



# THE BETTER FAFSA

## What Students and Their Families Need to Know

### Higher Education Opens Doors to Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Education is making transformational changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. The FAFSA form is an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and it gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to help pay for higher education.



## The Better FAFSA is:

- » Simple and streamlined.
- » Easier to fill out—many people complete it in under 15 minutes.

Unlocking an additional  
**\$1.8 BILLION in aid.**



**610,000 more students**

from low-income backgrounds will receive Federal Pell Grants.

Nearly **1.5 million more students** will receive the maximum Pell Grant.

**All students** will be able to access the maximum financial aid for which they are eligible.

## Better FAFSA Timeline

for the 2024-25 Award Year

### NOW

- Students and families should complete and submit the 2024-25 FAFSA form

### MARCH

- The Department begins transmitting FAFSA information to schools and state agencies for processing

### THIS SPRING

- Colleges review FAFSA information for students who applied for admission
- Colleges start sending aid packages to students

### JULY 1

- FAFSA award year starts

Note: Students and families should check critical deadlines for their institutions and states regarding scholarships and enrollment commitments.



# CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS

To access and fill out the 2024-25 FAFSA, [create a StudentAid.gov account](#).

- You'll need your Social Security Number, unless you are a citizen of the [Freely Associated States](#).

Make sure your contributors create their own StudentAid.gov account, too.

- “Contributor” refers to anyone required to provide information on the form, such as your parent(s) or spouse.

Invite contributors to your FAFSA form. You will be asked to provide their:

- First and last name
- Social Security Number
  - Contributors who do not have a Social Security Number can still create a StudentAid.gov account to complete their section of the FAFSA form.
- Date of birth
- Email address (and mailing address, if contributors don't have a Social Security Number)

Have your documents ready and be prepared to complete the form in one session. Necessary forms could include:

- 2022 Tax returns\*
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

After submitting your FAFSA, you'll receive financial aid offer letters from the colleges you selected later this spring

\* Starting with the 2024-25 form, students can provide consent and approval so most financial information will be imported directly from the IRS. But you should keep your tax return handy for additional questions.

