

How Families Pay for College

- **Sources of Funding**

- You and your family
- Federal Student Aid—bridges the gap between *how much college costs* and *how much your family can afford to pay*
 - Grants (need-based aid) and Scholarships (merit-based aid)
 - Work Study—part-time job at school
 - Loans—money you must pay back
- Institutional Grants—Award from a college to one of its students
- State Grants—students must list at least one TX college on FAFSA
- Private Grants—third party scholarships applied to any college

- **FAFSA and Expected Family Contribution**

- The federal government determines how much your family can afford to pay for college. This is determined by the information entered on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). FAFSA asks questions related to the parental income and assets as well as the student's income and assets.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Cost of} & - & \text{Expected} \\ \text{Attendance} & & \text{Family} \\ & & \text{Contribution} \\ & = & \text{Need} \end{array}$$

The goal of federal student aid is to meet your need.

- Complete the FAFSA immediately after October 1st of your senior year at FAFSA.ED.GOV .
- It's vital that you complete all sections of the FAFSA accurately and you must complete it for every year that you plan to attend college.
- **Common FAFSA Pain Points**
 - Social Security Number Complications
 - Dependency Questions
 - Taxes
- **Appealing an Award**
 - Don't appeal at every school, just your first choice
 - Reasonable requests includes:
 - Meeting more of your unmet need
 - Replacing loans with other types of aid
 - Replacing unsubsidized loans with subsidized loans
- **Additional Sources of Information**
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - www.fsaid.ed.gov
 - studentaid.ed.gov