



QUICK GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID

WHAT DO I NEED TO FILE MY 2023-2024 FAFSA ON FAFSA.GOV?

You will need social security number(s) and date of birth(s) for the student and parent(s); 2021 W2s, 2021 federal income tax return forms 1040, 1040A, or 1040 EZ for the student and parent(s); and records of other untaxed income received, including worker's compensation, child support, payment to tax-deferred pension, and savings plans, etc. The student and one parent should create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID username and password to electronically sign the FAFSA.

USE THE IRS LINK BUTTON TO TRANSFER 2021 TAX INFORMATION ONTO YOUR FAFSA

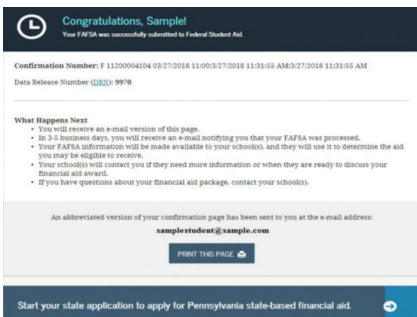
Parents and students are encouraged to use the IRS link to transfer 2021 tax information onto the FAFSA. It is the most accurate way to transfer 2021 tax information onto the FAFSA and it will be transferred securely from the IRS. All tax information would be concealed from the student/preparer/parent. The phrase "Transferred from the IRS" will appear in the appropriate places on the FAFSA. Federal Student Aid, State Grant Agencies, and Colleges and Universities' financial aid offices indicated on the FAFSA would be able to view the tax information for awarding purposes.

CREATE A FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FSA) ID USERNAME AND PASSWORD FOR THE STUDENT AND ONE PARENT

The FSA ID username and password is the fastest way to electronically sign your FAFSA. Students and parents can create an FSA ID username and password through fsaid.ed.gov. Your FAFSA will not be processed unless all required signatures are on the FAFSA. The student and parent can opt to submit a signature page by mail instead of creating an FSA ID username and password. However, this process could take up to four weeks to process the wet signature(s). If the parent does not have a social security number, the student would have to mail the signature page to the address listed on the bottom of the signature page.

SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION

Federal Student Aid can randomly select students for verification. The student must complete the college/university's verification worksheets and (if IRS link was not used successfully) submit the parent(s), and student's 2021 tax return transcripts. If the IRS link is used to transfer 2021 tax information without changes made by the student or parent, the 2021 tax return transcript is not required for verification. Students and parents can submit copies of the 2021 tax returns. You can also provide a legible, signed copy of page one and two of IRS Form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, a tax return from Puerto Rico, or a foreign income tax return filed for the specified year. Note: Foreign tax returns must have each line translated to English. You can request a tax return transcript through www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript. Once the college/university receives all required documents, they would make the necessary changes/updates to the FAFSA and resubmit a new transaction to Federal Student Aid for reprocessing. The student's financial aid will not be awarded/dispensed until the verification process has been completed. Some colleges and universities may provide students with a financial aid award letter based on the information submitted on the FAFSA, prior to verification. However, after verification is completed, the student's need-based financial aid (i.e. Federal Pell Grant, Subsidized Loans, and Federal Work-Study) could change or be eliminated based on the updates needed on the FAFSA. Disbursement of funds are generally withheld until verification is completed.



PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY (PHEAA) STATE GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

Once the student indicates on the FAFSA that he or she is a Pennsylvania state resident, PHEAA usually emails the student after the FAFSA has been submitted. Pennsylvania residents can apply for PA State Grant funding once they have submitted the FAFSA. The link to the PA State Grant is included on the FAFSA confirmation page. It's important that the students follow up with PHEAA, especially if the student's first college listed on the

FAFSA is not the college the student will be attending. PHEAA only considers the first college listed on the FAFSA. Please have your students update the college of enrollment through their PHEAA account.

WHAT TO DO IF...

- Student is a foster care youth
- Student and/or parent(s) is experiencing homelessness
- Parents have experienced loss of income
- Parents have separated/divorced
- Student experienced the death of a parent
- Student is under legal guardianship
- Student is an emancipated youth
- Family has incurred high medical expenses

All financial aid offices may evaluate special conditions/circumstances/ professional judgments differently. Most financial aid offices may have students and/or parents complete a form unique to their college/university. Students and/or parents may have to provide the following examples of supporting documentation to your college/ university's financial aid office: court- issued documentation of guardianship/ emancipation, or ward of court; divorce decrees; death certificates; medical bills; proof of separate addresses (parental apartment leases or copy of driver's license/state IDs); letter of employment termination; unemployment determination statements; third-party letters from counselors, social and case workers, faith-based leaders, etc.

FOSTER CARE YOUTH ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Additional financial resources are available to foster care youth residing in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

For information on the PHEAA CHAFEE Education and Training Grant, visit: <https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/other-educational-aid/chafee-program.shtml>

For information on the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program, visit: www.nj.gov/DCF/home/foster_scholars_program.html