

Some Fast FAFSA Mandate FAQ's

Q: Why does MHS need our financial information?

A: We don't. As a matter of fact, we won't ever see it unless you specifically ask for our help completing your FAFSA. We receive a list from the state that confirms if the FAFSA has been completed for graduation, but does not have other information.

Q: How does MHS get notified that we've met the requirement?

A: The state of Illinois provides us with a list of names that have met the graduation requirement. If your student's name does not appear on the list, we will reach out to you. Your student cannot receive their diploma until they have met the graduation requirement.

Q: Why should I do the FAFSA?

A: The FAFSA allows universities to gauge your financial aid eligibility and disperse funds to your student. This is the **only way** that a student can take out a federal loan (*5.5% interest rate in 2023 in their own name*, available no matter the family income!) or get a federal grant or state grant. It's completely free to do, and can be completed in less than a half hour.

Q: If I complete the [nonparticipation waiver](#), am I permanently prevented from seeking financial aid?

A: No! You can always change your mind and complete the FAFSA or Alternative Application later. The opt-out form is required for graduation to certify that you have received information about the FAFSA and Alternative Application and are choosing not to apply, but it does not prevent you from applying in the future at any time.

Q: Can this help pay for private colleges, or only public ones?

A: The FAFSA supplies information to ALL colleges - public, private, technical and trade! These colleges, ALL kinds, are then able to supply their students with state and/ or federal funds!

Q: Who should NOT complete the FAFSA?

A: Students who do not have a social security number will not complete the FAFSA, but CAN complete the [Illinois Alternative Aid Application](#) if eligible! Other students who will not complete the FAFSA include those enlisting directly into the military, those going straight into the workforce who are not pursuing a certificate program, or those who are taking a GAP year.

Q: Isn't this a waste of time if our income is too high to receive grants?

A: As stated above, federal loans in a student's name are available regardless of family income level. Additionally, MANY colleges will use the information from FAFSA to determine extra aid eligibility, beyond the formula that the government uses. Finally, this is like **free insurance**. If anything happens and your student needs to work with the office of financial aid in the next year, they will be ready for those conversations!

Q: I don't file taxes. Is my student still eligible?

A: Yes. But there may be more complicated steps to work through. We are here to help through this situation and any other that might not be so very straightforward. Don't hesitate to ask for help!

Q: We are divorced. Does everyone have to work together on the FAFSA?

A: No. The family that provides more financial support to the student is the one that will complete the FAFSA. If you have questions about your unique situation, ask!

Q: Are we the right ones to do this? Will my information help?

(AKA: I'm really not sure what to do!)

A: Contact us for help! We can work through any unique situation and ensure that your student gets the support they need. Reach out by email to arusk@d120.org or call 847-949-2200 x1412 anytime!