



- This PowerPoint presentation was developed as a starting point for anyone planning to let parents and college students know about the changes for the 2017-18 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)*.
- The intended audience for this presentation is college students and parents who are already familiar with the FAFSA, having been through the process before, and need an overview of what's changing for the 2017-18 application cycle.
- Feel free to add, subtract, or edit slides based on your audience's needs.

# Topics

- What's Changing
- Benefits to Students
- FAQs About Timing & Reporting Information
- Getting FAFSA Info & Help

## What's Changing for 2017–18

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### Change #1: Earlier FAFSA® Launch

- 2017–18 FAFSA available Oct. 1, 2016, at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)
- Change to October 1 launch will be permanent

### Change #2: Earlier Income Info Required

- 2015 tax/income information required
- (Normally would have been 2016)

- [Change 1]
- The 2017–18 FAFSA season will begin earlier than previous FAFSA application cycles. Beginning on Oct. 1, 2016, you'll be able to fill out the FAFSA for the 2017–18 school year, instead of January 1 as you did for past school years.
- The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling you to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.
- [Change 2]
- Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, you'll report income information from an earlier tax year. For 2017–18, the FAFSA will require 2015 income information, rather than 2016 income information.
- We'll talk about some benefits of this change in a minute. But first, let's get a visual of the FAFSA changes...

# What's Changing for 2017–18

## CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017–18

**SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER:** Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

**USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION:** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

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[StudentAid.gov/afsa](http://StudentAid.gov/afsa)

- This table compares launch dates for several FAFSA years, showing the change from January to October starting with the 2017-18 FAFSA.
- It also shows that the required income and tax information will be from an earlier year starting with 2017-18. This results in two FAFSAs in a row asking for 2015 income information—this is a one-time thing. As you can see, the 2018-19 FAFSA will ask for 2016 income info. And going forward: the 2019-20 FAFSA will ask for 2017 income info, and so on.

## Benefits to Students

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- **Benefit #1: Alignment**
  - Many college admissions application deadlines occur in the fall
  - Financial aid application done at same time = less confusion
- **Benefit #2: Certainty**
  - No need to estimate tax info
  - IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately
  - Expected Family Contribution known earlier (helps with assessing net costs)
- **Benefit #3: Less Pressure**
  - More time before (most) state and school deadlines
  - More time to compare schools before College Signing Day

So what's in it for you?

[Benefit #1]

- The earlier launch date will benefit students who are looking at and applying to colleges.
- For some students, the traditional FAFSA application cycle is not aligned with college admissions application deadlines, which typically occur in the fall prior to the FAFSA launch. The new financial aid application process will be more aligned with the college admission process for those students.

[Benefit #2]

- The FAFSA asking for earlier income information will benefit all students and parents filling out the application. Here's why:
- Many deadlines for state aid are as early as March. If the FAFSA asks for information about tax forms that aren't due until April 15, applicants have to estimate income or taxes paid in order to meet those state deadlines.
- Many students and parents have mistakenly thought they weren't able to file a FAFSA until they filed their tax return. This caused some students to miss certain financial aid deadlines set by their states or schools.
- By October 1, 2016, most families will have filed their 2015 taxes.
- As a result of the change to requiring earlier tax information, more students and families will be able to complete FAFSAs using data imported electronically from the IRS, rather than submitting applications with estimates that may need

correcting later.

- Students who are applying to college also will have information about their Expected Family Contributions earlier, helping them as they're going through the college application and selection process.

[Benefit #3]

- And finally, the early launch and earlier tax info are designed to take some pressure off students and parents in a variety of ways.
- Students and parents will have more time to explore and understand financial aid options and apply for aid before state and school deadlines.
- Note: some state deadlines for first come, first served aid will change from "as soon as possible after January 1" to "as soon as possible after October 1." We'll talk about that in a minute.
- If a student who's applying to colleges fills out the FAFSA earlier and gets aid offers from schools earlier, he or she will have more time to compare schools before committing to one.
- (And of course there's less pressure on an applicant when he or she can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool because taxes were filed long before the FAFSA was launched. The applicant will not have to take the time to estimate tax info and then go back to the FAFSA later to correct entries once taxes are filed. Fewer steps; less pressure!)

## FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

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### Will deadlines be earlier?

- Most state and school deadlines won't change
- Note: several states will change from "as soon as possible after January 1" to "as soon as possible after October 1" (for their first-come, first-served state aid)
- State deadlines: [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)
- School deadlines: see schools' websites

The following slides contain questions the Department of Education has heard from school counselors, financial aid staff, and FAFSA applicants since the changes for 2017-18 were announced. \*\*Note to presenter: We may update this presentation as new questions come in. We'll post future versions at [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources](http://FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources).\*\*

#### • **Will FAFSA deadlines be earlier since the application is launching earlier?**

- The Department of Education expects that most state and school deadlines will remain approximately the same as in 2016–17.
- However, several states that offer first-come, first-served financial aid will change their deadlines from "as soon as possible after January 1" to "as soon as possible after October 1." So, as always, it's important that you check both state and school deadlines so you don't miss out on any aid.
- State deadlines are on [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov); school deadlines are on schools' websites.

• [Note: States with deadlines "as soon as possible after October 1" for some or all of that state's aid programs (subject to change): Alaska; Illinois; Kentucky; North Carolina; North Dakota; Nevada; Oklahoma; Oregon; South Carolina; Texas; Vermont; Washington]

## FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

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### Will 2016–17 FAFSA info be carried over to Renewal FAFSA?

- No; too much could have changed
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool: easily import your tax data to keep process quick

**Since the 2017–18 FAFSA asks for the same tax and income information as the 2016–17 FAFSA, will a student’s 2016–17 FAFSA information be carried over into the 2017–18 renewal FAFSA?**

- No; too much could have changed since you filed the 2016–17 FAFSA, and there’s no way to predict what might be different, so you’ll need to enter the information again.
- However, keep in mind that many students and parents will be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import their tax information into the FAFSA, making the process of reporting tax information quick and easy.



## FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

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### Can a student choose to report 2016 information?

- No; you do not have a choice of which year to report
- Must report info re the year the FAFSA asks for
- Talk to college if big change in financial circumstances
- Remember: Certain items on FAFSA are “as of today,” so you must read each question and fill out accordingly

### **Can a student choose to report 2016 information if the family’s financial situation has changed since 2015 taxes were filed?**

- No. You cannot choose which year’s information to report.
- You must report the information the FAFSA asks for. If your family’s income has changed since the 2015 tax year, talk to the college financial aid office about the family’s situation.
- Note: For certain items on the FAFSA, you must report “as of today.” For most of these items, that’s quite simple. (Example: The balance of your savings and checking accounts “as of today” is easy to look up and report.)
- However, it could get tricky when it comes to the student’s or parent’s marital status. The FAFSA asks for marital status “as of today” (the day it’s filled out). So if the student or parent is married now but wasn’t in 2015 (and therefore didn’t file taxes as married), the spouse’s income will need to be added to the FAFSA. Similarly, if the student or parent filed 2015 taxes as married but is no longer married when filling out the FAFSA, the spouse’s income will need to be subtracted.

## FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

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### Will students receive aid offers earlier if they apply earlier?

- Not necessarily; some schools will make offers earlier; others won't
- [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov) allows for cost comparison of schools based on averages
- Remember: early aid offers will likely be estimates (Pell maximum not announced until early 2017)

### **Will students receive aid offers earlier if they apply earlier?**

- Not necessarily; some schools will make offers earlier while others won't.
- Students who are applying to colleges and want to figure out which gives the best bang for the buck might want to look at the College Scorecard at [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov) to compare costs at different schools while they wait for aid offers to arrive.
- Note: The maximum Federal Pell Grant for 2017–18 won't be known until early 2017, so keep in mind that even if you do receive an aid offer early, the offer could change due to various factors.

# Getting FAFSA Info & Help

## StudentAid.gov

The screenshot shows the StudentAid.gov website interface. At the top, there are language options for 'ABOUT US', 'ENGLISH', and 'ESPAÑOL', along with a 'LOG IN' button. The main header includes the 'Federal Student Aid' logo, the text 'An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION', and the slogan 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header.

Below the header is a navigation menu with five dropdown categories: 'Prepare for College', 'Types of Aid', 'Who Gets Aid', 'FAFSA: Applying for Aid', and 'How to Repay Your Loans'. A green banner below the menu contains the text: 'Minds can achieve anything. We make sure they get to college. At Federal Student Aid, we make it easier to get money for higher education.'

The main content area features five tiles, each with a profile picture and a question:

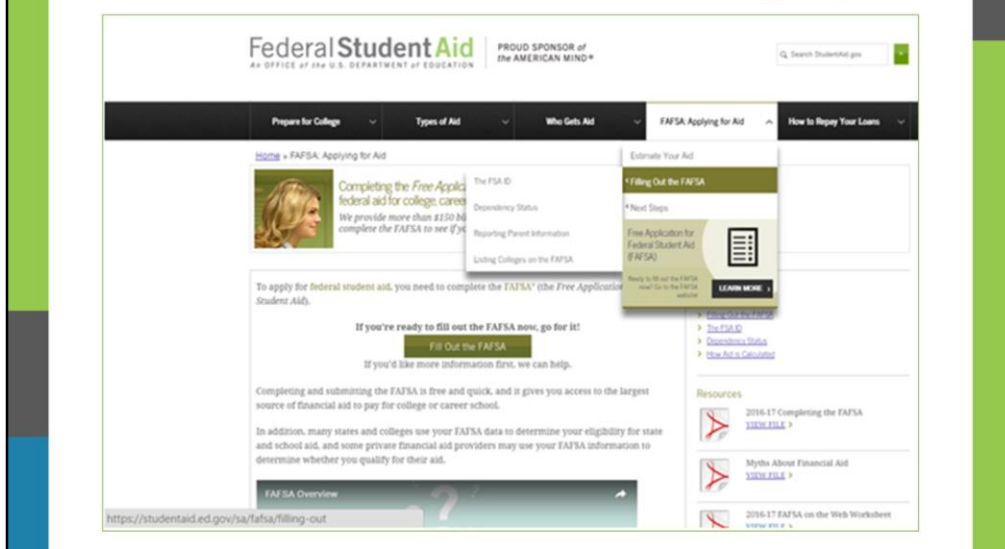
- HOW DO I PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?**: Learn about exploring careers, choosing and applying to schools, and taking required tests. Use checklists to help get ready.
- WHAT TYPES OF AID CAN I GET?**: Read about the types of financial aid available from the government and other sources: grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study.
- DO I QUALIFY FOR AID?**: Most people are eligible for financial aid. Find out who gets aid, how to stay eligible, and how to get eligibility back if you've lost it.
- HOW DO I APPLY FOR AID?**: Learn how to submit your Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), how aid is calculated, and how you'll get your aid.
- HOW DO I MANAGE MY LOANS?**: Choose a repayment plan, pay on time, avoid defaults, and get help with problems.

Below the tiles is an 'ANNOUNCEMENTS' section with a link to 'OPEN ACTION TO SHUT DOWN STUDENT DEBT RELIEF SCHEME'. At the bottom, there is a grid of links for each navigation category: 'Prepare for College' (Explore Careers, Career Search, Checklists to Get Ready), 'Types of Aid' (Grants and Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study Jobs), 'Who Gets Aid' (Basic Eligibility Criteria, Non-U.S. Citizens, Special Circumstances), 'FAFSA: Applying for Aid' (Estimate Your Aid, Filing Out the FAFSA, Renewal Status), 'How to Repay Your Loans' (Making a Payment, Repayment Plans, Loan Consolidation), and 'More Info' (About Us, Contact Us, Leave Us Feedback).

- StudentAid.gov is a site for students and parents. It's got information about types of federal student aid, eligibility criteria, applying for aid, and repaying student loans.

# Getting FAFSA Info & Help

## FAFSA info section: StudentAid.gov/fafsa



- Visit [StudentAid.gov/fafsa](https://StudentAid.gov/fafsa) for detailed information about the FAFSA, the FSA ID, the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, student dependency status, reporting parent information, and what happens after the FAFSA is submitted.

## Getting FAFSA Info & Help

Fact sheets, videos, graphics, etc.:  
[StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/resources#fafsa)

Fact Sheets		
What's an FSA ID and Why Do I Need One?	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Am I Dependent or Independent?	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Who Is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA?	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>
College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017–18 FAFSA*	<a href="#">PDF</a>	Coming spring 2016
Myths About Financial Aid	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>

- You can find PDF booklets and fact sheets, as well as videos and infographics about the FAFSA, at [StudentAid.gov/resources](https://studentaid.gov/resources), in the FAFSA section of the page.
- Here's a selection of some of the fact sheets in the FAFSA section—including one that addresses college students and parents who have been through the FAFSA process before and need to know what's new for the 2017-18 application cycle.

# Getting FAFSA Info & Help

## Changes for 2017–18: StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes

### FAFSA® Changes for 2017–18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

The following table provides a summary of key dates as we transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

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<small><b>SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER:</b> Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)</small>			
<small><b>USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION:</b> Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.</small>			
<small>Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school.</small>			
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July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015

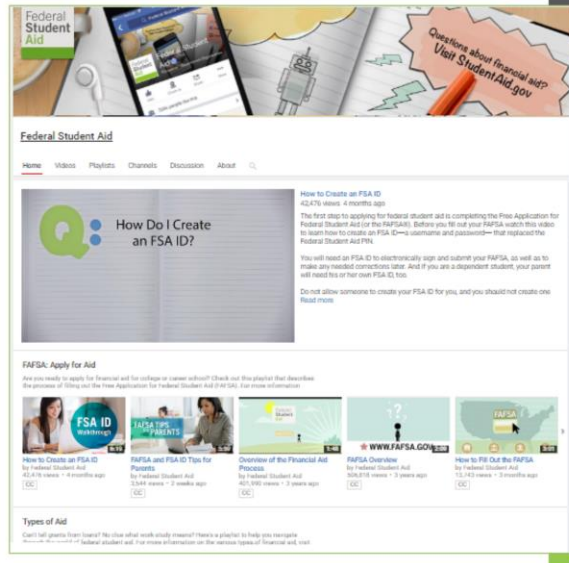
- And for brief information about what's changing for 2017–18, there's an announcement at [StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes](http://StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes).

# Getting FAFSA Info & Help

## Social Media

- [Twitter.com/FAFSA](https://twitter.com/FAFSA)
- [Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid](https://facebook.com/FederalStudentAid)
- [YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid](https://YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid)

## Federal Student Aid's YouTube Page



- The office of Federal Student Aid is on Twitter and Facebook and encourages you to follow them and see what tips and updates they have about the FAFSA, eligibility for student aid, loan repayment, and more.
- Federal Student Aid also has a YouTube channel with several playlists of short videos on financial aid topics, including the FAFSA.

## Getting FAFSA® Info and Help

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### Where to Get Help

- [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) (help screens; online chat)
- 1-800-4-FED-AID
- [studentaid@ed.gov](mailto:studentaid@ed.gov)

- So where can you get more information and help with the FAFSA?
- The official FAFSA site, at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov), has a list of what's needed in order to get started on the FAFSA—tax documents, Social Security number, etc.—and it also has information about state deadlines; and of course, the online application is there.
- For help with the FAFSA, you can access lots of help screens or chat with a customer service representative while you're filling out the application.
- Or you can call 1-800-4-FED-AID or e-mail [studentaid@ed.gov](mailto:studentaid@ed.gov).



Questions?

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