**FAFSA APPLICATION**

**Before Starting Your FAFSA Application**

* The official FAFSA website is [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov/). This is a “free” application!  Be sure that you are on the FAFSA site ending in “.gov”.
* Before applying, you and your child must **create FSA ID’s**.  This is what you and your parent will use to sign and update the FAFSA.  Remember to keep your usernames and passwords in a safe location! <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
* The **2021-2022 FAFSA will open October 1st**.It is important to apply early for your child to be considered for eligibility in priority aid programs with limited funding.  **Note**: Federal Pell grants and Federal Stafford and PLUS Loans are not limited fund programs and are always available based on student eligibility

**Documents Needed to Complete the FAFSA**

* The student’s Social Security Number (SSN), and the parent’s SSN(s)
* The student Driver's License, if available
* The student alien registration or permanent resident card (if the student is not a U.S. citizen)
* The 2020-2021 FAFSA will use information from the 2018 IRS tax year
* 2019 wage & income information, including but not limited to; w-2's, other income statements and/or federal IRS tax returns; 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, Puerto Rico 1040
* If your 2019 taxes aren't filed by the time you begin to file the 2021-2021 FAFSA, don't panic --- The FAFSA will allow estimated income information to be entered initially -- the Student/Parent tax filing status and final tax values can be updated at a later date, through the process of a FAFSA correction, once taxes have been filed
* Current bank statements
* Current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records

**Filling Out the FAFSA**

* Follow these steps to **transfer tax information into your FAFSA**:   <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources/irs-drt-text>
* Read the instructions carefully. The words "you" and "your" always refer to the student, whereas questions for parents will be specified
* Dependent students are required to provide information on their [Legal Parents](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/who-is-my-parent.png)
* Always round to the nearest dollar, and **do not** use commas or decimal points
* Be sure to list your school codes and include a TN school
* List an email address checked frequently as you will receive communication at this address from FAFSA
* More information can be found here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/help>
* If you have any additional questions about the FAFSA application please call 1-800-433-3243

 **What to Expect After Submitting a FAFSA**

* Always keep a copy of the submission confirmation page for your personal records, as well as a copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) that will be emailed to you as a follow-up to submitting a FAFSA
* Monitor your email for FAFSA messages.  If you are selected for verification, you will be notified via email.