

WHAT IS THE FAFSA? AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that is completed by college or college-to-be students that determines your eligibility for Federal and State financial aid. Colleges and universities may also use the FAFSA to determine your eligibility for things like Work Study, Loans, or Grants that will come specifically from your institution.

Your school may insist that you fill out the FAFSA every year. If they don't, below are some quick tips on when you should apply, and when you should not:



DO NOT re-apply if:

- You've had a change in income for the better (parent deployment)
- A sibling graduates from college



DEFINITELY re-apply if:

- A younger sibling goes to college
 - Your parent's income decreases
 - If you didn't apply last year/applied late.
- You may be eligible for more money!***



Quick Tip: *The earlier you apply, the more money you are eligible for. As the FAFSA is a rolling application, the longer you wait to apply for the money, the less money there will be available for the government to give you!*

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- **There are three different due dates for the FAFSA (Early application = more money!)**
 - July 1st is for Federal Aid
 - Each state will have their own due date to qualify for state aid
 - Each school will have their own due date to qualify for aid from the school
- **You will always qualify for loans, DON'T TAKE THESE IMMEDIATELY.**
 - Do your own research, find the best student loans with the lowest interest rates, those may be the federal loans, but it always helps to do the research so you're not over-paying for school.
- **Even if you think you won't qualify for aid, fill out the FAFSA anyway, you never know what you might actually qualify for.**



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

OCTOBER 1ST
APPLICATION OPEN

JULY 1ST
LAST DAY TO APPLY

May 2020

Your teachers are always here to help! Reach out to them and other organizations that you are a part of, they can likely also offer support.