

FINANCIAL AID:
FAFSA and CSS Profile Information
Class of 2025

One major part of the college application process is filling out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required by all post-secondary schools that charge a fee/tuition. This includes trade schools, 2 year-community colleges, and 4 year-colleges/universities.

For those of you who have been through this process recently, there will be changes in the **2025-2026 application**. The class of 2025 should be filling out the **2025-2026 FAFSA**, since you will be starting college in the fall of 2025. As a result of these changes, we do not have an exact date when the form will be available. FAFSA is anticipating that the form will open on or before December 1st (in previous years the form was available on October 1st).

Before filling out the FAFSA, students and parents should make an FSA ID. You can create this ID at any time by going to the website: [Create an FSA ID](#) Please keep in mind that students and parents will each create their own FSA ID.

The sooner you submit the FAFSA, once it is available online, the sooner you will be able to start making your financial plan for paying for college. Once we have more information regarding availability and deadlines we will share it with you and your student.

It is important to know that most competitive 4 year-private colleges also require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile which is done through the student's College Board account. You can find the list of participating schools at [CSS Profile Information](#). Due to the FAFSA being delayed again this year, the CSS Profile will have a significant impact on the student's financial aid package. **The CSS Profile opens today, October 1st**, and we recommend that you fill it out as soon as you can. Please keep in mind that financial aid deadlines are specific to individual colleges.

Good news! There are plenty of free resources to help you out with this process. Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA) is hosting webinars online for students, parents/guardians. Several webinars are being offered from now through December. These webinars will provide you with important information regarding financial planning for college, what to expect from FAFSA, how to differentiate the types of financial aid (loans, work-study programs, scholarships, etc.), and will hopefully answer all of your questions.

[Click here to register for a MEFA Webinar](#)

[Click here for general financial aid information through MEFA](#)

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

The Guidance Department