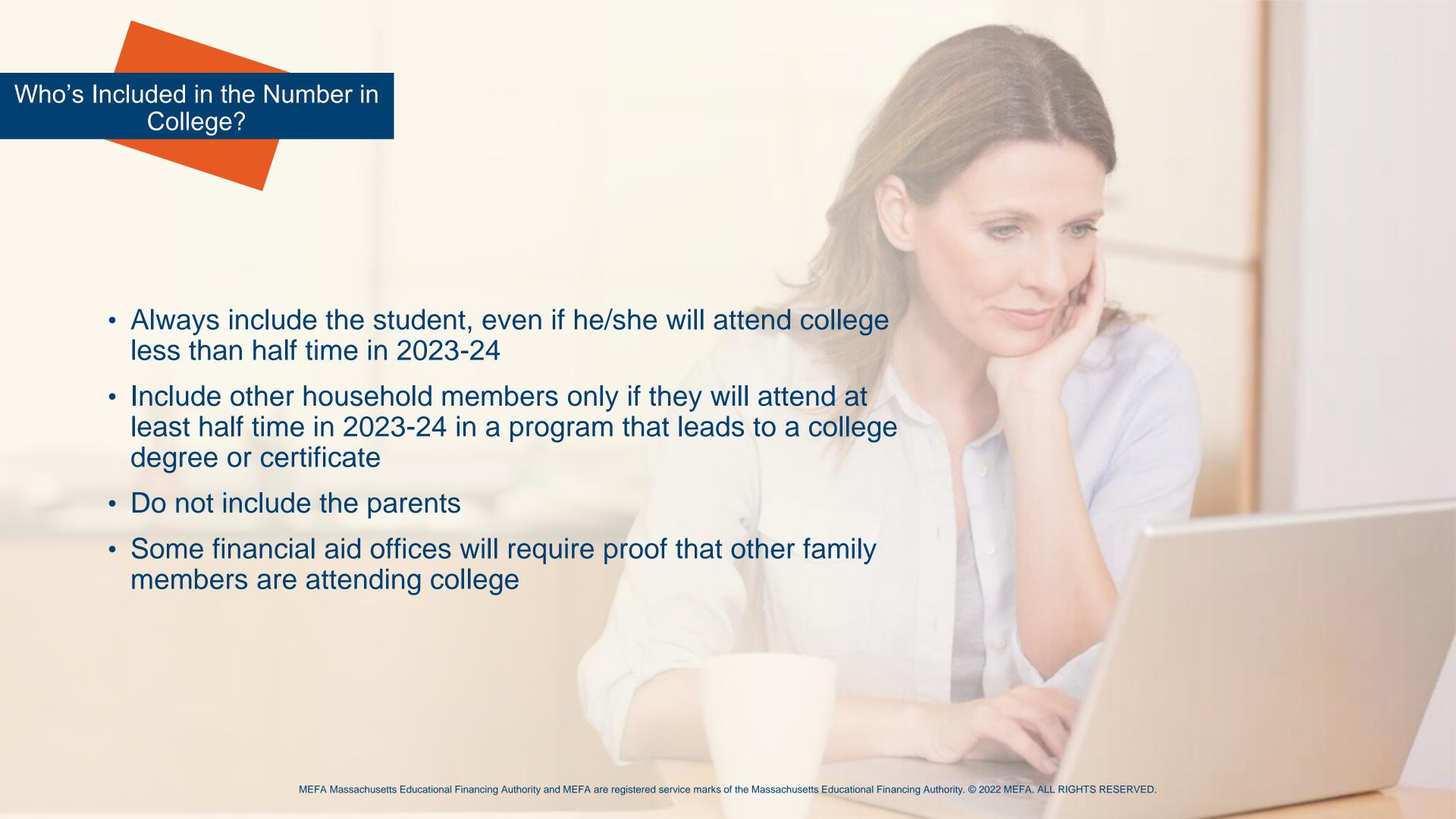
# Parent Demographics Information



## Parents' Dependents

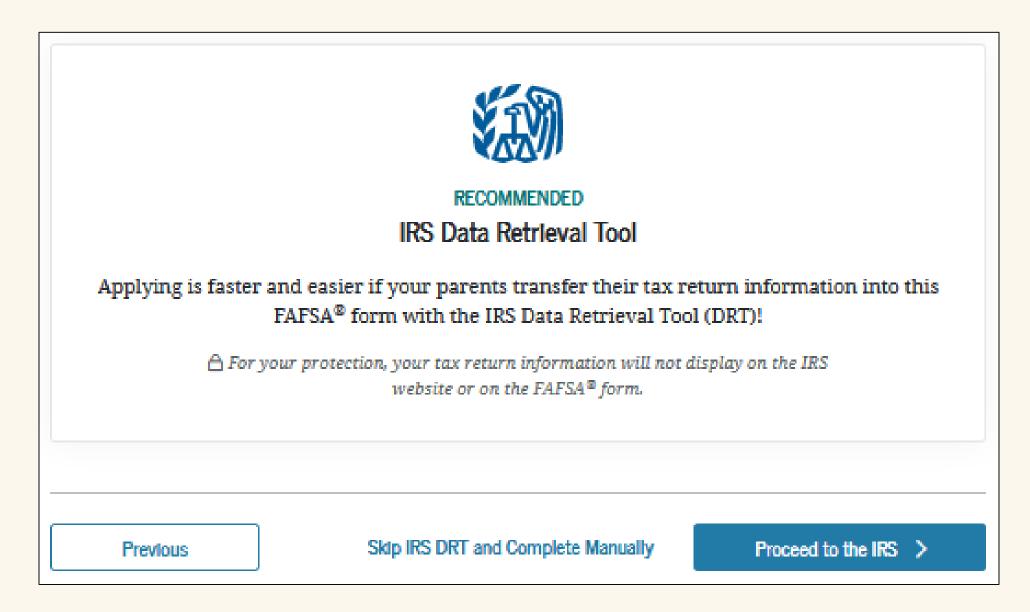
### FAFSA will ask for:

- Parents' other dependent children:
  - Will rely on parents for more than half of their financial support from 7/1/23 through 6/30/24
  - Are considered dependent for FAFSA purposes
- Parents' other dependents:
  - Live with student's parents
  - Receive more than half of their financial support from student's parents
  - Will rely on student's parents for more than half of their financial support from 7/1/23 through 6/30/24



### Parent Tax Return Information

- Provide information from the parent(s)' 2021 federal tax return
  - Completion status
  - Type of return
  - Filing status
- Option to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)



Will be asked to supply parent's FSA ID to access IRS DRT

#### IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Upload 2021 federal tax return data directly to the FAFSA
- Will not be able to view on screen the transferred information
- Will be asked if they had a rollover (and amount) if untaxed IRS distributions or untaxed pensions/annuities are present
- Those married filing jointly will need to input income earned from working
- Certain individuals cannot use the tool:
  - Married individuals who file married filing separately or head of household
  - Parents with the marital status of "Unmarried and both legal parents living together"
  - Any student or parent who filed a Puerto Rican tax return, foreign tax return, or an IRS Form 1040-NR

# Info to Enter If IRS DRT Not Used Adjusted Gross Income Amount earned from working Income tax from tax return Other income from tax return Questions from tax return will notate tax return line numbers MEFA Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority and MEFA are registered service marks of the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. © 2022 MEFA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

### Items Subtracted From Total Income on the FAFSA

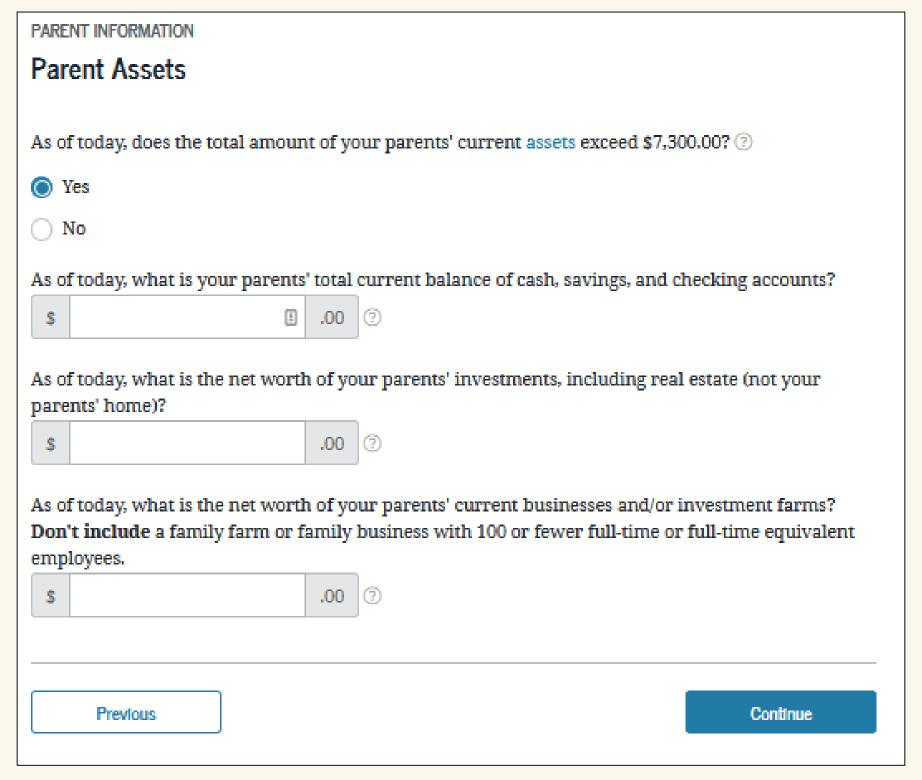
- Child support paid
- Earnings from a co-op
- Taxable earnings from work-study or fellowships/assistantships
- Combat pay
- Student grants/scholarships reported to the IRS in parent income
- Education credits such as the AOTC

### **Untaxed Income**

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans
- IRA deductions to SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh, & other qualified plans
- Child support received
- Tax-exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRS distributions
- Untaxed portions of pensions
- Housing & living allowances paid to military, clergy, and others
- Veterans non-education benefits (disability, death pension, or DIC)
- Other untaxed income such as workers compensation and disability

Questions will include line numbers from tax return when applicable

### Reporting Assets



### Parent Assets To Be Reported

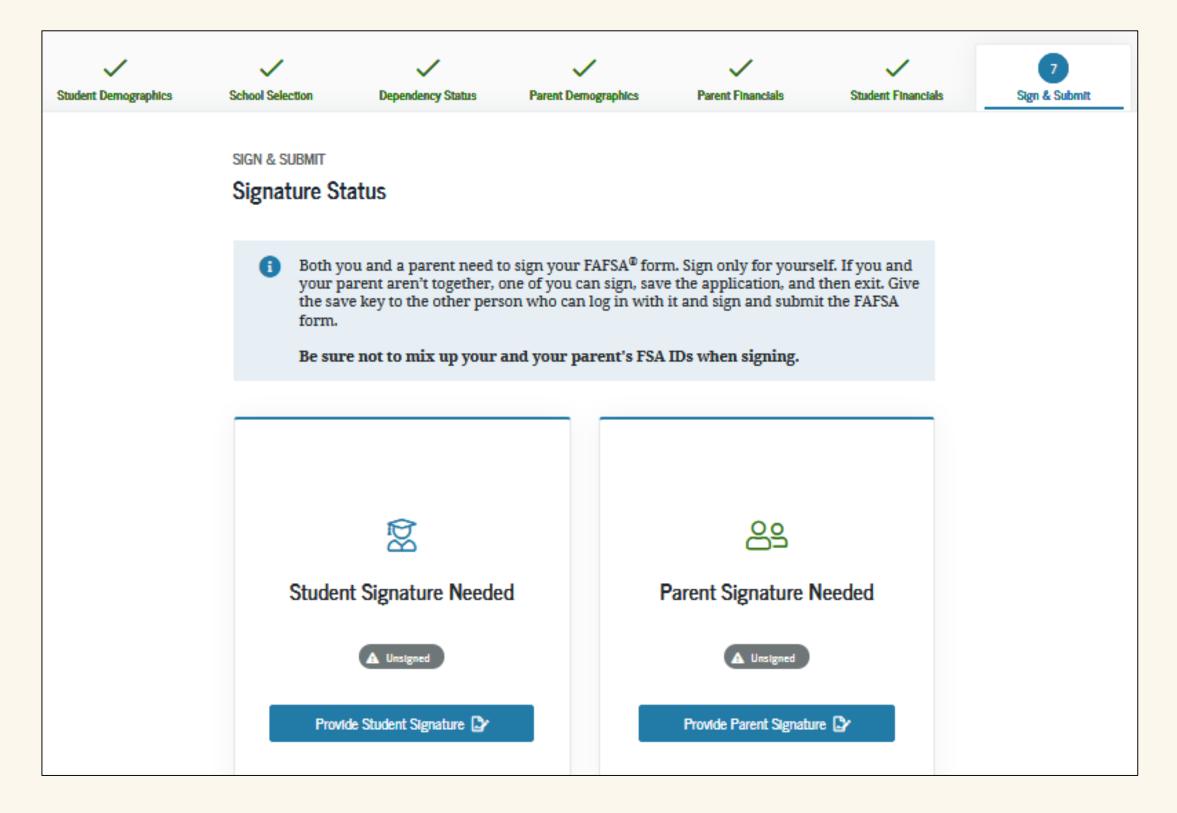
- Current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net value of investments
  - Real estate
  - Rental properties
  - Money market and mutual funds
  - Stocks & bonds
  - 529 college savings for <u>all</u> children (reported as a parent asset)
- Net value of some businesses and investment farms

Parents should **not** include their primary residence, life insurance, value of retirement accounts, and value of small family businesses or farms

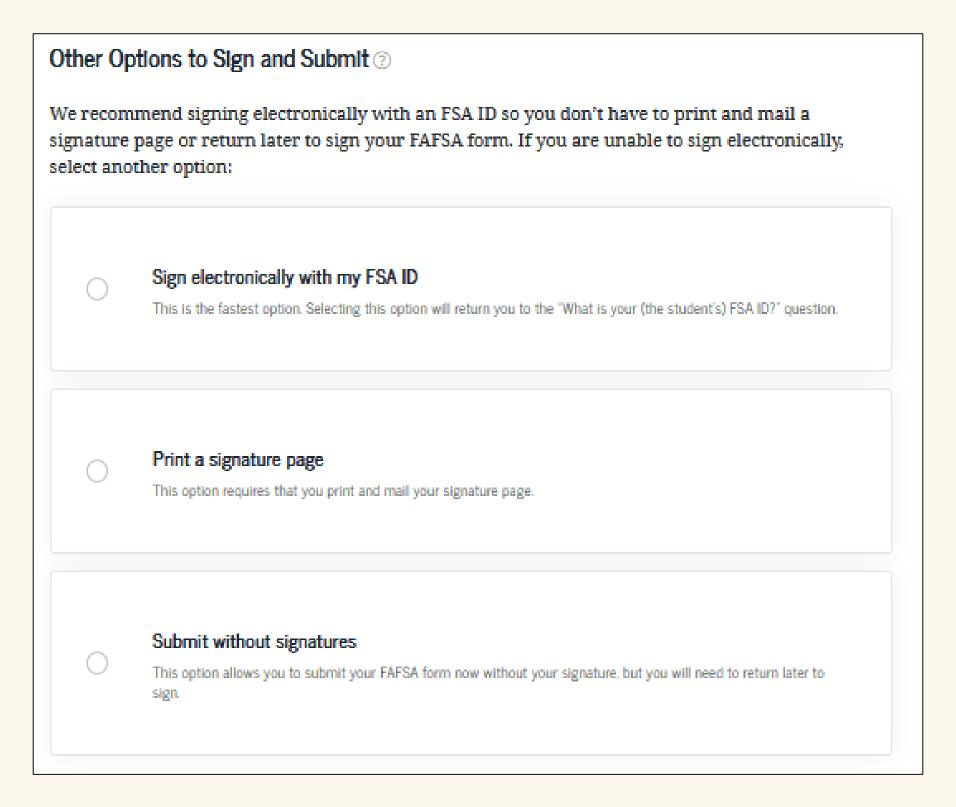


- Student will be asked same income and asset questions as parents
- Student should report all 2021 income even if he/she did not file taxes
- Student will be offered option to use IRS DRT if he/she filed taxes

### Sign & Submit



### Signature Options



### Confirmation Page

### Congratulations, Laura!

Your FAFSA form was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.

#### Here's what happens next

- In 7–10 business days, we will mail you a Student Aid Report (SAR) notifying you that your FAFSA form was processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- · If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

#### Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) =999999

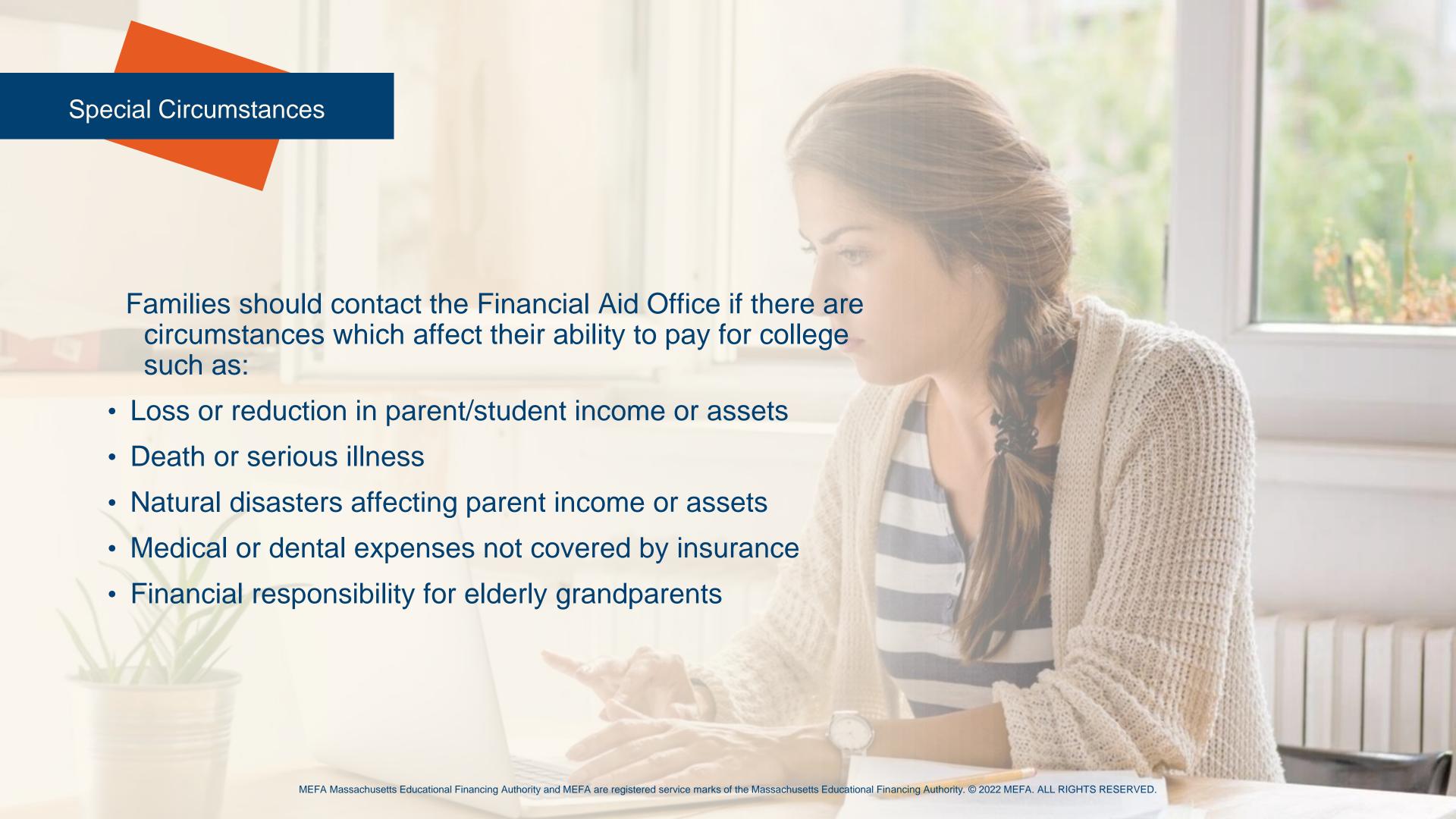


### Do you have another child who needs to complete a FAFSA?

If so, you can transfer your information into a new FAFSA form for your other child to save time. You will have to provide a signature again, but that's all.

Transfer FAFSA Information

Complete a FAFSA for another child





- Colleges and the state receive the data electronically
- Students will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) (electronically or by mail) in a few days
- Colleges may request additional documentation or information, such as tax data, through a process called Verification
- Colleges send out financial aid offers (typically Mar-April)

### National and Community Resources

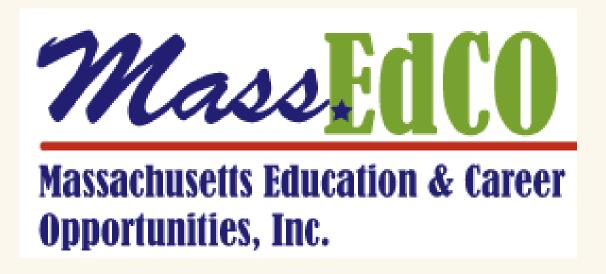
### **FAFSA Day**

- Free assistance completing the FAFSA
- Events Oct-Feb
- More information at <u>FAFSADay.org</u>



- Free financial aid help
- MassEdCO.org







- Register for upcoming MEFA Institute webinars and complete lessons to earn PDPs: mefa.org/mefa-institute
- Share MEFA resources with families
- Visit <u>mefa.org/counselors</u>
- Encourage families to:
  - Register for MEFA webinars at <u>mefa.org/events</u>
  - Get an FSA ID for the student and parent
  - Research financial aid deadlines and required applications
    - Schools may require applications in addition to the FAFSA
  - Complete the FAFSA and other financial aid applications

#### Connect with MEFA on Social Media







### **Thank You**

## QUESTIONS?

Call (800)-449-MEFA (6332) or email collegeplanning@mefa.org

