

### EVERYONE NEEDS AN FSA ID.

You will need an FSA ID to access Federal Student Aid's online systems, and it will serve as your legal signature for the FAFSA. You must have a Social Security number (SSN) to create an FSA ID, however, other options are available.

- If you're a dependent student, you **and one parent or guardian** will need to create unique FSA IDs.
- If you believe you're not a dependent student, visit [StudentAid.gov/dependency](http://StudentAid.gov/dependency).

### What should I do if I don't live with my parents?

- If you're a dependent student, you must still answer questions about your parents, even if you don't live with them.

### What if my parents refuse to give any of their info for the FAFSA?

- You can still fill out the FAFSA even if you have no contact with your parents and don't know where they live, or if you've left home due to an abusive situation.
- Contact your schools' financial aid offices. They'll help you figure out what to do next.

### How do I get started?

- Everything you need to do to receive an FSA ID is located on [StudentAid.Gov/FSAID](http://StudentAid.Gov/FSAID).
- Click on "Create an FSA ID Now" or create your FSA ID when you "Start a New FAFSA."

### Undocumented Students

- Undocumented students are not US citizens, US nationals or "eligible noncitizens."
- These students should use the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) on the THECB website at [www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/9963.PDF](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/9963.PDF)

### What if my parents are undocumented?

- As long as you're a legal US citizen, then you are still eligible for financial aid. They will need to sign the paper form and will not be able to create an FSAID.

### What do I need to keep in mind?

- Your name and SSN must match what's written on your Social Security card. You'll also need to know which colleges or universities you want to receive your FAFSA. See <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/programinventory/>
- Each parent and student should use a different email and phone number from each other when creating FSAIDs.

### What tax and financial information does the FAFSA ask for?

- For the 2020–2021 FAFSA, you'll need 2018 tax information.
- Most people who've filed their 2018 federal taxes can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to automatically import their tax information into the FAFSA. However, bring in all relevant paperwork such as **W2s, all Schedules, and any asset information** to avoid delays. Assets include:
  - Money in cash, savings, and checking accounts, large businesses/farms, real estate (other than home you live in), stocks, bonds, 529 Plans, prepaid tuition, and trust funds.
- If you don't have your tax information, it's okay to use estimated income and tax information, but you'll have to go back after filing your taxes to update that information.
- The FAFSA also asks you to report untaxed income.
- Untaxed income includes child support received, payments to tax-deferred pensions, veterans noneducational benefits, disability benefits, and worker's compensation.
- The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) will save you time and effort!
  - Even with retrieval, 'Married Filing Jointly' will have to manually input separate income amounts from **W2s**.

### Students or parents in these situations can't use the IRS DRT and must enter their information manually:

- Married and filed as Married Filing Separately, Married and filed as Head of Household, Had a change in marital status since 2018, or Filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return

### Congrats! You did it! You're on your way to forming your future. Now review your Student Aid Report (SAR).

- Your SAR summarizes the FAFSA data you submitted.
- You'll get a response within three days if you signed online or three weeks if you mailed a signature page.
- You can print your SAR by logging into [FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov) with your FSA ID and clicking on the school year.
- You can also check the status of your application to see if additional information is needed.
- Make sure all the information is correct!