

# New FAFSA Requirements

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If you are looking to go to college after highschool but may need financial support then the FAFSA could help. What is the FAFSA? The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and it gives you access to aid to help you pay for college or career school.

Starting with the class of 2025, Nebraska law requires all public high school students to complete and submit a FAFSA as a graduation requirement. This allows students to get federal financial aid and also encourages students to consider education after high school. This also informs students about their financial aid options and helps them make better decisions. How will this benefit Nebraska students? According to [educationquest.org](https://educationquest.org) In 2022, half of Nebraska graduates didn't file the FAFSA, missing out on an estimated \$23 million in aid. This initiative helps reach the goal of 70% of Nebraskans earning a diploma, degree, or industry credential by 2030.

According to The Nebraska Department of Education the FAFSA informs postsecondary institutions about student eligibility for grants, work-study opportunities, and student loans. Additionally, some scholarship providers require information from a student's FAFSA to determine eligibility and award amounts. Financial aid offers based on submitting a completed FAFSA help students pay for educational expenses after high school, reducing barriers to postsecondary education. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-729, provides that, beginning in the school year 2024-2025, each public high school senior student must complete and submit to the United States Department of Education a FAFSA prior to graduating from high school. A student will not be required to submit a FAFSA if an opt-out form is filled out and signed by a parent or guardian, the student themselves if 19 years old, or by the school principal or principal's designee.

According to our school counselor, Jordan Lewis, MHS hosted two full days of FAFSA completion appointments with Educationquest (a non-profit in Nebraska whose purpose is to help students attend college) in January. We have a FAFSA specialist from Kearney to help seniors complete their FAFSA applications if they need assistance.

Sources: [EducationQuest.org](https://EducationQuest.org)

[The Nebraska Department of Education \(education.ne.gov\)](https://education.ne.gov)

[FederalStudentAid.gov](https://FederalStudentAid.gov)