

## FAFSA STUDENT ANTICIPATION GUIDE- TEACHER KEY

How much do you know about FAFSA? Complete this worksheet to check your understanding of basic FAFSA information. Use “A” to agree and “D” to disagree.

A  
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1. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

A  
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- 2. Most colleges use FAFSA as a starting point to determine how much financial support a student will need to attend college.
- The financial aid office at each college uses your results to aid in determining how much financial aid they will offer you.

A  
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- 3. Financial aid is awarded “first come, first serve” and the window of opportunity to complete the FAFSA is October 1 thru January 1.
- You can apply any time after October 1, but the earlier the better since it’s “first come, first served.”
- Applying is FREE and you can do so at: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

D  
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- 4. Only families who make LESS than \$50,000 should fill out FAFSA.
- Everyone should file for FAFSA.
- Most colleges require it.
- Some merit aid scholarships are filtered through FAFSA.
- Undocumented immigrant students are not eligible for federal aid. But, FAFSA is a gateway to other money.
- Even if you think you may not get aid because you or your parents earn too much, you should file the FAFSA so you can access federal loans. 1-800-433-3243

D  
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- 5. I can complete the FAFSA on my own without assistance.
- Students require help from a family member in gathering important documents, tax records, and social security cards.
- Most people need help when completing the form. Your high school counselor or the college financial aid office can help you. Or, you can call the FAFSA Hotline 1-800-433-3243.

A  
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- 6. It is important to fill out the college application at the same time I complete the FAFSA.
- A college will not send you a financial aid package until you have applied and been accepted to that college. You do not have to apply at the same time, however, the sooner the better in order to make sure financial aid is available.

D  
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- 7. The “Expected Family Contribution” (EFC) means your family has a lot of money and can Pay for college without any assistance.
- Your EFC measures your families’ financial strength and is used to determine your eligibility FOR federal student aid, school, college or state aid.
- This is the amount you or your family may need to pay. This may be done through additional scholarships and loans as well as personal cash and savings.

D  
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- 8. To be considered an “independent” student by FAFSA, the only criteria is the student must be responsible for all educational and living expenses.
- Most High School graduates will be considered dependent and parent’s income and tax information will be needed.
- However, if a student meets any of the following qualifications they may be considered independent and parent’s information will not be necessary.
- Age 24 or older by December 31st
- Married or separated, but not divorced
- Student has a child and that child receives over ½ of the support from the student
- Since the age of 13: both parents are deceased, lived in foster care, ward of the court, emancipated or under legal guardianship, unaccompanied homeless youth
- Currently serving on active duty with the U.S. armed forces

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- 9. If our income tax has not been filed for the current year, I will be unable to fill out FAFSA.
- The FAFSA requires tax information from two tax years earlier, known as “prior, prior” year. For example, the 2017-2018 FAFSA will collect income information from 2015 rather than 2016.

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- 10. I will not receive any information about my Student Aid Report (SAR) for two months.
- You will receive your SAR within a few days through email. Continue checking email.
- If you don’t receive your SAR or have any problems, call 1-800-433-3243.

A  
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- 11. Your FAFSA determines how much FEDERAL financial aid you can receive. This is different from what the college may offer you.
- The financial need is the difference between your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and the college’s cost of attendance. Example:

Cost of college = \$8,000 minus your expected family contribution (EFC) = \$2,000. Your financial aid package will equal \$6,000.

- Colleges use the FAFSA to determine whether you're eligible for federal student aid, including Pell Grants, Student Loans, and Work Study.
- It is also the gateway for state funding, college support and many private scholarships.
- 12. Once my application is complete, each college will award me the same amount of money.
- Each college determines the amount awarded as the cost varies.
- Do not commit to a college until you have received the financial aid packages from all the colleges.

D  
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