



November 2016

Dear Counselor:

The office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, would like to share some updates to assist you in working with students.

### **Changes to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> for the 2017–18 Application Cycle**

The 2017–18 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>) season began earlier than previous FAFSA application cycles. Since Oct. 1, 2016, students have been able to fill out the FAFSA for the 2017–18 school year. (In the past, the FAFSA didn't launch until Jan. 1). In addition, applicants no longer need to estimate income and tax information and have been able to retrieve their data directly from the IRS right from the day the FAFSA launched. Students also now have information about their Expected Family Contributions earlier, helping them as they're going through the college application and selection process.

Visit [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/fafsa-changes](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/fafsa-changes) to learn more about the 2017–18 changes and to access a number of fact sheets, presentations, graphics, frequently asked questions, and other resources that you can use in your FAFSA outreach. That page links to our resources search tool, where you can filter your search by topic (e.g., FAFSA in general or 2017–18 FAFSA in particular). You also can download a PDF at [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources/federal-student-aid-resources-for-fafsa.pdf](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources/federal-student-aid-resources-for-fafsa.pdf) to see a portable list of the FAFSA-related resources we've created or updated for the 2017–18 FAFSA launch.

### **Accessing our Informational Resources**

Did you know that Federal Student Aid produces dozens of informational resources that are available online? Page 4 of this letter lists just a small sampling of our brochures, videos, and infographics; be sure to take a look at [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources) to find many more items to supplement your outreach to students and parents. (Note: Your students can access our informational resources at [StudentAid.gov/resources](http://StudentAid.gov/resources).)

### **Ordering Print Publications**

Some of our documents are available in print from [FSAPubs.gov](http://FSAPubs.gov). Your school or organization will need an ML number (a number that identifies your office) in order to log in at the site. If you don't have an ML number, you may call the toll-free hotline on the home page of the site to request one. Please be sure to provide your email address once you've logged in at the FSA Pubs

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site so we can communicate with you more effectively. You also can change your postal address or other contact information at that site.

Note: Students and parents can order publications at [edpubs.gov](http://edpubs.gov) and can download electronic versions of publications, videos, and infographics at [StudentAid.gov/resources](http://StudentAid.gov/resources).

**Paper FAFSA® Forms Discontinued Starting in 2017–18**

Starting with the 2017–18 award year, the preprinted FAFSA® is no longer available. The preprinted FAFSA is the booklet version of the FAFSA. The PDF FAFSA is still available for download across multiple Federal Student Aid websites (e.g., [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov), [StudentAid.gov/resources](http://StudentAid.gov/resources), and [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources)). Students without internet access can obtain print-outs of the PDF FAFSA from [edpubs.gov](http://edpubs.gov) or from 1-877-4-ED-PUBS (1-877-433-7827). Students may request up to five copies of the PDF FAFSA print-out and should receive the copies in three to seven business days after ordering.

**Events for You and Your Students**

Enhance your professional development! Visit [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/training](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/training) to find live and online events at which Federal Student Aid will offer counselor-focused training.

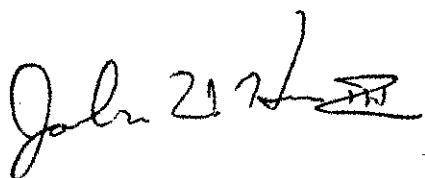
We also reach out to students online on a regular basis. Tell your students to visit [StudentAid.gov/events](http://StudentAid.gov/events) to find any upcoming webinars on a variety of financial aid topics. Also listed are the dates and topics for #AskFAFSA Office Hours—a monthly event during which Federal Student Aid hosts a live question-and-answer session on Twitter using the #AskFAFSA hashtag.

**Find More Information and Updates on the Financial Aid Toolkit**

Remember to visit [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov) to explore information and resources we've provided for you to use as you advise students about federal student aid.

Thank you and have a successful FAFSA season.

Sincerely,



Jay Hurt  
Acting Chief Customer Experience Officer  
Federal Student Aid

## Federal Student Aid: Find the Information You Need Online

This table lists common financial aid topics and where to find information about them on Federal Student Aid websites.

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Resource</b>
<b>FAFSA®</b>	Fill out the FAFSA®	<a href="http://fafsa.gov">fafsa.gov</a>
	Basic FAFSA info: what is it; how do you fill it out	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/fafsa">StudentAid.gov/fafsa</a> <a href="http://StudentAid.gov/complete">StudentAid.gov/complete</a>
	Dependency status for FAFSA purposes	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/dependency">StudentAid.gov/dependency</a>
	Determining which parent's info to report	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent">StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent</a>
	How aid is calculated (inc. link to EFC info)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/how-calculated">StudentAid.gov/how-calculated</a>
<b>Types of Aid/ Getting Aid</b>	Types of financial aid	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/types">StudentAid.gov/types</a>
	Who can get federal student aid	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/eligibility">StudentAid.gov/eligibility</a>
	Finding and applying for scholarships	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/scholarships">StudentAid.gov/scholarships</a>
	Loan interest rates and fees	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/interest">StudentAid.gov/interest</a>
	Avoiding financial aid scams	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/scams">StudentAid.gov/scams</a>
<b>Student Account Access</b>	My Federal Student Aid (student can log in to see grant and loan records and certain eligibility info)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/login">StudentAid.gov/login</a>
	The FSA ID (what is it; how to apply; FAQ; link to page where student and parent can create FSA IDs)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/fsaid">StudentAid.gov/fsaid</a>
<b>Repaying Loans</b>	Loan repayment	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/repay">StudentAid.gov/repay</a>
	Repayment Estimator (compares repayment plans)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator">StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator</a>
	Income-driven repayment plans (e.g., Pay As You Earn, Income-Based, and REPAYE plans)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/idr">StudentAid.gov/idr</a>
	Public Service Loan Forgiveness	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/publicservice">StudentAid.gov/publicservice</a>
	Loan forgiveness in general	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/forgiveness">StudentAid.gov/forgiveness</a>
	Loan forgiveness for teachers	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive">StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive</a>
<b>College Prep</b>	College Preparation Checklist: academic and financial prep for K-12 and adult students	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/checklist">StudentAid.gov/checklist</a>
	Why go to college (education and pay/unemployment rates)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/whycollege">StudentAid.gov/whycollege</a>
<b>Special Audiences</b>	Info for parents (tax benefits, support your child, college costs)	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/parent">StudentAid.gov/parent</a>
	Graduate school funding	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/grad">StudentAid.gov/grad</a>
	Financial aid for adult students	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/resources#adult-students">StudentAid.gov/resources#adult-students</a>
	Aid for military families	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/military">StudentAid.gov/military</a>
	Non-U.S. citizen eligibility	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/noncitizen">StudentAid.gov/noncitizen</a>
	Going to college in another country	<a href="http://StudentAid.gov/international">StudentAid.gov/international</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	@FAFSA Twitter feed	<a href="https://twitter.com/FAFSA">Twitter.com/FAFSA</a>
	Federal Student Aid YouTube channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/FederalStudentAid">YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid</a>
	Federal Student Aid Facebook page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FederalStudentAid">Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid</a>

Publications, videos, and infographics on the topics listed above are at [StudentAid.gov/resources](http://StudentAid.gov/resources).

## Federal Student Aid Resources for Students and Parents: A Sampling

This table lists a selection of Federal Student Aid resources and indicates which audience(s) will most benefit from each item.

Resource	Summary and URL Note: Most of these items are also available in Spanish, and several of the documents are available in Braille.	Audience(s)							
		Elementary School Student and Parent	Middle School Student and Parent	High School Student (9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> )	High School Senior	High School Parent	College Student	Borrower - Student or Parent	Adult Student
College Preparation Checklist	How to get ready academically and financially (StudentAid.gov/checklist)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Federal Student Aid at a Glance	Basic overview of aid and application process (StudentAid.gov/glance)			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Do You Need Money for College: The Guide to Federal Student Aid	Overview of the financial aid process with links to resources on our website (StudentAid.gov/needmoney)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Federal Student Loans (series)	Federal loan booklets for students and parents (StudentAid.gov/resources#loans)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PDF FAFSA	Free application for federal student aid (fafsa.gov)				✓	✓	✓		✓
Video: Types of Federal Student Aid	2-minute video introducing concept of grants, loans, work-study (StudentAid.gov/resources#types-aid-video)			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Video: How to Fill Out the FAFSA	2:45-minute video providing overview of FAFSA process (StudentAid.gov/resources#how-fill-out-fafsa-video)				✓	✓	✓		✓
Video: Responsible Borrowing	2-minute video reminding borrowers to borrow only what they need (StudentAid.gov/resources#responsible-borrowing-video)				✓		✓	✓	✓
Infographic: The FAFSA Process	Graphic showing the path a student takes to apply for aid (StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa-process-graphic)				✓	✓	✓		✓
Infographic: Determining Dependency Status	Graphic showing dependency status questions (StudentAid.gov/resources#dependency-status-graphic)				✓	✓	✓		✓

View the full selection of publications you can order from Federal Student Aid at [FSAPubs.gov](http://FSAPubs.gov). Students and parents may order at [edpubs.gov](http://edpubs.gov). More resources are at [StudentAid.gov/resources](http://StudentAid.gov/resources).