# Financial Aid 101

PRESENTED BY: **KATIE SPRUNGER** EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

# Financing A College Education

A successful experience requires a collaborative effort by:

- Student
- Parent
- Institution
- Government

## Where do I start...

#### www.studentaid.gov

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form  $\checkmark$  Loans and Grants  $\checkmark$ 

Loan Repayment 

 Loan Forgiveness 

Log In | Create Account

#### Create and Manage Your StudentAid.gov Account

Create an Account

Log In

#### POPULAR TOPICS

Apply for Aid Using the FAFSA® Form > Complete a *Master Promissory Note* (MPN) > Apply for a Direct PLUS Loan > Learn About Public Service Loan Forgiveness > View Your Loan Information >

### Create Your FSA ID www.studentaid.gov

#### Email:

- Each FSA ID must have a unique email address (you and your parent cannot use the same email address).
- You must have access to this email account.

#### **Username:**

- Don't include personal info such as date of birth or name.
- If you see a message "Username taken, create a different username," then someone has already used that username.

#### Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

#### Get Started

#### Already have an account? Log In

#### What You Can Use Your Account For

- Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form
- Signing your Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Applying for repayment plans
- Completing loan counseling
- Using the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Help Tool

#### What You'll Need

- Social Security number
- Your own mobile phone number and/or email address

# Before FAFSA filing.... FSA ID tips

**FSA ID** = electronic signature for student and parent

Separate email and mobile phone required

Create at least 1 week prior to FAFSA filing.

Write down usernames, passwords, security question answers.

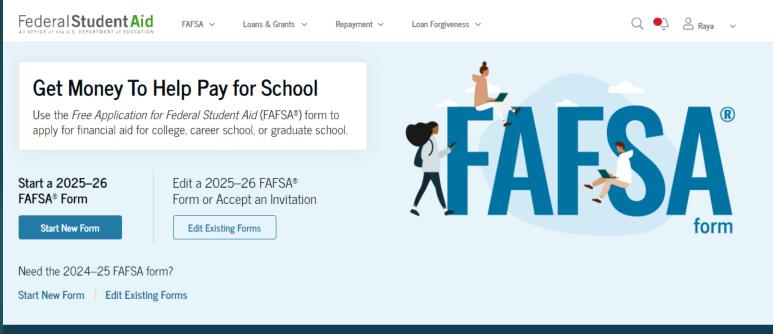
Will need access to email and/or mobile phone during this process.

### When is FAFSA Available?

Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**), so the Department of Education can determine your Student Aid Index (**SAI**).

> www.studentaid.gov December 2024

### 2025-2026 FAFSA



#### Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in

Some states and schools use information from the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline doesn't impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year		State of Residence	
	~	~	
			View All FAFSA Deadlines

# What is the SAI?

Federal Methodology:

- A formula created by Congress to determine your Student Aid Index(SAI)
  - ▶ The same formula applies to all applicants.
  - Measures your <u>ability</u>, not <u>willingness</u> to pay.
  - SAI components:
    - Parent Income and Assets
    - Student Income and Assets

Things not considered: value of primary residence, consumer debt, or retirement accounts.

### What is Financial Need?

Cost of Attendance (COA) = A

Tuition, Fees, Room, Board, Transportation, and Misc.

Student Aid Index(SAI) from FAFSA = B
Income, Assets, Number in Family

A – B = (C) Your Financial Need



## Your need depends on the cost!

	UW System	Voc Tech	Private
COA	\$39,000	\$29,000	\$49,000
SAI	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
NEED	\$34,000	\$24,000	\$44,000

# **Types of Federal Student Aid**



Federal Student Aid

you're in school.



PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®

Learn more at StudentAid.gov/types. Apply at www.fafsa.gov.

repaid with interest.

# Scholarships

#### Academic

Creative Talent

Athletic Talent

Ethnicity/Religion



## Need-Based Grants

#### Federal Government

- Pell
- ► SEOG
- ▶ TEACH Grant

State Government

Wisconsin Grant

Institutional



Varies by institution

#### Loans

Federal Direct Loan (25-26 UG rates)

- Subsidized and Unsubsidized 6.53%
- \$3,500 Subsidized
- \$2,000 Unsubsidized

#### PLUS: Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students

。 9.08%

#### Alternative Loans (vary) Institutional (vary)



## Financial Aid Limitations

#### Federal Pell Grant

6 years at full time status

Wisconsin Grant

10 semesters

\*\*Usage is cumulative throughout college career.\*\*

\*\*Other programs may also have additional limitations – check with the aid office for further details.\*\*

# Student Employment

#### Part-time employment

- On campus
- Designated off-campus locations

#### Questions to ask

- When are jobs available?
- How does a student secure a job?
- Does the student get paid directly or is it applied to their account?

Be prepared to complete new hire paperwork

- ▶ 19, WT4, W4
- ► Bring 2 <u>original</u> forms of identification





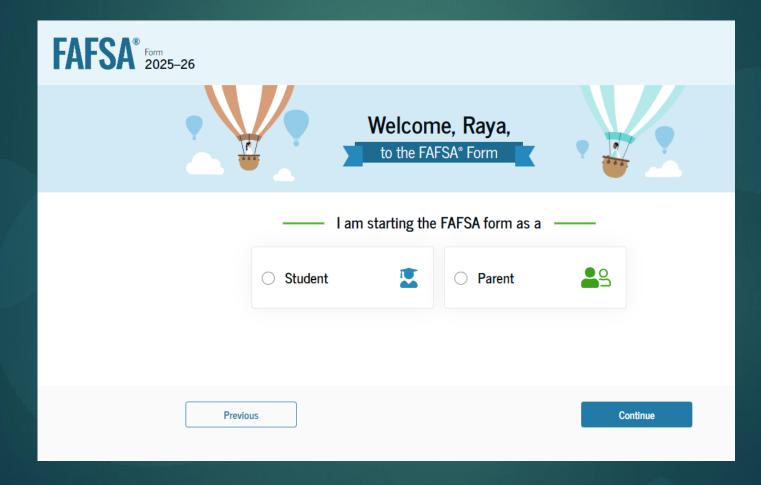
# Eligibility for Financial Aid

- Don't eliminate yourself! Remember it's
- There is no income cutoff for financial aid.
- Complete admission process.
- Contact the Aid Office if financial circumstances change.





# Who is completing the FAFSA?



### FAFSA Overview



### FAFSA Contributors



#### Service Services Parents or Spouses

Answers on the FAFSA® form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but they will not be financially responsible for the student's education.

#### + How To Invite

Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to a FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number (if they have one), and email address.

#### Information or Documents You May Need \land

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

### Student Status

#### Student Personal Circumstances

Select all that apply.

The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.

The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.

The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).

At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.

At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.

The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

None of these apply.

If student answers "NO" to all questions, then at least one parent's information and signature is required.

If student answers "Yes" to any question, then student is Independent only their income and assets will be considered.

### Parent Info

Student Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Status	Parent Demographics	5 Parent Financials	6 Student Financials	7 Sign & Submit
	PARENT INFORMAT					
	Because otherwork	e the FAFSA® form be lise noted) refer to the	longs to the student, "yo student.	ou" and "your" always	(unless	
	As of today, wha Married or rea	t is the marital status narried	of your parents?	~ 00		
	When did your Month Year 08 19	parents get married or	remarried?			
	Previous				Continue	

#### Which parent's information must be included on the FAFSA?

- Parents are married Both parents
- Parents are divorced (not remarried) Only parent who provides most support
- Parents are divorced (remarried) Parent and step parent who provides most support
- Parents were never married (don't live together)
   Only parent who provides most support
- Parents are not married (DO live together) Both parents

### Student Invites Parents to FAFSA

		0	0	0	_
Personal Circum	maances Demographics	Feancials	Colleges	Signature	
Invite Par	ents to your FAFSA® Fo	ərm			
0	You will need to provi Based on your answers in the about both of your parents on to your form to help you com	e previous section, yo in your FAFSA form. Y	will need to provid fou can invite your	niomation	
Enter name	is of parents identified on the pa	rior page, and we'll	send electronic	equests	
Enter name on your bet	rs of parents, identified on the pr half.	rior page, and we'll	send electronic	equests	
on your bet					
on your bet	nalt				
on your bet	nalt		use to login to Stu Barent Spo	dent.kid.gov.	
on your bet	half. Here to provide information that y Case Parent		use to login to Stu Parent Spo estimat	dent.kid.gov.	
Please make s	half. Inter to provide information that y Barent	our parents would t	use to login to Stu Parent Spo estimat	dent.kid.gov.	
Please make s First Nam	half. sure to provide information that y Parent De	our parents would t	use to login to Sm Parent Spc entimed	dent.kid.gov.	
Please make s First Nan Aldina	half. sure to provide information that y Parent De	our parents would : First Ni	use to login to Sm Parent Spc entimed	dent.kid.gov.	
on your bel Please make s First Nam Alcina Last Nam	half. ure to provide information that y Parent ne te	our parents would : First Ni	use to login to Stu Parent Spo entimet mme	dent.kid.gov.	

#### Student Information

- Student's Name
- Date of Birth
- Citizenship Status
- Marital Status
- Email Address

Student Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Status	4 Parent Demographics	5 Parent Financials	6 Student Financials	7 Sign & Submit
	STUDENT INFORM	TION				
	Student Add	ress				
	Your Permanent	t Mailing Address (incl	ude apt. number)	P		
	100 Main St			0		
	and the second s	ountry, if not U.S.)				
	Manchester		0			
	Your State					
	New Hampshi	re	~			
	Your ZIP Code					
	03245	0				
	Previous				Continue	

# Student Financial Information

FAFSA® Form 2025	-26 Student Raya Tran				
	Personal Circumstances	<b>O</b> emographics	3 Financials	<b>4</b> Colleges	5 Signature
	Student 2023 1	Fax Return Info	ormation		
	Refer to the student		o answer the followi rs not apply, enter 0.	ng questions.	
	IRA Rollover Into And	other IRA or Qualific	ed Plan		
	Pension Rollover Int	o an IRA or Other Q	ualified Plan		
	Amount of College (	Grants, Scholarship	s, or AmeriCorps Be	nefits Reported as I	ncome to the IRS
	The student paid taxes their FAFSA® form agai received.	on these grants, sch in, not to first-time a	olarships, or benefits pplicants. If married, .00	. These usually apply , include the amount	to those completing the student's spouse

## Select Colleges

# Select up to 20 schools



#### Where should we send the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> information?

Search and select colleges and career schools.

#### If you can't find your school when searching by school name or state, try searching by School Code.

You must add at least one college or career school to the FAFSA® form. You can add up to 20 schools. Make sure to list all the schools you're considering, even if you're not certain you'll apply to all of them. You can add or delete schools on your FAFSA form later. Find tips for searching for colleges or career schools.

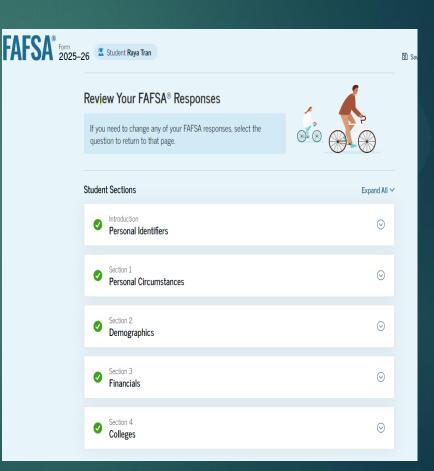
1 0 out of 20 schools selected View Selected Schools

Search by School Name Search by School Code

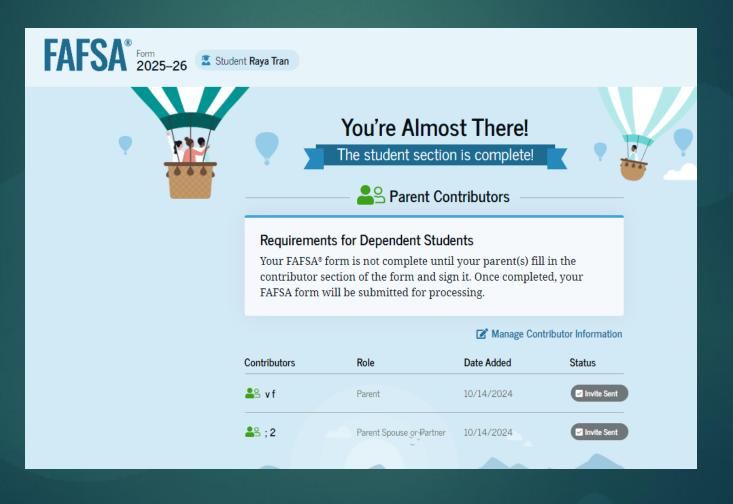
State

### Student Section Complete!

#### Review of information



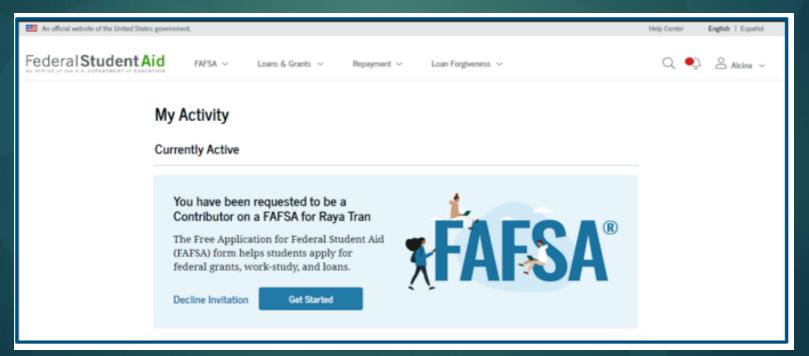
### Almost done...



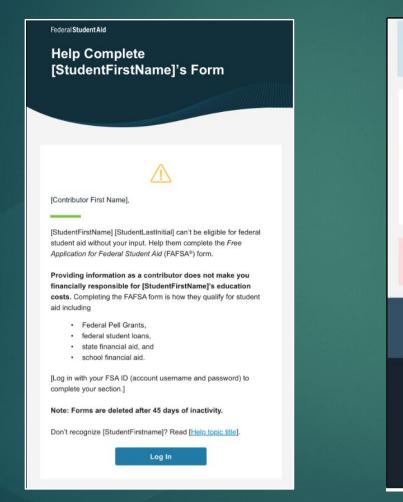
### Parent Invitation

Email invitation to complete parent portion of student's FAFSA

- Parents must use FSA ID to access FAFSA
- If parents/step-parents file a joint tax return both will receive invitation



#### Parent email invitation sample



#### O Why You Were Invited

Without your input, [StudentFirstName] won't be eligible for federal student aid.

#### **Reasons To Finish Early**

Here's why it's a good idea to finish as soon as possible:



States and schools have different deadlines for student aid. Check the "FAFSA® Deadlines" page for more information.

You may need extra time to make corrections after you submit.

#### O Can't find [StudentFirstname]'s Form?

Read (help topic title)

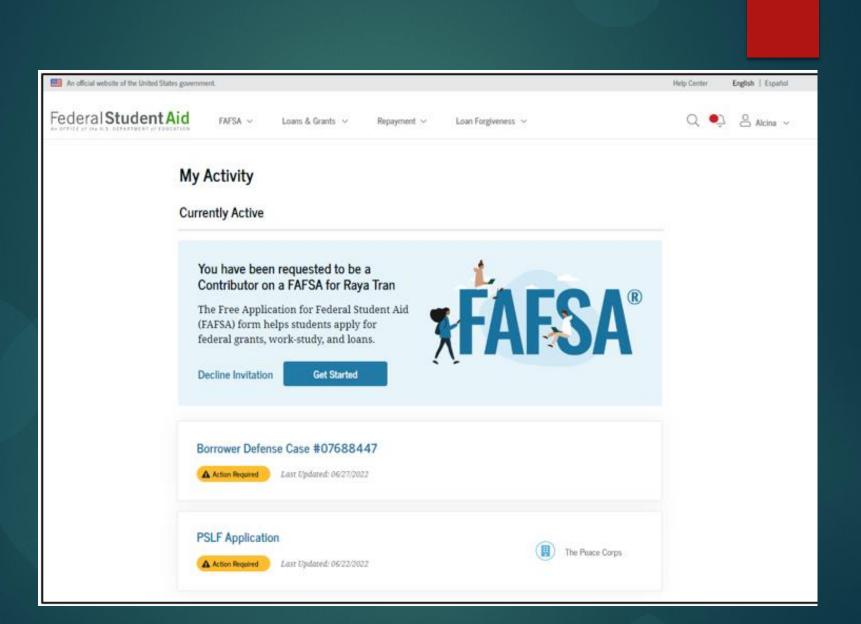
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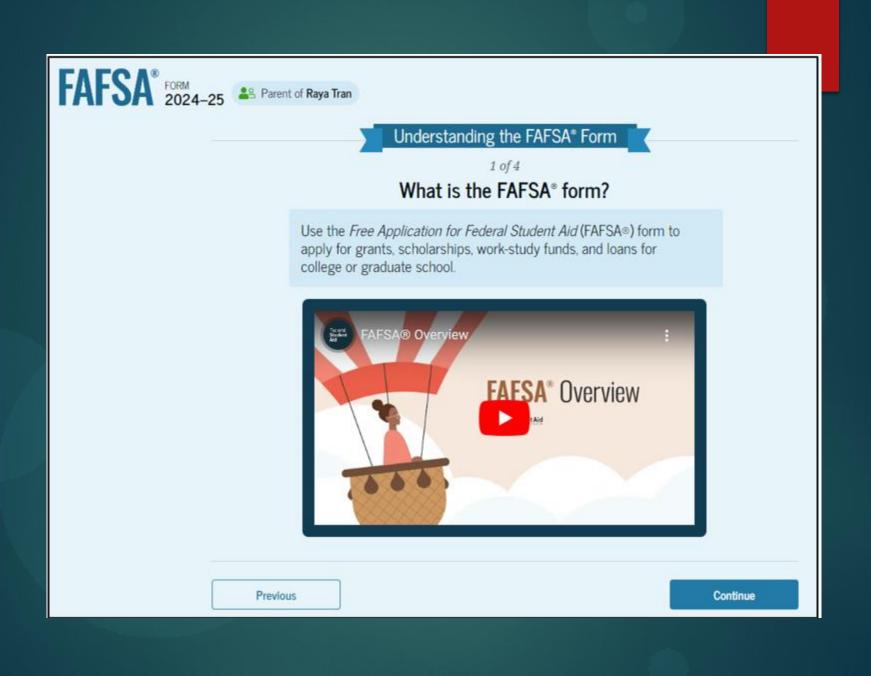
Sign up for text alerts to stay updated on our grant and information about your loans.

#### y fi 🛛 🖬 🚥

No errol unit pert by: Office of Federal Station Aid 400 Maryland Ave. SW. Weshington, DC, 30002, US

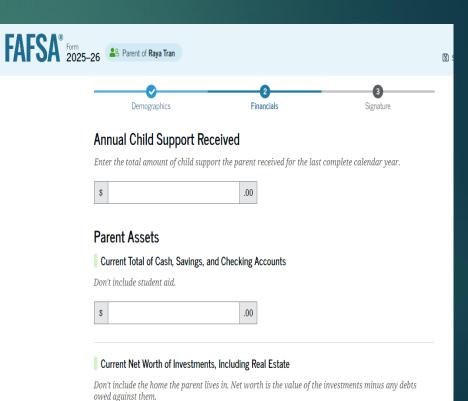
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### Parent Information

- Identity and contact information
- Consent for FTI (Federal Tax Information) transfer from IRS
- Marital status
- State of legal residence
- Assets

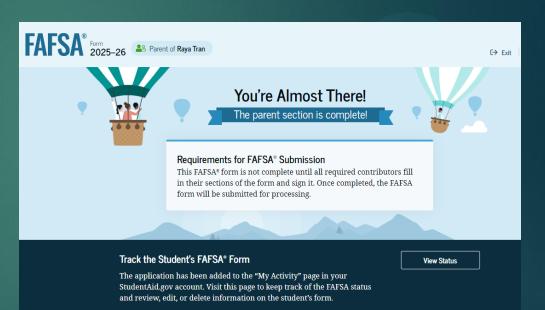


.00

\$

### Parent Section Complete

- Review of information
- Signature and submission of FAFSA



### After submission...

#### <sup>4</sup> of 4 After Submitting the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

Once the student's FAFSA® form is submitted, the student will need to check on its status and make corrections, if required.



- The student's form will be processed in one to three days.
- → The student will be able to view their FAFSA Submission Summary. It will include their Student Aid Index (SAI), an index number used to determine federal student aid eligibility.
- → Schools will use the student's SAI to create their financial aid offer that explains the types and amounts of aid they are offering to the student. Most schools only send an aid offer when they accept a student for admission.

### Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Failing to file the FAFSA annually
- Filing the wrong year's FAFSA
- Missing financial aid deadlines



- Using the wrong Social Security Number (SSN) or date of birth
- Errors in student or parent marital status
- Incorrect data related to divorced parents
- Reporting wrong tax filing status (e.g., head of household)
- Reporting retirement plans and the net worth of the family home as investments

### **Special Circumstances?**

### Contact the Financial Aid Office

- Divorce/Separation
- Loss of income or benefits
- One-time income
- Death or Disability of student or parent
- Substantial medical/dental expenses not covered by insurance
- Elementary or secondary school tuition
- Dependency override

(Note: Professional Judgment is at the sole discretion of each institution.)

### **The Application Process**



Student submits FAFSA

ED calculates SAI and returns results to student



### School follows up with student

ED sends copy of result to state & schools of choice





### **Response from Schools**

### The Financial Aid Office issues a: FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

\*Processing times vary\* \*Delivery methods vary\*

#### Consisting Of:

- The Cost of Attendance
- Your Financial Aid Eligibility
- A description of each program
- What to do next

If you feel you have special circumstances, let the aid office know!



### Questions to consider

Are the scholarships renewable?

- Requirements?
  - GPA, participation, major, max number of terms

Grant/Loan combination

Will the student graduate in 4 or 5 years? What is the additional cost?

Are there additional fees for specific majors?

How is student employment handled?

Actual cost minus aid – not just the most aid

# How are we going to pay?

Direct Costs (tuition, room & board, fees, books) <u>- Financial aid</u>

- = Remaining balance due
- Am I billed for the year or by the term?
- What are my payment options?
- When are payments due?
- Do I need an additional loan? If yes, ensure that loans are finalized 1 month prior to the start of the term.

## Net Price Calculator (NPC)

Aid estimate prior to actual financial aid package

- Located on individual college's website (all schools are required to have this)
- Families provide basic financial information
  - Parent and student income and assets

Changes in actual aid packages may result if information used on the NPC is significantly different than that on the FAFSA

### Other Resources

- Parent or Student Employer Scholarships
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Veterans/ROTC Benefits
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Grants
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB)



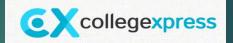
## Scholarship Searches

fastweb

www.fastweb.com



www.salliemae.com/collegeplanning/tools/scholarshipsearch/



www.collegeexpress.com





bigfuture.collegeboard.org



www.cappex.com

### Avoid Being Scammed APPLYING FOR AID IS A FREE PROCESS!

Department of Education Office studentaid.gov/resources/scams

> Better Business Bureau <u>www.bbb.org</u>

- Financial aid scam notices
- Tips to avoid scams
- Check legitimacy of scholarship agencies



## College Goal Wisconsin

Free FAFSA filing assistance from aid experts

- 95.7 percent of the families felt it was worth participating
- College Goal Wisconsin events will take place virtually and in person during October and November.



Go to <u>www.collegegoalwi.org</u> for dates and details.

## Final

- Apply early watch deadlines
- Schools may have additional aid forms
- Each school evaluates the student differently
- Read ALL materials issued by the school
- Inform your school of any "special circumstances"
- Always keep copies



## Questions?

