

ROADS to SUCCESS

Grade 12

Financial Aid

Family Newsletter

Roads to Success is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

For more information about Roads to Success, please visit our website: www.roadstosuccess.org.

Did you know? If a financial aid offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Beware of "special offers" or companies that require you to pay for information about scholarships. Financial aid is available for free, and your student can show you where to find it.

FAFSA Facts for Parents

What is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This application is used by the government and colleges to determine how much financial aid your student is eligible for. It's the first step in the financial aid process.

Who must apply?

The FAFSA requires financial information from the student and the parent(s) he lives with. You need to complete the FAFSA even if you are not planning on helping your child pay for college. (Providing your financial information is not a promise to pay for your child's education.)

Who is considered a parent?

The parent(s) the student lives with, including biological parents, adoptive parents, or a step-parent who is married

to the student's parent. See the FAFSA website for rules about parents who are divorced or share custody.



Is there anyone who should not apply?

All students who are legal U.S. residents should complete the FAFSA. Undocumented students may not apply for federal aid, and should talk to their school counselor about other options.

When are applications due?

Students are advised to apply during their senior year of high school, as soon after January 1 as possible. Students must re-apply each year they're in school.

What information do I need?

- Social Security Number
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal tax information or tax returns
- Information on savings, investments, and business and farm assets

How do I get started?

The FAFSA application can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

If you have questions, talk to your school counselor, or go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/> for more information. You can also call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) for answers to specific questions.

Grade by Grade

In Grade 12, Roads to Success explains the financial aid process in three parts.

- In the fall, students get general information and search for scholarships online.
- In early January, students begin their FAFSA applications in class. (You can help by gathering your financial information and following through at home.)
- In early spring, students learn to compare financial aid offers from different colleges, and make the choice that's right for them.