

# Documents needed for completing the FAFSA

**\*\* Students who may be considered independent will not have to provide parent information on their FAFSA.** Some of these student situations include: you have a child you are financially supporting; you are currently active duty in the service; at any time since you were 13 both your parents were deceased or you were in foster care/a ward of the court; you are an emancipated minor or are in a legal guardianship determined by the court; you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless, or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless. Your school will later verify this.

## 1. Student & Parent's FSA ID & Password

- An FSA ID is your account username and password, and is your digital legal signature so you can complete, update, and sign your FAFSA form electronically.
- The student and one parent/guardian will each have their own FSA ID.
- When someone creates an FSA ID, **they will need access to their email and text**, as part of the process is verifying these contact methods by sending verification codes. Someone's email and cell phone number can only be tied to one FSA ID (has been an issue when a family uses the parent's email or cell on the student's FSA ID, then the parent goes to create their own FSA ID and attempts to use the same information).
- Create an FSA ID before you need it as it can take up to three days to become active.

## 2. Student & Parent's Social Security Number & Driver's License Number (if applicable)

3. **Student & Parent's Federal Income Tax Return the year before they started as a senior** - On the 2023-2024 FAFSA form, student & parent will report 2022 income. On the 2024-2025 FAFSA form, student & parent will report 2023 income. It may be possible to transfer tax information into the FAFSA form while applying by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, but it does not work for everyone. The IRS DRT does not input all the financial information required on the FAFSA form, so student and parent should have access to tax returns and W-2s.

***For some, their income from the previous year does not accurately reflect their current financial situation. If this is your situation, you should complete the FAFSA with the requested tax information, then contact the financial aid office at the school where the student plans to attend. School officials can assess your situation and adjust the FAFSA form if necessary.***

4. **Records of Untaxed Income (if applicable)** – These include child support received, interest income, and veterans' non-education benefits.
5. **Records of your Assets (if applicable)** – This includes savings and checking account balances, as well as the value of investments (stocks, bonds, and real estate - excluding your primary residence). Report the **current amounts** as of the date you sign the FAFSA form.
6. **List of the School(s) You're Interested in Attending** - Be sure to add any college you're considering, even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet – even if it is only a slight chance you'll apply. You can always remove a school later, but if you wait to add a school, you could miss out on institution-specific financial aid. The schools listed will automatically receive your electronic FAFSA results.