

What's New for the 2017–18 FAFSA®?

Basics for High School Counselors
and College Access Mentors

Topics

- What's Changing
- Reasons for the Changes
- FAQs About Timing & Reporting Information
- Tips for Fall College Prep Outreach
- Materials & Resources for Outreach

What's Changing for 2017–18

Change #1: Earlier FAFSA[®] Launch

- 2017–18 FAFSA available Oct. 1, 2016, at fafsa.gov
- Change to October 1 launch will be permanent

Change #2: Earlier Income Info Required

- 2015 tax/income information required
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately

What's Changing for 2017–18

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA® PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Reasons for the Changes

- Reason #1: Alignment
 - Many college admissions application deadlines occur in the fall
 - Financial aid application done at same time = less confusion
- Reason #2: Certainty
 - No need to estimate tax info
 - IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately
 - Earlier receipt of Expected Family Contribution (helps with assessing net costs)
- Reason #3: Less Pressure
 - More time before (most) state and school deadlines
 - More time to compare schools before College Signing Day

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will deadlines be earlier?

- Most state and school deadlines won't change
- Caveat: several states will change from “as soon as possible after January 1” to “as soon as possible after October 1” (for their first-come, first-served state aid)
- State deadlines: fafsa.gov
- School deadlines: see schools' websites

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will 2016–17 FAFSA[®] info be carried over to Renewal FAFSA?

- No; too much could have changed
- IRS DRT provides easy importation of data to keep process quick

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Can a student choose to report 2016 information?

- No; student does not have a choice of which year to report
- Must report info re the year the FAFSA[®] asks for
- Remember: Certain items on FAFSA are “as of today,” so student must read each question and fill out accordingly

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will students receive aid offers earlier if they apply earlier?

- Not necessarily; some schools will make offers earlier; others won't
- collegescorecard.ed.gov allows for cost comparison of schools based on averages
- Remember: early aid offers will likely be estimates (Pell maximum not announced until early 2017)

Tips for Fall College Prep Outreach

Messaging/Outreach Calendar

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

Partners

Engage:

Let you know we've got tools and resources ready now to support your needs.

Increase Fluency:

Provide education materials about 2017–18 FAFSA and any changes that impact your students/clients.

Arm You:

Continue to listen and provide you with materials to support your outreach about the 2017–18 FAFSA and financial aid.

HS & College Students,
Parents, Adults:

Increase Awareness:

Drive awareness of financial aid and FSA ID over the summer while students/parents are planning for college.

Prepare Them for the FAFSA:

Keep federal student aid top of mind.

Drive FAFSA Submissions:

Starting Oct. 1, promote that FAFSA is now available and increase the sense of urgency to fill out the FAFSA for financial aid.

Tips for Fall College Prep Outreach

Messaging/Outreach Calendar

- May/early June: Prep for the fall! Tell rising seniors to get FSA IDs (full info: StudentAid.gov/fsaid)
- Early/mid-September: Hold financial aid night
 - Remind students and parents re FSA ID
 - Explain that FAFSA® coming soon & importance of filling it out promptly (early submission = chance of more money)
- October: Hold FAFSA completion event
 - Provide hands-on help filling out FAFSA
 - Explain next steps
- November through April: Help students interpret and compare aid offers
 - Emphasize importance of meeting deadlines set by colleges for providing any additional info
 - Remind students to check e-mail (inc. junk folder) often


Materials & Resources for Outreach

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND® | **Financial Aid Toolkit**
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Learn About Financial Aid | Conduct Outreach | Get Training | Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources

Help students and parents prepare for college or career school.
The Financial Aid Toolkit provides federal student aid information and outreach tools for counselors, college access professionals, nonprofit mentors, and others.

 <p>LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID</p> <p>Understand the basics of federal student aid, the FAFSA, and loan repayment.</p>	 <p>CONDUCT OUTREACH</p> <p>Get tips on hosting events; sample financial aid night PowerPoint presentations; and suggested messages for social media, e-mails, or newsletters.</p>	 <p>GET TRAINING</p> <p>Find training or conference opportunities and learn about the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) program.</p>	 <p>SEARCH TOOLS AND RESOURCES</p> <p>Search our resource library by content, audience, topic, and time of year.</p>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS | FAFSA CHANGES FOR 2017-18

Materials & Resources for Outreach

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

- [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/fafsa](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/fafsa)
- [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources)
- [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/fafsa-changes](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/fafsa-changes)
 - Talking points
 - Table of FAFSA[®] launch dates and tax years
 - Fact sheets for counselors and parents & college students
 - Outreach calendar
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Information about upcoming webinars

Materials & Resources for Outreach

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Financial Aid Toolkit website. It includes the logo for Federal Student Aid (An Office of the U.S. Department of Education) and the PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®. The main navigation menu has four items: Learn About Financial Aid, Conduct Outreach, Get Training, and Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources. Below the navigation is a search bar with the text "Search for tools and resources to help you or your students learn about financial aid for college." and a filter instruction: "Filter resources by file type, audience, topic, and the time of year the resource is most relevant." The main content area contains instructions on how to use the search tool, a link to view all financial aid tools and resources, and a link to view the last 30 days most-downloaded resources. At the bottom, there are four dropdown menus: "I AM LOOKING FOR" (Resource Type), "TO HELP" (Audience Type), "LEARN ABOUT" (Topic), and "DURING" (Time of Year). The "LEARN ABOUT" dropdown menu is open, showing a list of topics: All, College Preparation, Types of Aid, Eligibility, FAFSA, 2017-18 FAFSA (selected), and FSA ID. A red arrow points to the "2017-18 FAFSA" option. To the right of the dropdowns is a "GET RESOURCES" button and a link to "Clear Selection". The footer contains links for FOIA, Privacy, Notices, Plug-ins and Viewers, usa.gov, ed.gov, and whitehouse.gov, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Materials & Resources for Outreach

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

Your Search Results

Your search resulted in 4 results. If you'd like to get more results, try broadening your search by selecting more criteria in the dropdown filter boxes.

The resources below are, by default, listed in alphabetical order. To change the order to sort the resources by Resource Type, please select the "Resource Type" radio button below.

Please note that a resource could be classified as more than one Resource Type but will appear just once in the list below.

Sort results by:

Resource Title Resource Type



[2017-18 FAFSA Talking Points](#)

Description: Messages for counselors to use with colleagues, students, and parents to inform them about the changes for the 2017-18 FAFSA. Feel free to copy and paste! [142KB]

Resource Type: Other, How-To Guides



[Changes to the FAFSA Process for 2017-18 - Graphic](#)

Description: Table showing changes to FAFSA application cycle dates and tax year the FAFSA asks about. [66KB]

Resource Type: Infographics

Also Available in: [Text Version](#)



[College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA](#)

Description: Details for college students and parents about changes to the FAFSA launch date and the tax year the FAFSA asks about. [56KB]

Resource Type: Handouts



[Counselors and Mentors: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA](#)

Description: Both the FAFSA launch date and the tax year about which the FAFSA asks are changing for the 2017-18 FAFSA. Get details and outreach tips. [61KB]

Resource Type: Handouts

Materials & Resources for Outreach

StudentAid.gov

ABOUT US
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Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

Prepare for College ▾
Types of Aid ▾
Who Gets Aid ▾
FAFSA: Applying for Aid ▾
How to Repay Your Loans ▾

Minds can achieve anything. We make sure they get to college.

At Federal Student Aid, we make it easier to get money for higher education.

HOW DO I
PREPARE FOR
COLLEGE?

Learn about exploring careers, choosing and applying to schools, and taking required tests. Use checklists to help get ready.

WHAT TYPES
OF AID CAN
I GET?

Read about the types of financial aid available from the government and other sources: grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study.

DO I
QUALIFY
FOR AID?

Most people are eligible for financial aid. Find out who gets aid, how to stay eligible, and how to get eligibility back if you've lost it.

HOW DO I
APPLY FOR
AID?

Learn how to submit your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®), how aid is calculated, and how you'll get your aid.

HOW DO I
MANAGE
MY LOANS?

Choose a repayment plan, pay on time, avoid default, and get help with problems.

ANNOUNCEMENTS [CFPB ACTION TO SHUT DOWN STUDENT DEBT RELIEF SCHEME](#)

Prepare for College

- [Explore Careers](#)
- [Career Search](#)
- [Checklists to Get Ready](#)

Types of Aid

- [Grants and Scholarships](#)
- [Loans](#)
- [Work-Study Jobs](#)

Who Gets Aid

- [Basic Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [Non-U.S. Citizens](#)
- [Staying Eligible](#)

FAFSA: Applying for Aid

- [Estimate Your Aid](#)
- [Filling Out the FAFSA](#)
- [Dependency Status](#)

How to Repay Your Loans

- [Making a Payment](#)
- [Repayment Plans](#)
- [Loan Consolidation](#)

More Info

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Leave Us Feedback](#)

Materials & Resources for Outreach

FAFSA info section: StudentAid.gov/fafsa

The screenshot displays the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, the logo for Federal Student Aid is visible, along with the text "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®" and "An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION". A search bar is located in the top right corner.

The main navigation bar includes the following categories: Prepare for College, Types of Aid, Who Gets Aid, FAFSA: Applying for Aid, and How to Repay Your Loans. The "FAFSA: Applying for Aid" category is currently selected, and a dropdown menu is open, showing options such as "Estimate Your Aid", "Filing Out the FAFSA", "Next Steps", "Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)", and "Ready to fill out the FAFSA? Go to the FAFSA website".

The main content area features a prominent call to action: "If you're ready to fill out the FAFSA now, go for it!" with a "Fill Out the FAFSA" button. Below this, text explains that completing and submitting the FAFSA is free and quick, and it provides access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or career school. It also notes that many states and colleges use FAFSA data to determine eligibility for state and school aid, and some private financial aid providers may use FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for their aid.

On the right side, there is a "Resources" section with links to "2016-17 Completing the FAFSA VIEW FILE", "Myths About Financial Aid VIEW FILE", and "2016-17 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet VIEW FILE".

The URL at the bottom of the page is <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filing-out>.

Materials & Resources for Outreach

Fact sheets, videos, graphics, etc.:
StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa

Fact Sheets		
What's an FSA ID and Why Do I Need One?	PDF	PDF
Am I Dependent or Independent?	PDF	PDF
Who Is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA?	PDF	PDF
College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA®	PDF	Coming spring 2016
Myths About Financial Aid	PDF	PDF

Materials & Resources for Outreach

Changes for 2017–18: StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes

FAFSA® Changes for 2017–18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

The following table provides a summary of key dates as we transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

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Materials & Resources for Outreach

Social Media

- [Twitter.com/FAFSA](https://twitter.com/FAFSA)
- [Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid](https://facebook.com/FederalStudentAid)
- YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid

Federal Student Aid's YouTube Page



Federal Student Aid

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How Do I Create an FSA ID?

42,476 views • 4 months ago

The first step to applying for federal student aid is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or the FAFSA®). Before you fill out your FAFSA watch this video to learn how to create an FSA ID—a username and password—that replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN.

You will need an FSA ID to electronically sign and submit your FAFSA, as well as to make any needed corrections later. And if you are a dependent student, your parent will need his or her own FSA ID, too.

Do not allow someone to create your FSA ID for you, and you should not create one Read more

FAFSA: Apply for Aid

Are you ready to apply for financial aid for college or career school? Check out this playlist that describes the process of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information:

Video Title	Views	Age
How to Create an FSA ID	42,476 views	4 months ago
FAFSA and FSA ID Tips for Parents	3,544 views	2 weeks ago
Overview of the Financial Aid Process	401,900 views	3 years ago
FAFSA Overview	306,618 views	3 years ago
How to Fill Out the FAFSA	13,743 views	3 months ago

Types of Aid

Can't tell grants from loans? No clue what work-study means? Here's a playlist to help you navigate the various types of federal student aid. For more information on the various types of financial aid, visit

Getting Help With the FAFSA®

- fafsa.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID
- studentaid@ed.gov

Questions?
