

ATTENTION Parents and Families of Seniors!!
Please share the information below with your Senior Students.

The 2023-2024 FAFSA is now open! **Did you know that the earlier you apply, the more money you can get for school?**

Please see below for the steps you should take and things to consider. Reach out to Raven Aderibigbe if you'd like help completing your application.

Step 1. Gather the Documents You Need

- Your 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 including IRS W-2 information, for you (and your spouse, if you are married), and for your parents, if you are a dependent student: IRS 1040
- Records of your untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, and veterans non-education benefits, for you, and for your parents, if you are a dependent student Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including stocks and bonds and real estate (but not including the home in which you live); and business and farm assets for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student
- If you are with your family, you will need your parents' Social Security numbers (see Step 3 to determine if you will need to provide this information)

2. Login to [FAFSA.GOV](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) and Begin your Application

- Visit <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- If this is the first time you're filling out the FAFSA, click on the New to the FAFSA button. Remember and keep your login information safe. Use an email address that you can check often (avoid using a high school email address because access may be disabled)

- If this isn't the first time you're filling out the FAFSA, click on the Returning User Login button and enter your login information
- Start a 2023-2024 FAFSA Application

3. Determine if You are Experiencing Homelessness and if you Need to Include Parental Information

You do NOT need to provide your parents' information if you are:

- Under the age 24 (if you are over 24 you are independent due to age and will not need to include parental information); and
- Experiencing unaccompanied homelessness on or after July 1st, 2022.

Unaccompanied homelessness means you are staying:

- with other people temporarily because you lost your housing or similar reason;
- in a shelter
- in a motel/hotel due to lack of alternatives
- in a car or other unsheltered situation
- living in a campus residence hall but otherwise would have nowhere else to go; and
- **not in the physical custody of your parents or guardians.**

If you are in the physical custody of your parents or guardians or if you are not experiencing homelessness, you DO need to include parental information and you will fill out the FAFSA as it instructs you to and include your parent or guardians' information in the parent section.

Resource: How to Answer FAFSA Questions About Homelessness [\[Click Here\]](#)

4. If You're NOT Including Parental Information, Request a Determination Letter

If you meet all of the criteria above, you are considered an independent student for the FAFSA, because you meet the definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth. To complete your FAFSA, you will need one of the following three people to determine your status as an unaccompanied homeless youth.

1. McKinney-Vento liaison or another high school staff member.

If you were identified as homeless in high school by a McKinney-Vento liaison or another high school staff member who knew about your homelessness, you might have received a determination letter in high school. **Your liaison can write a letter for you each year of college if you continue to meet the definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth, and if the liaison knows enough about your situation to make a determination.** Financial aid administrators are required to accept this letter, unless they have conflicting information. Reach out to your high school and ask for the McKinney-Vento liaison's contact information. Use this [email template](#) to request a determination letter from the liaison.

If you are the liaison sending out this email, include your email address so students can reach out to you for a letter

2. Shelters that are HUD-funded or a youth or transitional program.

If you stayed at a shelter, you may be able to request a letter from this shelter. Shelters that are HUD-funded or a youth or transitional program are authorized to write a determination letter. Financial aid administrators are required to accept this letter unless they have conflicting information. Reach out to the shelter or program you stayed at and ask for the Director's contact information. Use this [email template](#) to request a determination letter.

If you are a director of a HUD-funded or youth or transitional program shelter, include your email address so students can reach out to you for a letter.

3. Financial aid administrator.

If you do not have, and cannot obtain, a determination letter from the people above, your financial aid administrator must make a determination based on the definitions of unaccompanied and homeless, or unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness. Financial aid administrators can make a determination based on a [documented interview](#) with you. The goal of this conversation is to determine if you meet these definitions, not to determine or assess the reasons why you are experiencing homelessness. Please use this [email template](#) to request a documented interview with your financial administrator.

If you are the financial aid administrator sending out this email, include your email address so students can reach out to you for a letter.

Lastly, If You're Unsure About a Question, ASK!

It's very important that the information you enter on the FAFSA is accurate, so it's best to take it slow and ask for help. Feel free to contact Raven Aderibigbe at raderibigbe@csdecatour.net or Willie Washington at wwashington@csdecatour.net.

For Additional FAFSA Resources and Information, [click here](#).

ASCEND with K&S CARES

A RETENTION PROGRAM AIMING TO EASE THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO & THROUGH COLLEGE FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS OR FOSTER CARE.

Services include:

- **Bridge Week:** ASCEND scholars arrive to campus a week early for Fall Semester to explore the environment, interact with current ASCEND students, meet committed and supportive faculty, staff, and community members and begin a successful transition into college life.
- **ASCEND Living-Learning Village (LLV):** ASCEND scholars can choose to live in a on-campus community together, building stronger, hopefully life-long, relationships with other students with similar life experiences.
- **Academic and Professional Development Workshop Series:** ASCEND scholars have additional opportunities for social, academic, and professional engagement and enrichment through participation in workshops that provide life skills coaching, opportunities for one-on-one interactions with campus and community resources, and more.
- **Cultural and Education Abroad Enrichment Activities:** ASCEND scholars may participate in cultural enrichment, travel, and social opportunities. As available, stipends may be awarded to students to support their Education Abroad or other university-affiliated travel opportunities.
- **Mentoring:** Current ASCEND scholars provide peer-mentoring to incoming students. Second and third year students also have the opportunity to be paired with a community-based professional mentor through CARE Service's partnership with Fostering Great Ideas.
- **Case Management:** Together, ASCEND scholars and their CARE case manager develop an individualized plan to empower the student to work towards their self-identified goals.

Who can become an ASCEND Scholar...



Youth must be currently enrolled or accepted to attend Kennesaw State University and must be pursuing their first bachelor's degree. They must also meet at least one of the following criteria:

- An individual who experienced homelessness during grades nine through twelve, verified either by Unaccompanied Homeless Youth status based upon the McKinney-Vento Act provided by their High School Homeless Liaison or other relevant documentation.
- An individual who experienced the foster care system



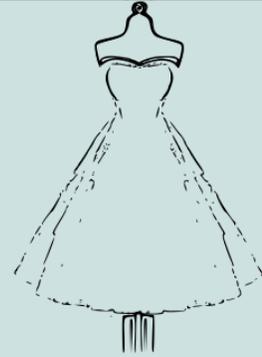
For more information:



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY

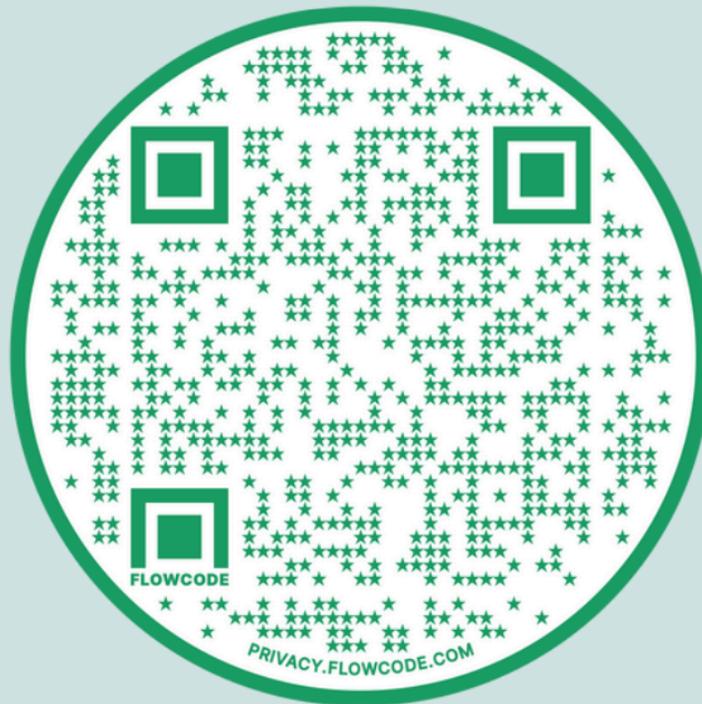


[View this email in your browser](#)



CALLING ALL STUDENTS
 WHO NEED FORMAL ATTIRE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!
 (WE ALSO HAVE MEN BUTTON UP SHIRTS & SHOES)

SCAN THE SQR CODE BELOW TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT
 WITH US!



WHO IS THE ASCENT PROJECT?

THE ASCENT PROJECT (TAP) IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS IN URBAN CENTERS RECEIVE CRITICAL SUPPORT, TO STRENGTHEN THE LONG TERM STABILITY OF THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.



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