2026-2027 FAFSA Information

Complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA for free at studentaid.gov

By competing the FAFSA each year, you are applying for the following:

1. Federal Grants
2. Federal Work-study
3. Federal Student Loans

The student and contributor(s) will need to sign up for FSA ID's before beginning the FAFSA.

- If you/your contributor* DO NOT have an FSA ID, follow instructions on pages 3 through 6.
- If you/your contributor* already have FSA ID's, go directly to the FAFSA instructions on page 7.

**Contributors may include the student's parents, the spouse of the student's parent or the student's spouse.*

Contributors to the FAFSA Form

Parents or Spouses	How To Invite
Your answers on the FAFSA® form will determine if any contributors (your spouse, your biological or adoptive parent[s], or your parent's spouse) need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but they won't be financially responsible for your education.	Contributors will need to log in with their own StudentAid.gov account username and password to provide their information. To invite a contributor to a FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their email address. *Go to page 32 of this packet for information on "Which parent is considered a contributor?"*

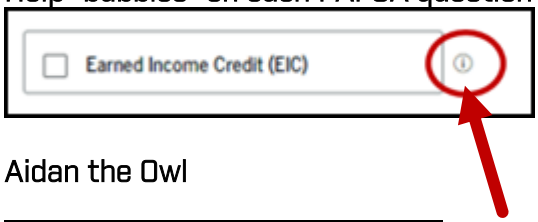
Gathering the Documents Needed for the 2026–27 FAFSA® Form

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the 2026–27 FAFSA form:

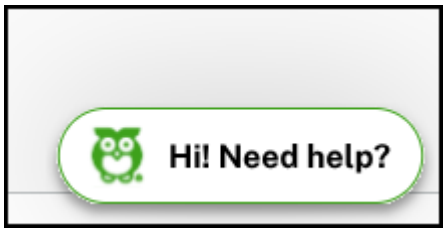
- Your Social Security Number (SSN)
- Your or parent or spouse contributor's email address
- 2024 Federal Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farm
- Student and parent will need to enter separate email and phone number for each person's FSA ID. Student, DO NOT use your K12 email address. *The MTC Financial Aid Office communicates through the student's email address that is listed on the FAFSA, and you lose access to your K12 email after graduating from high school.

FAFSA Help Options

Help "bubbles" on each FAFSA question



Aidan the Owl



FAFSA Help page

studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help

Call

Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243

Note: You can save the FAFSA form and return to the application at a later time/date.

Creating an FSA ID

The FSA ID allows the student and contributors to:

- Complete their sections of the student's FAFSA.
- Provide consent & approval to transfer federal tax data from the IRS directly to the student's FAFSA.
- Sign the FAFSA.

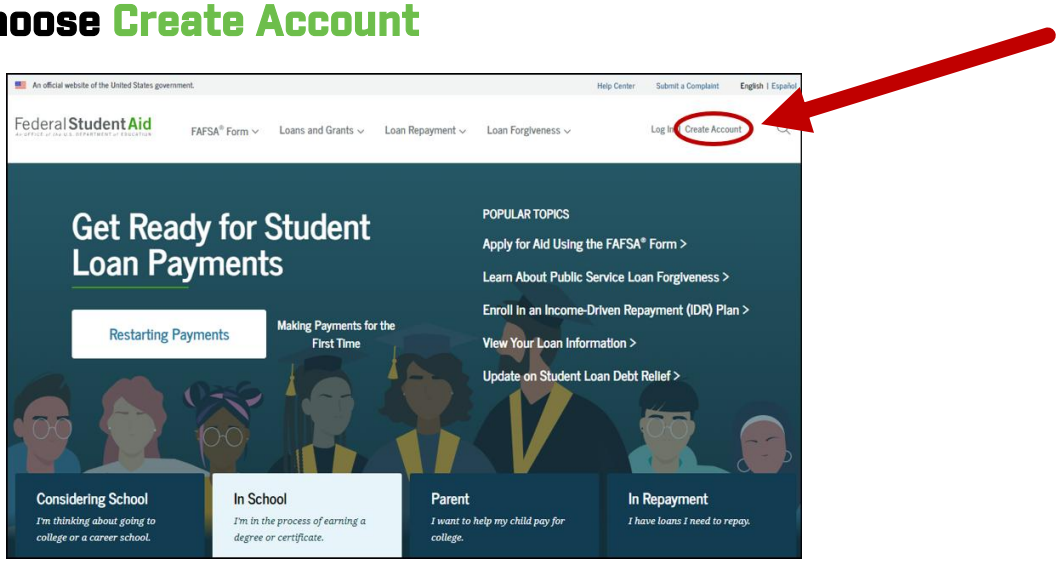
IMPORTANT: Avoid delays by double-checking the information you enter

When creating your FSA ID, make sure to enter the Name, Social Security Number (SSN) and Date of Birth exactly as they appear on your Social Security card.

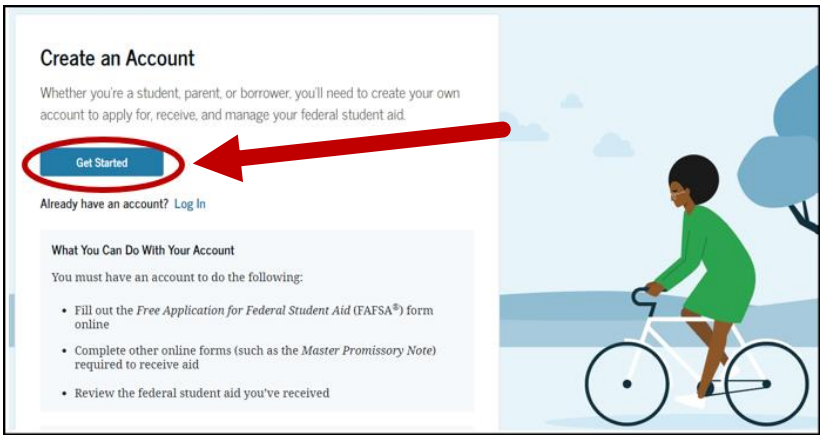
Your FSA ID information will be matched to the Social Security Administration database and discrepancies could cause processing delays.

⊖ Begin at studentaid.gov Homepage

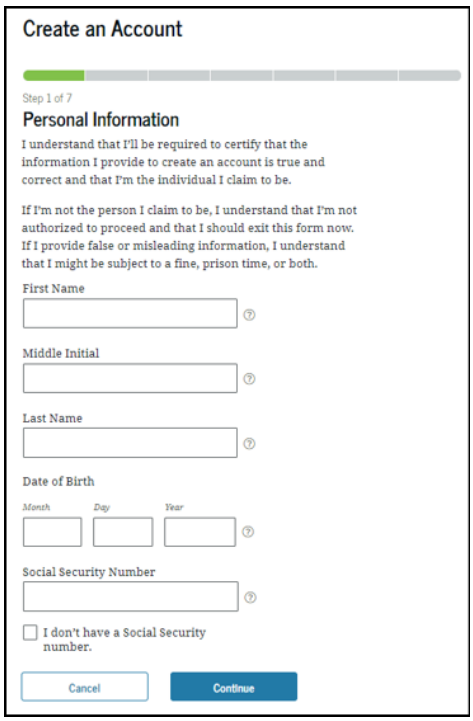
⊖ Choose Create Account

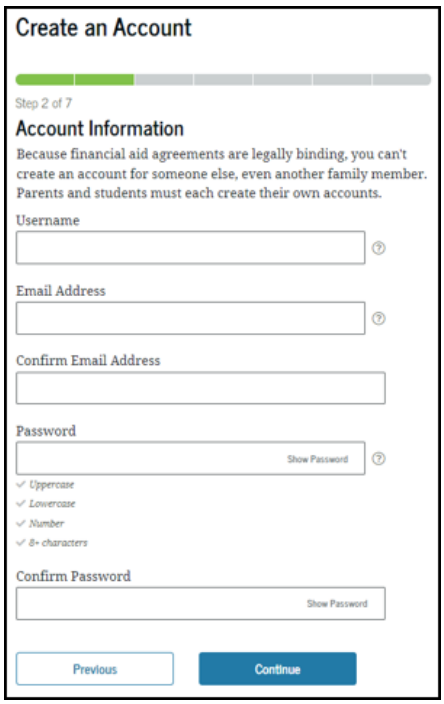


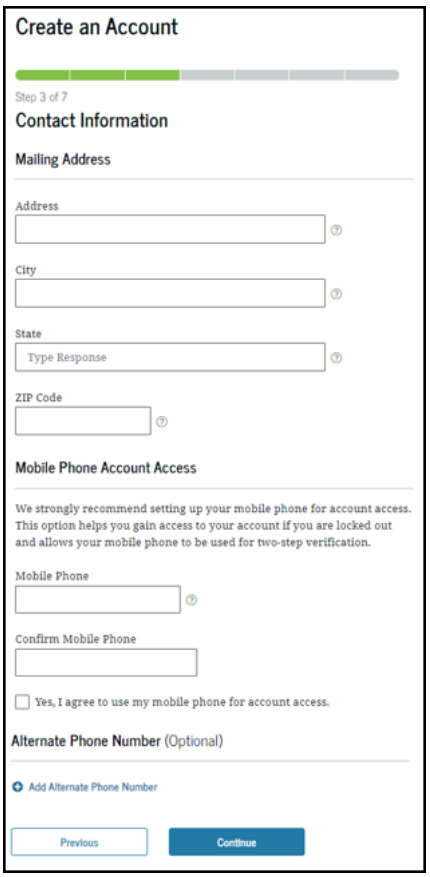
⊖ Choose Get Started



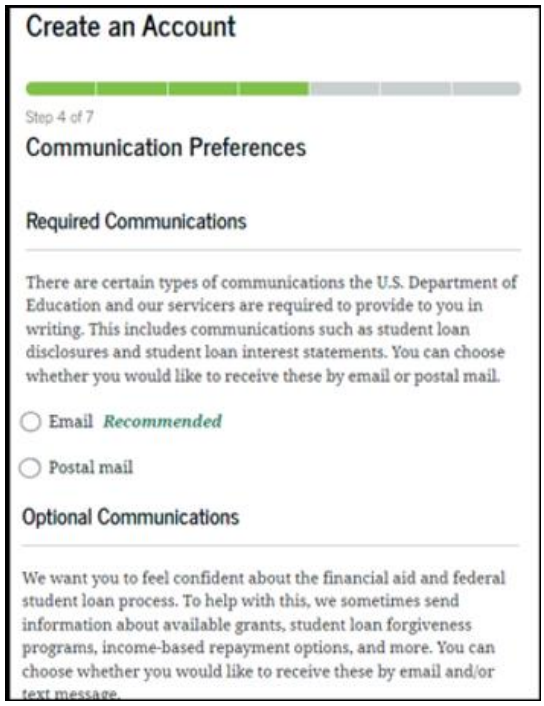
⊖ Provide Personal, Account, & Contact Information

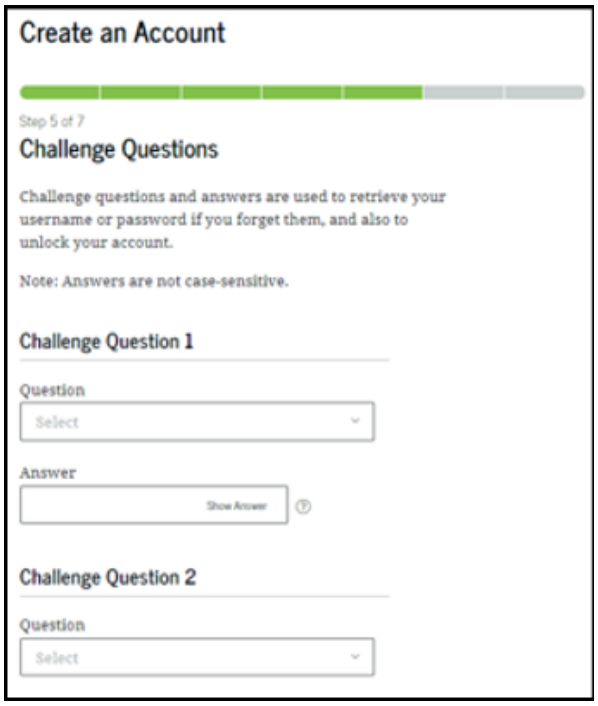




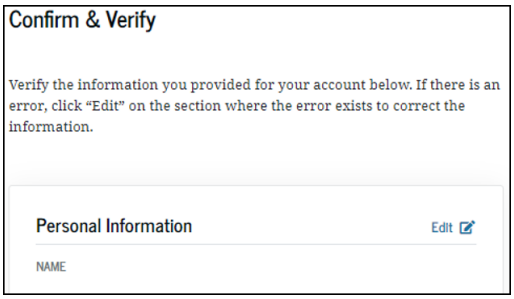


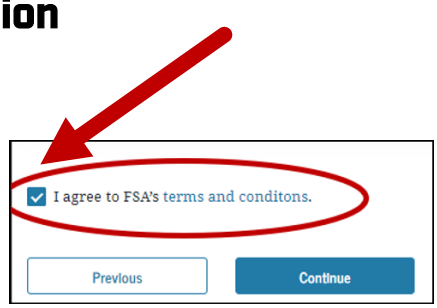
⊖ Provide Communication Preferences & Challenge Questions



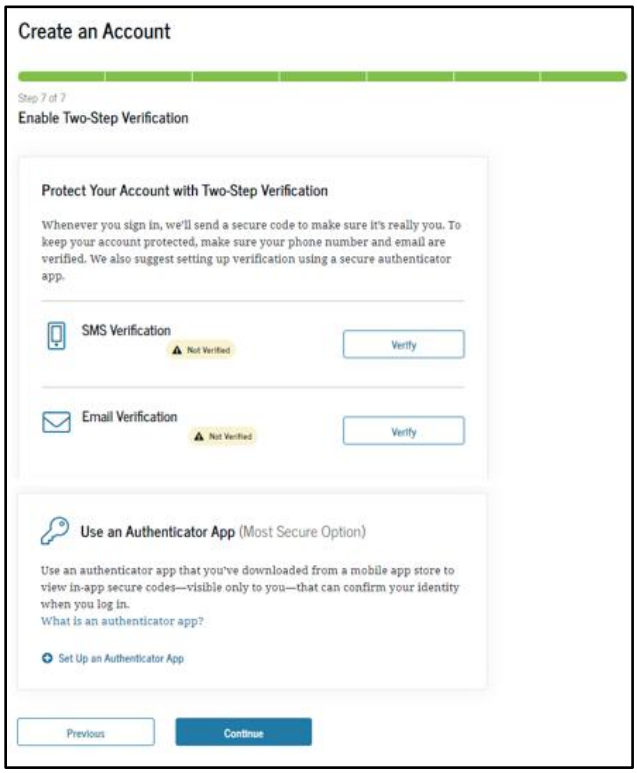


Θ Confirm & verify your information

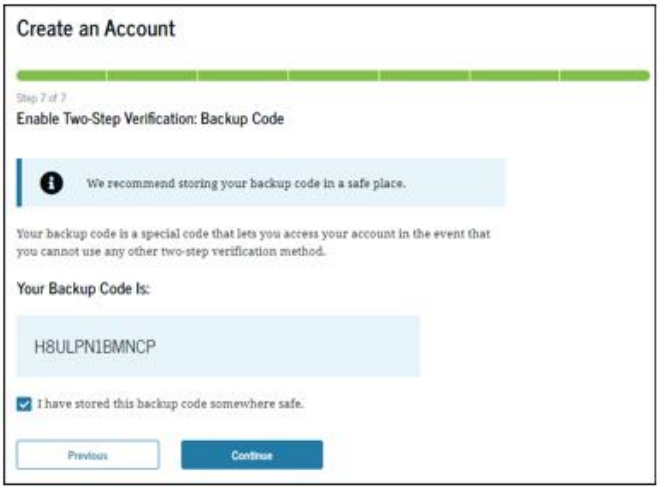




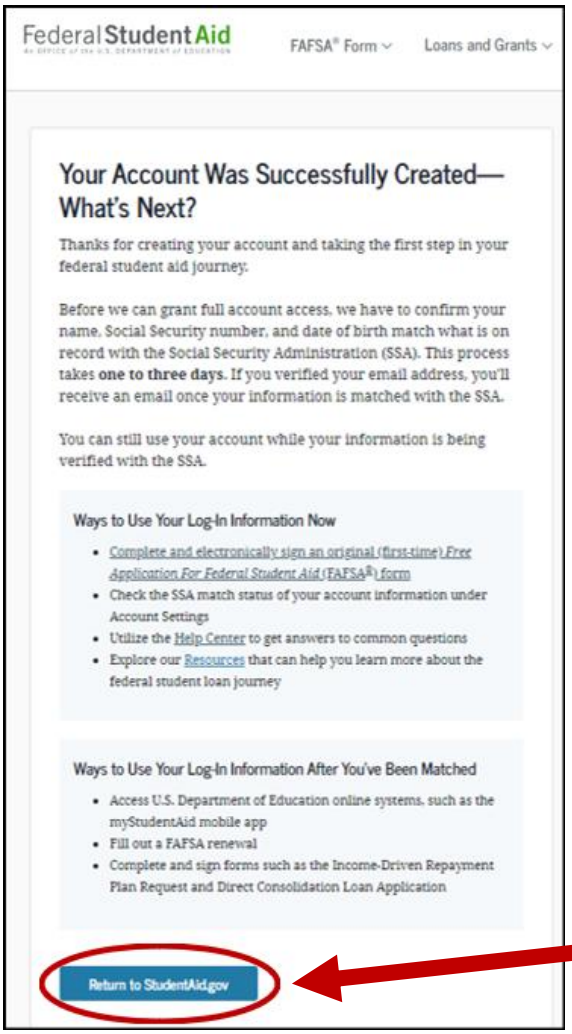
Θ Enable Two-Step Verification



Θ Save your Backup Code in a safe place



⊖ FSA ID Created Successfully



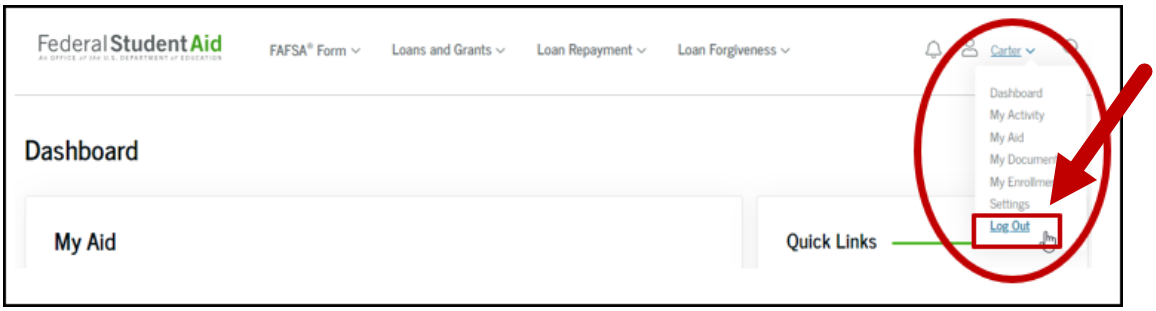
IMPORTANT:

Save your FSA ID username & password in a safe place for future use.

⊖ Student proceeds to completing the FAFSA once parent has their separate FSA ID created.

If the parent needs to create their separate FSA ID:

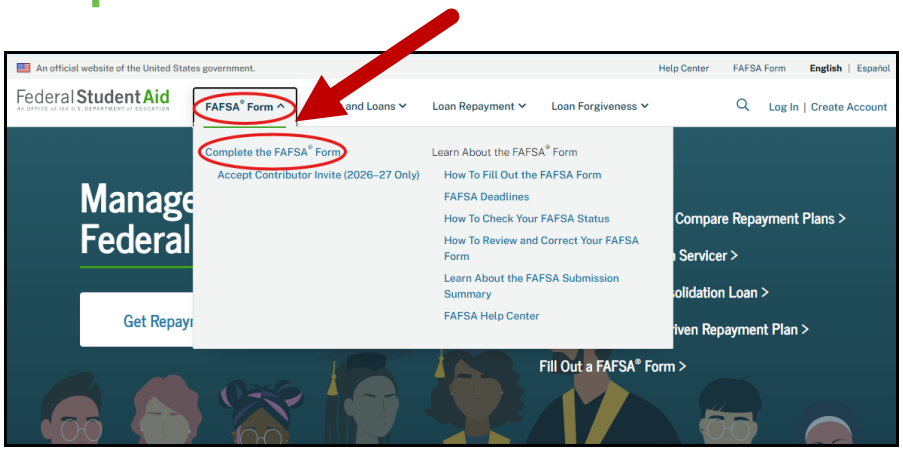
1. Student will Log Out of website and
2. Parent will go back to page 2 for instructions. Once the student and parent have their FSA IDs, the STUDENT will log into studentaid.gov to complete their FAFSA.



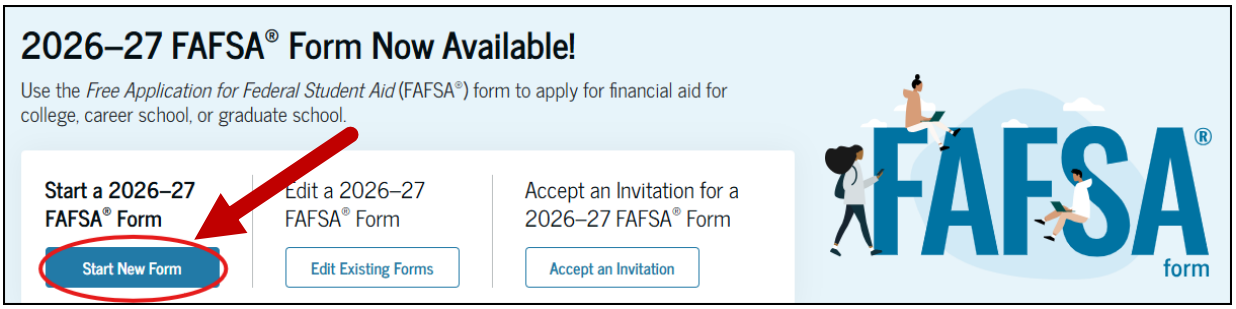
Completing the FAFSA

Even though the student or the parent can start the FAFSA application we suggest the STUDENT starts the application for a smoother process.

⊖ Begin at the studentaid.gov homepage and choose FAFSA Form > Complete the FAFSA Form



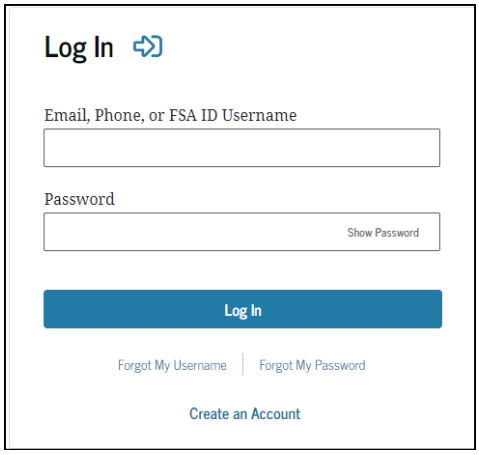
⊖ Choose Start New Form



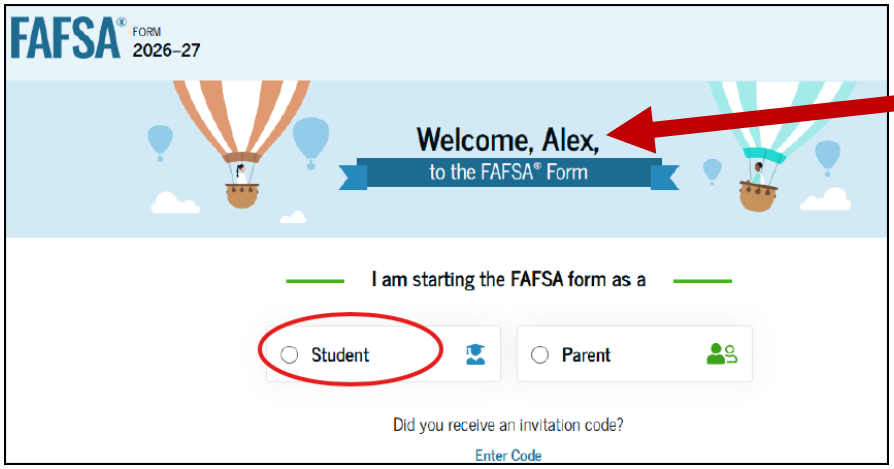
⊖ The STUDENT logs in with their FSA ID account.

(if the student isn't logged in already)

During login, you will be prompted for Two-Step Verification and to confirm your information.

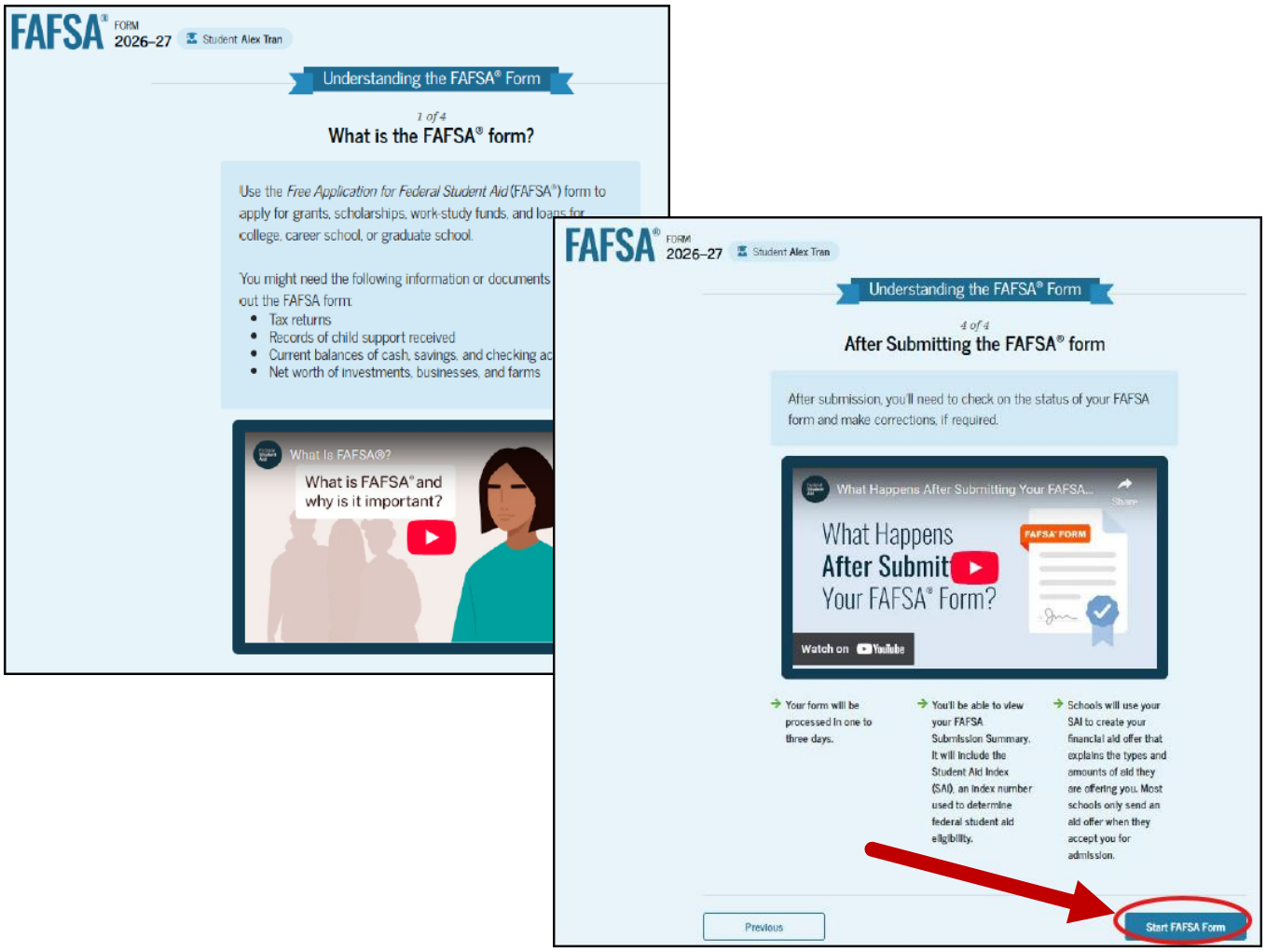


Select student

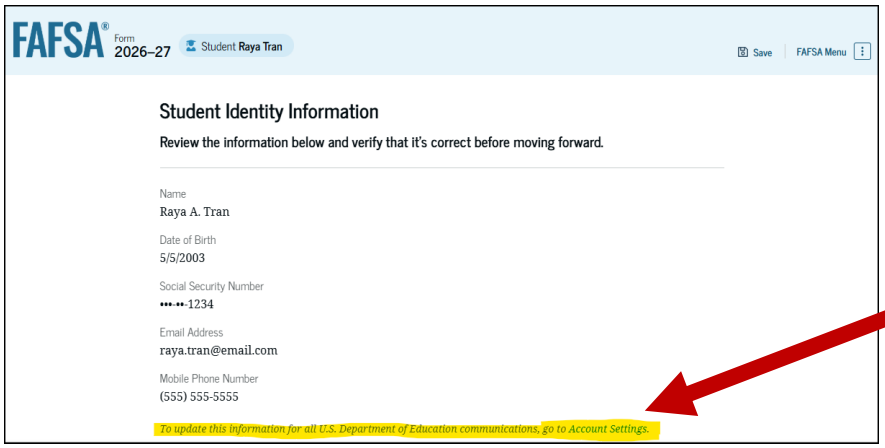


STOP If you don't see the student's name here, stop and log out. Then have the STUDENT login into studentaid.gov and repeat the instructions on the previous page.

View the videos/read information on the next few screens. Then select **Start FAFSA Form.**

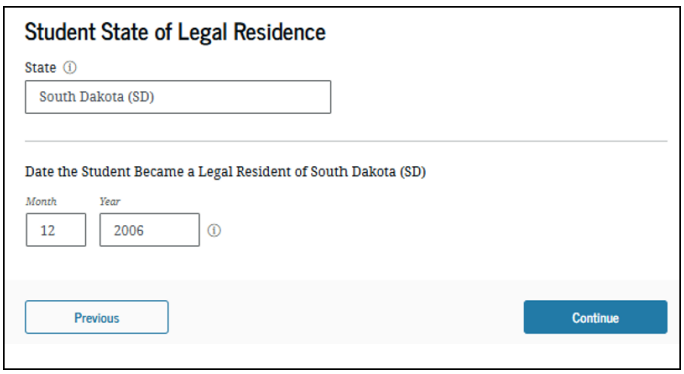


Review your information & make any necessary corrections

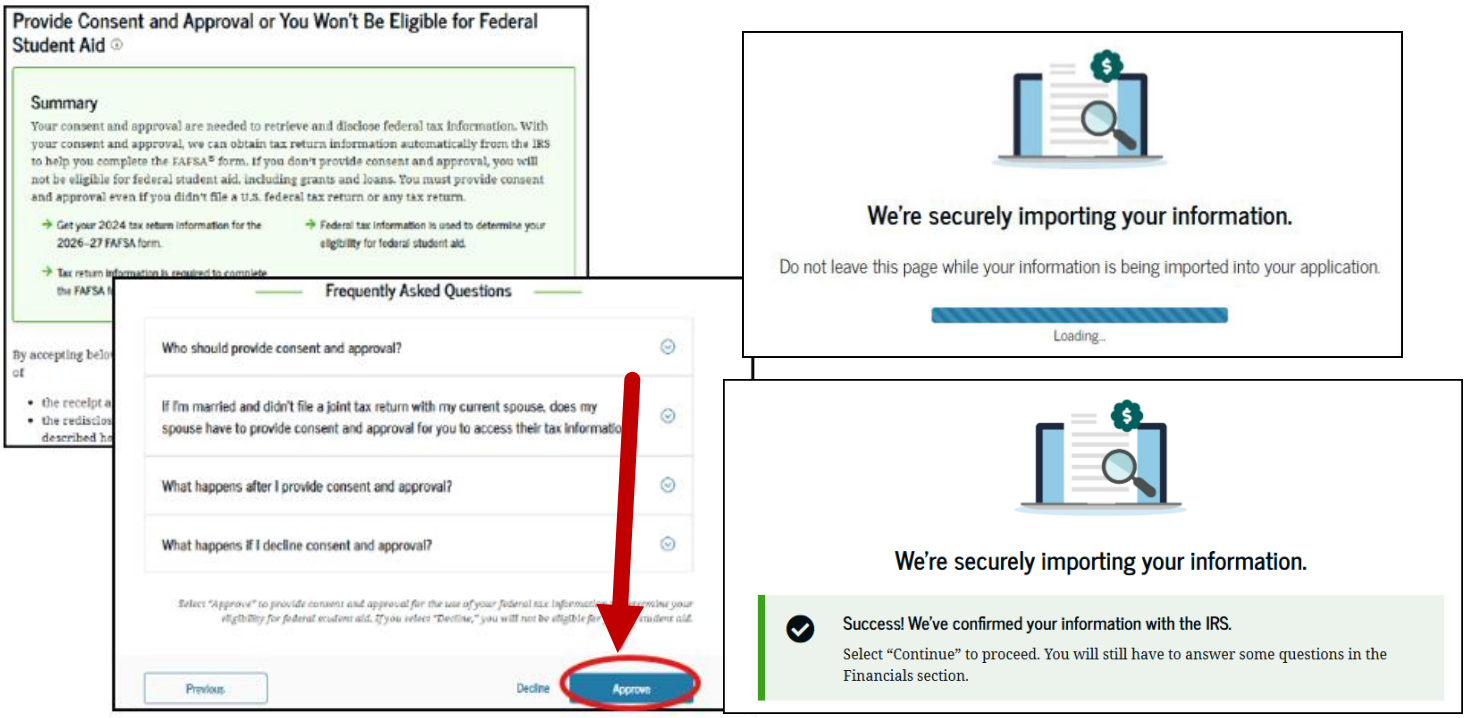


To update any of the personal information, the student must access their account settings on StudentAid.gov.

Enter your state of legal residence

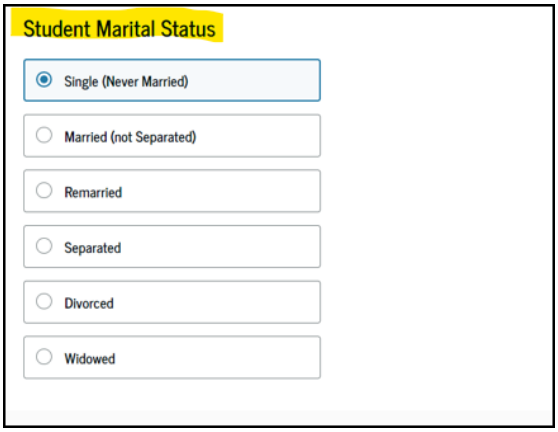


Provide consent to retrieve and disclose your federal tax information



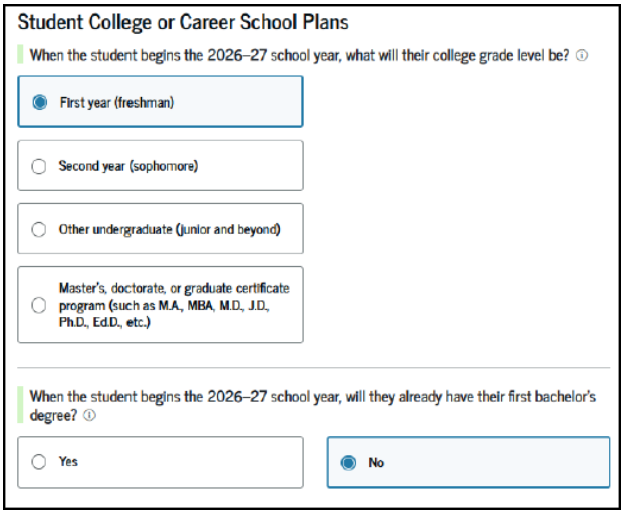
Enter Student's Martial Status

Personal Circumstances



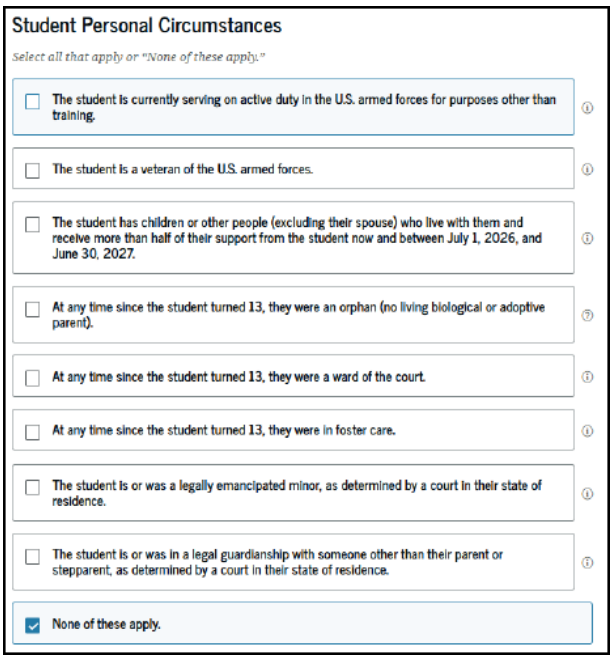
Enter Student's College or Career School Plans

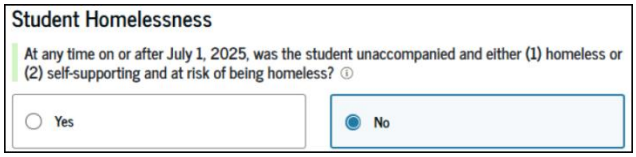
Personal Circumstances

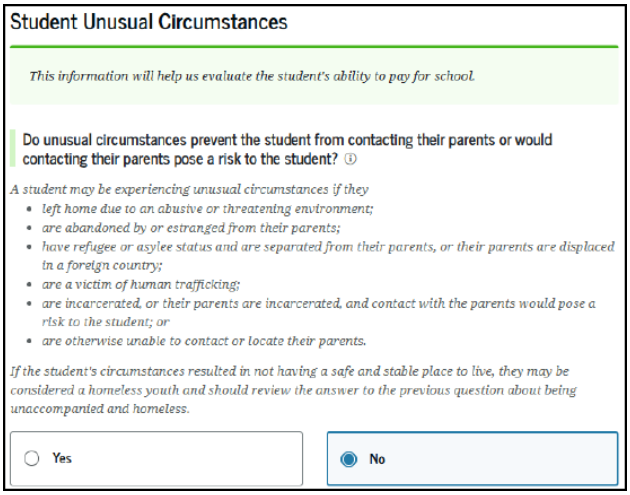


Enter Student's Personal Circumstances

Personal Circumstances

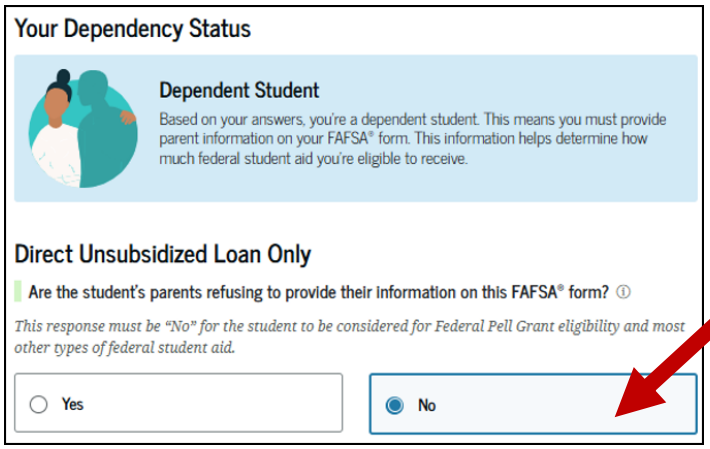






Student Dependency Status & Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

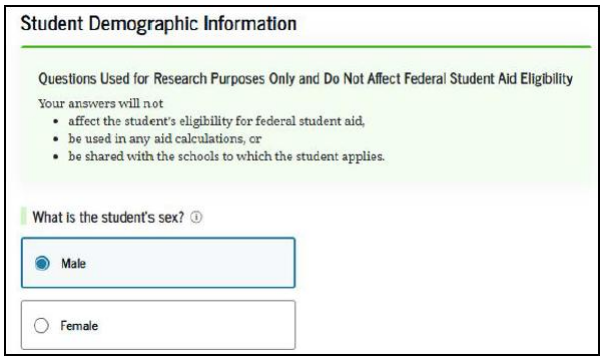
1 Personal Circumstances

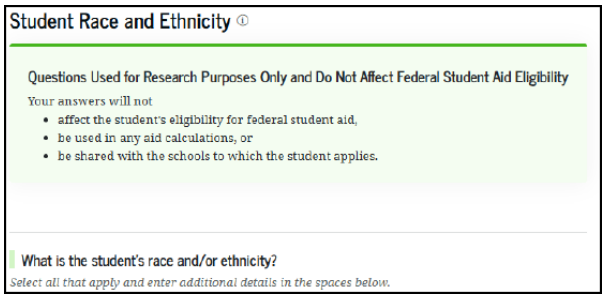


Answer "no" here if you (the student) wants to be considered for Federal Pell Grant and most other types of federal student aid.

Student Demographic Information

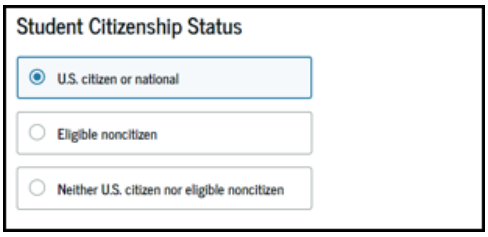
2 Demographics





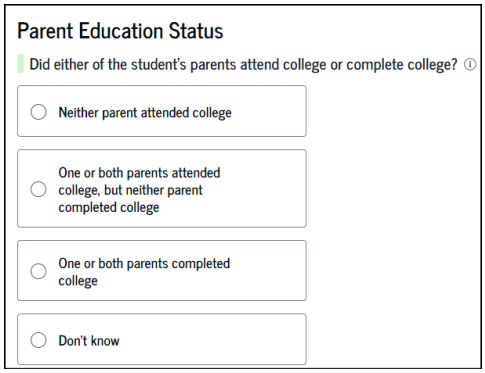
Student Citizenship Status

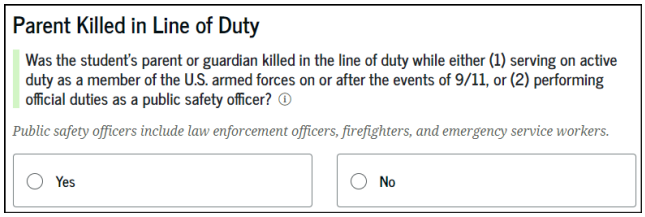
2 Demographics



Questions about Parents

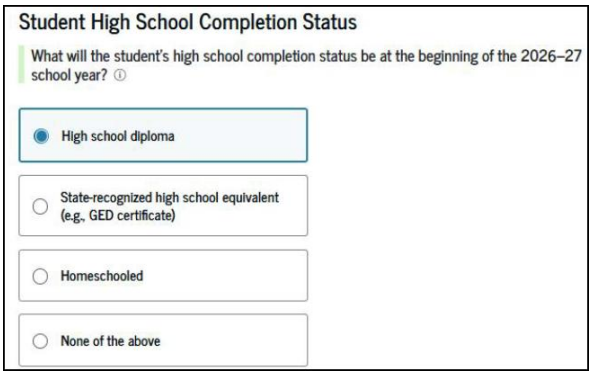
2 Demographics

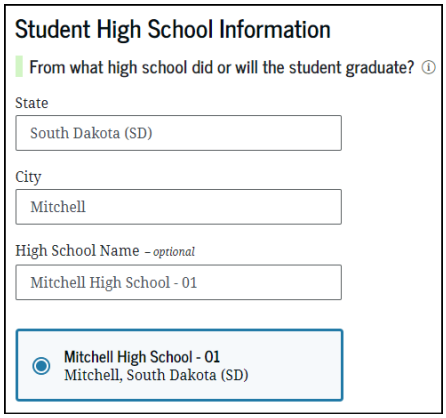




Θ Student High School Questions

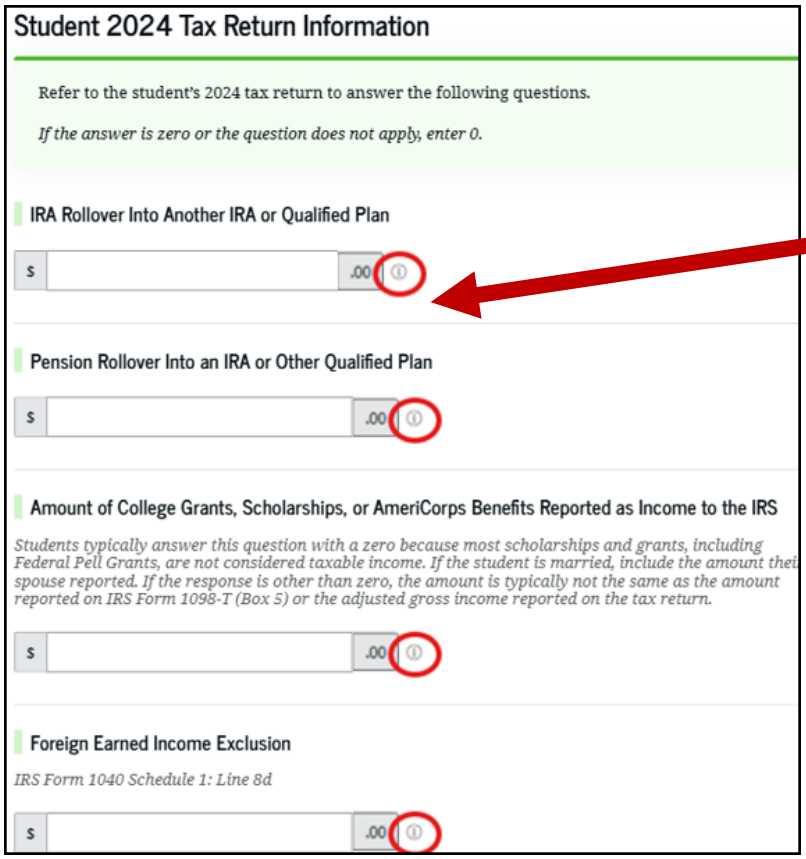
2 Demographics





Θ Student 2024 Tax Return Information

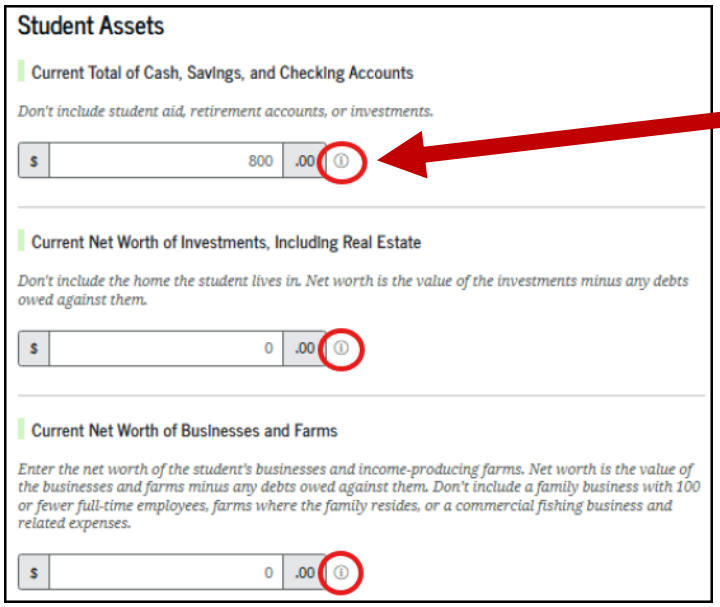
3 Financials



Click on the icons for definitions of these tax questions.

Student Assets

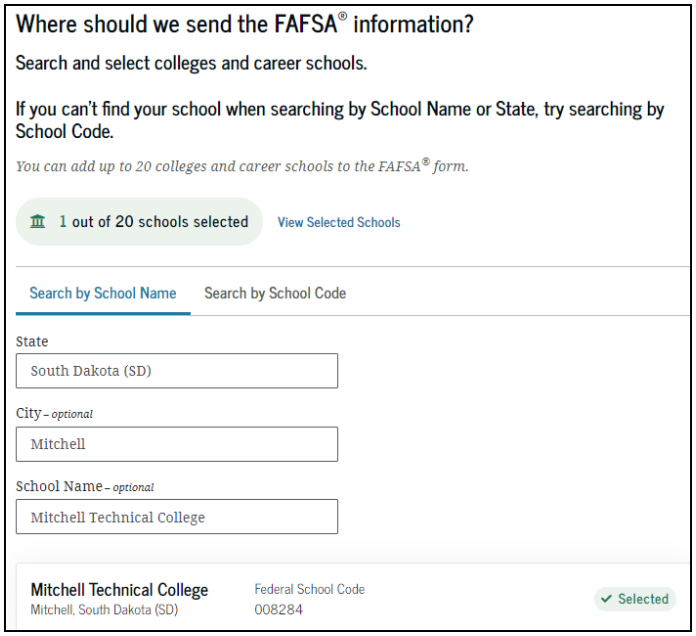
3 Financials



Click on these icons for definitions of asset questions. The definitions are also provided at the end of this packet.

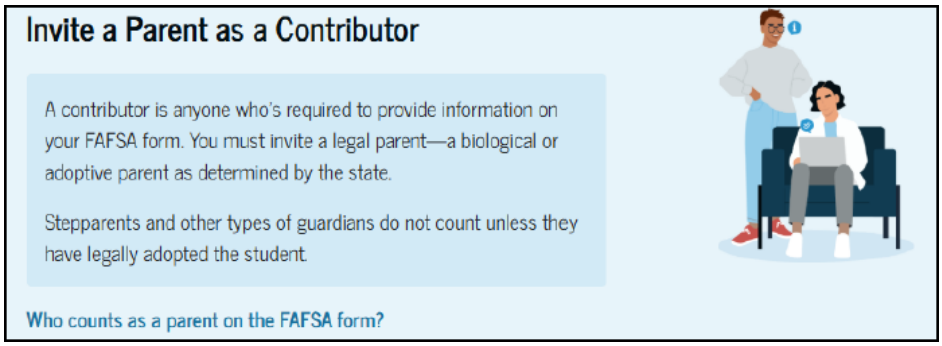
Select Colleges

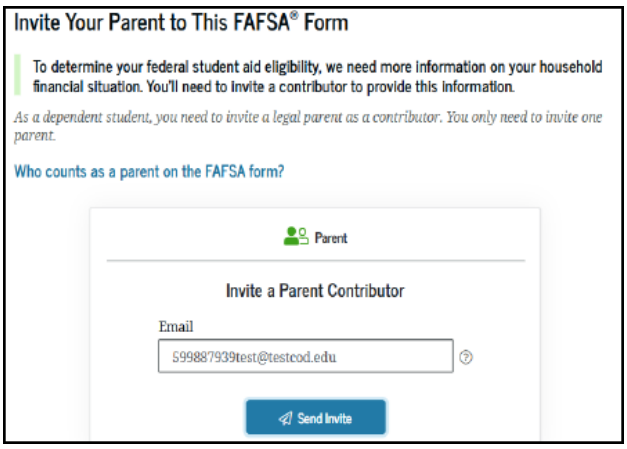
4 Colleges

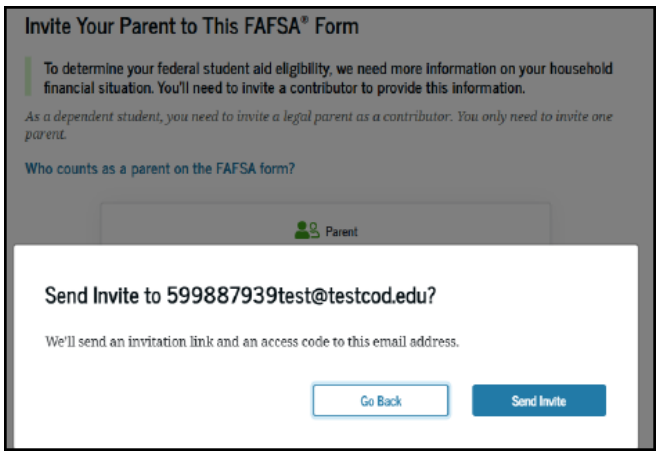


Θ Invite the Parent(s) to the FAFSA Form

5 Contributor Invite

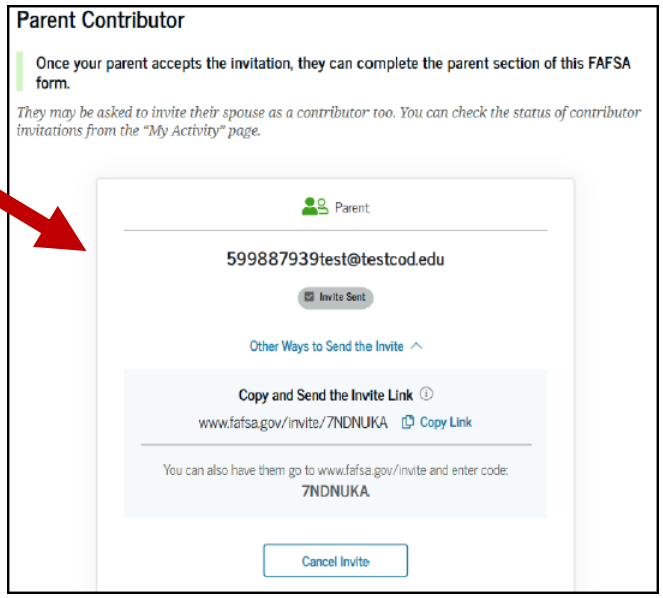




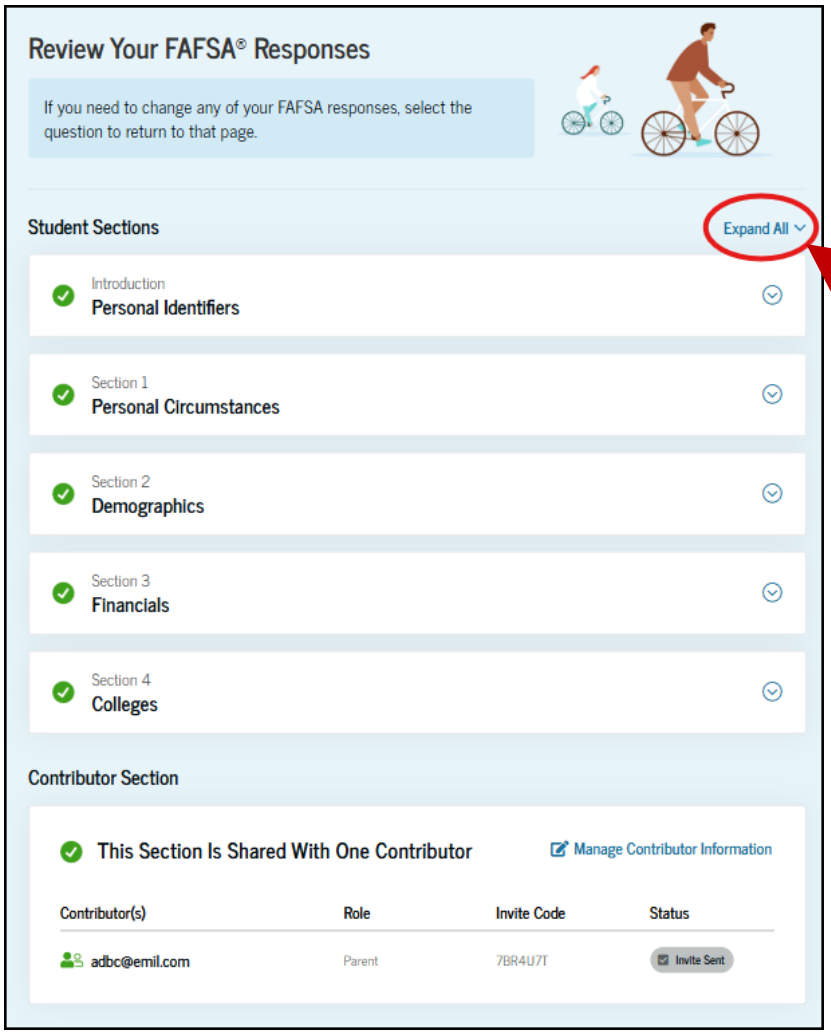


This page confirms the student's parent will receive an email inviting them to the student's FAFSA® form. The parent can access the form by accepting the invitation in the email.

On this page, the student is also provided an invitation link and invitation code that can be shared directly with the parent.



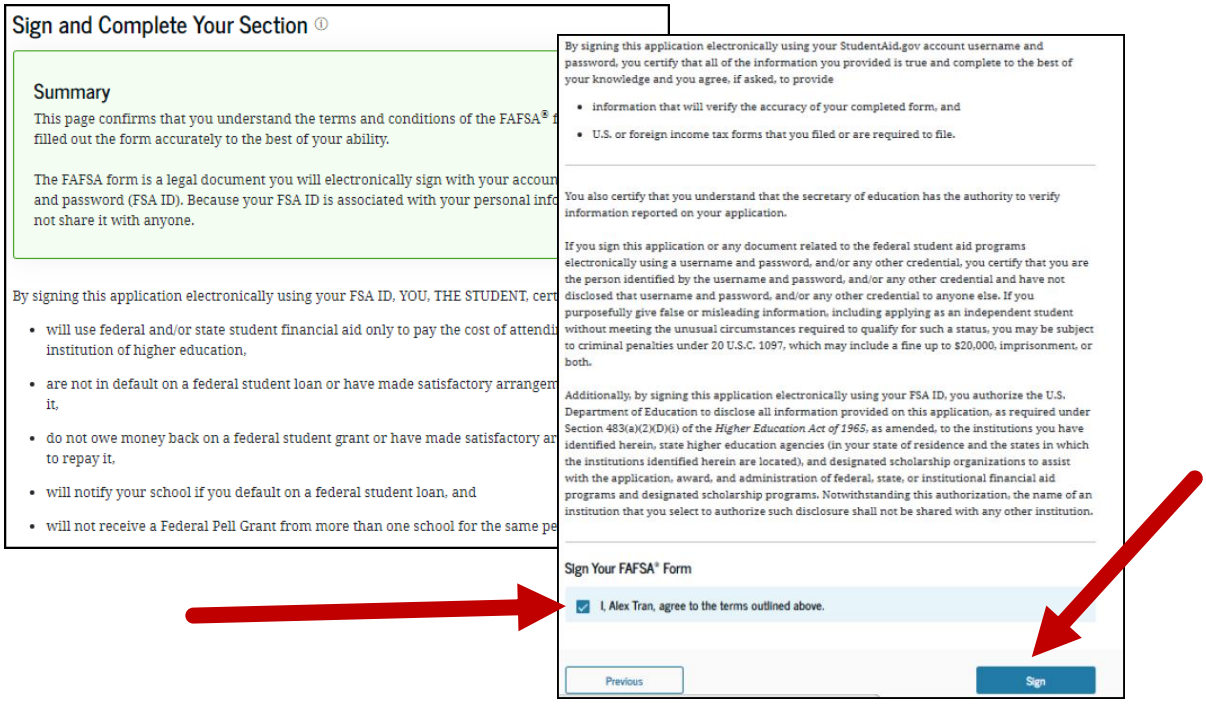
Dependent Student Review Page



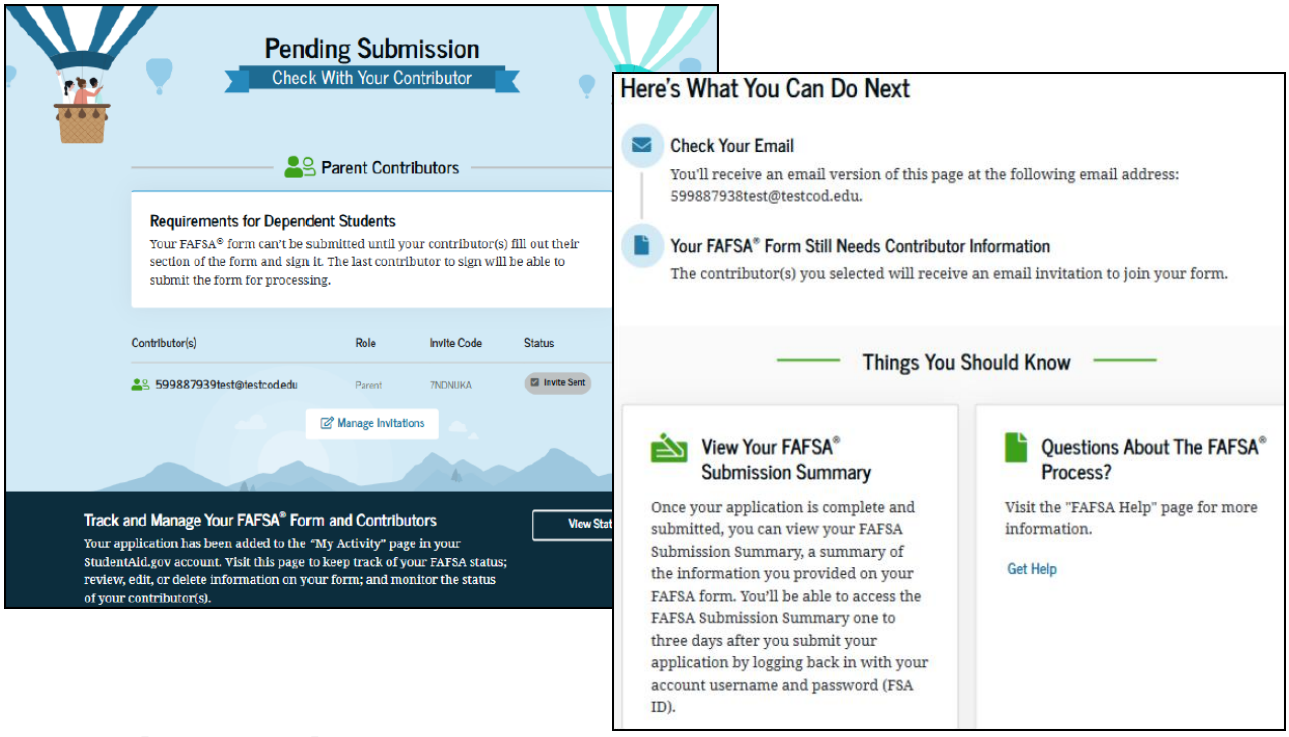
Click Expand All to review all your answers. If you need to change any of your FAFSA responses, select the quesiton to return to that page.

If everything is accurate, click Continue.

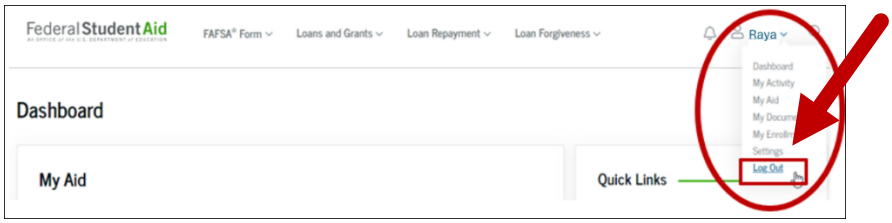
Signature



Dependent Student Section Complete

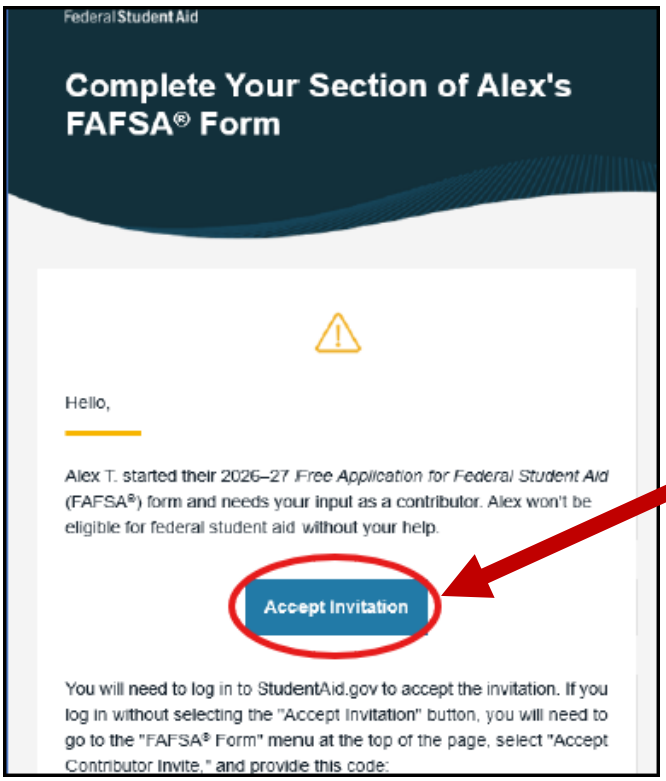


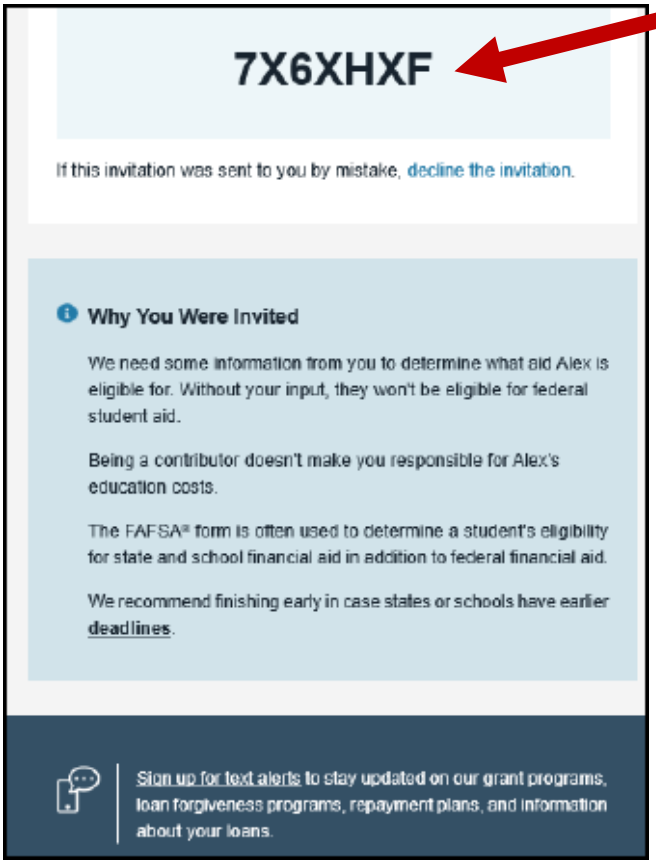
Dependent Student Logs Out



Θ Dependent Student's Parent Email

This is NOT a view within StudentAid.gov nor the FAFSA® form. This view demonstrates a parent opening the FAFSA invitation from their email.



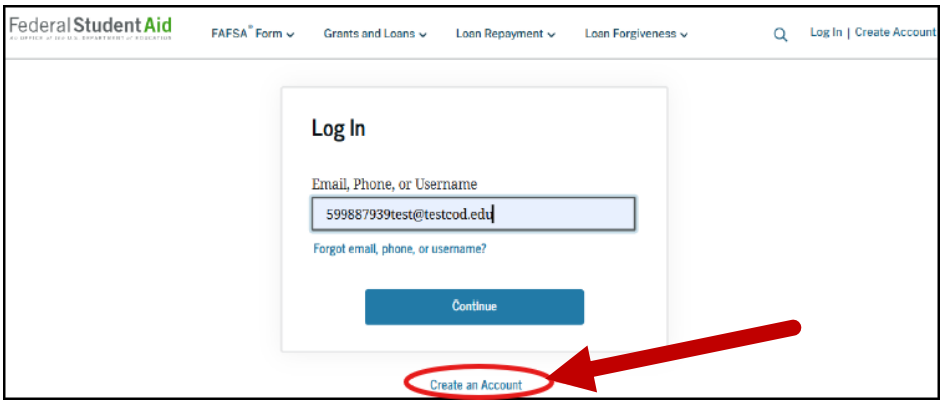


The parent selects "Accept Invitation" and is taken to StudentAid.gov.

Once the parent is logged into the StudentAid.gov website, they will provide the unique code linking them to the student's FAFSA application.

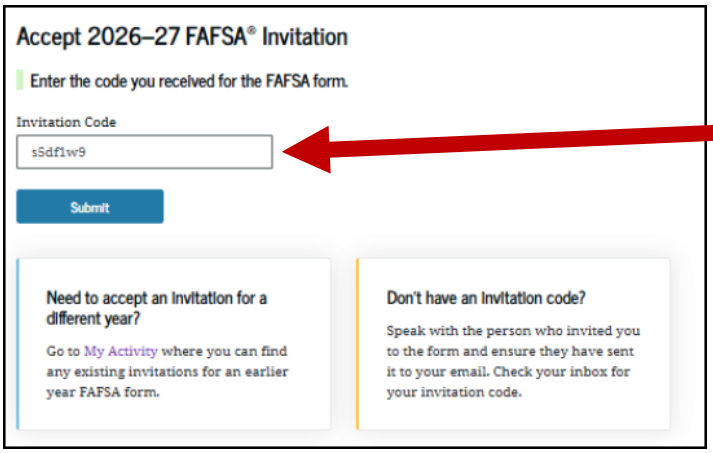
Dependent Student's Parent Log In

The parent is taken from their email to the "Log In" page to enter their credentials. To access the FAFSA® form, all users are required to have a StudentAid.gov account username and password. If the parent doesn't have a username and password, they can select "Create an Account."



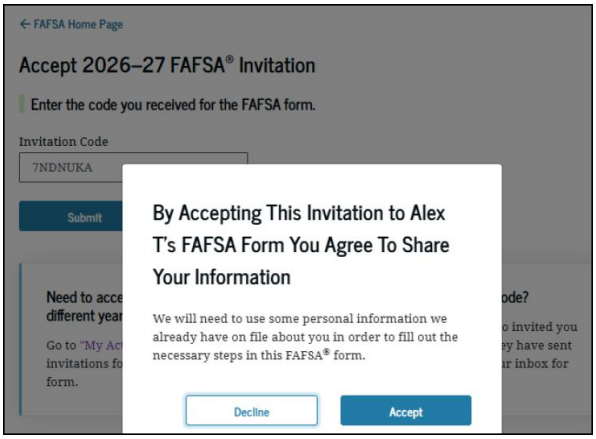
During login, you will be prompted for Two-Step Verification and to confirm your information.

Parent Accepts Invitation

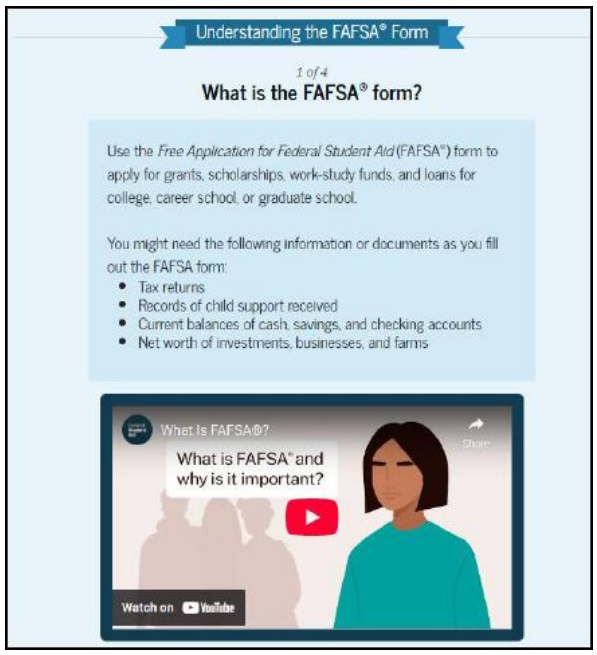


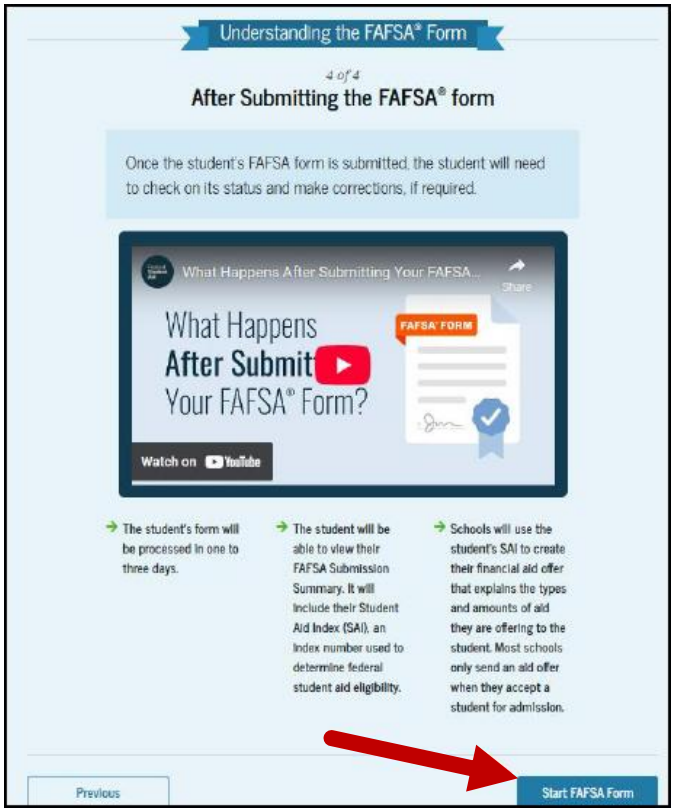
Parent enters the unique code (that they received in the email invite).

Parent Accepts Invitation continued

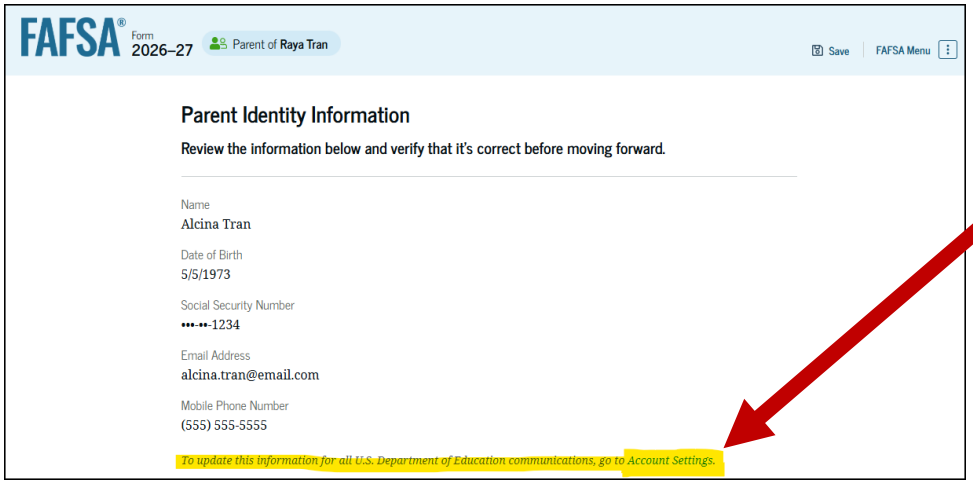


⊖ Parent views the videos/read information on the next few screens. Then select Start FAFSA Form.



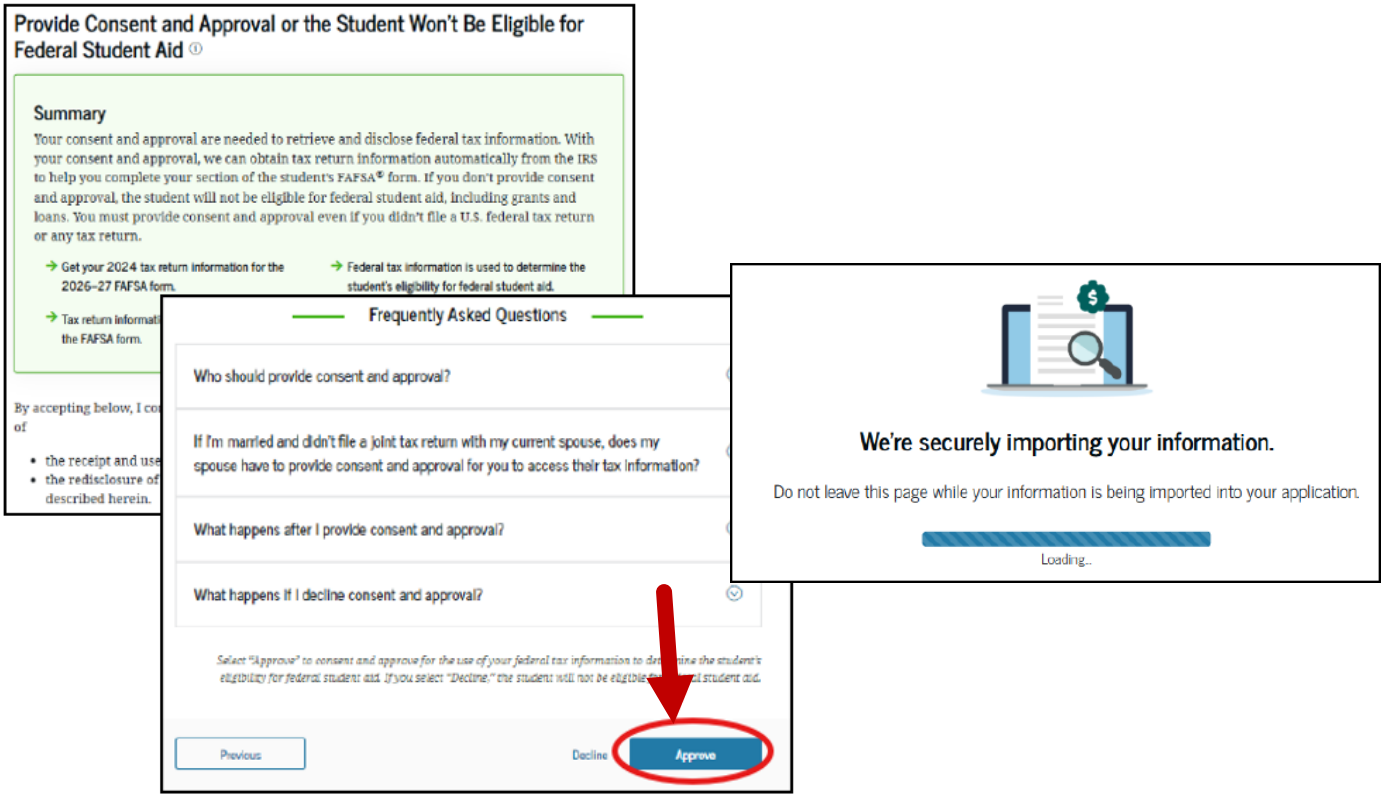


⊖ Parent reviews their information & makes any necessary corrections

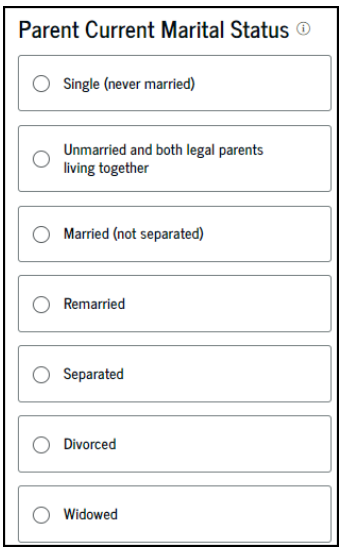


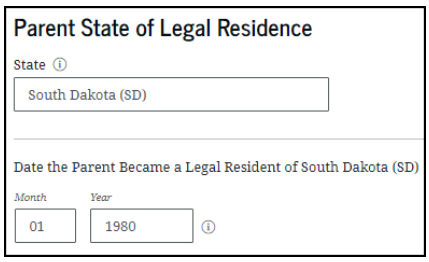
To update any of the personal information, the parent must access their account settings on StudentAid.gov.

Parent Provides Consent and Approval



Parent's Demographics





Θ Parent's Finances

2 Financials

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.

At any time during 2024 or 2025, did the parent or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs?

Family includes the parent's spouse, children, and other dependents. Select all that apply or "None of these apply."

- ☐ Earned Income Credit (EIC)
- ☐ Federal Housing Assistance
- ☐ Free or Reduced Price School Lunch
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Refundable Credit for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) or Health Insurance Subsidy
- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- ☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ☐ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- ☐ None of these apply.

Θ Parent's 2024 Tax Filing Status

2 Financials

Parent Tax Filing Status

Did or will the parent file a 2024 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR?

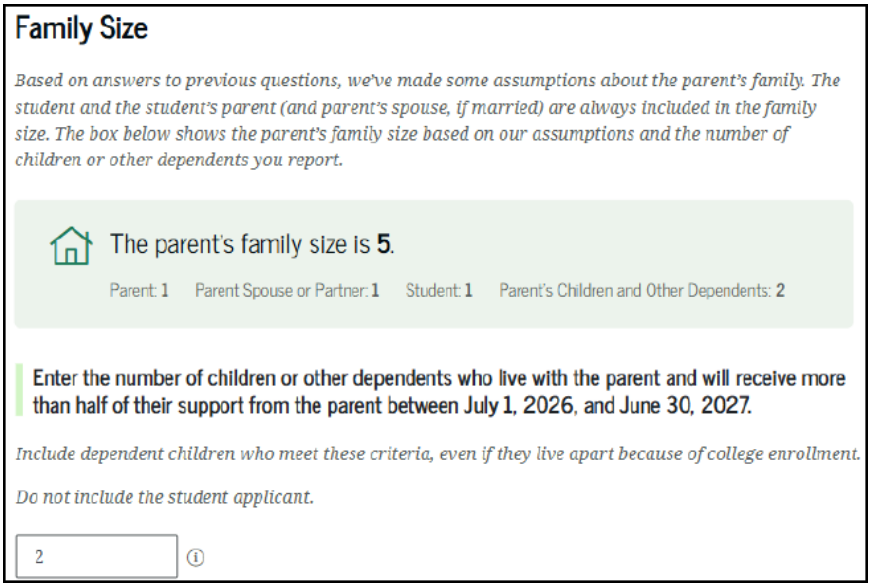
- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Did or will the parent file a 2024 joint tax return with their current spouse?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

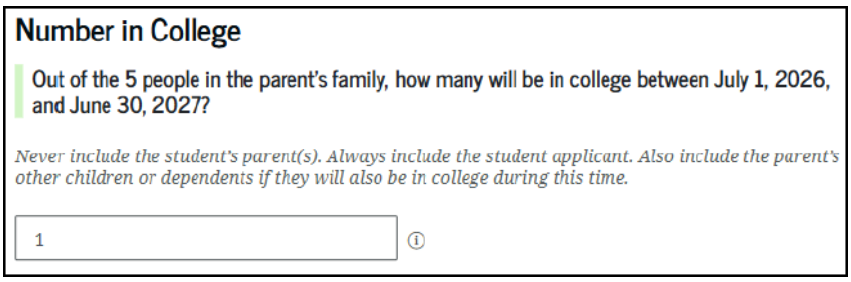
Θ Parent's Family Size

2 Financials



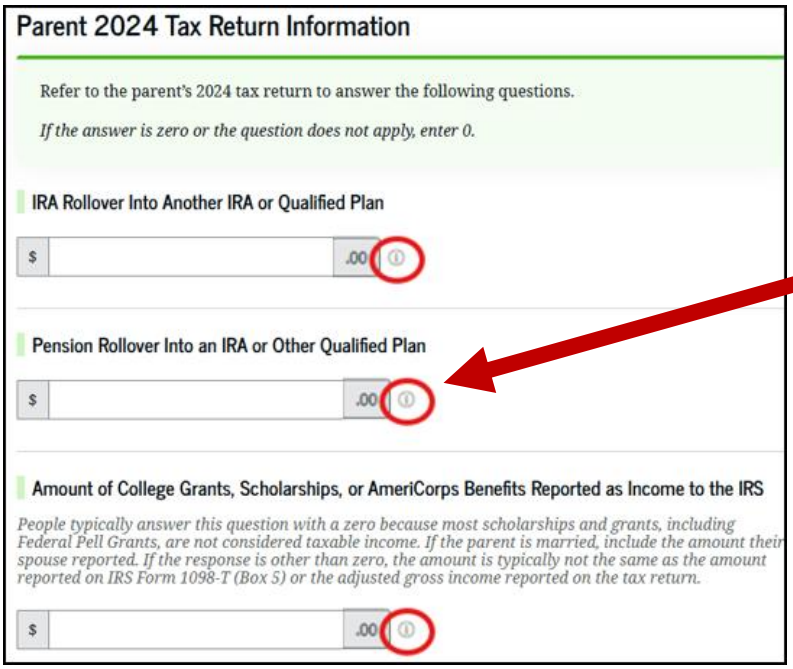
Θ Parent's Number in College

2 Financials



Θ Parent's 2024 Tax Return

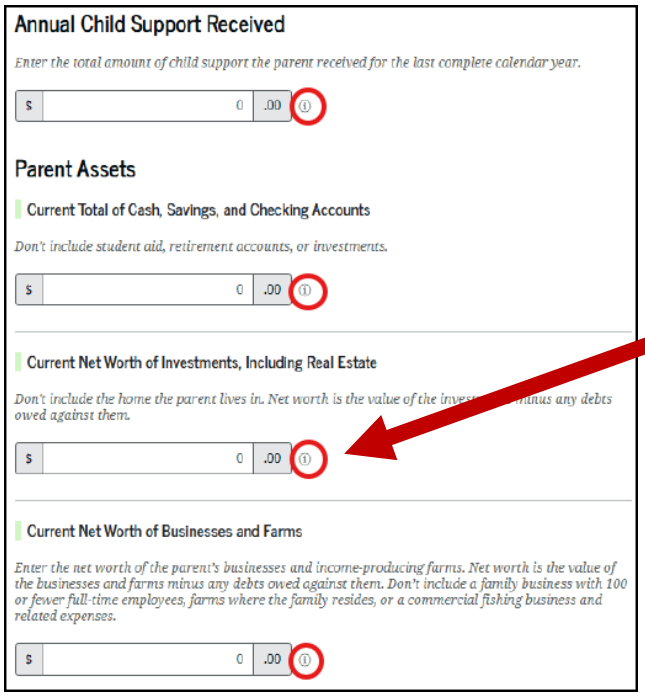
2 Financials



Click on the icons for definitions of these tax questions.

Parent's Child Support Received & Assets

2 Financials

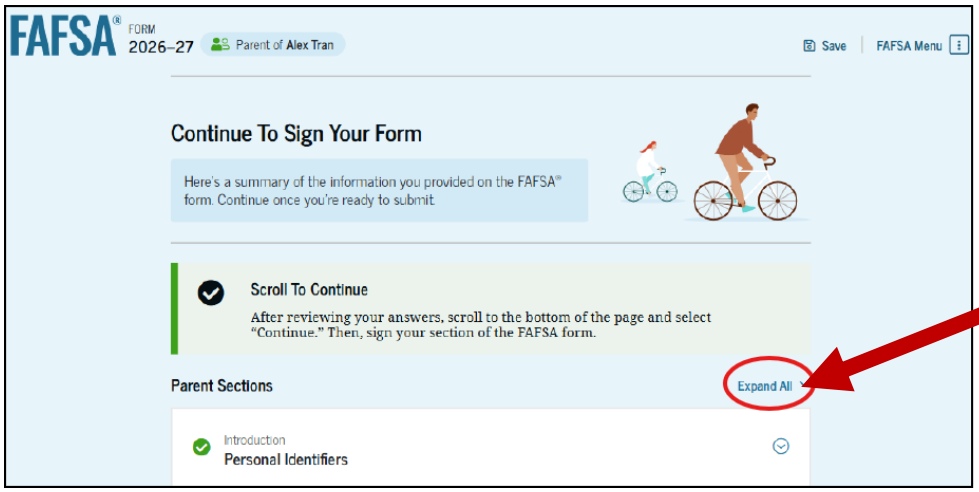


Click on these icons for definitions of asset questions. The definitions are also provided at the end of this packet.

Parent Spouse's or Partner's Information

2 Financials

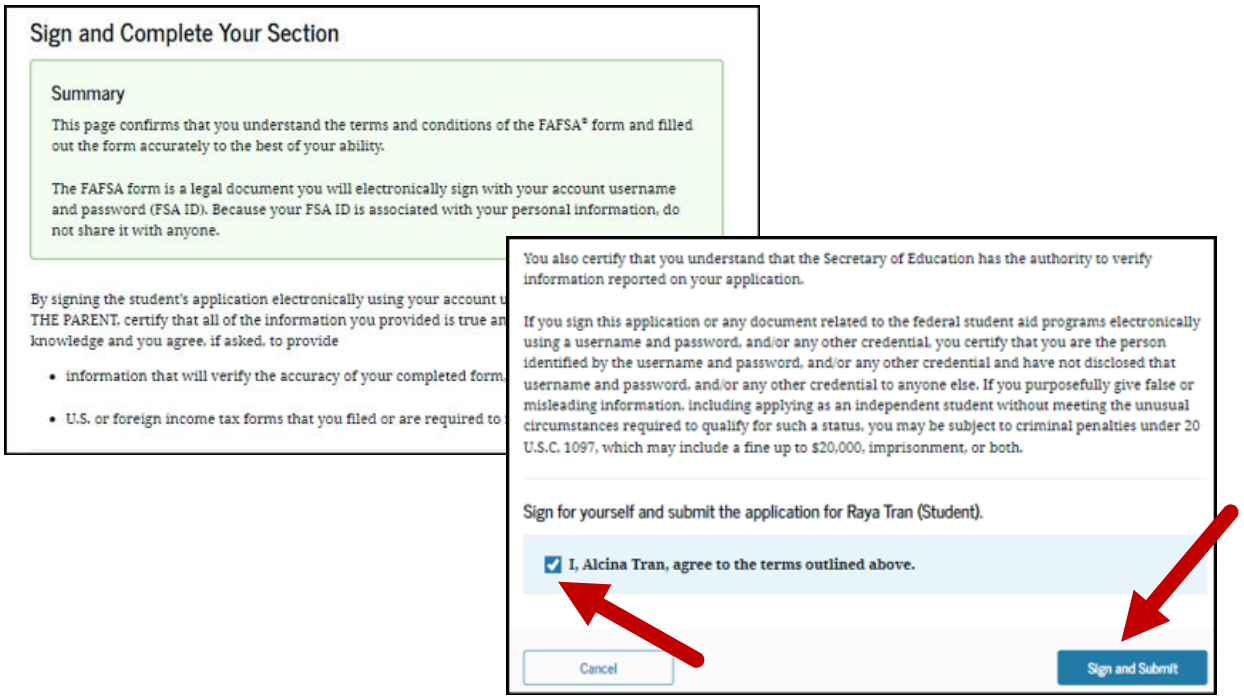
Parent's Review Page



Click Expand All to review all your answers. If you need to change any of your FAFSA responses, select the quesiton to return to that page.

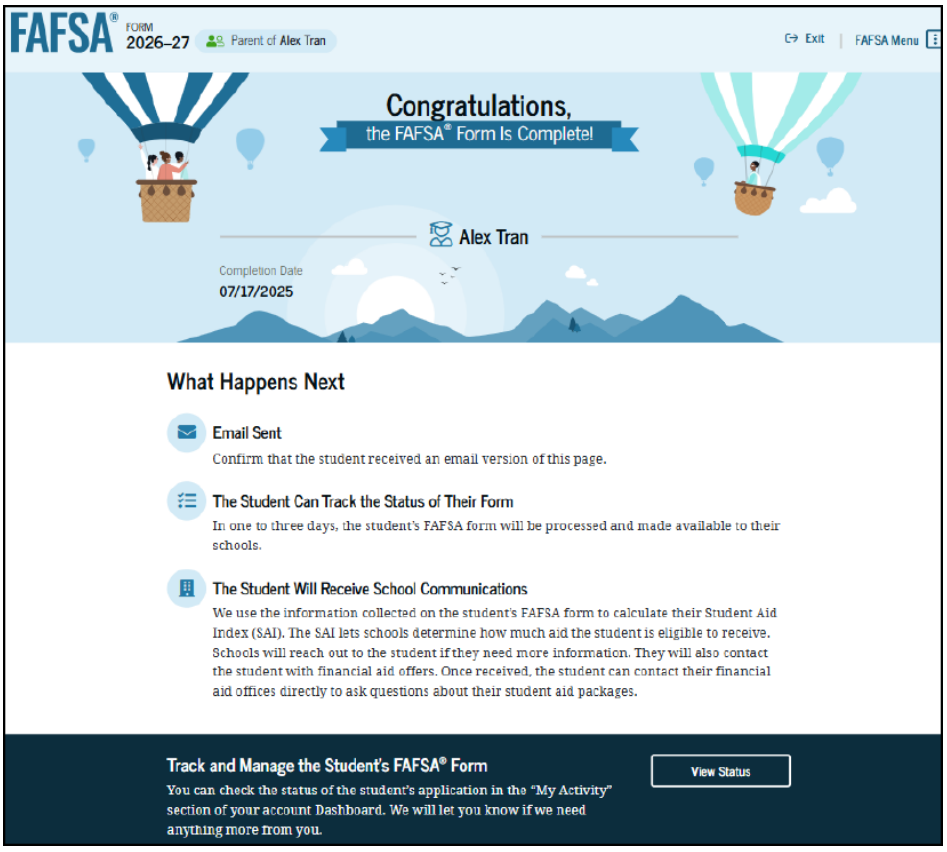
If everything is accurate, click Continue.

Θ Parent's Signature



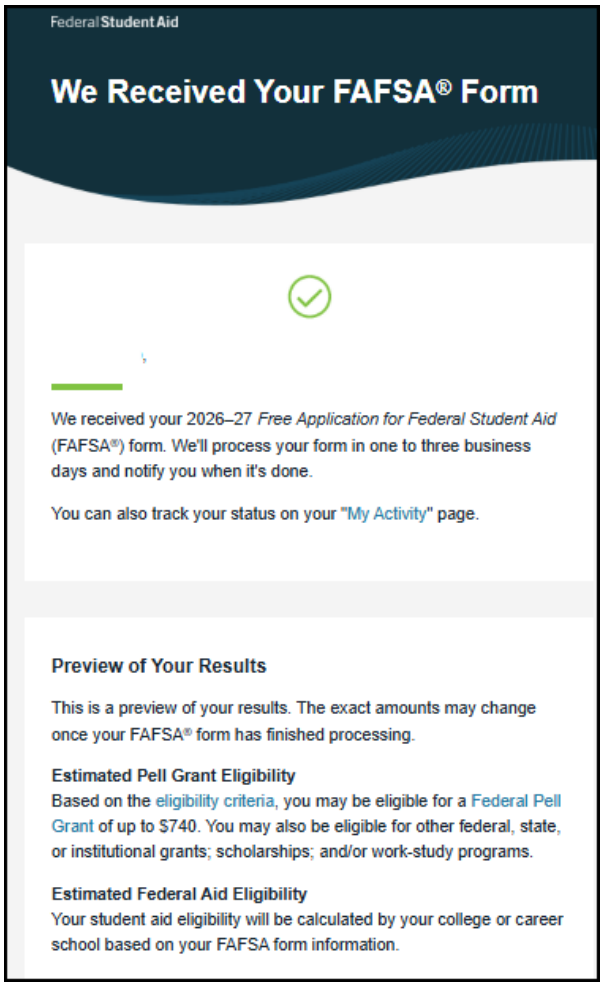
Θ FAFSA Confirmation

Congratulations, the FAFSA Form is Complete!



Once the parent sees this page, they can log out of the studentaid.gov website.

⊖ Student receives email from U.S. Department of Education



Federal Student Aid

We Received Your FAFSA® Form

We received your 2026–27 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form. We'll process your form in one to three business days and notify you when it's done.

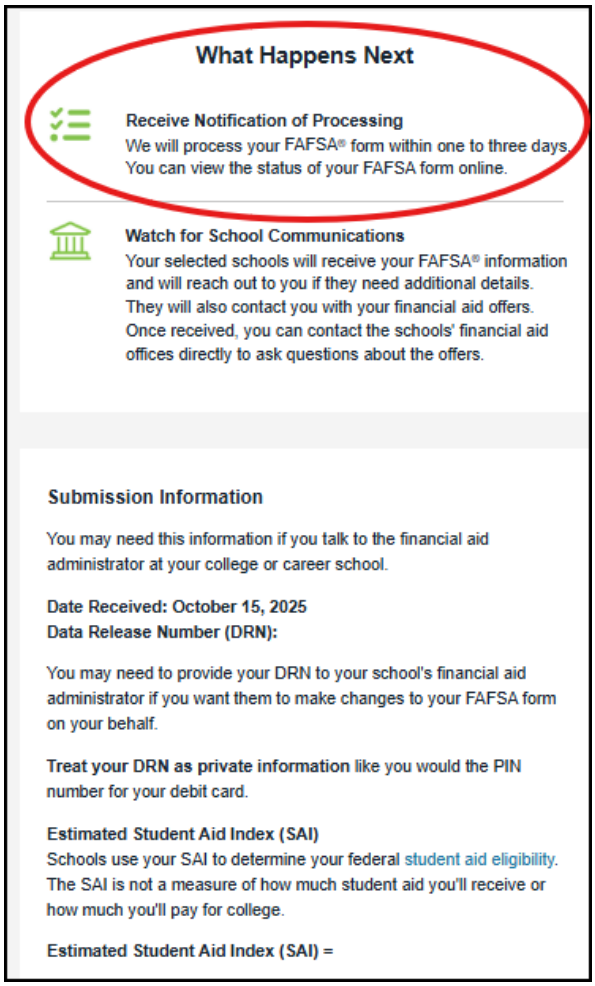
You can also track your status on your "My Activity" page.

Preview of Your Results

This is a preview of your results. The exact amounts may change once your FAFSA® form has finished processing.

Estimated Pell Grant Eligibility
Based on the eligibility criteria, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to $740. You may also be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants; scholarships; and/or work-study programs.

Estimated Federal Aid Eligibility
Your student aid eligibility will be calculated by your college or career school based on your FAFSA form information.



What Happens Next

Receive Notification of Processing
We will process your FAFSA® form within one to three days. You can view the status of your FAFSA form online.

Watch for School Communications
Your selected schools will receive your FAFSA® information and will reach out to you if they need additional details. They will also contact you with your financial aid offers. Once received, you can contact the schools' financial aid offices directly to ask questions about the offers.

Submission Information

You may need this information if you talk to the financial aid administrator at your college or career school.

Date Received: October 15, 2025
Data Release Number (DRN):

You may need to provide your DRN to your school's financial aid administrator if you want them to make changes to your FAFSA form on your behalf.

Treat your DRN as private information like you would the PIN number for your debit card.

Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI)
Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility. The SAI is not a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college.

Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) =

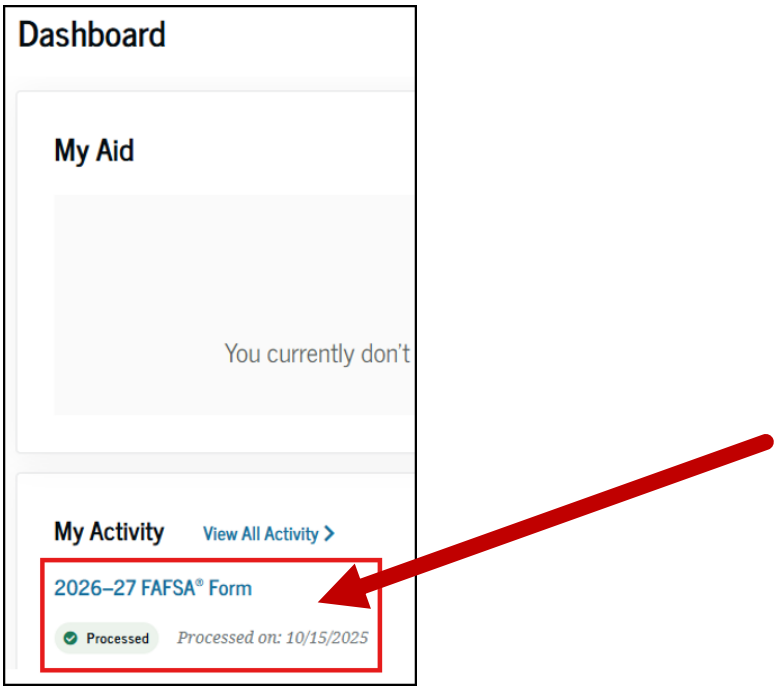
In one to three days, the Student's FAFSA should be processed.

After three days, the STUDENT should log back into studentaid.gov to view their FAFSA Submission Summary (see next page for instructions to view the summary.)

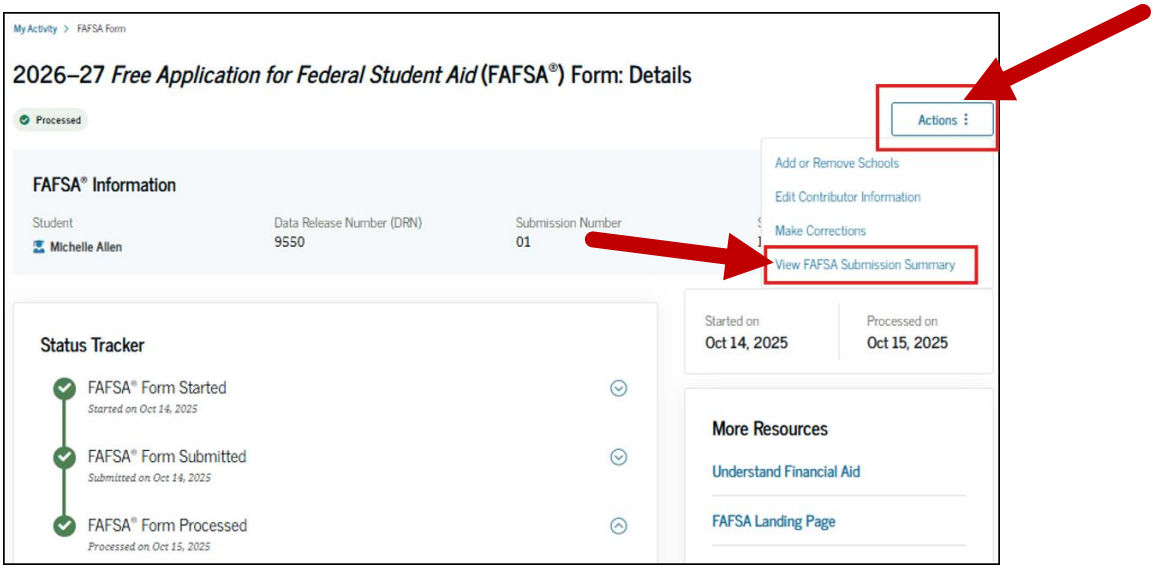
Viewing your (the Student's) FAFSA Submission Summary

1. The STUDENT logs into studentaid.gov

2. On your Dashboard, go to the *My Activity section* and click on 2026-27 FAFSA Form

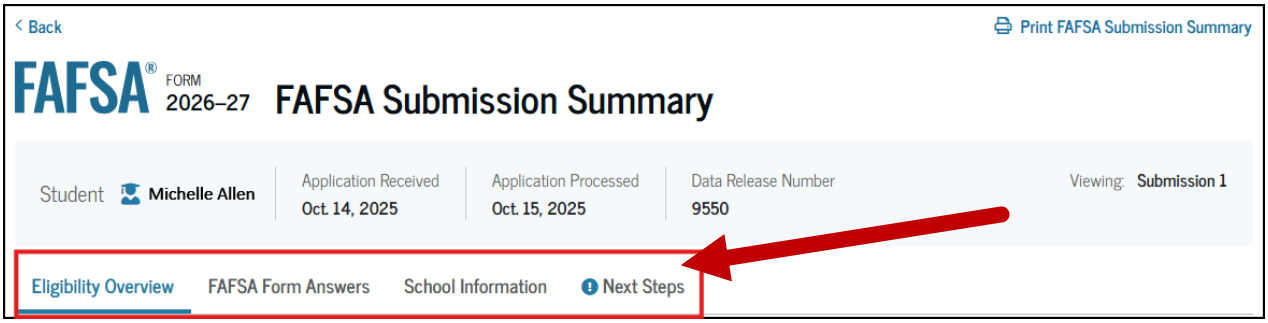


3. Click on Actions, and select FAFSA Submission Summary

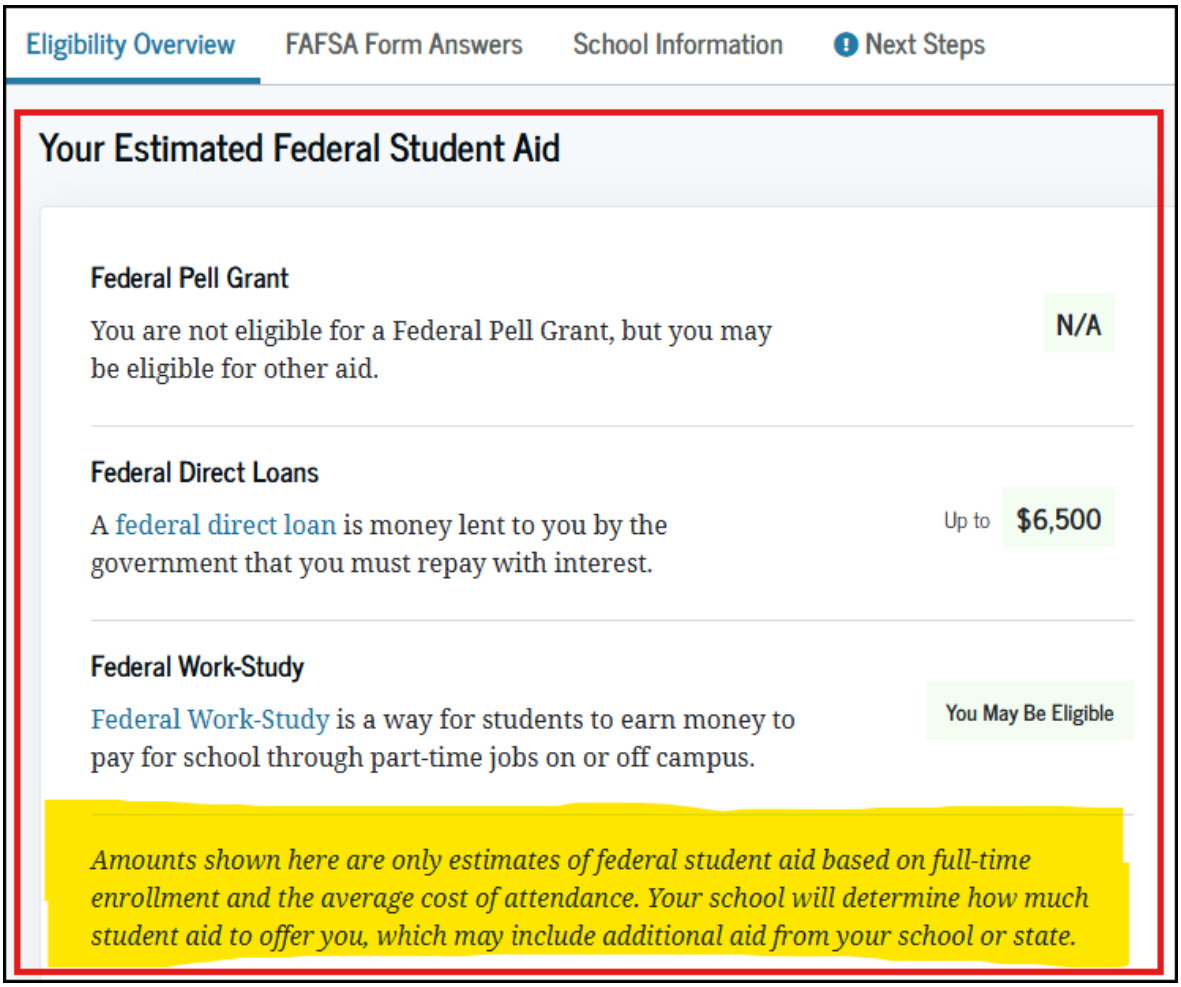


Viewing your FAFSA Submission Summary, continued

4. There are tabs across the top:

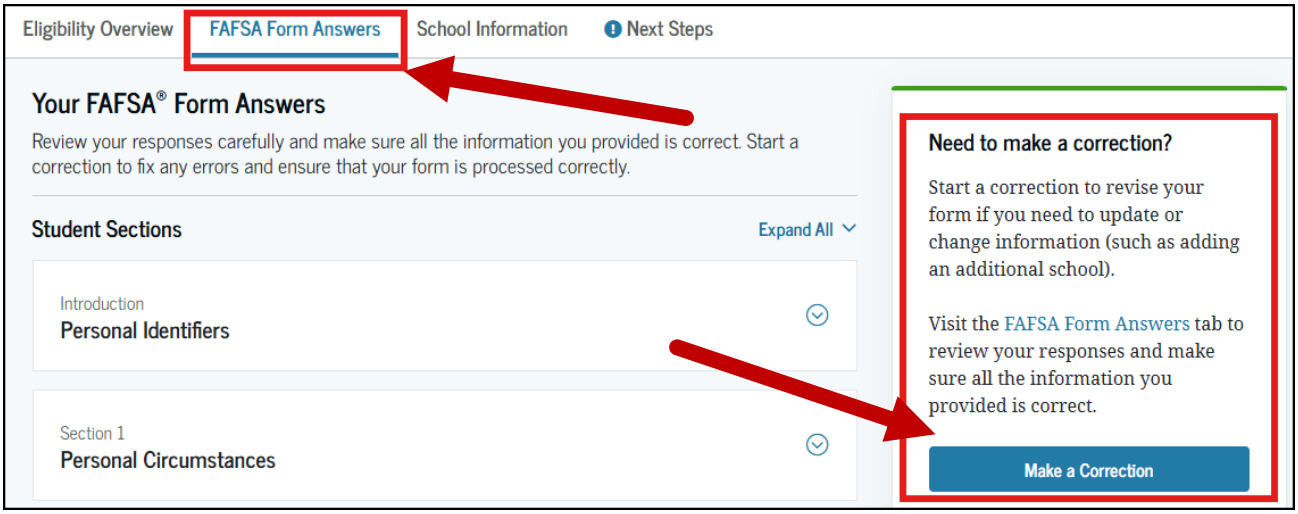


5. The "Eligibility Overview" tab, shows your Estimated Aid – This is only an ESTIMATE. The student will receive an official financial aid offer from the college(s) they listed on their FAFSA.



Viewing your FAFSA Submission Summary, continued

6. Review your FAFSA Form Answers and Make Corrections (if necessary). If everything looks accurate, you can log out and wait for your school(s) to send you communications about your financial aid offer.



Next Steps

1. Review your FAFSA information on the FAFSA Submission Summary and make any necessary corrections to the FAFSA.

2. Schools listed on the FAFSA will also receive the FAFSA Submission Summary & will communicate* any additional instructions if the student's FAFSA is flagged for issues or verification (review).

3. Colleges will send out* award notifications to students who have finalized their financial aid and been accepted for enrollment. The award notification lists the types and amounts of financial aid for which the student is qualified.

4. Compare award notifications against the cost of attending.

5. Follow instructions from the college to accept/decline aid and complete any additional steps such as completing Loan Entrance Counseling, Master Promissory Note, and reviewing work-study information.

* The MTC Financial Aid Office communicates through the student's email address that is listed on their FAFSA.

Federal Student Aid's Definitions for Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Add the account balances of your (and if married, your spouse's) cash, savings, and checking accounts **as of the day you submit the FAFSA form.** Enter the total of all accounts as the total current balance. If the total balance is $10 million or more, enter 9999999. If the total balance is negative or zero, enter 0 as the total current balance.

Don't include student financial aid or retirement plans (401[k] plans, pension funds, annuities, noneducation IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.) in your account balances.

Round to the nearest dollar. Don't include commas or decimal points.

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

The net worth of your (and if married, your spouse's) current investments is the amount left over after subtracting the debt from the value of each investment. See example 1.

A negative value of one property can't be used to reduce the value of other investment properties. It should instead be calculated as a value of zero when adding the values of all investment properties. See example 2.

Investment value means the current balance or market value of these investments as of the day you submit your FAFSA form. Investment debt means only those debts that are related to the investments.

Round to the nearest dollar. Don't include commas or decimal points.

Investments Include

• real estate (don't include the home in which you live, or real estate owned by a business that was reported under the Current Net Worth of Business and Farms question) • rental property (includes a unit within a family home that has its own entrance, kitchen, and bath rented to someone other than a family member) • vacation homes • trust funds • Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) and Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA) accounts • money market funds • mutual funds	• certificates of deposit • stocks • stock options • bonds • securities • installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held) • tax shelters • accounts designated for the student's benefit, (including qualified education benefits, or education savings accounts such as Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans, and the refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans).

Note: Qualified education benefits or education savings accounts must be reported as an asset of the parent if the student is considered a dependent on the FAFSA® form. If the student is considered an independent student on the FAFSA form, the education benefit or savings account is reported as an asset of the student. UGMA and UTMA accounts are considered the student's assets & must be reported as an asset of the student on the FAFSA form, regardless of the student's dependency status.

Federal Student Aid's Definitions for Assets continued

Investments don't include

• the home in which you (and if married, your spouse) live • cash, savings and checking accounts • ABLE accounts • the value of life insurance and retirement plans (401[k] plans, pension funds, annuities, noneducation IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.)	• UGMA/UTMA accounts for which the student is the custodian but not the owner • the value of qualified education benefits or education savings accounts that are for the benefit of the parent's other children (not the student). • the value of a business, farm, or commercial fishing operation

Examples of Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Example 1:

You own (and if married, your spouse owns) an investment property valued at $100,000; however, $75,000 in debt is owed on the property. The net worth of the investment is $25,000 ($100,000 - $75,000 = $25,000).

If you own (and if married, your spouse owns) multiple investments, total the net worth amounts and report them as a lump sum.

Example 2:

You own (and if married, your spouse owns) two investment properties.

The first investment property is valued at $100,000. The debt that is owed on the property is $110,000. To calculate the net worth, perform the following calculation:

(Value of Property) minus (Debt Owed on Property) = net worth

$100,000 - $110,000 = -$10,000

The net worth of this first investment property is considered $0, not negative value of $10,000.

The second investment property is valued at $200,000. The debt that is owed on the property is $100,000. To calculate the net worth, perform the following calculation:

(Value of Property) minus (Debt Owed on Property) = net worth

$200,000 - $100,000 = $100,000

The net worth of this second investment property is $100,000.

If the net worth of the first investment property is $0 and the net worth of the second investment property is $100,000, then the amount to be reported for both properties is $100,000.

If your (and if married, your spouse's) net worth as of the day you submit your FAFSA form is	Enter
Ten million or more	9999999
Zero or less than zero	0

For more information about reporting investments, go to studentaid.gov/help-center/contact

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms

The following definitions are applicable with the 2026-2027. Previous years may follow different definitions

Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus (subtracting) any debts owed against them. If the total net value is negative or zero, enter 0 as the total net worth.

Include

- a business that has more than 100 full-time (or full-time equivalent) employees and that is owned and controlled by the family, including a small or family-run business, and the fair market value of real estate owned by the business; and
- income-producing farms that you own (including the fair market value of land, buildings, livestock, unharvested crops, and machinery actively used in investment farms, agricultural or commercial activities). **Do not include a family farm on which the family resides.**

Don't include

- **a business with 100 or fewer full-time (or full-time equivalent) employees;**
- the value of crops that are grown solely for consumption by the student and their family;
- **a commercial fishing business and related expenses, including fishing vessels and permits owned and controlled by the family;**
- personal money in cash, savings, and checking accounts;
- the home in which you live;
- *Uniform Gifts to Minors Act* (UGMA) and *Uniform Transfer* to Minors Act (UTMA) accounts;
- the value of life insurance;
- ABLE accounts;
- retirement plans (401[k] plans, pension funds, annuities, noneducation IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.); or
- real estate not owned by the business; or
- other investments, such as stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc.

Note: A fishing business is the trade or business of fishing in which the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are intended to enter commerce or enter commerce through sale, barter, or trade.

Federal Student Aid's Definitions for Parents

Which parent is considered a contributor?

- If your parents are married (not separated) and filed taxes jointly, only one parent is required to be a contributor.
- If your parents are married (not separated) and didn't file taxes jointly, both of your parents are contributors.
- If your parents aren't married to each other and live together, both of your parents are contributors.
- If your parents are divorced, separated, or never married, and don't live together, the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months is the contributor.
- If your parents are divorced, separated, or never married; don't live together; and provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if they don't support you financially, the parent with the greater income and assets is the contributor.
- If this parent is now married and didn't file taxes jointly with their current spouse, their spouse is also a contributor.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office for further assistance.

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