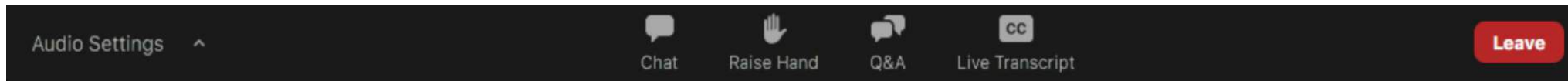


Understanding the FAFSA®



How to Participate



The *Audio Settings* allow you to control the volume levels

The *Chat* feature is disabled. To communicate with the host, please use the *Q&A* section

Have a question during the webinar? Type it in the *Q&A* section

Use the *Live Transcript* feature if you want to see closed captions

Click *Leave* to exit the webinar

About MEFA

State authority created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1982, helping families plan, save, and pay for college



About the FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- FREE form at fafsa.gov
- Required by all colleges/universities for federal & state (& some institutional) aid
- Must be completed each year (one for every child in college)
- May have other financial aid applications required

Completing the FAFSA

- Contributor: Anyone who needs to provide information
- Each contributor has a section to complete
- All income questions will pull answers from your federal tax return with your consent
- You must provide consent to pull your tax data for the student to receive federal financial aid
- Online skip logic removes questions not applicable
- Must answer all questions in order
- Tip: If an answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0
- Incomplete FAFSAs are deleted after 45 days; reminders are sent every 7 days

Items & Info Needed to Complete the FAFSA

Student and parent(s)

- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Current bank statements
- Current investment records

Certain families may need

- 2025 federal income tax return for student and/or parent

FAFSA Customer Service

Phone: (800) 4-Fed-Aid (433-3243)

Email Form: Located at </help-center/contact>

Chat: Located at </help-center/contact>

- (Chat option disappears if not available)

Hours:

- Monday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. ET
- Tuesday-Wednesday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET
- Thursday-Friday: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET
- Saturday & Sunday: Closed

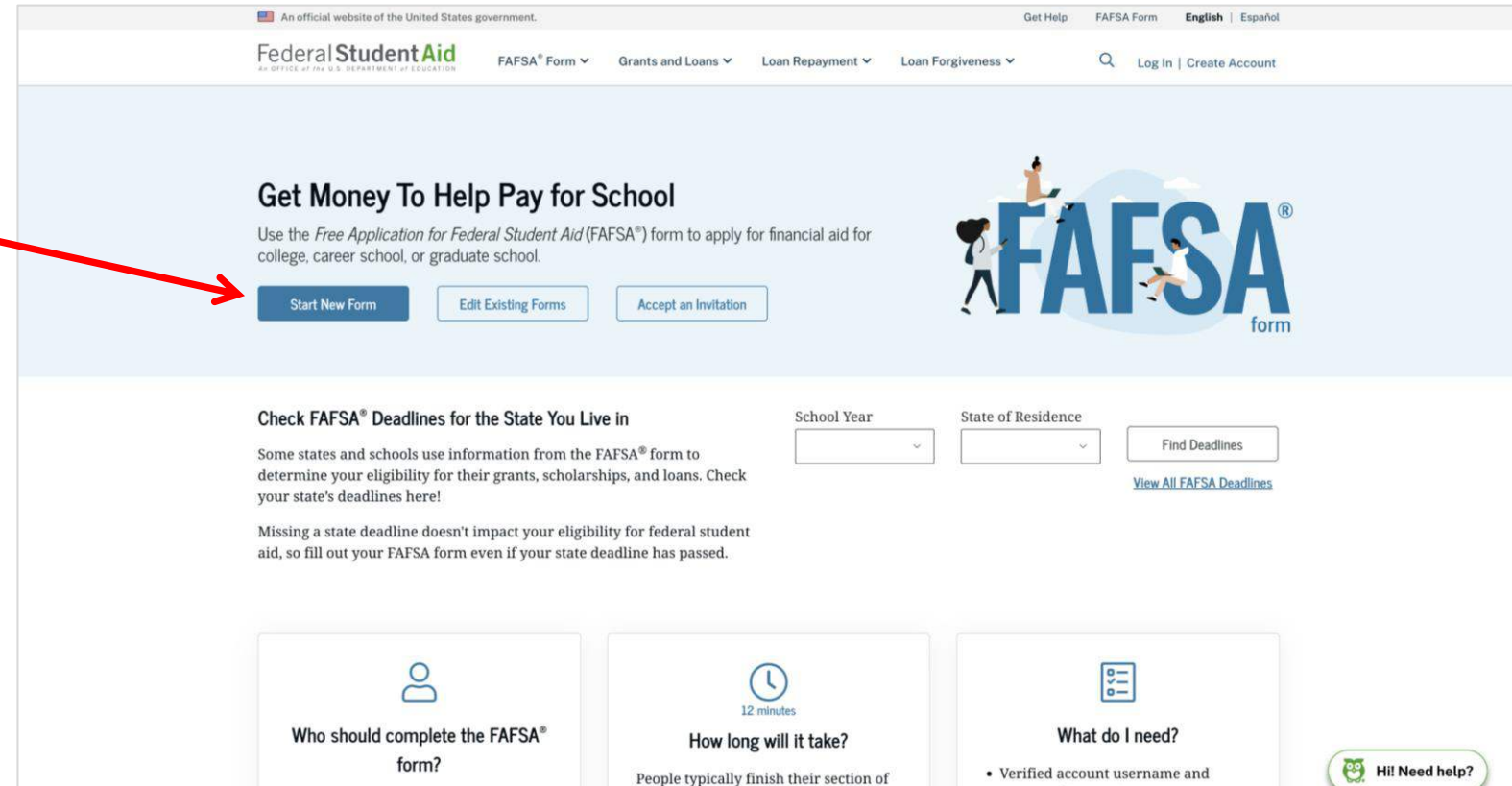
Get Help link at the top of each page leads to links for:

- Chat with Aidan, the FAFSA virtual assistant
- Help Center (Search, Help Topics, FAQs, Link to Contact Us page)
- Contact Us page
- Submitting feedback

FAFSA Homepage

FederalStudentAid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Choose *Start New Form*



The screenshot shows the FAFSA homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Get Help', 'FAFSA Form', 'English', and 'Español'. Below this, the 'FederalStudentAid' logo is displayed, along with a search bar and links for 'Log In' and 'Create Account'. The main heading is 'Get Money To Help Pay for School', followed by a description of the FAFSA form. Three buttons are visible: 'Start New Form' (highlighted with a red arrow), 'Edit Existing Forms', and 'Accept an Invitation'. To the right is the 'FAFSA form' logo. Below the main heading, there is a section for 'Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in' with dropdown menus for 'School Year' and 'State of Residence', and a 'Find Deadlines' button. At the bottom, there are three cards: 'Who should complete the FAFSA® form?', 'How long will it take?' (12 minutes), and 'What do I need?' (Verified account username and password). A 'Hi! Need help?' button is in the bottom right corner.

Select the School Year

Select the school year the student will attend college (e.g. if starting college in Fall 2027, select 2027-28)

An official website of the United States government. Get Help FAFSA Form English | Español

FederalStudentAid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾ Grants and Loans ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

Log In | Create Account

Which FAFSA® form do you need?

SCHOOL YEAR
2027-28

Typically for classes starting **on or after:**
July 1, 2027

Start

SCHOOL YEAR
2026-27

Typically for classes starting **before:**
July 1, 2027

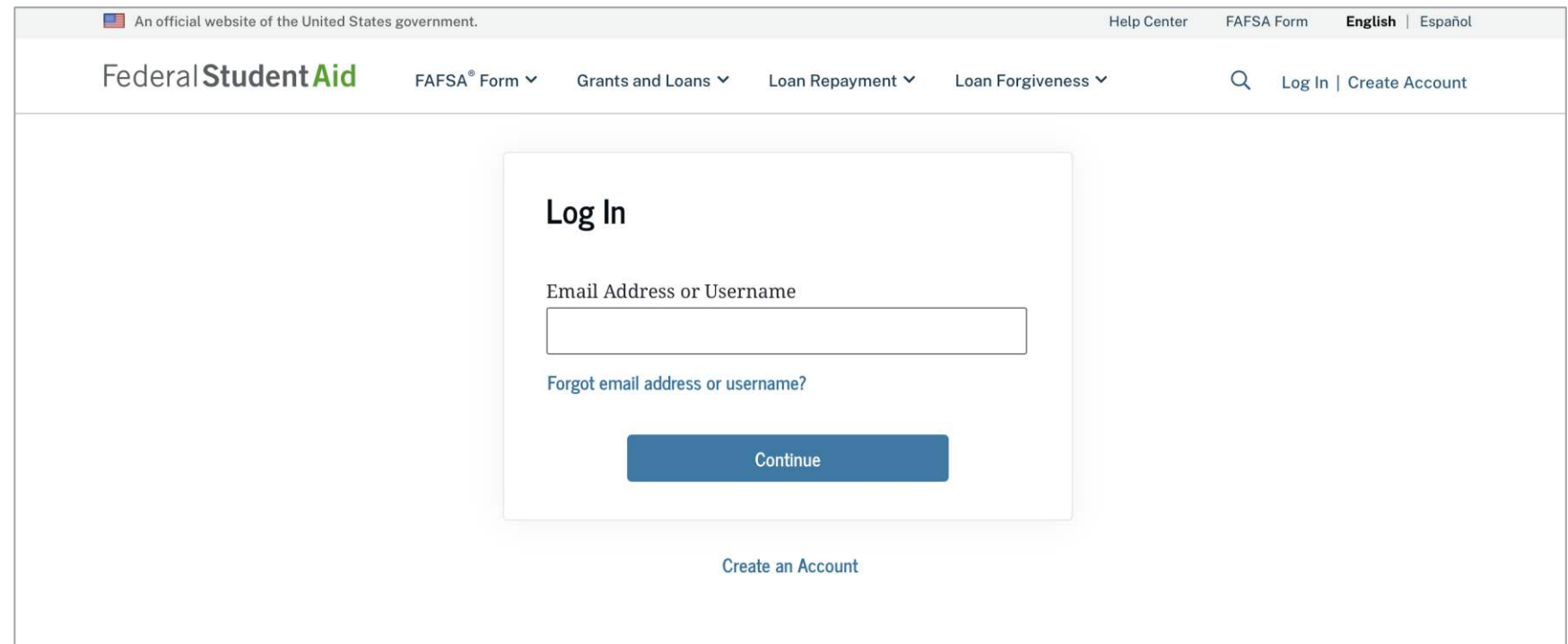
Start

Attending school during a summer session?

If you're starting classes during a summer session, contact your school to verify what school year you should pick to apply for federal student aid.

Login Page

- Must have an account to log in
- Select *Create an Account* to set up an account

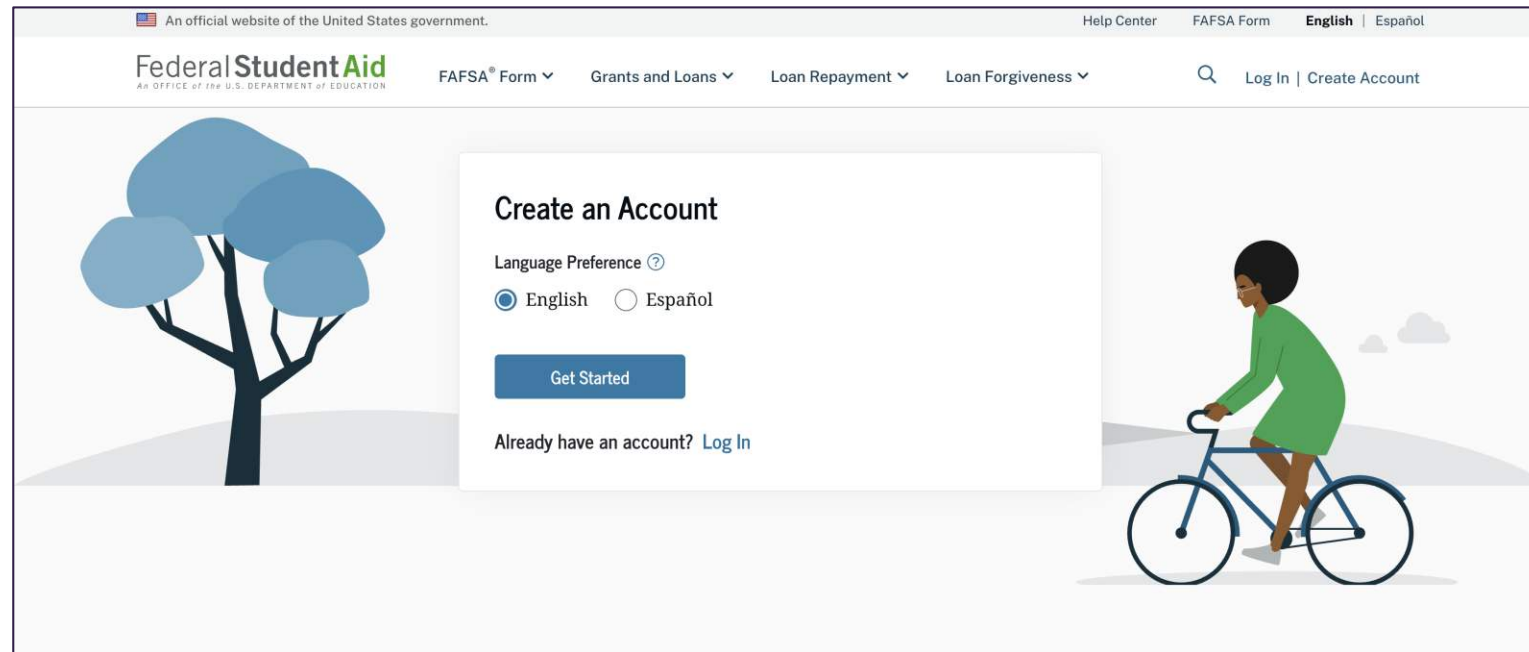


The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid login page. At the top, there is a header with the text "An official website of the United States government." and navigation links for "Help Center", "FAFSA Form", "English", and "Español". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with the "FederalStudentAid" logo and links for "FAFSA® Form", "Grants and Loans", "Loan Repayment", "Loan Forgiveness", a search icon, and "Log In | Create Account". The main content area features a "Log In" box with a label "Email Address or Username" above a text input field. Below the input field is a link "Forgot email address or username?". A blue "Continue" button is positioned below the link. At the bottom of the page, centered, is a link "Create an Account".

Account Creation

Who needs an account?

- Student
- Every parent listed on the FAFSA
 - If parents filed taxes jointly, only one parent needs one



Account Creation

Enter your:

- Email address
- Secure code sent to your email
- Name, date of birth, and SSN (Parents without an SSN will need to answer knowledge-based questions based on credit history)
- Phone number for account recovery/two-step verification (optional)
- Secure code sent to your phone
- Mailing address
- Username and password

You'll need to verify your identity via phone or email every time you log in

Log In

An official website of the United States government.

Help Center FAFSA Form English Español

FederalStudentAid FAFSA® Form Grants and Loans Loan Repayment Loan Forgiveness Log In | Create Account

Log In

Email Address or Username

[Forgot email address or username?](#)

Continue

[Create an Account](#)

An official website of the United States government.

Help Center FAFSA Form English Español

FederalStudentAid FAFSA® Form Grants and Loans Loan Repayment Loan Forgiveness Log In | Create Account

Log In

← bjones9008

Password

Show Password

[Forgot password?](#)

Log In

[Create an Account](#)

Role

- Choose student or parent role
- If you received an invitation code to complete the FAFSA, select *Enter Code*
- Federal Student Aid **strongly** recommends that the student start the FAFSA
- For this webinar, we will assume the student is starting the FAFSA

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 login interface. At the top left is the 'FAFSA FORM 2026-27' logo. The header features a blue banner with the text 'Welcome, Alex, to the FAFSA Form' flanked by illustrations of hot air balloons. Below the banner, a green line separates the header from the main content area. The main content area contains the text 'I am starting the FAFSA form as a' followed by two radio button options: 'Student' with a graduation cap icon and 'Parent' with a family icon. Below these options is the question 'Did you receive an invitation code?' with a blue 'Enter Code' link. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'.

Student Identity Info

- Review student info from the studentaid.gov account creation
- Any changes to info must be made under *Account Settings* on studentaid.gov

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George T. Gutierrez. The page title is "Student Identity Information". Below the title, it says "Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward." and provides a link: "Learn about how we use the information we collect on your FAFSA® form." The form fields are as follows:

Field	Value
Name	George T Gutierrez
Date of Birth	02/15/2006
Social Security Number	***-**-8270
Email Address	599888270test@testcod.edu
Mobile Phone Number	(555) 557-6231
Permanent Mailing Address	80000 Lane
City	San Antonio
State	TX
Zip Code	00000
Country	US

At the bottom right of the form is a "Continue" button.

State of Legal Residence

FAFSA® FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

Student State of Residence

State, Country, or Military Location

If the student is an out-of-state student, choose the state they live in when not in school.

If the student lives outside the U.S. and Canada, choose "Foreign Country (FC)."

If the student moved to a foreign country because they or a family member serves in the U.S. armed forces, type "Military." Then, pick the correct option from the list that displays.

Texas (TX) ⓘ

Date the Student Became a Resident of Texas (TX)

If the student has always lived in Texas (TX), enter their birth month and year. If not, enter the month and year they moved to Texas (TX). Enter an approximate date if you don't know the exact date.

Month Year ⓘ

01 2025

Previous Continue

Throughout the application, click the question mark icon for more details on answering each question

Providing Consent

- By providing consent, the contributor allows the FAFSA to pull federal tax data directly into the FAFSA from the IRS
- Every contributor **MUST** provide consent in order for the student to receive need-based federal aid
- Select *Approve* to provide consent

FAFSA® FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Provide Consent and Approval or You Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid ①

Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- Get your 2025 tax return information for the 2027-28 FAFSA form.
- Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of:

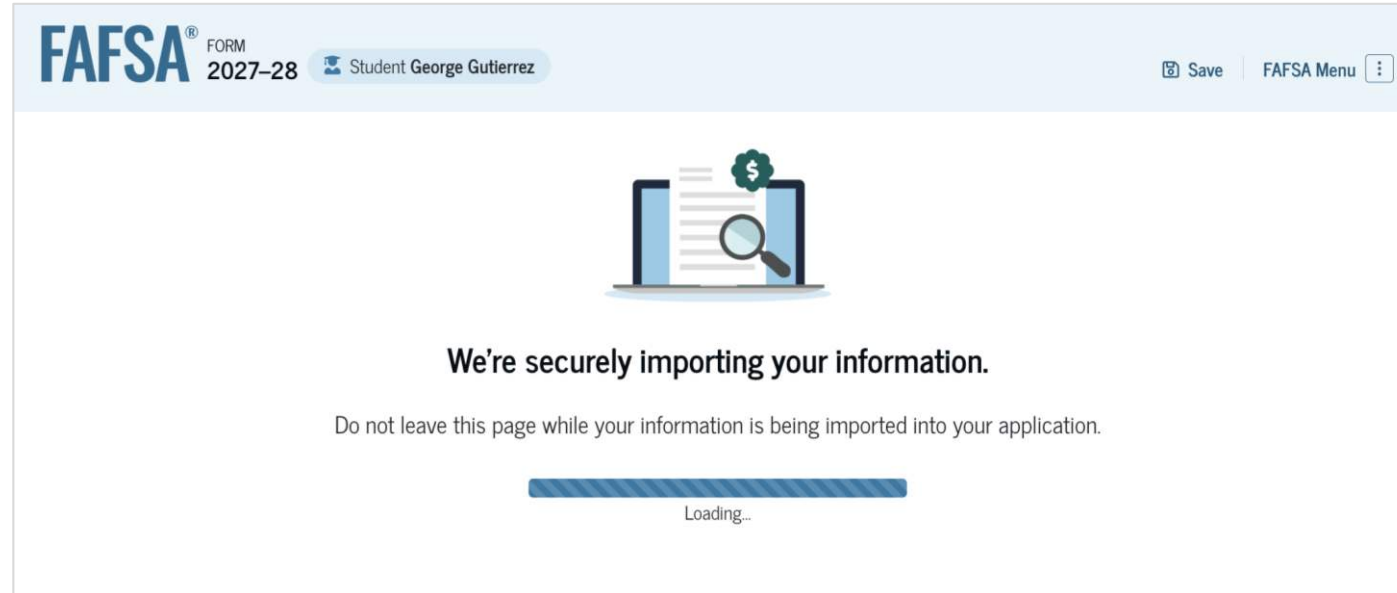
- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information to determine my eligibility for federal student aid.

IRS Importing Tax Data

A screen will show when IRS information is being imported to the FAFSA



No Tax Data Found

Non-tax filers will receive a (correct) message that no IRS tax data was found

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save



We're securely importing your information.

**Sorry, data could not be retrieved. Select "Continue" to proceed.**
We were unable to retrieve your financial information from the IRS, so you'll need to enter it yourself in the Finances section.

Previous Continue

Student Background

Questions to determine if student is:

- dependent (needs to report parent information on the FAFSA)

OR

- independent (does not need parent data)

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. At the top, a progress bar indicates six steps: 1. Background (active), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The 'Background' section is titled and contains a text box stating: 'We'll ask you questions that help us determine your eligibility for federal student aid. This information can affect the types of federal student aid you're eligible to receive.' Below this, a green arrow points to a note: 'Sometimes we need to collect information from other people depending on answers in this section. We'll let you know if this is the case.' At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons. An illustration of three students walking is on the right side of the section.

Marital Status

- Married students are independent
- Separated students are not considered independent

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George Gutierrez. The form is titled "Student Current Marital Status" and includes a progress bar at the top with six steps: 1. Background, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The "Single (never married)" option is selected with a radio button. Other options include "Married (not separated)", "Remarried", "Separated", "Divorced", and "Widowed". At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

1 Background 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Review & Sign

Student Current Marital Status ⓘ

☒ Single (never married)

☐ Married (not separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

Previous Continue

College Plans

- Entering college students should select *First Year (freshman)*
- Students should make sure to select *No* when asked if they have a bachelor's degree
- Grad students are independent

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. At the top, a progress bar indicates six steps: 1. Background, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The current step is 'Student School Year'. The question asks, 'What year will the student be in college when they start their classes for the 2027-28 school year?'. There are four radio button options: 'First (freshman)' (selected), 'Second (sophomore)', 'Third or higher (junior and up)', and 'Graduate-level (such as a master's or doctorate)'. Below this, another question asks, 'Will the student already have a bachelor's degree when they start their college classes for the 2027-28 school year?'. There are two radio button options: 'Yes' and 'No' (selected). At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Other Personal Circumstances

- Other factors that qualify a student as independent:
 - Older than 23
 - Has dependents who receive support
 - Active-duty military or Veteran
 - If since turned 13: orphan, foster care, or ward of the court
 - Emancipated minor
 - In legal guardianship

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George Gutierrez. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Background, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The current section is 'Student Personal Circumstances'. Below the section title, it says 'Select all that apply or "None of these apply."'. There are eight checkboxes with corresponding text and help icons (i):

- ☐ The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.
- ☐ The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.
- ☐ The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028.
- ☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).
- ☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.
- ☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.
- ☐ The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- ☐ The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

The 'None of these apply.' checkbox is selected. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Question on Homelessness

- Students who are homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless are independent

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. A progress bar at the top indicates six steps: 1. Background, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The current step is 'Student Homelessness'. The question asks: 'At any point in 2026 or after, has the student faced one of these situations?'. There are three radio button options: 'They didn't live with a parent or guardian, and they were homeless.', 'They didn't live with a parent or guardian, were supporting themselves, and were at risk of becoming homeless.', and 'They didn't face either of these situations.' The third option is selected. At the bottom are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

1 Background 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Review & Sign

Student Homelessness

At any point in 2026 or after, has the student faced one of these situations? ⓘ

☐ They didn't live with a parent or guardian, and they were homeless.

☐ They didn't live with a parent or guardian, were supporting themselves, and were at risk of becoming homeless.

☒ They didn't face either of these situations.

Previous Continue

Unusual Circumstances

- The student is asked if unusual circumstances prevent them from contacting their parent(s).
- Answering yes will allow them to submit the FAFSA without parent information as a Provisional Independent Student
- Colleges will follow up if they require more information or documentation

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step is 1, 'Background', with other steps including Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Invite, and Review & Sign. The section title is 'Student Unusual Circumstances'. A green box contains the text: 'This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school.' Below this, a question is posed: 'Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?'. A list of circumstances is provided: left home due to an abusive or threatening environment; are abandoned by or estranged from their parents; have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country; are a victim of human trafficking; are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents. A note states that if the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless. At the bottom, there are two radio button options: 'Yes' (unselected) and 'No' (selected). 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons are located at the bottom of the form.

Dependency Status

- Student will be told if considered a dependent student
- Option to apply for Federal Unsubsidized Loan only if parents are unwilling to provide information
 - If the student selects *Yes*, a pop-up appears to warn them about missing out on other potential federal student aid

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027–28 Student George Gutierrez Save

1 Background 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Review & Sign

Your Dependency Status



Dependent Student

Based on your answers, you're a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA[®] form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents refusing to provide their information on this FAFSA[®] form? ⓘ

This response must be "No" for the student to be considered for Federal Pell Grant eligibility and most other types of federal student aid.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Previous Continue

Student Demographics: Student's Sex

- Does not affect aid eligibility
- Is not shared with colleges

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. The progress bar indicates the following steps: 1. Background (completed), 2. Demographics (current step), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The 'Student Demographic Information' section contains a green box with the text: 'Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility. Your answers will not: • affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid, • be used in any aid calculations, or • be shared with the schools to which the student applies.' Below this, the question 'What is the student's sex?' is displayed with two radio button options: 'Male' (selected) and 'Female'. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Student Race and Ethnicity

- Does not affect aid eligibility
- Is not shared with colleges

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Background (completed), 2. Demographics (current step), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Review & Sign. The 'Student Race and Ethnicity' section is titled with a help icon. A green box contains the text: 'Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility. Your answers will not: • affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid, • be used in any aid calculations, or • be shared with the schools to which the student applies.' Below this, the question 'What is the student's race and/or ethnicity?' is followed by the instruction 'Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.' There are eight checkboxes with corresponding labels: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White, and Prefer not to answer. At the bottom of the form are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Student Citizenship Status

Who is eligible for federal student 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, and the Republic of Palau

Citizenship status will be verified by:

- The Social Security Administration (citizens)
- The Department of Homeland Security (eligible non-citizens)

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. At the top, a progress bar indicates the current step is 'Demographics' (step 2), with previous steps being 'Background' (step 1) and subsequent steps being 'Financials' (step 3), 'Colleges' (step 4), 'Contributor Invite' (step 5), and 'Review & Sign' (step 6). The main heading is 'Student Citizenship Status'. Below this, there are three radio button options: 'U.S. citizen or national' (which is selected), 'Eligible noncitizen', and 'Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen'. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Parent Education Status

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027–28 Student George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

1 Background

2 Demographics

3 Financials

4 Colleges

5 Contributor Invite

6 Review & Sign

Parent Education Status

Did either of the student's parents attend college or complete college? ⓘ

☐ Neither parent attended college

☐ One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college

☒ One or both parents completed college

☐ Don't know

Previous

Continue

Parent Killed in Line of Duty

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027–28  Student George Gutierrez  Save | FAFSA Menu 

✓

2

3

4

5

6

BackgroundDemographicsFinancialsCollegesContributor InviteReview & Sign

Parent Killed in Line of Duty

Was the student's parent or guardian killed in the line of duty while either (1) serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed forces on or after the events of 9/11, or (2) performing official duties as a public safety officer? ⓘ

Public safety officers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service workers.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous

Continue

Student High School Completion Status

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027–28 Student George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

123456

BackgroundDemographicsFinancialsCollegesContributor InviteReview & Sign

Student High School Completion Status

Will the student be done with high school when they start their college classes for the 2027–28 school year? ⓘ

If the student completed high school outside of the U.S., select "Yes (high school diploma)."

☒ Yes (high school diploma)

☐ Yes (GED or other state-recognized high school equivalent)

☐ Yes (homeschooling under state law)

☐ No, none of the above

PreviousContinue

Student High School Information

- Students who select *High school diploma* will need to report their high school
- The student enters the school's city and state and selects the school from the search results

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. The progress bar indicates the user is on step 2, Demographics. The section is titled "Student High School Information" and asks, "From what high school did or will the student graduate?". Below this is a search box titled "Search for The Student's High School". It includes a link for "Attend a School outside of the US? Manually Add Foreign School". The "State" dropdown is set to "Texas (TX)". A list of search results is shown, with "East Central H S" and "East Central Cast Lead H S" visible. The "East Central" entry is selected, and a "Search" button is at the bottom.

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Background Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Review & Sign

Student High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate? ⓘ

Search for The Student's High School

Attend a School outside of the US? [Manually Add Foreign School](#)

State

Texas (TX)

East Central H S

East Central Cast Lead H S

East Central

Search

Student Tax Filing Status

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027–28 Student George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

Background Demographics **Financials** Colleges Contributor Invite Review & Sign

Student Tax Filing Status

Did the student file a U.S. federal income tax return for 2025 (or will they)? ⓘ
The federal income tax form is called IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Did the student file a 2025 income tax return in Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory (or will they)? ⓘ

☐ Yes ☒ No

Previous Continue

Student Tax Return Information

- Questions about the 2025 federal tax return
- Rollovers or any grant, scholarship, or AmeriCorps benefit reported as income to IRS
- Any foreign earned income exclusion
- Most other tax return data will be pulled in automatically

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. A progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: Background (checked), Demographics (checked), Financials (active), Colleges (4), Contributor Invite (5), and Review & Sign (6). The current section is titled "Student 2025 Tax Return Information". A green box contains the instruction: "Refer to the student's 2025 tax return to answer the following questions. If the answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0." Below this is a link: "Where to find this information on the tax form". The "Filing Status" section has five radio button options: Single (selected), Head of household, Married filing jointly, Married filing separately, and Qualifying surviving spouse.

Student Assets

- Current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net value of any investments

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Background Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Review & Sign

Student Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student aid retirement accounts, or investments.

\$ 100 .00 ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include retirement accounts or the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$ 0 .00 ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms

Enter the net worth of the student's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$ 0 .00 ⓘ

Previous Continue

Select Colleges

- Select up to 20 schools
- Search by entering a state, city, and/or school name

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Background Demographics Financials **Colleges** Contributor Invite Review & Sign

Where should we send the FAFSA[®] information?
You can add more schools after submitting your form.

0 out of 20 schools selected View Selected Schools

Search by School Name or Code Search by Location

School Name or Code

Selected Colleges

Student can re-order schools if school's state requires it be higher on the list

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Background Demographics Financials **Colleges** Contributor Invite Review & Sign

Selected Colleges and Career Schools

These are the colleges and career schools that you've selected to receive the FAFSA[®] form.

Review this list of schools and confirm your selection(s).

School List Guidelines for Texas Residents

To be eligible for state grant aid in Texas, you must list an eligible in-state college. The order of schools in your college list will not impact your eligibility for state aid programs.

1 out of 20 schools selected

Showing 1 of 1

University of Texas-austin Austin, Texas (TX)	Federal School Code 003658	Remove	View Information
---	-------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------------

[Search and Select More Schools](#)

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Student Invites Parent(s) to the FAFSA

- Student enters email address of parent (called the contributor) to send them an invite to the FAFSA
- Parent email address does not have to match parent's account email address
- Student can click *Who should I invite as a parent on the FAFSA Form?* for assistance determining who to invite to the FAFSA

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 interface for Student George Gutierrez. A progress bar at the top indicates the current step is 'Contributor Invite' (step 5), with previous steps (Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges) completed and the next step (Review & Sign) pending. The main heading is 'Invite One Parent to This FAFSA® Form'. Below this, a green box contains the text: 'You'll need to invite one parent only because we need more information about your household financial situation to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.' A blue italicized note follows: 'As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.' Below this is a blue link: 'Who should I invite as a parent on the FAFSA form?'. A modal window titled 'Parent' and 'Invite a Parent Contributor' is open, showing an 'Email' input field with the text '599888214test@testcod.edu' and a 'Send Invite' button. At the bottom of the page are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

What Parents Are on the FAFSA?

- Biological or adoptive parent(s)
- 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/separation, use the parent that provided more financial support in the last 12 months, and the step-parent if that parent is remarried
 - If financial support was equal, select the parent with the higher income and assets
 - If no financial support was given to the student in the past 12 months, select the parent who provided the most support in the year when the student last received support from a parent

Student Invites Parents to the FAFSA

- Students sees confirmation that parent will receive an invitation to their FAFSA
- Parent can access the FAFSA by accepting the email invitation
- On this page, student can also copy the invitation link and code to share directly with the parent

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Background Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Review & Sign

Parent Contributor

Once your parent accepts the invitation, they can complete the parent section of this FAFSA form.

You can check the status of contributor invitations from the "My Activity" page.

Parent

599888214test@testcod.edu

Invite Sent

Other ways to send the Invite ^

Copy and Send the Invite Link ⓘ

www.fafsa.gov/invite/8MHN9QV Copy Link

You can also have your parent go to www.fafsa.gov/invite and enter code:

8MHN9QV

Cancel Invite

Student Review Page

- Can expand all or expand each section
- To edit a response, select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page
- Data transferred from the IRS will not display on this page

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 Student Review Page for George Gutierrez. At the top, a progress bar indicates the following steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Invite, and Review & Sign (the current step). Below the progress bar, the heading "Review and Sign Your Section" is followed by a note: "If you need to change any of your responses, select the question to return to that page. Otherwise, sign and finish your section." Below this, a "Scroll To Continue" instruction states: "After reviewing your answers, scroll to the bottom of the page and select 'Continue.' Then, sign your section of the FAFSA form." The "Student Sections Updated" section lists five sections, each with a green checkmark and a circular arrow icon for expansion: Introduction Personal Identifiers, Section 1 Background, Section 2 Demographics, Section 3 Financials, and Section 4 Colleges. Below this is the "Contributor Section" which states "This Section is Shared with 1 Contributor(s)" and includes a link to "Manage Contributor Information". A table lists the contributor: 599888214test@testcod.edu, Parent, with invite code BMHVNQV and a status of "Invite Sent". At the bottom, there is a "Terms and Conditions" link.

Contributor(s)	Role	Invite Code	Status
599888214test@testcod.edu	Parent	BMHVNQV	Invite Sent

Student Signature

- Student agrees to terms and conditions and can submit the student section
- The FAFSA is not considered complete nor processed until all sections are sent

Terms and Conditions

Confirm that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out your section of the form accurately to the best of your ability.

[View Terms & Conditions](#) ⚠ Not Viewed

Sign and Submit Your FAFSA® Form ⓘ

☐ I, George Gutierrez, agree to the terms outlined above.

The Form Isn't Ready To Submit

One or more contributors still need to complete their section. After the other contributor(s) complete their section, they can submit the form.

- Finish your section now.
- Reach out to the other contributor(s) and ask them to complete their section and submit the form.

[Previous](#) [Finish Student Section](#)

Student Section Complete

- Reminds student all contributors must complete and sign their sections
- Lists next steps and how to track FAFSA status
- Shows status of contributors' sections

FAFSA® FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez Save

Student Section Parent Section

Pending Submission
Check With Your Contributor

Parent Contributors

Requirements for Dependent Students
Your FAFSA® form is not complete until your parent(s) fill in the contributor section of the form and sign it. Once completed, your FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.

Contributor(s)	Role	Invite Code	Status
599888214test@testcod.edu	Parent	8MHN9QV	Invite Sent

[Manage Invitations](#)

Track and Manage Your FAFSA® Form and Contributors
Your application has been added to the "My Activity" page in your StudentAid.gov account. Visit this page to keep track of your FAFSA status; review, edit, or delete information on your form; and monitor the status of your contributor(s).

[View Status](#)

Here's What You Can Do Next

- Check Your Email**
You'll receive an email version of this page at the following email address:
599888270test@testcod.edu.
- Your FAFSA® Form Still Needs Contributor Information**
The contributor(s) you selected will receive an email invitation to join your form.

Things You Should Know

View Your FAFSA® Submission Summary

Once your application is complete and submitted, you can view your FAFSA Submission Summary, a summary of the information you provided on your FAFSA form. You'll be able to access the FAFSA Submission Summary after your form is processed. Most FAFSA forms are processed immediately, but some take one to three days.

Questions About The FAFSA® Process?

Visit the "FAFSA Help" page for more information.

[Get Help](#)

Parent Invitation

- Parent will get email invitation to do FAFSA
- Parent clicks *Accept My Invite*
- Text stresses completing the FAFSA does not make the parent financially responsible
- Parent *can* start the FAFSA before the student; will review that process at the end

The screenshot shows an email invitation from Federal Student Aid. The header is dark blue with the text 'Federal Student Aid' and 'George's FAFSA® Form Is Almost Done'. The main body is white with a light blue wave graphic. It starts with 'Hello,' followed by a paragraph explaining that George needs the parent to finish their 'Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)' form, noting that most people take 8 minutes or less. Below this is a blue button labeled 'Accept My Invite'. Another paragraph explains that tax information can be transferred from the IRS. A third paragraph clarifies that adding information doesn't mean the parent is responsible for school costs. A fourth paragraph states that to accept the invite, the parent needs a StudentAid.gov account and an invite code. The code '8MHN9QV' is displayed in a large, bold, black font inside a light blue box. At the bottom, a light blue box contains a note: 'If you must do this later, set a date for starting your section. George can't access federal student aid until you do.'

Federal Student Aid

George's FAFSA® Form Is Almost Done

Hello,

George needs you to finish their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form. Most people take 8 minutes or less to fill out their section of a student's FAFSA form.

[Accept My Invite](#)

We can transfer tax information for most people directly from the IRS into the form.

Adding your information doesn't mean you're responsible for George's school costs. Your responses just let us determine what aid George could qualify for.

To accept your invite, you'll need a StudentAid.gov account. If prompted, enter your **invite code**:

8MHN9QV

1 If you must do this later, set a date for starting your section. George can't access federal student aid until you do.

Parent Invitation Page

- Parent should click *Login to Accept Invite*

[← FAFSA Home Page](#)

Accept FAFSA® Invitation

Login to your account and enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

[Login to Accept Invite](#)

How long will my section take?

8 min

Need to accept an invitation for a different year?

Go to "[My Activity](#)" to find any existing invitations for a previous year's FAFSA form.

Why do we need your information?

We need your information to determine if the student qualifies for federal grants, work-study jobs, and/or loans. This doesn't make you responsible for the student's school costs.

Don't have an invitation code?

Speak with the person who invited you to the form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your invitation code.

Parent Login Page

- Parent enters account username and password
- If parent does not yet have an account, parent should click *Create an Account*

The image displays two sequential screenshots of the Federal Student Aid Parent Login page. The top screenshot shows the initial login screen with the heading "Log In". Below the heading is a text input field labeled "Email Address or Username" containing the text "599888270test". To the right of the input field is a small icon with three dots. Below the input field is a link that says "Forgot email address or username?". At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Continue". Below the form is a link that says "Create an Account". The bottom screenshot shows the same login screen but with the "Email Address or Username" field now displaying a back arrow and the text "599888270test". Below this field is a text input field labeled "Password" containing several dots. To the right of the password field is a small icon with three dots and a link that says "Show Password". Below the password field is a link that says "Forgot password?". At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled "Log In". Below the form is a link that says "Create an Account".

Parent Accepts Invitation

- Invitation code from parent's email will fill the text box if parent used link from email
- If parent no longer has the email invitation or code, the student can log in and retrieve the code

[← FAFSA Home Page](#)

Accept FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

How long will my section take?
⌚ 8 min

Need to accept an invitation for a different year?

Go to ["My Activity"](#) to find any existing invitations for a previous year's FAFSA form.

Why do we need your information?

We need your information to determine if the student qualifies for federal grants, work-study jobs, and/or loans. This doesn't make you responsible for the student's school costs.

Don't have an invitation code?

Speak with the person who invited you to the form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your invitation code.

Parent Identity Information

- Parent info from the studentaid.gov account will appear for review
- Any changes to info must be made under *Account Settings* on studentaid.gov

FAFSA[®] FORM
2027–28

Parent of George Gutierrez

Parent Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

[Learn about how we use the information we collect on the FAFSA[®] form.](#)

Name

Ben Z Gutierrez

Date of Birth

03/14/2004

Social Security Number

•••••-8223

Email Address

599888223test@testcod.edu

Mobile Phone Number

(555) 557-6184

To update this information for all U.S. Department of Education communications, go to [Account Settings](#).

Parent Provides Consent

- By providing consent, the parent allows the FAFSA to pull federal tax data directly into the FAFSA from the IRS
- Every contributor **MUST** provide consent in order for the student to receive need-based federal aid
- Select *Approve* to provide consent

FAFSA® FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Save

i **Consent and Approval Will Be Applied To All FAFSA Applications**
By providing consent and approval, you approve the use and disclosure of 2025 federal tax information to the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of completing this and all other 2027-28 FAFSA® forms.

Provide Consent and Approval or the Student Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid ①

Summary
Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

→ Get your 2025 tax return information for the 2027-28 FAFSA form. → Federal tax information is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, as described below, and further affirmatively approve of the receipt and use of my federal tax information and to the U.S. Department of Education (ED)'s redisclosure of my federal tax information, as described below. By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)] for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal

IRS Importing Tax Data

A screen will show when IRS information is being imported to the FAFSA

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28  Parent of George Gutierrez  Save | FAFSA Menu



We're securely importing your information.

Do not leave this page while your information is being imported into your application.

Loading...

Parent Marital Status

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Save

1 Demographics 2 Financials 3 Signature

Parent Current Marital Status ⓘ

☐ Single (never married)

☐ Unmarried and both legal parents living together

☒ Married (not separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

Previous Continue

Parent State of Residence

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

1

Demographics

2

Financials

3

Review & Sign

Parent State of Residence

State, Country, or Military Location

If the parent lives outside the U.S. and Canada, choose "Foreign Country (FC)."

If the parent moved to a foreign country because they or their spouse serves in the U.S. armed forces, type "Military." Then, pick the correct option from the list that displays.

Texas (TX) ⓘ

Date the Parent Became a Resident of Texas (TX)

If the parent has always lived in Texas (TX), enter their birth month and year. If not, enter the month and year they moved to Texas (TX). Enter an approximate date if you don't know the exact date.

Month

Year

01

2005

ⓘ

Previous

Continue

Parent Federal Benefits Received

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

1 Demographics 2 Financials 3 Review & Sign

Federal Benefits Received

Responses Won't Reduce Federal Student Aid Eligibility
Answering these questions won't reduce the student's eligibility for federal student aid or these programs.

In 2025 or 2026, did the parent, or anyone in their family, get benefits from any of the federal programs listed below? ⓘ
A parent's family includes their spouse, children, and other dependents. Select all programs that apply.

- ☐ Medicaid ⓘ
- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ⓘ
- ☐ Free or Reduced Price School Lunch (based on income) ⓘ
- ☐ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) ⓘ
- ☐ Lower Premiums for a Plan Purchased Through the Health Insurance Marketplace ⓘ
- ☐ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) ⓘ
- ☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) ⓘ
- ☐ Federal Housing Assistance (for example, Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) or public housing) ⓘ
- ☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ⓘ
- ☒ None of these apply.

Previous Continue

Parent Tax Filing Status

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Save FAFSA Menu

1

2

3

4

DemographicsFinancialsContributor InviteReview & Sign

Parent Tax Filing Status

Did the parent file a U.S. federal income tax return for 2025 (or will they)? ⓘ

Did the parent file a U.S. federal income tax return for 2025 (or will they)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Did the parent file a 2025 income tax return in Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory (or will they)? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Did the parent file their 2025 tax return jointly with their current spouse (or will they)? ⓘ

☒ Yes

☐ No

PreviousContinue

Family Size

- FAFSA will automatically assume family size based on number of individuals claimed on tax return
- If parent believes family size is different than individuals on the tax return, parent can select Yes and see the number
- Parent can then add in other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their financial support from parents 7/1/27-6/30/28
- Do not include the student in this count

FAFSA® Form 2027-28 Parent of Raya Tran Save

1 Demographics 2 Financials 3 Review and Sign

Family Size

Is the parent's family size different from the number of individuals claimed on their 2025 tax return?

Family size includes the parent, their spouse, children, and other dependents in the home. Dependents are people who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from them between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028. This includes dependent children even if they live apart because of enrollment at a college or career school. Examples of family size changing include the birth of a child and a child independently supporting themselves such that they are no longer a dependent.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Based on answers to previous questions, we've made some assumptions about the parent's family. The student and the student's parent (and parent's spouse, if married) are always included in the family size. The box below shows the parent's family size based on our assumptions and the number of children or other dependents you report.

 The parent's family size is 3.

Parent: 1 Parent Spouse or Partner: 1 Student: 1 Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 0

Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2027 and June 30, 2028.

Do not include the student applicant

Number in College

- Report how many people will be in college between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028
- Do not include parents
- Will not be used in calculation of federal aid
- Colleges can choose to use this information to award institutional (college) funds

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 'Review & Sign' page for a parent of George Gutierrez. The progress bar indicates three steps: 1. Demographics (completed), 2. Financials (current step), and 3. Signature. The 'Number in College' section asks, 'How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028?' and includes the instruction 'Do not include parent(s)'. A text input field contains the number '1' and has an information icon to its right. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Review & Sign Save

1 2 3
Demographics Financials Signature

Number in College

How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2028?

Do not include parent(s).

1 ⓘ

Previous Continue

Parent Tax Return Information

- Certain questions about the 2025 federal tax return
- Rollovers or any grant, scholarship, or AmeriCorps benefit reported as income to IRS
- Any foreign earned income exclusion
- All other tax return data will be pulled in automatically

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 application for the parent of Raya Tran. The progress bar indicates three steps: 1. Demographics, 2. Financials, and 3. Review and Sign. The current step is 'Parent 2025 Tax Return Information'. The instructions state: 'Refer to the parent's 2025 tax return to answer the following questions. If the answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0.' There are four sections with input fields, all currently showing '.00':

- Retirement Income: IRA Rollover**
If IRS Form 1040: line 4c, box 1 is checked, enter the amount of untaxed IRA distributions moved to an IRA or other qualified plan.
- Retirement Income: Pension Rollover**
If IRS Form 1040: line 5c, box 1 is checked, enter the amount of untaxed pensions distributions moved to an IRA or other qualified plan.
- Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS**
People typically answer this question with a zero because most scholarships and grants, including Federal Pell Grants, are not considered taxable income. If the parent is married, include the amount their spouse reported. If the response is other than zero, the amount is typically not the same as the amount reported on IRS Form 1098-T (Box 5) or the adjusted gross income reported on the tax return.
- Foreign Earned Income Exclusion**
IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1: Line 8d.

At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Parent Assets

- Annual child support received
- Current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net value of investments
 - Real estate
 - Mutual funds, stocks, bonds
 - 529 college savings accounts (only for the student)
 - Exclude: primary home, life insurance, retirement accounts
- Net value of all businesses and farms except:
 - Small, family-owned businesses with 100 or less employees
 - Farms where the family resides
 - Family-owned commercial fishing businesses
- If parent income <\$60,000, no asset questions will be asked

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 form for the parent of Raya Tran. The form is divided into three sections: 1. Demographics, 2. Financials, and 3. Review and Sign. The 'Parent Assets' section is currently active, showing the 'Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts' and the 'Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate'. Both sections have a dollar amount input field set to \$.00. The 'Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms' section is also visible, with a dollar amount input field set to \$.00. The form includes a 'Previous' button and a 'Continue' button at the bottom.

FAFSA® Form 2027-28 Parent of Raya Tran

1 Demographics 2 Financials 3 Review and Sign

Annual Child Support Received
Enter the total amount of child support the parent received for the last complete calendar year.

\$.00

Parent Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts
Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$.00

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate
Don't include the home the parent lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms
Enter the net worth of the parent's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$.00

Previous Continue

Other Parent Information

Parent provides information about other parent (if married or living together) or current spouse

FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez Save

Demographics Financials Review & Sign

Parent Spouse Information

Based on your responses, we need to know your spouse's date of birth.
We need to know their age to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Month Day Year

01 01 1980

Previous Continue

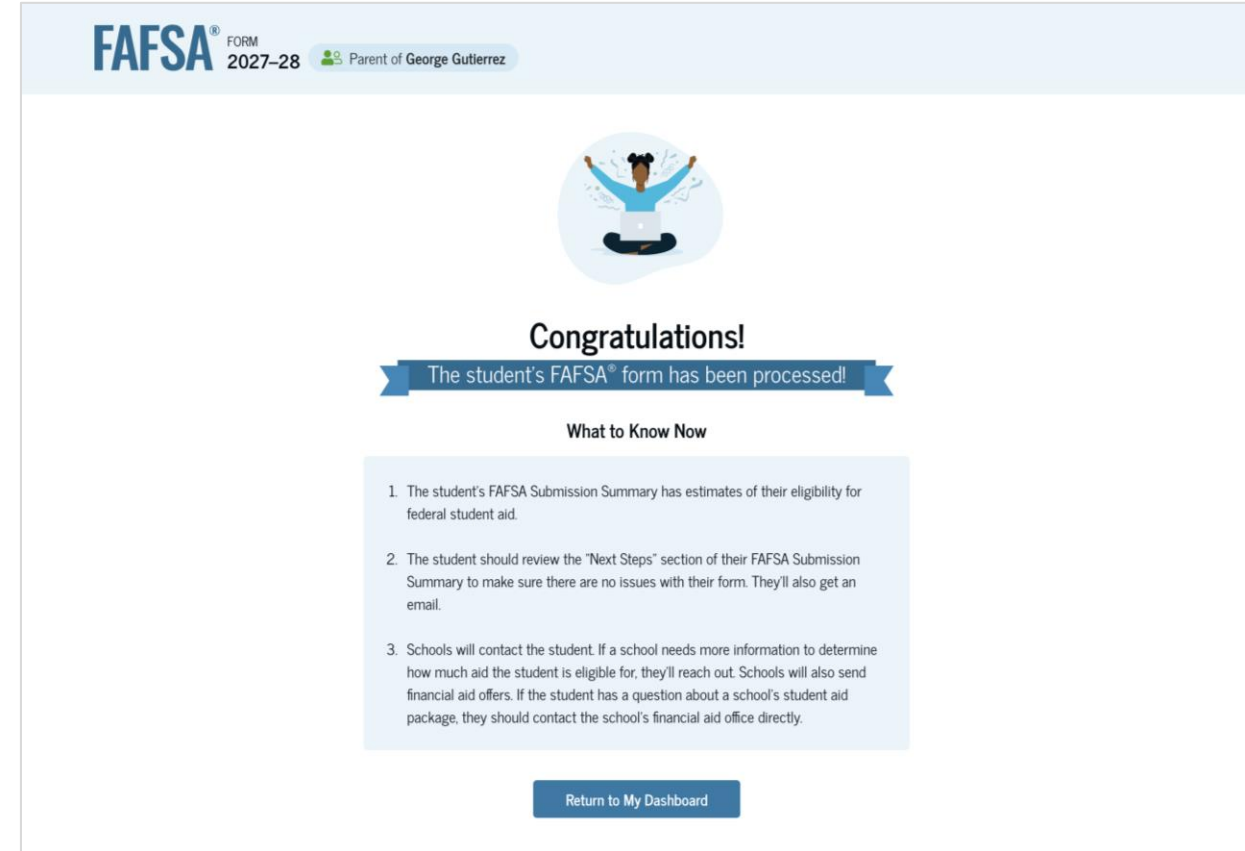
Parent Review & Sign

- Can expand all or expand each section
- To edit a response, select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page
- Data transferred from the IRS will not display on this page
- Parent agrees to terms and conditions and can submit the parent section
- The FAFSA is not considered complete nor processed until all sections are sent

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2027-28 Parent Review & Sign page for George Gutierrez. At the top, there's a progress bar with three steps: Demographics, Financials, and Review & Sign (the current step). Below the progress bar, the title "Review and Sign Your Section" is displayed. A message states: "If you need to change any of your responses, select the question to return to that page. Otherwise, sign and finish your section." Below this, there's a "Scroll To Continue" section with a checkmark icon and the text: "After reviewing your answers, scroll to the bottom of the page to continue." The "Parent Sections" list includes: Introduction Personal Identifiers, Section 1 Demographics, and Section 2 Financials. Below this is the "Terms and Conditions" section, which asks the parent to confirm understanding of the FAFSA form and includes a "View Terms & Conditions" link and a "Not Viewed" warning. The "Sign for yourself and submit the application for George Gutierrez (Student)" section has a checkbox for "I, Ben Gutierrez, agree to the terms outlined above." At the bottom, there's a "The Form is Ready To Submit" section with the text: "All contributors have completed their sections. You can now submit the FAFSA form for processing." Navigation buttons for "Previous" and "Submit FAFSA Form" are at the bottom.

FAFSA Confirmation

- If parent completed the last required section, the FAFSA will be submitted for processing
- Page provides info on tracking the FAFSA and next steps
- Student will receive an email with detailed confirmation info



FAFSA[®] FORM 2027-28 Parent of George Gutierrez



Congratulations!
The student's FAFSA[®] form has been processed!

What to Know Now

1. The student's FAFSA Submission Summary has estimates of their eligibility for federal student aid.
2. The student should review the "Next Steps" section of their FAFSA Submission Summary to make sure there are no issues with their form. They'll also get an email.
3. Schools will contact the student. If a school needs more information to determine how much aid the student is eligible for, they'll reach out. Schools will also send financial aid offers. If the student has a question about a school's student aid package, they should contact the school's financial aid office directly.

[Return to My Dashboard](#)

Parent Starting the FAFSA First

- If the parent wants to start the FAFSA before the student, click *Start New Form* on the FAFSA homepage, then log in
- Parent provides student info (name, date of birth, SSN, address, and email address) (the email address does not have to match the one used for the student's studentaid.gov account)
- Parent is asked questions to determine the student's dependency status
- Parent answers their own FAFSA questions
- Student will receive an email with notification that a FAFSA has been started on the student's behalf and an invitation to the FAFSA
- Student can then log in, provide consent for IRS data transfer, and sign the FAFSA

FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

The screenshot shows the FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) page for the 2027-28 academic year. The header includes the FAFSA logo and the title 'FAFSA Submission Summary'. Below the header, there is a section with student information and application details. The student is Kimberly Rivera. The application was received on July 9, 2026, and processed on July 9, 2026. The data release number is 5604. The page is currently viewing Submission 1. At the bottom, there are four tabs: Eligibility Overview (selected), FAFSA Form Answers, School Information, and Next Steps.

Student	Application Received	Application Processed	Data Release Number	Viewing
Kimberly Rivera	July 9, 2026	July 9, 2026	5604	Submission 1

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

- Summary of FAFSA information
- Lists when FAFSA was received and processed
- Links to aid summary
- 4 tabs
 - Eligibility Overview
 - FAFSA Form Answers
 - School Information
 - Next Steps

FSS Eligibility Overview

- Lists federal aid student may receive, including Pell Grant and Direct Loans (these are only estimates)
- Lists the Student Aid Index (SAI)

Your Student Aid Index (SAI)

Your SAI is an index number calculated using information provided on your FAFSA form. Your school uses your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility and to build your financial aid offer. Your SAI may change if you update or correct your FAFSA information or after verification (if your FAFSA form was selected for review). Once your updated FAFSA form is complete and fully processed, you'll receive a new FAFSA Submission Summary, which may include changes to your SAI and estimated federal student aid.

-1500

[What does this mean?](#)

Eligibility Overview

FAFSA Form Answers

⚠ School Information

📌 Next Steps

Your Estimated Federal Student Aid

Federal Pell Grant

A [Federal Pell Grant](#) is awarded to undergraduate students who have financial need and who have not earned a degree or are in a teacher certification program. Federal Pell Grants don't need to be repaid.

Up to **\$7,395**

Federal Direct Loans

A [federal direct loan](#) is money lent to you by the government that you must repay with interest.

Up to **\$9,500**

Federal Work-Study

[Federal Work-Study](#) is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus.

You May Be Eligible

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.

[Learn more about financial aid](#)



Keep in mind, this is only an estimate

Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

FSS FAFSA Answers

- Students sees answers provided by all contributors
- Here the student can start a correction
- Data transferred from the IRS will not display on this page

Your FAFSA® Form Answers

Review your responses carefully and make sure all the information you provided is correct. Start a correction to fix any errors and ensure that your form is processed correctly.

Student Sections Expand All

Introduction
Personal Identifiers

Section 1
Background

Section 2
Demographics

Section 3
Financials

Section 4
Colleges

Section 5
Signature

FSS School Information

Student sees the following information for each school selected:

- Graduation rate
- Retention rate
- Transfer rate
- Default rate
- Median debt upon completion
- Average annual cost

Student  Anthony Morris

Application Received
June 3, 2026

Application Processed
June 3, 2026

Data Release Number
6089

Viewing: Submission 5

Eligibility Overview

FAFSA Form Answers

School Information

Next Steps

Find an Affordable School

Many schools offer the opportunity to attend college affordably. Learn about the costs and benefits associated with the schools you listed on your form.

[Learn About College Scorecard](#) 

Showing results for family income between \$0-\$30,000 

School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate	Default Rate	Median Debt Upon Completion	Average Annual Cost
College of William & Mary	91.29%	94.59%	6.26%	0%	\$18,500	\$3,106
American International College	46.19%	62.75%	38.77%	0%	\$27,000	\$24,437
Rochester Institute of Technology	73.18%	88.51%	16.8%	0%	\$26,778	\$24,680

[View All](#) 

School with Low Earnings Message

This displays if a college was selected where graduates’ median earnings are typically lower than those of high school graduates

Student  Kimberly Rivera

Application Received
July 9, 2026

Application Processed
July 9, 2026

Data Release Number
5604

Viewing: Submission 1

Eligibility Overview

FAFSA Form Answers

 School Information

 Next Steps

Find an Affordable School

Many schools offer the opportunity to attend college affordably. Learn about the costs and benefits associated with the schools you listed on your form.



Some of your schools have low earnings

Students who graduate from some of the schools you listed don't make any more money on average than people with only a high school diploma. Review these schools and see some additional options near you.

See These Schools

[Learn About College Scorecard](#) 

Showing results for family income between **\$0-\$30,000** 

School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate	Default Rate	Median Debt Upon Completion	Average Annual Cost
University 1	56.64%	81.69%	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$38,486
University 2	91.29%	94.59%	6.26%	0%	\$18,500	\$3,106
University 3	46.19%	62.75%	38.77%	0%	\$27,000	\$24,437

[View All](#) 

FSS Next Steps

- Comments displayed based on student's FAFSA
- Some may require student to make a correction or send documentation to schools

The screenshot shows the 'Next Steps' page for a student named Kimberly Rivera. The page is part of the FAFSA application process, with tabs for Eligibility Overview, FAFSA Form Answers, School Information, and Next Steps. The 'Next Steps' tab is active, showing a list of tasks: 1. Correct any errors on your FAFSA form, 2. Make sure your schools have everything they need, and 3. Look out for aid-related communications from your schools. Each task has a status indicator (a circle with a checkmark or an 'X').

Student: Kimberly Rivera | Application Received: July 9, 2026 | Application Processed: July 9, 2026 | Data Release Number: 5604 | Viewing: Submission 1

Eligibility Overview | FAFSA Form Answers | School Information | **Next Steps**

Next Steps

- 1 Correct any errors on your FAFSA form**
- 2 Make sure your schools have everything they need**
- 3 Look out for aid-related communications from your schools**

Need to make a correction or add a school?
Start a correction if you need to update or change information (such as adding a school).
Visit the "FAFSA Form Answers" tab to review your responses and make sure all the information you provided is correct.
[Make a Correction](#)

Some of your schools have low earnings
Students who graduate from some of the schools you listed don't make any more money on average than people with only a high school diploma. Review these schools and see some additional options near you.
[See These Schools](#)

View All of Your Federal Student Aid in One Place
View detailed information about your federal loan and grant aid, including your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage.
[Visit My Aid](#)

Find the Right College or Career School
Use College Scorecard to compare schools by size, location, graduation rate, and more.
[Visit College Scorecard](#)

For Your Awareness

- VA Education and Training Benefits help veterans, service members, and their family members with needs like paying college tuition or finding the right school.
- The limit to the total amount of Federal Pell Grants that a student may receive is the equivalent of six school years. Once you've reached that limit, you can no longer receive a Federal Pell Grant.
- Based on the information we have on record for you, your Student Aid Index (SAI) is -1500. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your college's or career school's financial aid office will use your SAI to determine your eligibility for other types of grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.

Understand Your Tax Benefits
Did you know that the IRS provides tax benefits for education? These tax benefits can be used to get back some of the money you spend on tuition or loan interest, or to maximize your college savings.
[Learn About Tax Benefits](#)

What Happens After You Submit the FAFSA

- Colleges and the state receive the data electronically
- Colleges may request additional documentation or additional information through a process called Verification
 - You must comply with Verification to receive federal financial aid
- Colleges send out financial aid offers (typically Mar-April)

Your Next Steps

- Research deadlines and required applications
- Complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile (if needed) starting Oct 1st

**Register for other
MEFA webinars**



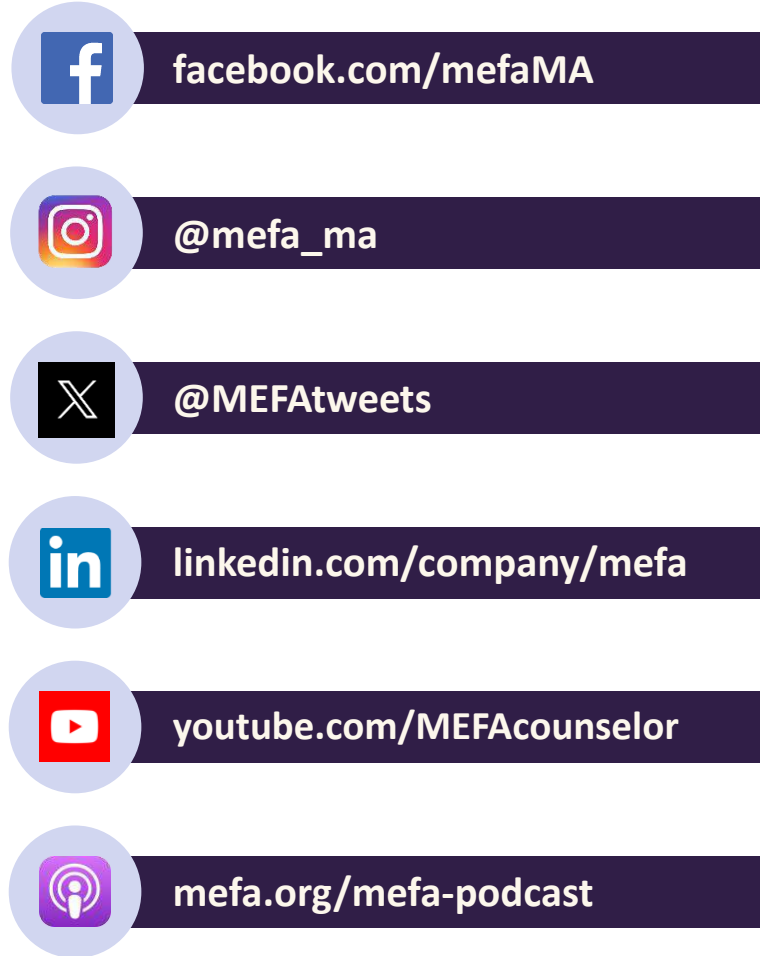
**Reference MEFA's Timeline
for College Admissions and
Financial Aid**



**Sign up for
MEFA's emails**



Connect with MEFA



Thank You!

Questions?



(800) 449-MEFA (6332)



collegeplanning@mefa.org

**Please complete our short
webinar survey!**

