

## FAFSA Information from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2018-19 School Year

- **The 2018–19 FAFSA® form launched on Oct. 1.** Your child should complete the FAFSA form as soon as possible to maximize the amount of financial aid he or she may receive.
- **The 2018–19 FAFSA® form requires 2016 income and tax information.** At this point, most people have already filed their 2016 taxes and can transfer their tax information directly into the FAFSA form right away using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT). If you're eligible, this is the fastest, most accurate way for you and your child to input tax return information into the FAFSA form, and it may reduce the amount of paperwork required by your child's school.
- **You and your child will each need your own FSA ID (username and password)** in order to use the IRS DRT and/or sign the FAFSA form online. [You and your child should create your FSA IDs \(or retrieve your forgotten FSA IDs\)](#) before you start the FAFSA form. Do not use your child's FSA ID. The FSA ID serves as a legal signature and should not be used by anyone other than the owner, including by parents for their children.

### Starting the FAFSA® Form

Remember: The FAFSA form is your child's application. Even if you and your child are apart, you can work together on a FAFSA form by using the save key, a temporary password. You and your child can share the save key to log in so you can complete the application, transfer your own data from the IRS, and sign and submit the form.

1. Go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).
2. Click the green "Start A New FAFSA" button.
3. On the "Login" page, your child can start a FAFSA form with his or her FSA ID (on the left). If your child is not present, you can start your child's FAFSA form with his or her name, Social Security number and date of birth (on the right). **Do not** use your child's FSA ID.
4. On the "My FAFSA" page, if your child is present, he or she should click the "FAFSA RENEWAL" button to begin. If your child is not present, you should click the "START A NEW FAFSA" button.
5. Create a save key. This is a temporary password that will let you (a) return to the application later if you don't complete it right away, and (b) share the application with your child.

## Filling Out and Submitting the FAFSA® Form

Help is available for every question in the "Help and Hints" boxes on the FAFSA form.

- Much of your and your child's information will be carried forward from last year. Review that information and update it as needed.
- Your income and tax information won't be carried over, but you may be able to transfer the information from the IRS in the "Financial Information" section. Just select that you've "Already completed" taxes, and then click the "LINK TO IRS" button that will appear if you are eligible to use the IRS DRT. Make sure you have your FSA ID available, as you'll need it to initiate the transfer.
- Different from last year, tax information transferred using the IRS DRT will not be displayed. Instead, you'll see "Transferred from the IRS" in the appropriate fields. This change was made to protect your sensitive tax information.
- Both you and your child must sign in order to submit the FAFSA form. The easiest way for each of you to sign is electronically with your unique FSA IDs. You aren't done until you reach the "Confirmation" page, which you should read carefully and save for your records.

Your child's state and school probably have deadlines earlier than the federal deadline. [State deadline information is available here](#). Check the school website or with the school's financial aid office for any school deadlines.

To start the FAFSA form, go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

Thank you.

U.S. Department of Education  
Federal Student Aid