

Orestimba High School

Senior Project Financial Aid Non-Participation Form

Starting the 2020-21 school year, as part of their Senior Project, all students must include verification of submission for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, if applicable, the California Dream Act. Alternatively, a parent/guardian must file a waiver if they choose to opt a child out of this requirement by completing this non-participation form. If you wish to opt your student out of the Financial Aid Application requirement, please complete this form and return via email to PEstrada@nclUSD.k12.ca.us or to our school's front office.

***This completed form must be submitted along with all other Senior Project required documents no later than March 5, 2021; we recommend that you keep a copy of this form for your records. If you have any questions, please reach out to your students designated Learning Director.

Student Name: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I have read the information attached, I understand what FAFSA and California Dream Act are, and I choose not to have my student submit a completed financial aid application. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student listed above.

Signature

Date

(ONLY COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU ARE **NOT** FILING FOR FAFSA OR CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT)

Frequently Asked Questions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

“What is the FAFSA and California Dream Act?” The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the online application that allows a student to apply for federal student aid (including the Pell Grant, work-study opportunities, and federal student loans). The California Dream Act Application is a similar application that provides a path for some students (undocumented and nonresident) who do not qualify for federal aid to apply for state and school-funded assistance.

“If I want to learn a trade, can the FAFSA still be of assistance to me?” The FAFSA is not just for associate’s or bachelor’s degree programs! Students can receive need-based Pell grants, federal student loans, and other federal student aid for technical, trade, and vocational programs at community colleges and at many other schools and training programs. Students can check with the school they want to attend or use the federal government’s online College Navigator tool to find out which institutions participate in the programs: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

“Can I participate in the California College Promise Program if I don’t submit the FAFSA or Dream Act?” The California College Promise Program offers two years free tuition for first-time, full time students in California, who attend community college and requires that they complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act.

“Does my family make too much money to benefit from the FAFSA?” Financial aid is left on the table every year by students who didn’t apply because they erroneously thought they were ineligible. You really don’t know until you apply! Income and assets are factors in determining your eligibility, but so are things like the number of students in the family who are in school and the age of the parent(s). For students from families that do make too much to qualify for need based grant aid, the FAFSA can still be helpful, since it’s needed for work-study or a federal student loan (usually at competitive rates and with more borrower protections than private loans, including options for income-based repayment and forgiveness programs for some careers). Your college/university/vocational program may offer aid based on your FAFSA information too, and your eligibility may be different depending on your school. Additionally, some scholarship programs use information from the FAFSA as part of the application process. As most financial aid is awarded in date order based on FAFSA filing date, it is a very good idea to complete the FAFSA as early as possible.

“What if I don’t want a student loan?” Filing the application does not commit you to anything. You will just find out whether you might be eligible for aid!

“How is FAFSA data protected? I don’t want my information sold, and I don’t want my school to have it.” By law, your personally identifiable information in the FAFSA can only be used in furtherance of administering financial aid, including research. Although your high school will know whether you completed the FAFSA, it will not have access to the information that you provide on your FAFSA.

“If I choose to file an application, how will I know that my application is complete?” Once you submit the FAFSA or the California Dream Act, you will receive a confirmation of receipt at the email address you provided in the application. This will allow you to demonstrate that you have met the requirement of filing an application even if there are circumstances that will need to be addressed with the college/university’s financial aid office later.