FAFSA Overview

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Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Agenda

1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Overview
2. Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Overview
3. 21-22 FAFSA Updates

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FAFSA Overview

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Snapshot Theory

- A FAFSA is considered to be a "snapshot" of a family's financial situation as of the date an application is submitted

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- The FAFSA/Alternative App will generate a number called the EFC

- The EFC determines students' eligibility for certain types of state and federal financial aid

- The EFC is the amount that a family can be expected to contribute towards a student's college costs
  - Not a lump sum
  - Reflects the family's expected ability to pay over an academic year

COA Cost of Attendance − **EFC** Expected Family Contribution = **Financial Need**

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2021-22 FAFSA

WHEN
- As soon as possible after October 1st (Check with colleges for specific deadlines)

WHO
- High school seniors and college students
- U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens

HOW
- Available online at www.fafsa.gov

WHY
- Determines eligibility for federal and state aid programs
- Some institutions use it to award institutional aid

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Information Needed for the 21-22 FAFSA

- **Social Security Number** – Be sure it is correct!

- **Alien Registration Number** – if the student is not a U.S. citizen.

- **Records of income** – 2019 Federal Income Tax Return (1040), W-2s, other records of income earned from work, business, child support paid or received, and any other untaxed income.

- **Information about investments** – Savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs, and investment real estate, business, and farms.

- **An FSA ID to sign electronically**

Note: A student must report parental information until the age of 24 unless they meet the criteria to file as an independent student as determined by the FAFSA.

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Dependency Status

Dependent

- Students that answer "No" to all dependency questions
  - Student information
  - Parent Information

Independent (additional information may be required)

- Students are considered dependent until age of 24 unless they can answer "Yes" to one of the dependency questions
  - Student Information
  - Spouse Information, if married

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Parent Information

- Most students must report parental information until the age of 24
- For financial aid purposes, there are only three types of parents:
    - Biological parents
    - Adoptive parents
    - Stepparents (if married to biological parent)
- Legal guardians are not considered parents for financial aid purposes
- If parents are divorced, report information about the parent the student lived with most in the past 12 months

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Platforms for Submitting a FAFSA

- The FAFSA is available at no cost

FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)	myStudentAid App	Paper FAFSA
www.FAFSA.gov	Apple or Google Play Store	www.FAFSA.gov

Benefits of FOTW/myStudentAid App

Quick	• Instant confirmation page • Student Aid Report (SAR) sent within 48-72 hours
Easy	• Detailed help screens guide the student through every question • Skip logic is used to reduce unnecessary questions
Accurate	• Inconsistent answers are flagged so the student can correct mistakes before submitting the application
Safe	• Encryption keeps the student's information safe

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FOTW/myStudentAid App Sections

Section 1	Student Demographics
Section 2	School Selection
Section 3	Dependency Status
Section 4	Parent Demographics
Section 5	Parent Financials
Section 6	Student Financials
Section 7	Sign and Submit
Section 8	Confirmation

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Auto-Populated Fields on Renewal FAFSA

Student Section		Parent Section
• Name • Address • Social Security Number • Date of Birth • Telephone Number • Driver's License Information • E-mail Address • Citizenship Status • Alien Registration Number • Marital Status • State of Legal Residence • Male or Female • High School Completion Status	• Level of Degree • Active Duty Military • Veteran • Children • Other Legal Dependents • Orphan or Ward of Court • Emancipated Minor • Legal Guardianship • Dependency Override	• Last Name • First Initial • Social Security Number • Date of Birth • Marital Status • Highest Level of Education • E-mail Address • State of Legal Residence

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IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Allows you to transfer your tax data onto the FAFSA

Link to IRS

Look up tax data

Transfer to FAFSA

Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

- The FSA ID is your electronic signature for the FAFSA

- An FSA ID is needed to use the IRS DRT

- Students and parents must each have their own FSA ID

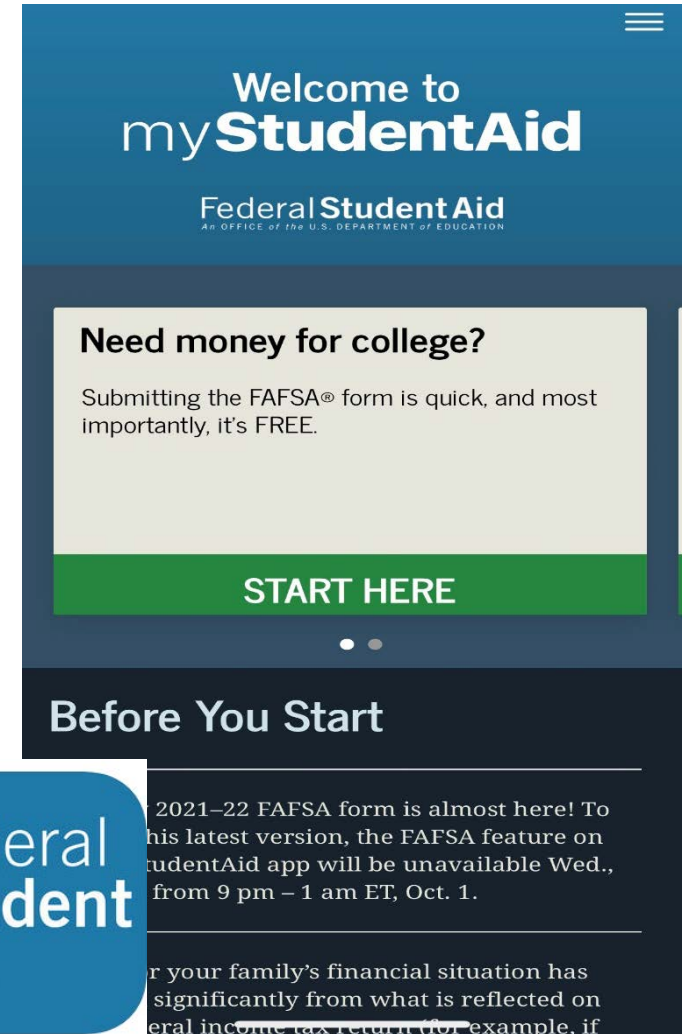- You will need your FSA ID to renew the FAFSA every year

Note: Parents who do not have a SSN cannot obtain an FSA ID but can print a **signature page** instead

FSA ID Requirements

- Username

- Password

- Challenge questions

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myStudentAid App

- Mimics much of the functionality of FOTW
  - Order of sections
  - Save and Help features
  - IRS DRT feature
- User **MUST** have an FSA ID in order to login
  - Parents without an FSA ID will be unable to sign and submit using the app
- Customized experience based on the role the user selects

Paper FAFSA

- Available in English and Spanish
- Includes instructions on pages 1-2 and notes on pages 9-10
- Takes 7-10 days to process from the date it was mailed

Paper FAFSA Sections

Step 1	Student Information
Step 1	Student Information
Step 2	Student Financials
Step 3	Dependency Status
Step 4	Parent Information & Financials
Step 5	Independent Student Information
Step 6	School Selection & Housing Preferences
Step 7	Signatures

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Overview

The Alternative App

- Determines a student's MAP Grant eligibility
- Patterned after the FAFSA
- Only available online
- Available in English and Spanish
- Pre-screening questions help students determine eligibility
- Financial information must be manually reported
- Students can only list Illinois MAP approved institutions on the application
- A PIN is needed to electronically sign and submit the application

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented and transgender students

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RISE Act: Eligible Students

- The law defines Illinois resident, as "any person who is deemed an Illinois resident for tuition purposes".

- The individual must have:
  - Resided with parent or guardian while attending an Illinois public or private high school;
  - Graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
  - Attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date they graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma;
  - Provides the institution with an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so; and
  - Has not established a residence outside of Illinois.

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2021-22 Alternative App

WHEN
- As soon as possible after October 1st (Check with colleges for specific deadlines)

WHO
- High school seniors and college students
- Eligible undocumented students and transgender students disqualified from federal financial aid

HOW
- Alternative App: www.isac.org/alternativeapp

WHY
- Determines eligibility for the MAP Grant
- Some institutions use it to award institutional aid

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Information Needed for the 21-22 Alternative App

- **Student Profile for the Alternative App**– ISAC ID number will be assigned to student after profile is created

- **Student and Parent email address (for dependents)**– Be sure parent and student each have their own email address

- **Records of income** – 2019 Federal Income Tax Return (1040), W-2s, other records of income earned from work, business, child support paid or received, and any other untaxed income.

- **Information about investments** – Savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs, and investment real estate, business, and farms.

- **A PIN to sign electronically**

Note: A student must report parental information until the age of 24 unless they meet the criteria to file as an independent student as determined by the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid .

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Alternative App PIN

- A PIN is needed to sign the Alternative App electronically

- Students and parents must have their own PIN

- The PIN will be generated and sent via email by ISAC

- A PIN is needed every time you renew the Alternative App

- To obtain a PIN, parents only need to provide an email

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21-22 FAFSA Updates

21-22 FAFSA Updates & Major Changes

- 21-22 FAFSA will release on October 1, 2020
  - FAFSA demo site for 21-22 FAFSA will be available on September 30, 2020 at www.fafsademo.test.ed.gov

- Major changes to 21-22 FAFSA:
  - Income threshold for automatic zero increased to $27,000 for 21-22 award year
  - Schedule 1 question changes (questions 35 & 82 on 21-22 FAFSA)
    - Question about whether a Schedule 1 was filed will automatically be answered if the IRS DRT is used
    - Current exceptions for filing a Schedule 1 updated
      - "Capital Gains" removed as an exception
      - "Virtual Currency" added as an exception

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FAFSA^{SM} Demo Site

- This site is available in English and Spanish

URL	http://fafsademo.test.ed.gov
User Name	eddemo
Password	fafsatest

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PD Webinar Series CE and CPDU Requests

- To request **Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU)** an *ISBE Evaluation* must be completed and emailed to isac.outreachtraining@Illinois.gov along with your **Illinois Educator Identification Number (EIN)**

- To request a **Certificate of Attendance (CE)** an *ISAC Evaluation* must be completed and emailed to isac.outreachtraining@Illinois.gov

- To access both the ISAC and ISBE Evaluations visit the registration link for the webinar and select "View Event Materials"
  - The registration link can be found in the Webex reminder email for today's webinar or by accessing www.isac.org/pd/webinars.html and selecting "Register Now" for today's webinar

Date	Time*	Topic	Register
Tuesday, 9/1/2020	1 – 2 PM	FAFSA Mandate Information & Resources	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 9/15/2020	1 – 2 PM	Alternative Application Overview	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 9/29/2020	1 – 2 PM	FAFSA Overview	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 10/13/2020	1 – 2 PM	Impacts of COVID-19 on Financial Aid	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 10/27/2020	1 – 2 PM	Overview of the Financial Aid Process	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 11/10/2020	1 – 2 PM	Working with Special Student Populations	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 11/24/2020	1 – 2 PM	Overview of State Aid Programs	REGISTER NOW
Tuesday, 12/8/2020	1 – 2 PM	Overview of ISAC Services & Resources	REGISTER NOW

ISAC   Webinar recordings will be made available at www.isac.org/pd/webinars.html

Thank You!

Kalene Heaton

Professional Development Specialist

Kalene.Heaton@Illinois.gov

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