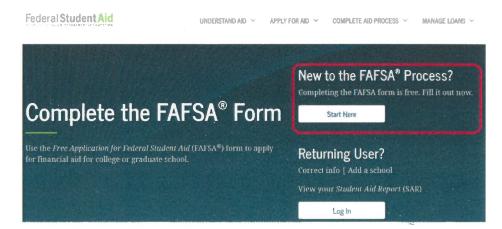
# **FAFSA (Financial Aid Application) Guide**

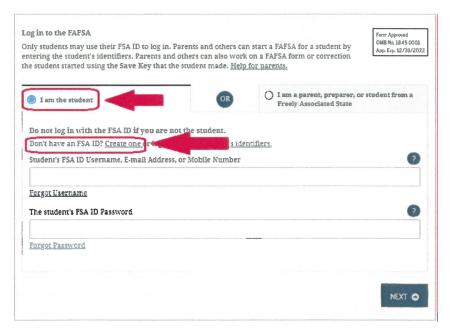
\*Students must first create an FSA ID (Username & Password) in order to fill out the FAFSA.

\*Your Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will also need an FSA ID of their own. If your parent(s) has already created an FSA ID for themselves because they have previously done a FAFSA application for an older sibling, they DO NOT need to create another ID, they will use the same one.

Start Here: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

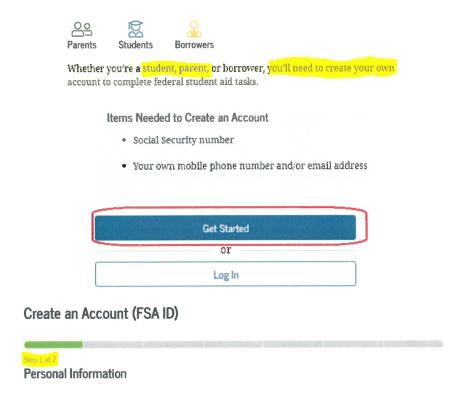


Click "I am the student," then Click on "Create One":

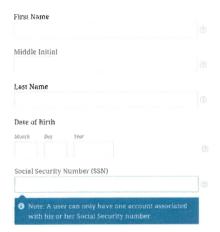


A new window will open up to Create your FSA ID. This is where both you and parent/guardian can create your own FSA IDs.

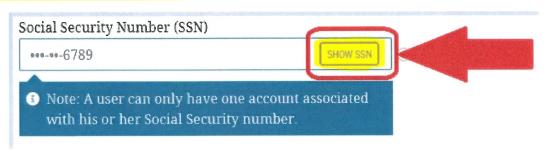
# Create an Account (FSA ID)



\*Your name must Match exactly what is associated with your Social Security number.



\*PLEASE click on "SHOW SSN" BEFORE you click Continue. MAKE SURE your Social Security number was typed in CORRECTLY.

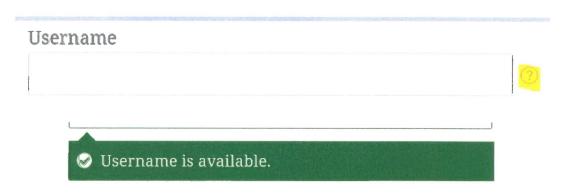


# You will now be able to see your entire Social Security number that you typed in

# - DOUBLE CHECK that it is correct before moving on!!!!!



Tip: You can use the beginning part of your email address as your Username, so it is easy to remember. Once you type an acceptable Username, you will see a green box appear saying your username is available:



Use your personal email address – the email you use for all college and financial aid purposes, and the email account that you check <u>REGURLARLY</u> every day.



\*PLEASE click on "Show Password" to check what you typed.

\*\*\*TIP: Don't forget to email yourself the Username & Password you create for FAFSA. That way, you will always have it in your emails, because you will need it <u>EVERY YEAR to reapply</u> for FAFSA.



Permanent Address	
Address	
	3
City	
	3
State	
Type response	
ZIP Code	
	1

# **Phone Number** Mobile Phone Number 3 Confirm Mobile Phone Number + Add Alternate Phone Number **Mobile Phone Account Recovery** We strongly recommend setting up mobile phone account recovery. This option is used to help you restore access to your account by sending you a code via text message if you are locked out. Yes, I would like to use my mobile phone for account recovery. Continue **Previous** Communication Preferences **Required Communications** The U.S. Department of Education (ED) and its federal student loan servicers will need to send you required communications and documents related to your federal student aid, such as student loan disclosures and interest statements. I want to receive these communications: By email Recommended By selecting this option, you agree to receive required communications by email and confirm you have reviewed and agree to FSA's Terms and Conditions. By postal mail ED and its federal student loan servicers want you to feel confident about the financial aid and student loan process. To help with this, we will sometimes send out information about programs you may be eligible for, such as grant programs, student loan forgiveness programs, income-based repayment plans, and more. I want to receive these communications: By email

By selecting this option, you agree to receive informational emails and confirm you have reviewed and agree to FSA's

Terms and Conditions.

By text message

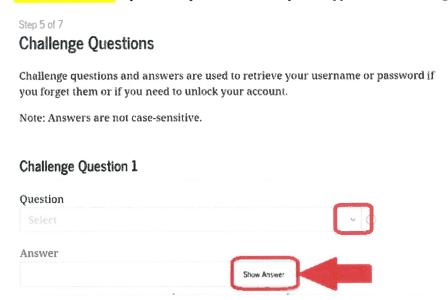
### Preferred Language

Your choice lets us know how you would like to view website content once logged in, and what to use for your communications.



For Challenge Questions: Please select questions that have answers that won't change. Example: If you choose "What is your favorite color?" – that answer may change over the years. Instead, choose questions that won't ever change such as "What City were you born in?". There are 4 security questions you must choose.

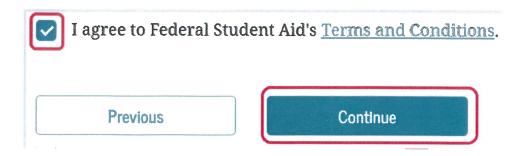
\*Always click on "Show Answer" (in case you accidently mistyped something).



Step 6 of 7

# **Confirm and Verify**

Verify the information you provided for your account below. If there is an error, select "Edit" to correct the information.



# VERIFY: You will need to verify your account in two ways:

# **Account Recovery**

Only a verified email address OR a verified mobile phone number is required, but if you provided both on previous screens, you MUST verify both below.

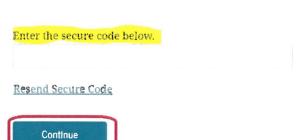


# You will receive a numerical code sent as a Text Message to your cell phone:

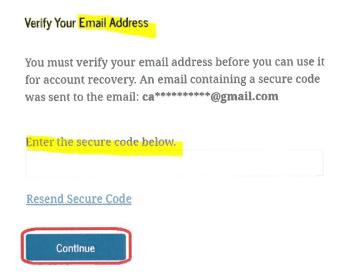
Verify Your Mobile Phone Number

You must verify your phone number before you can use it for account recovery. A text message containing a secure code was sent to the mobile phone number:

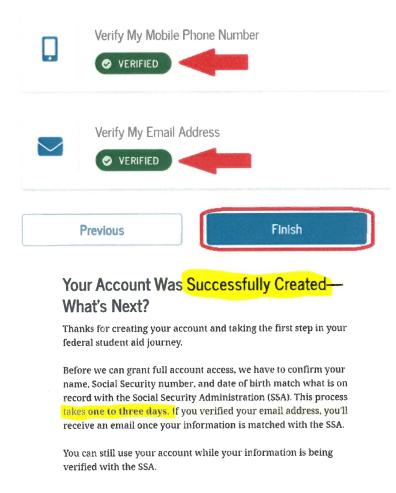
\*\*\*\*\*\*4444. This code is valid for 30 minutes.



# You will then receive a numerical code sent to your Email:



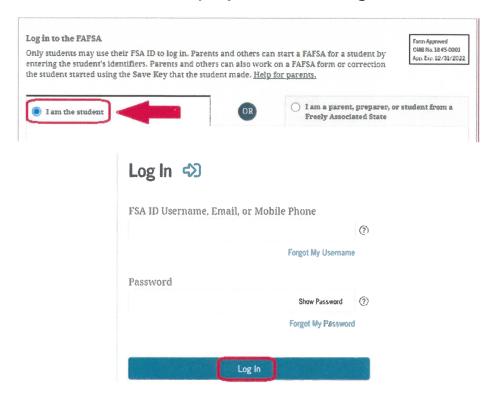
Once you have verified your account by phone and email, the boxes will turn Green and say "Verified," then click "Finish":



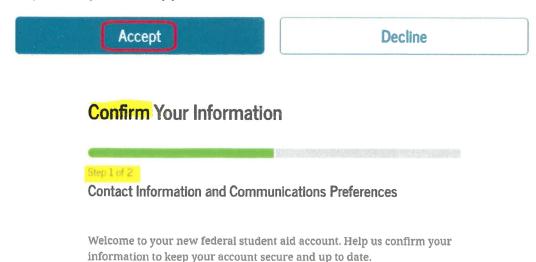
When your Account is successfully created, click on "Return to StudentAid.gov" to start your FAFSA Application:

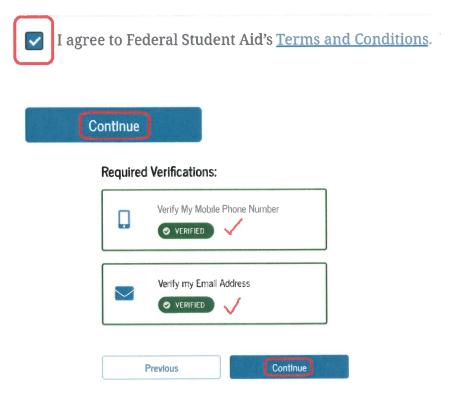
# Return to StudentAld.gov

# Use the USERNAME & PASSWORD that you just created to Log In:

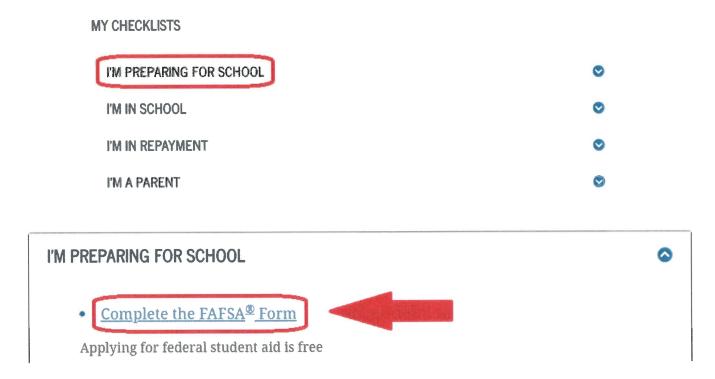


# Click on "Accept" to open the Application:





# Click on "I'm Preparing for School," then click on "Complete the FAFSA Form":



### **Aid Application Process**

Take these steps to apply for federal student aid.

want.

Get Prepared
Gather the
documents you'll

Complete
FAFSA® Form
Apply early to

maximize your aid.

Review Student
Aid Report
Make corrections if

04
Respond to Aid
Offer
Accept the aid you

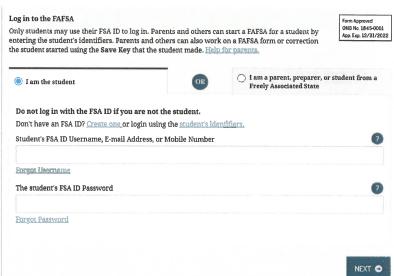
Receive Aid

Get your aid from
your school

Renew Your FAFSA® Form Reapply each year.

### You may have to Log In again as a Returning User:





You must click on "NEXT" in order to move to the next screen. It will not allow you to just hit enter to continue.

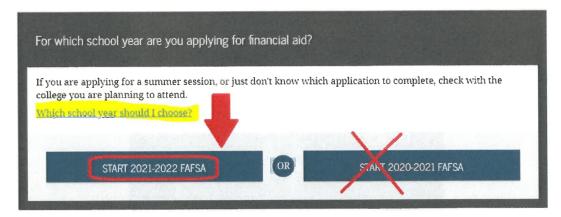
#### Warning

You are accessing a U.S. Federal Government computer system intended to be solely accessed by individual users expressly authorized to access the system by the U.S. Department of Education. Usage may be monitored, recorded, and/or subject to audit. For security purposes and in order to ensure that the system remains available to all expressly authorized users, the U.S. Department of Education monitors the system to identify unauthorized users. Anyone using this system expressly consents to such monitoring and recording. Unauthorized use of this information system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties. Except as expressly authorized by the U.S. Department of Education, unauthorized attempts to access, obtain, upload, modify, change, and/or delete information on this system are strictly prohibited and are subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1030. and other applicable statutes, which may result in fines and imprisonment. For purposes of this system, unauthorized access includes, but is not limited to:

- Any access by an employee or agent of a commercial entity, or other third party, who is not the individual user, for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain (regardless of whether the commercial entity or third party is providing a service to an authorized user of the system); and
- Any access in furtherance of any criminal or tortious act in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or any state.
- If system monitoring reveals information indicating possible criminal activity, such evidence may be provided to law enforcement personnel.



# You are always filling out the FAFSA Application for the NEXT school year.



Now you will need to create a "Save Key." You should choose something you will remember like the year you were born, or the year you graduate, or student ID number.



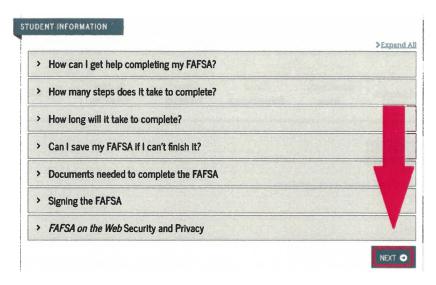
### Create a Save Key

The save key is not the same as your FSA ID (which acts as a legal signature that you shouldn't share). A save key allows you to return to an application or correction later from the point you left off if you need to stop and save your work. It also allows you to share access to your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) application or correction if your parent needs to add information or sign it.

The save key must be between 4 and 8 characters long. You can use any combination of numbers and/or uppercase and lowercase letters. For example, the save key "Student2" is different than the save key "STUDeNt2."

Try to choose a save key that you can remember but that would be hard for others to guess. Avoid using personal identifiers (for example, first name, last name, or date of birth) and simple save keys such as "1234" or "aaaa."

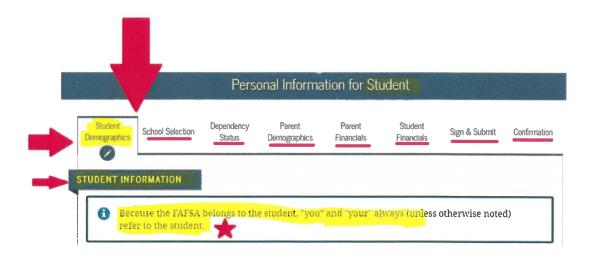
If you're trying to log back in to your FAFSA form and have forgotten your save key, select the "I Forgot My Save Key" link and provide the requested information to access your FAFSA form.



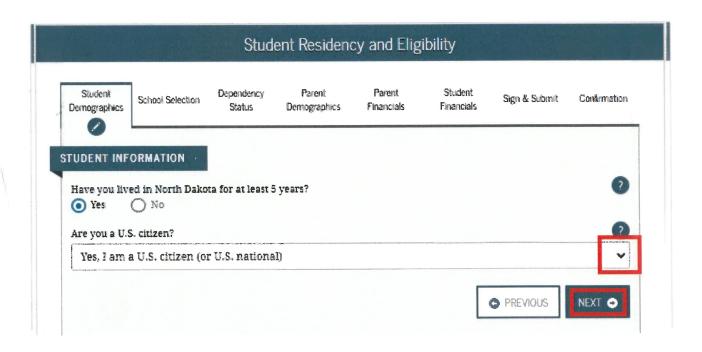
Note: You can always click on "Save" at the top of the page to save where you stopped and come back to the application later. MAKE SURE you see it says saved successfully before you click "Exit":

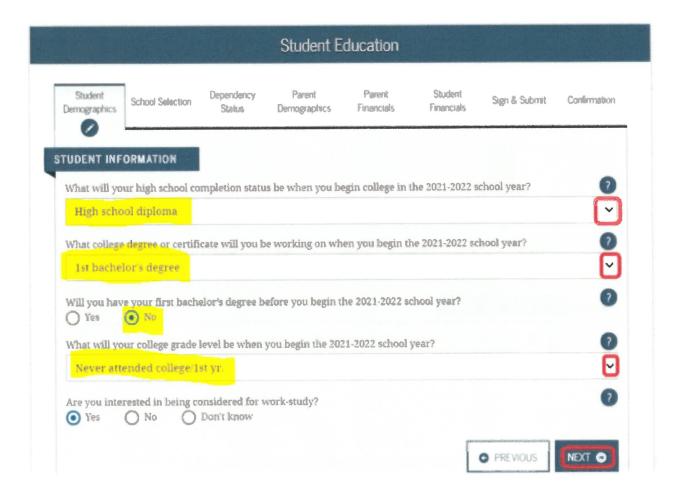


Note: Pay attention to the top to see whether you are on the Student OR Parent parts



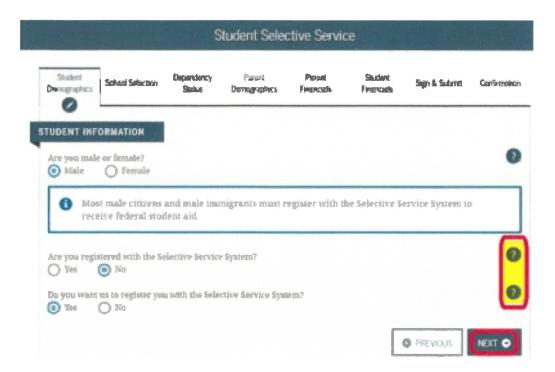
In the next few screens, verify your name, email, home address, etc.





\*If you are Male, you will have to register for selective service – use the ? to read about it.

\*If you are a Female, you will not see this question regarding selective service.



# Are you male or female?

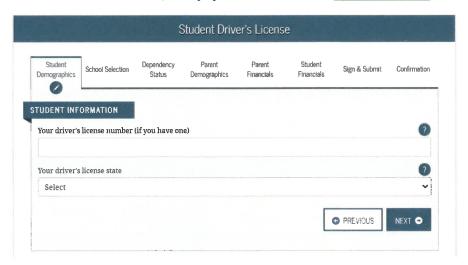
This is question of **21** on the paper *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.

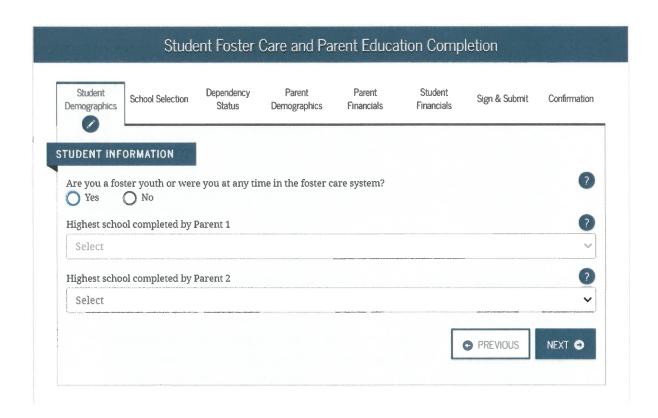
Your gender is used to determine if you need to register with the Selective Service System (SSS). Most male citizens and immigrants between the ages of 18–25 must register with the SSS to receive federal student aid. This requirement applies to any person assigned the sex of male at birth.

Select "male" if you're male.

Select "female" if you're female.

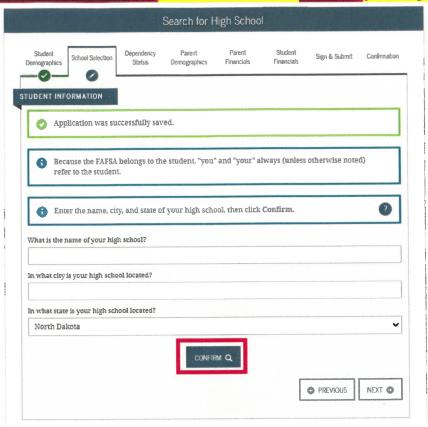
# \*If you do not have a driver's license, simply click "Next" to skip this part:

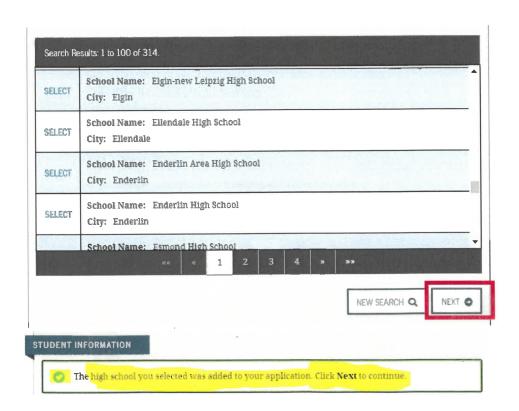




This is where you will Search for your High School.

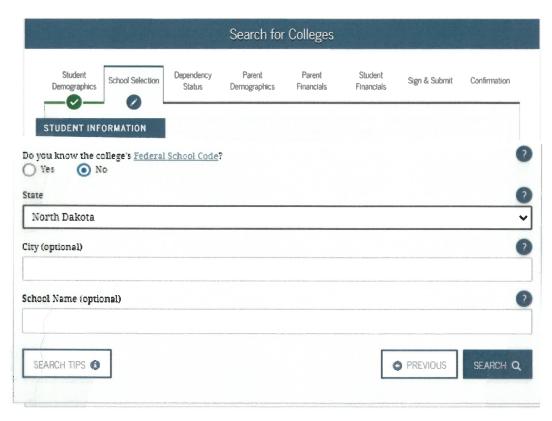
\*Note: After you type the name of your high school, type the City, and type the State -You MUST hit the CONFIRM button at the bottom and "Select" your high school from the list



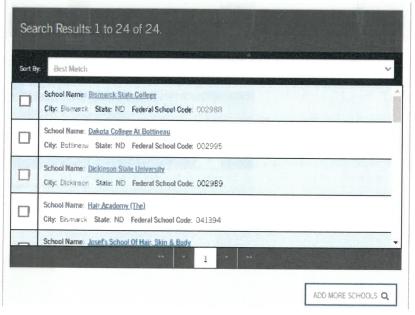


Now, you need to add <u>ALL</u> Colleges (Universities, Community Colleges & Trade Schools) that you have applied to, or plan on applying to (up to 10). This is needed because FAFSA must send your Student Aid Report (SAR) to the Financial Aid Office of each college you apply to.

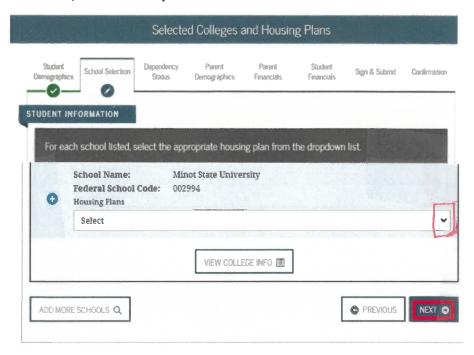
\*Please note that if you complete and submit the FAFSA, and then later on, decide to apply to another college, you will have to Log back in to your FAFSA, click on "Make Corrections" and add that school to your application. Then you will have to RESUBMIT your updated FAFSA.



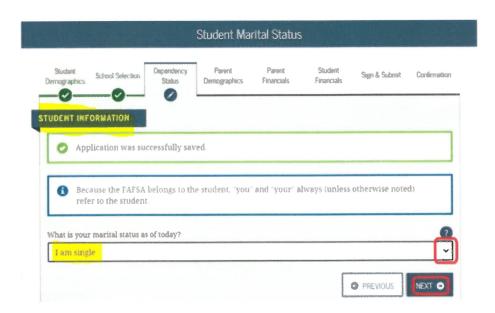
When you find the school, click the box next to it to check that school, then click on "ADD MORE SCHOOLS" as many times as you need to, in order to add all schools. When done adding schools, click on "NEXT":



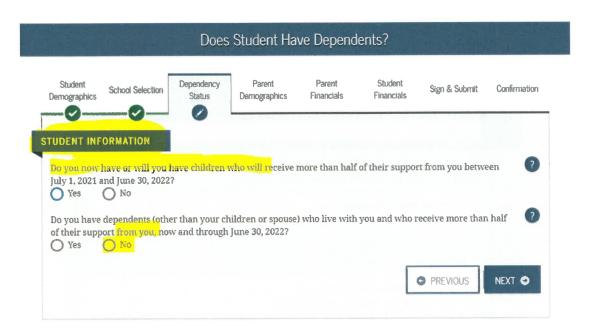
For each school, you must say what your housing plan will be for each college. Select either On Campus, With Parent, or Off Campus:



\*Note that this section is asking for the STUDENT's marital status, not Parents:



This section is asking if you, the STUDENT, have any children of your own, or are currently expecting a child:

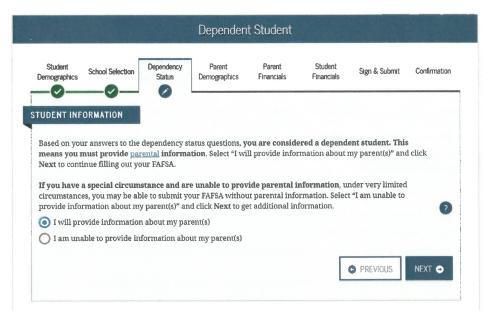


# Again, still on the Student sections. Most of you will choose "None of the above":

Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Status	Parent Demographics	Parent Financials	Student Financials	Sign & Submit	Confirmatio
TUDENT IN	FORMATION						
			e if you are requi one of the above		information ab	out your parents	on ?
Are you	currently servin	g on active dut	y in the U.S. Arme	ed Forces for pu	irposes other th	an training?	
Are you	a veteran of the	U.S. Armed For	ces?				
		med age 13, we	re both your pare	ents deceased, v	vere you in fost	er care, or were	you a
	ime since you tui ent or ward of the						
depend	ent or ward of the	e court?	of legal residence,	are you or wer	e you an eman	cipated minor?	
dependence As determined Does so	ent or ward of the	e court? t in your state o n your parent o		•	•	•	



If you are a DEPENDENT Student, you must report your Parents' information, in addition to your own, on the FAFSA® form.



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Some students may come from non-traditional households. To understand who is considered a Parent, please see next page and/or visit this website:

https://studentaid.gov/help/who-is-parent

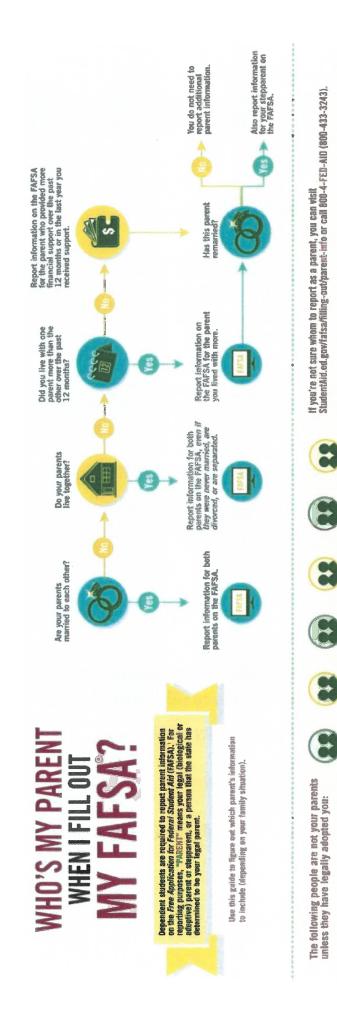
\*\*\*If you don't fall into one of those categories as a Dependent student, you will be considered an <a href="INDEPENDENT Student">INDEPENDENT Student</a>, and therefore the questions on your FAFSA Application will be different, <a href="not requiring you to include Parent Info">not requiring you to include Parent Info</a> (For Example: if you are in Foster Care)\*\*\*

# "PARENT" means your legal (Biological OR Adoptive) Parent OR Stepparent, OR a person that the State has determined to be your Legal Parent/Guardian.

IMPORTANT: The following people ARE NOT considered your Parents <u>UNLESS</u> they have <u>Legally Adopted you</u>:

✓ Grandparent, Foster Parent, Aunts or Uncles, Older Brothers or Sisters

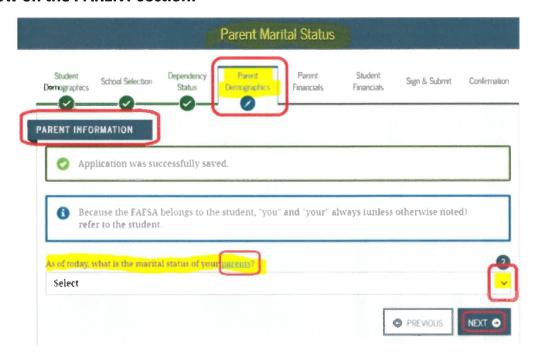
Please look at the Chart below, start with "Are your parents married to each other?" → follow the ARROWS for either "Yes" OR "No," and keep going:



' If you're not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid\_gov/faisa/filling-out/dependency

Midwes

### You are now on the PARENT section:



# If Parents are married, must put Month and Year they got married:

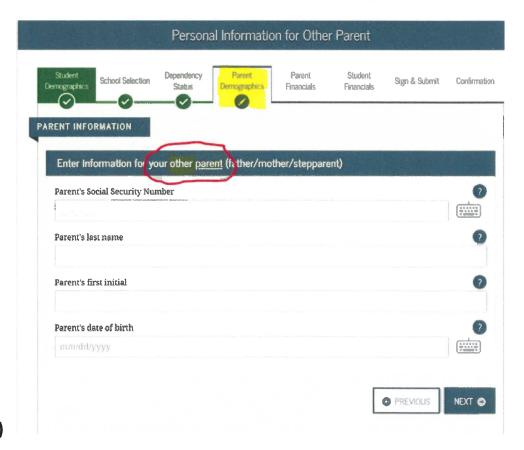


IF Applicable, you will put both Parent's info. Please NOTE who you choose as PARENT 1 and PARENT 2. Information you will need for your Parent(s):

- Parent Social security number(s),
- Last Name,
- First Initial of First Name,
- Date of Birth,
- and Parent Email Address (the one they used to create their Parent FSA ID)

Student School Selection	Pers Dependency Status	Parent	Parent	Student Financials	Sign & Submit	Confirmation
- Ø - Ø -	<b>—</b>	0	· III (cli III, sciii 5	I ti dir Andrico		
PARENT INFORMATION		9				1
Enter information for yo	ur first <u>parer</u>	it (father/moth	er/stepparen	0)		
Parent's Social Security Nur	nber					
Parent's last name						0
Parent's first initial						0
Perent's date of birth						0
mm/dd/yyyy						(**************************************
Your parents' e-mail addres	9					0
						A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR

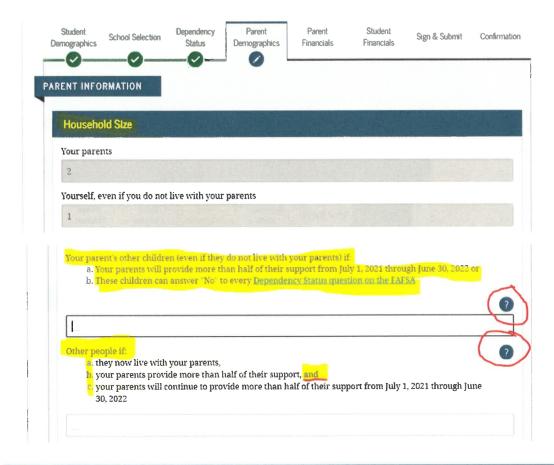
# **PARENT 1**

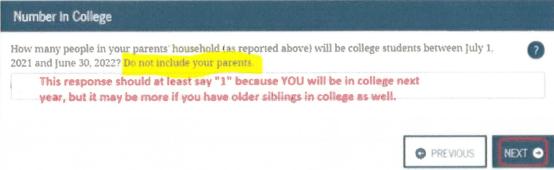


**PARENT 2 (If Applicable)** 

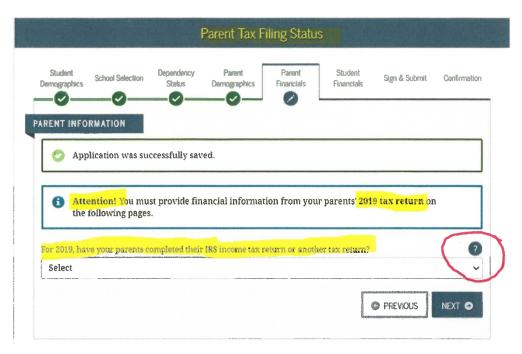
Student Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Startus	Parent Demographics	Parent Financials	Student Financials	Sign & Submit	Confirmation
RENT INFO	ORMATION  parents lived in Ma	aryland for at l	least 5 years?				7

# For this section, **READ CAREFULLY** and use the ? if you need further clarification:

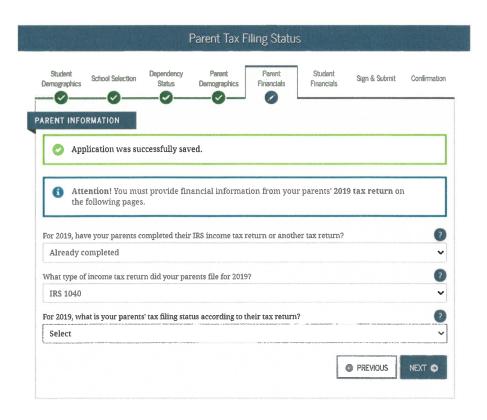


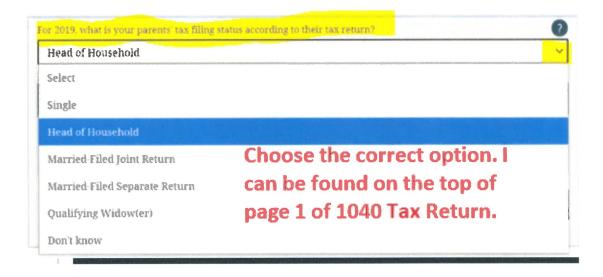


# Dependent Students MUST provide financial information from your Parents' 2019 Tax Return:



If your Parent(s) have completed their 2019 Tax Return, select the appropriate response from each dropdown menu. NOTE: For the 3<sup>rd</sup> question, please make sure to choose the accurate response for parent's Tax Filing Status – "Single," "Head of Household," "Married-Filed Separate Return," "Married-Filed Joint Return":





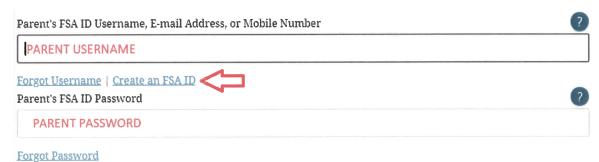
Hopefully, you will see a "Link to IRS" button if you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. If parent already filed 2019 federal income tax returns, using the Data Retrieval Tool will pre-fill the answers to the parent tax questions by transferring the necessary data directly from the IRS.

If you're eligible to use the IRS DRT, select "Link To IRS" to transfer your tax return information from the IRS website into your FAFSA form.



It will take you to the IRS website. Hopefully it works in transferring your parent's tax information.

Your Parent will need to enter <u>THEIR</u> Username & Password. If they have not created one yet, click on <u>Create an FSA ID.</u>



### IF it works, this is what it would look like:

### PARENT INFORMATION



### Leaving FAFSA on the Web

You have entered answers to one or more income questions. FAFSA on the Web will delete these responses and replace them with information contained in your tax return when you transfer your IRS tax information into this FAFSA.

You, the parent, are now leaving FAFSA on the Web and will be transferred to the IRS Web site to access your IRS tax information. Your FAFSA information will be saved.

Your saved FAFSA will automatically open either when you transfer your information from the IRS or choose to return to FAFSA on the Web from the IRS Web site. If you do not transfer your information or choose not to return to FAFSA on the Web from the IRS Web site, you will have to log in to open your saved FAFSA.

For your protection, your tax return information will not display on the IRS Web site or on the FAFSA.



You are now leaving this page. Click "OK" to continue or click "Cancel" to stay on this page. Your FAFSA information will be saved if you choose to continue.





\*Address must be entered to match exactly the way it is on the Parent W-2 (2019) and the Parent Tax Return (2019).

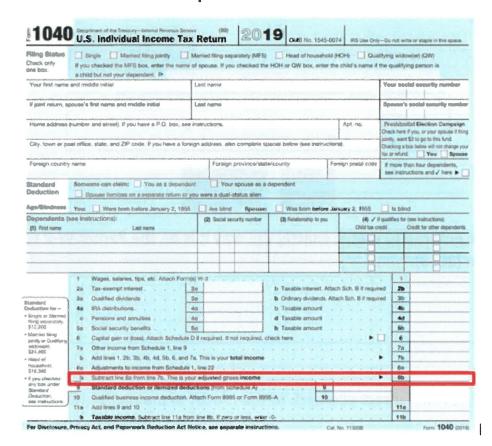
If it doesn't work, it will redirect you back to the FAFSA to manually enter the tax information.

Parents who are married and filed taxes as "Married Filing Separately," are married and filed as "Head of Household," or filed a Puerto Rican, foreign tax return, or an IRS Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ aren't eligible to use the IRS DRT and will need to enter their tax return information manually.

# If required to enter Tax info manually, please use the ? for clarification:



### **Example 1040 Tax Return:**

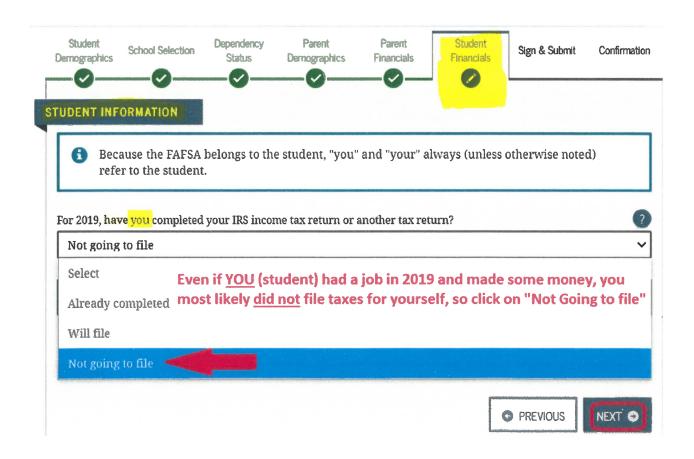


<sup>\*</sup>Continue through all the Parent Tax questions.

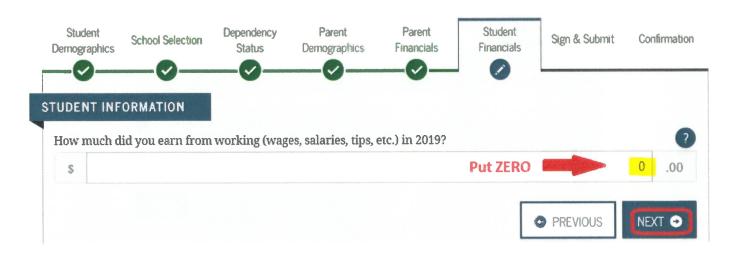
<sup>\*</sup>Please put "0" (zeros) in places where applicable; DO NOT just leave any portion BLANK.

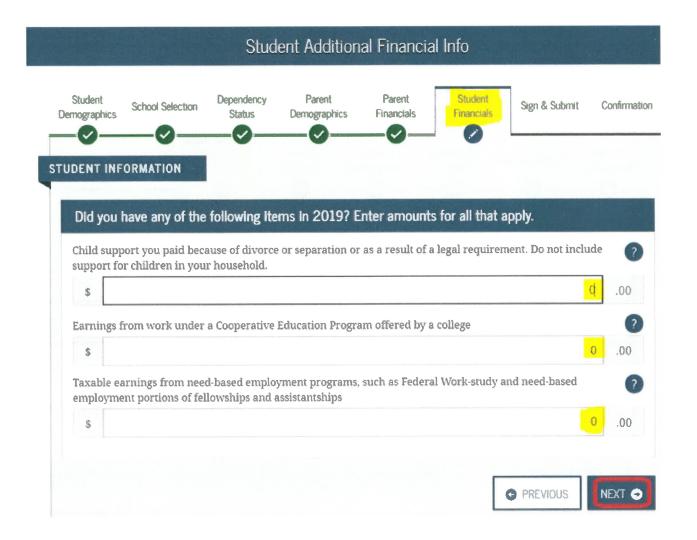
Demographi	School Selection	Dependency Status	Parent Demographics	Parent Financials	Student Financials	Sign & Submit	Confirmatio
How muc	FORMATION  n did your Parent 1  unt is your Parent 1  (Code A) of IRS Sch	(father's/mothe	er's/stepparent's				
	n did your Parent 2 int is your Parent 2 (Code A) of IRS Sch	(father's/mothe	er's/stepparent's				
6 + Box 14							.00
6 + Box 14							

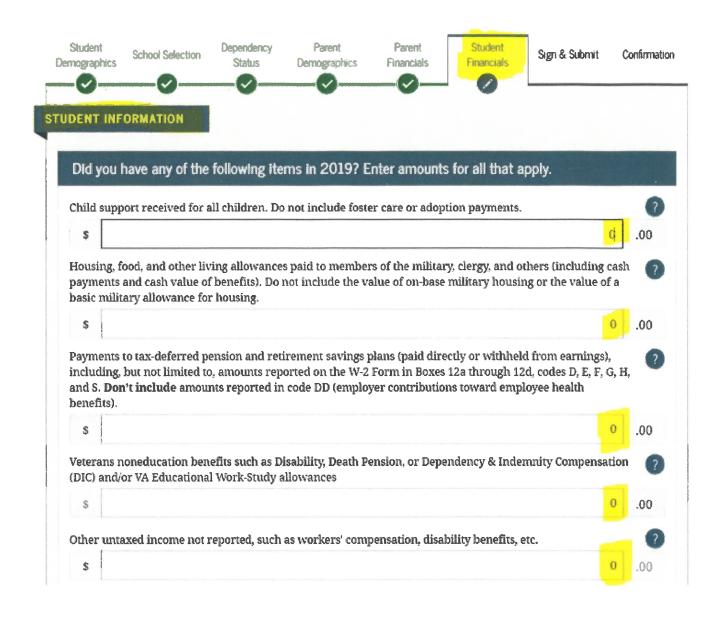
After Parent Tax info is complete, you will arrive on the "Student Financials" section.

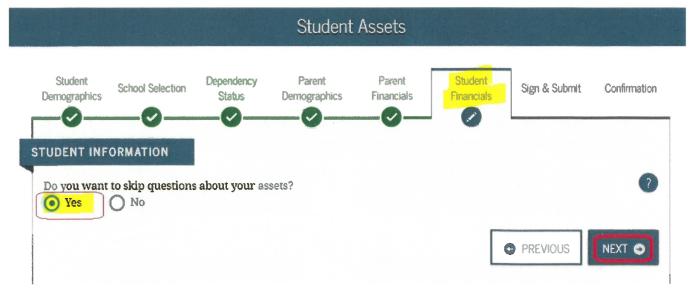


# Student Income from Work

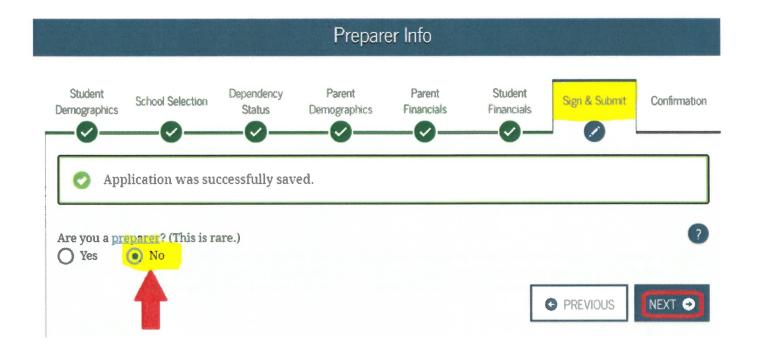


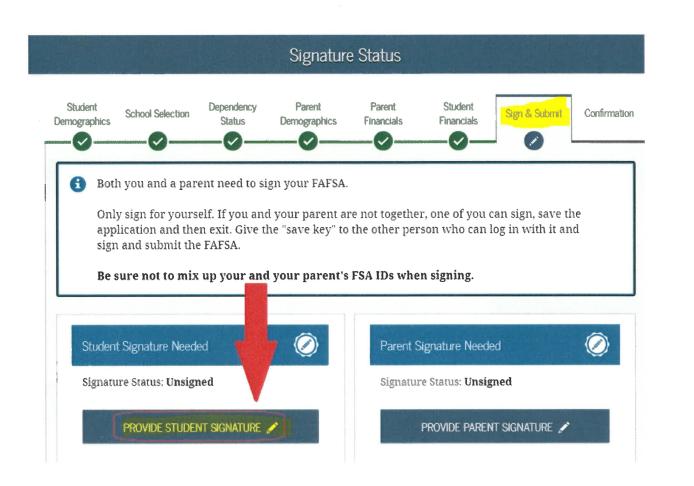




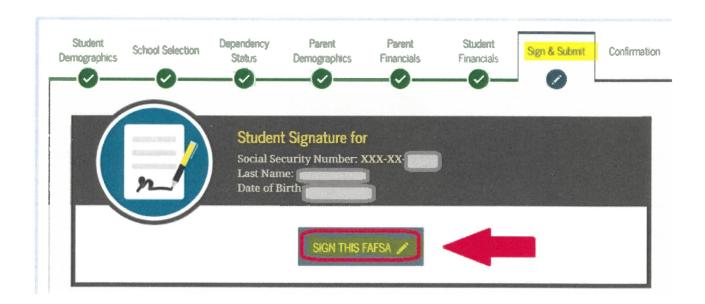


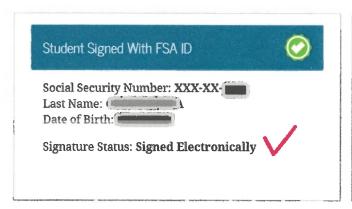
# You are now on the Sign & Submit Page. Both YOU and your PARENT must "agree" and Sign:



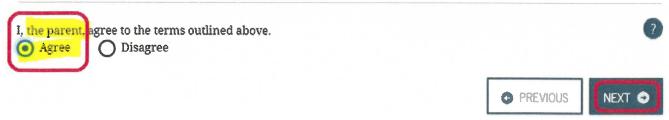


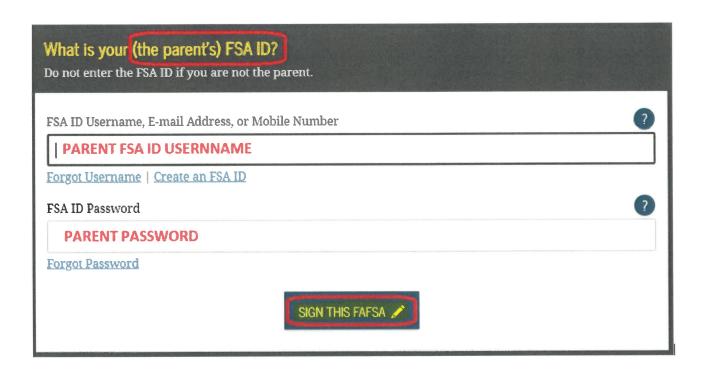


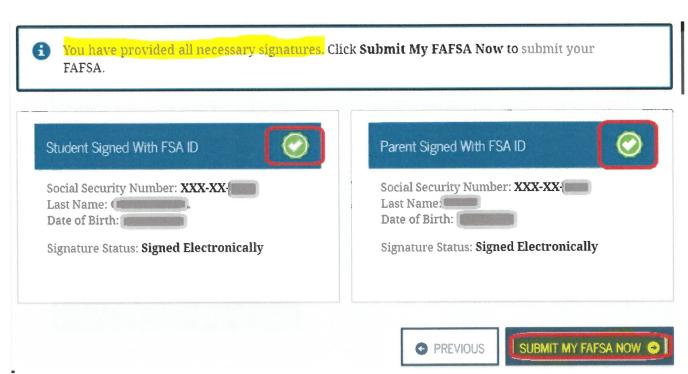












### 2021-2022 Confirmation Page



# Congratulations, First!

Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Ald.

Confirmation Number: F 00600669903 07/13/2020 16:32:10

Data Release Number (DRN):2866

### What Happens Next

- In 7-10 business days, we will mail you a Student Aid Report (SAR) notifying you that your FAFSA was
  processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid
  you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

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When you have successfully submitted your completed FAFSA Application, you should receive an email confirming that it has been submitted. Then, in about, 3 to 5 days, you will receive another email telling you if it was "PROCESSED" successfully.

If you were selected for verification, don't worry, you didn't do anything wrong. Verification is the process your school uses to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA form is accurate. If you're selected for verification, your school will request additional documentation that supports the information you reported. It's important to provide the financial aid offices those documents as soon as possible!

Useful link: https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/review-and-correct

# The email usually looks like this:

From: "U.S. Department of Education" <a href="mailto:noreply@studentald.gov">noreply@studentald.gov</a> Subject: Processed Successfully: 2021-22 FAFSA Form

Date: October 10, 2020 at 2:43:52 PM EDT To: < @gmail.com>

Reply-To: "U.S. Department of Education" < noreply@studentaid.gov>

Federal Student Aid

Access your Student Aid

Report (SAR) on



# Processed Successfully: 2021– 22 FAFSA Form



Congratulations, your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form was processed successfully on 10/08/2020.

# What you should do next

Review your SAR. Your SAR is a summary of the information you
provided on your FAFSA form; it is not your financial aid offer. Log in
to <u>fafsa.gov</u> with your FSA ID to review your SAR.