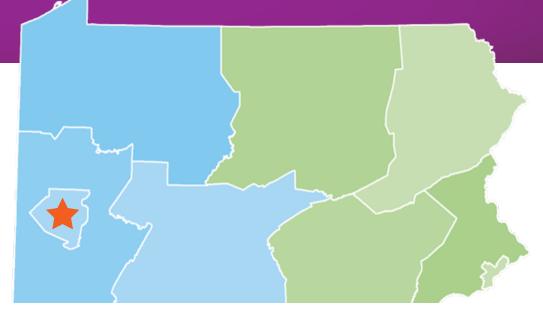
## Welcome!

The Presentation will begin shortly!
I will be taking questions using the
Q&A feature at the end of our
presentation.



Click the ? symbol to see the Q&A feature box on the right of your screen

#### **Your Presenter**



#### **Amy Sawdey**

Higher Education Access Partner

Allegheny County

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

717-433-3847

asawdey@pheaa.org



#### What Is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to *help* pay for postsecondary educational expenses.

- Gift Aid Grants/Scholarships free money
- Self-Help: Work, Savings, Tuition Account Programs – 529s,etc.
- Loans



#### **Funding Sources**



## Federal Government



State Government



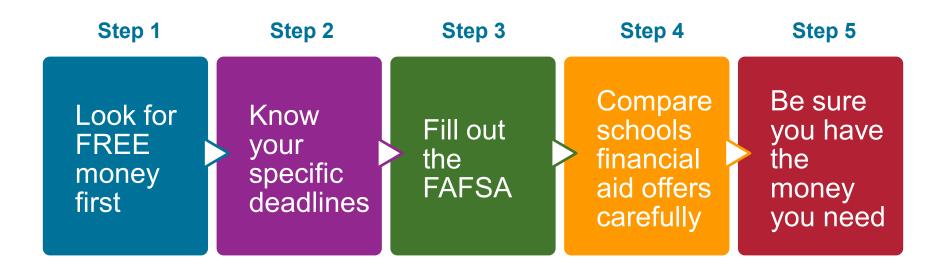
School or College



Scholarships

#### Financial Aid Made Simple

#### 5 Steps to Financial Aid



### **Step 1:** Look For Free Money First

- Start searching early
- Use FREE scholarship search sites
- Don't ignore scholarships with smaller award amounts



- Don't miss deadlines
- Search for scholarships every year
- Check corporate websites such as Target, Walmart, Kentucky Fried Chicken:
  - » All have scholarship programs and you don't have to work there to be eligible

#### **Step 2: Know Your Deadlines**

- Applications for Admission
- Deadlines for Scholarships
  - » Institutions, Outside Sources
- Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)
  - » Available October 1 of Senior Year
  - » Schools have Priority Deadlines
    - Find out what the Deadlines are

#### **PA State Grant Deadlines**

- May 1 If you plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a junior college or other college or university (excludes community colleges)
- August 1 If you plan to enroll in a community college; a business, trade, or technical school; a hospital school of nursing; or a 2-year program that is not transferable to another institution



# **Step 3:** The FAFSA is Your Connection to Funding

The FAFSA is a federal form used to determine student eligibility for the following:

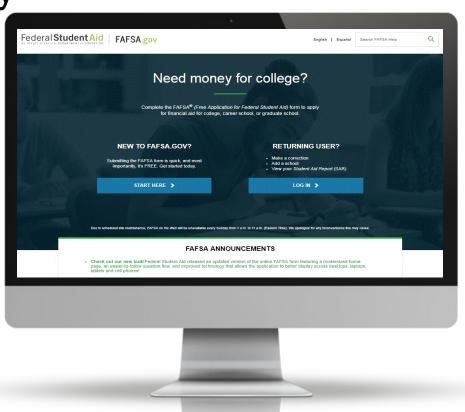
- Federal programs, such as Pell Grants, work-study, and student loans
- State programs, such as Pennsylvania State Grant, and other special programs
- School programs, such as need-based grants and scholarships



# FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – FAFSA.gov

 The FAFSA is the primary federal form for financial assistance to attend postsecondary school.

- Must file a FAFSA each year a student attends school to be eligible.
- The FAFSA is available as early as October 1 of student's senior year of high school



#### **Create Your FSA ID Accounts**

- The student applying for aid and one parent providing information on the FAFSA need to create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.
- Create prior to completing the FAFSA.
- Legal signature for student and parent.
- Provides access to FAFSA and Federal Student Aid online systems.

After verifying, the mobile phone number can be used as the username to login.

Username

**Password** 

Email Address

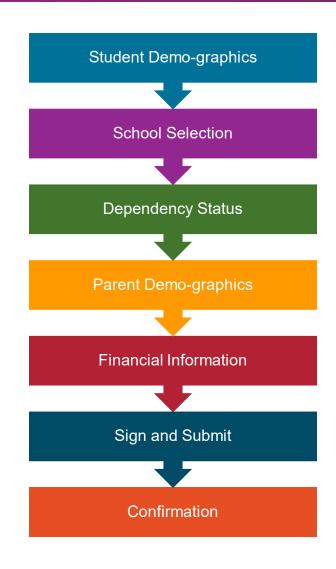
Mobile Phone

**Security Questions** 

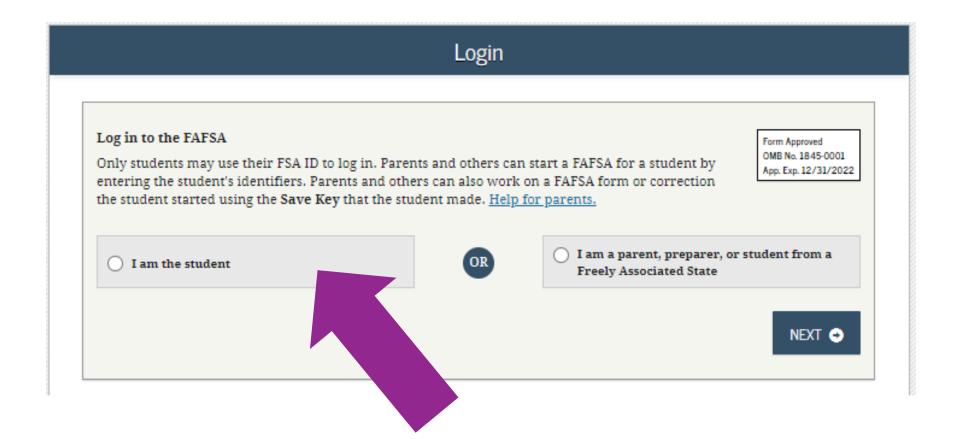
Social Security
Number

#### Information Needed to Complete the FAFSA

- ✓ Social Security Numbers
- ✓ 2019 Federal Tax Returns and W-2s
- ✓ 2019 Untaxed Income
- Checking/Savings Account Statement Balances and Investment Records as of filing date



## Login



#### **Disclaimer**

#### Disclaimer

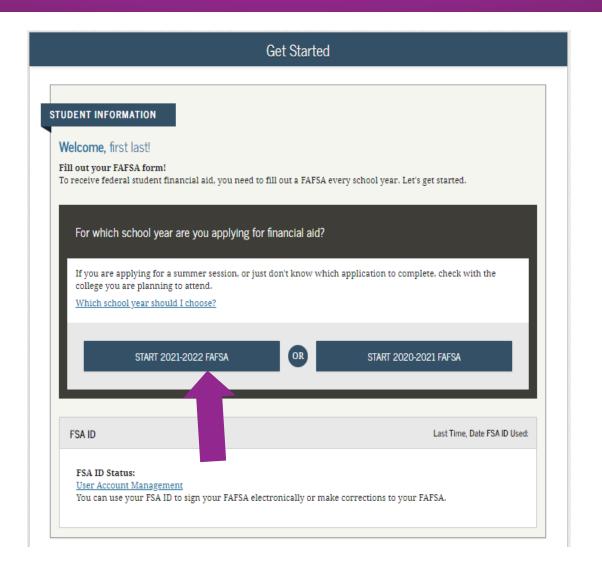
#### Warning

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:

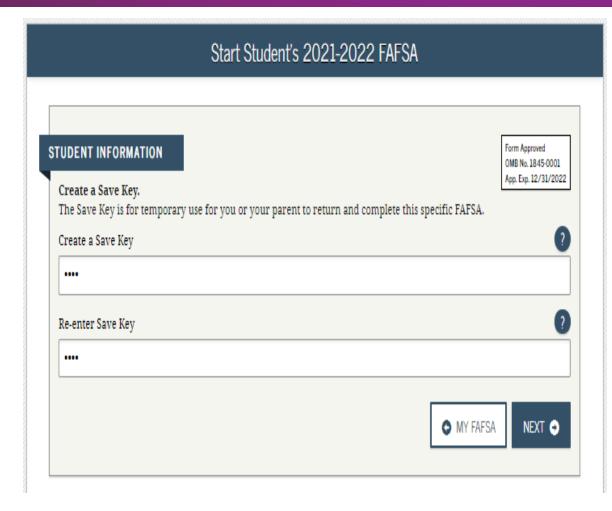
- Any access by an employee or agent of a commercial entity, or other third party, who is not the individual user, for purposes of commercial advantage or private financial gain (regardless of whether the commercial entity or third party is providing a service to an authorized user of the system); and
- 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.



#### **Get Started**



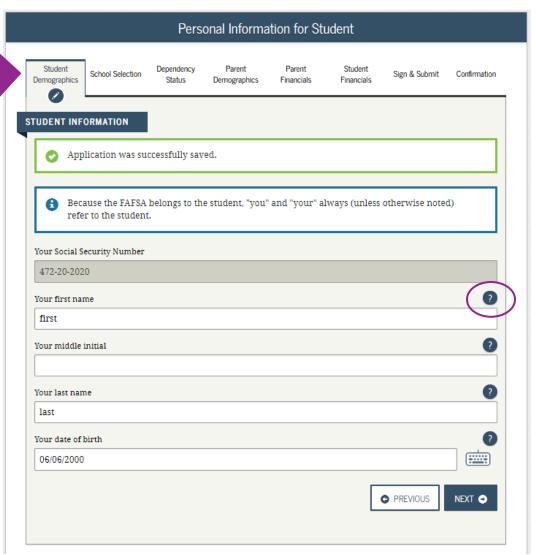
#### **Get Started**



Write this down!
This will allow you to save the FAFSA and come back to it later if you cannot finish in one sitting.

#### **Personal Information for Student**

The navigation bar tells you where you are in the application



Click the '?' for help with the questions

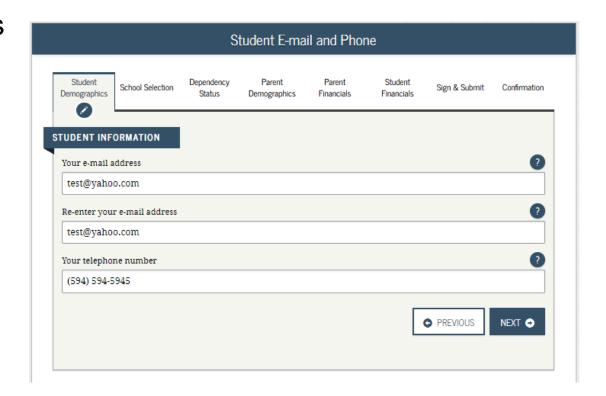
#### Student E-mail and Phone Number

Confirm email address & add telephone number

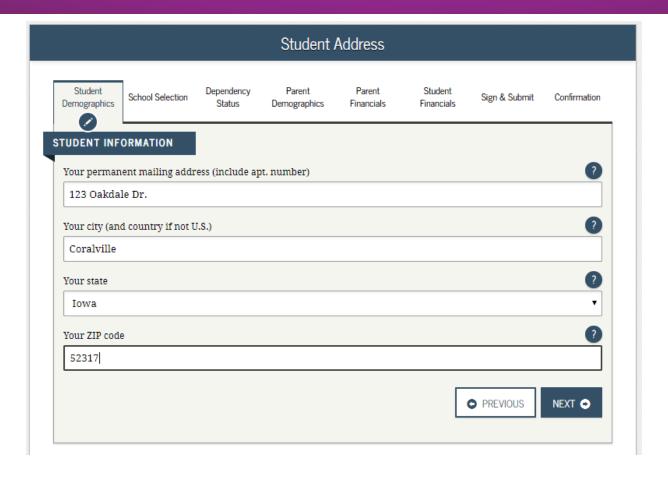
Use an email address you will check every day!

#### Tip:

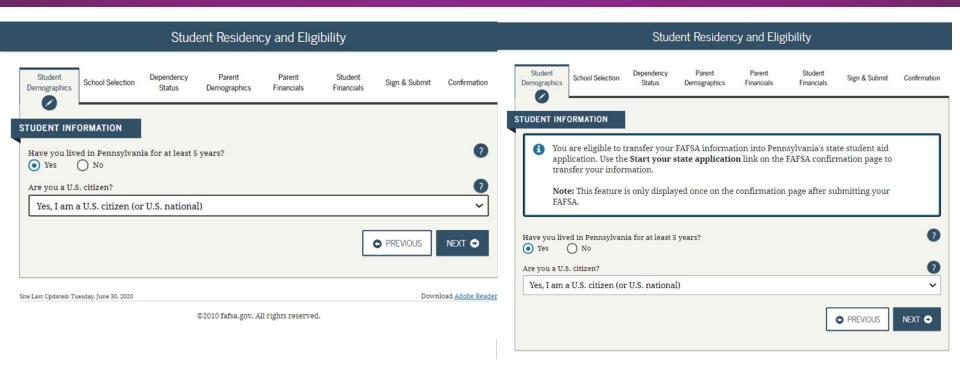
Don't use your high school email address.



#### **Student Address**



#### Student Residency and Eligibility



After you click next, if you list PA you will be reminded to start your PA State Grant Application from the FAFSA Confirmation Page.

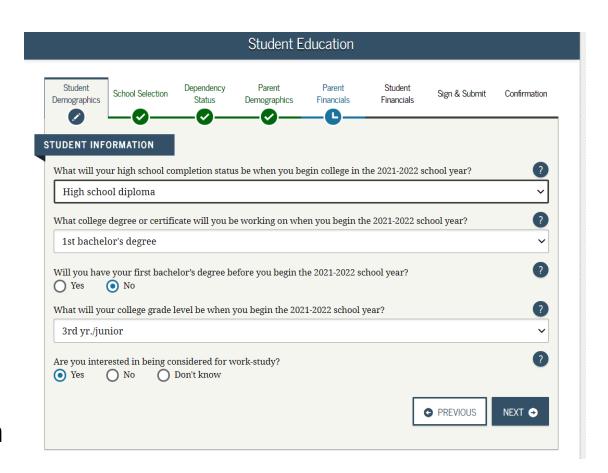
#### **Student Education**

Confirm HS completion status

What degree will student be working on?

Will the student have a BA degree before 2021-22 school year?

What will be student's college grade level be in 2021-22?

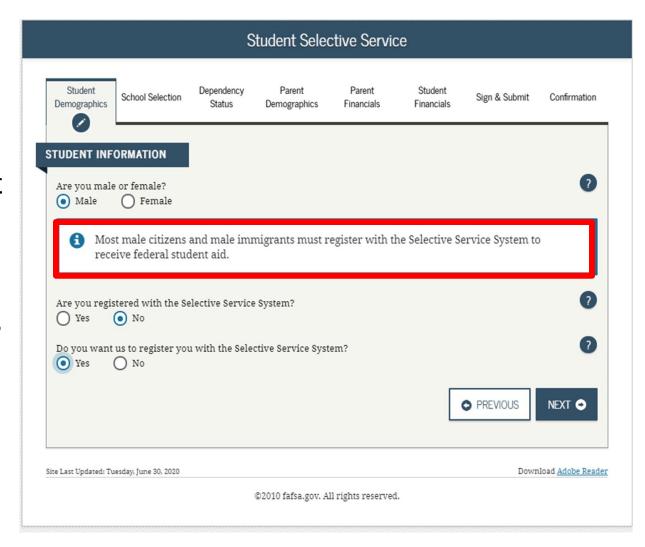


#### Student Selective Service

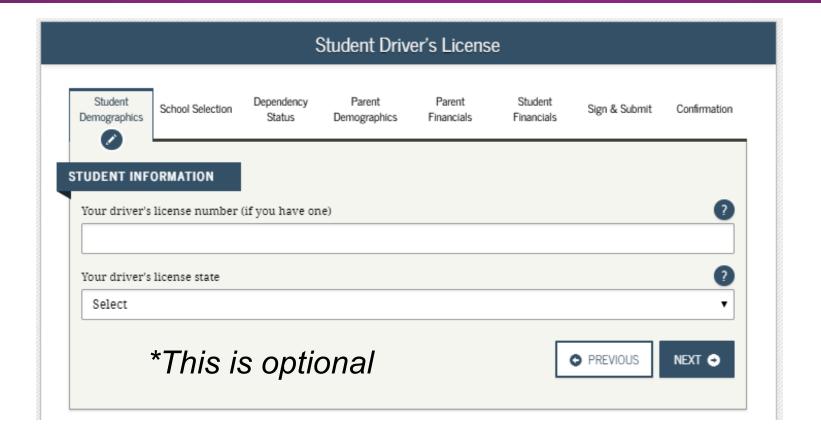
Answer the gender question (gender at birth).

Male students will get the Selective Service questions.

All males who are US citizens are required to register with SS when they turn 18. (www.sss.gov)

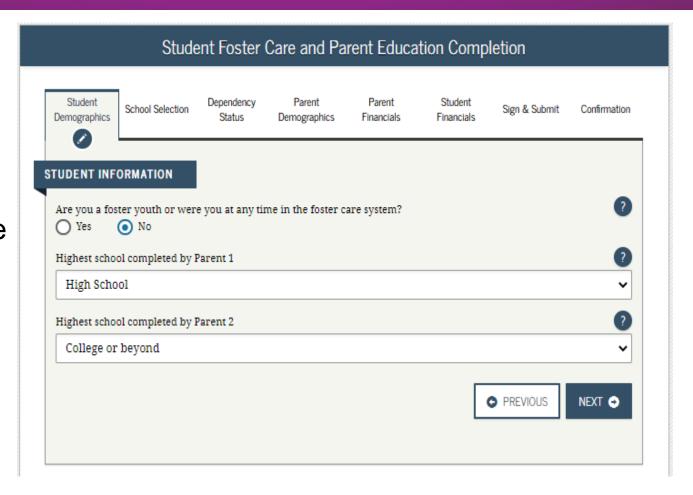


#### **Student Driver's License**



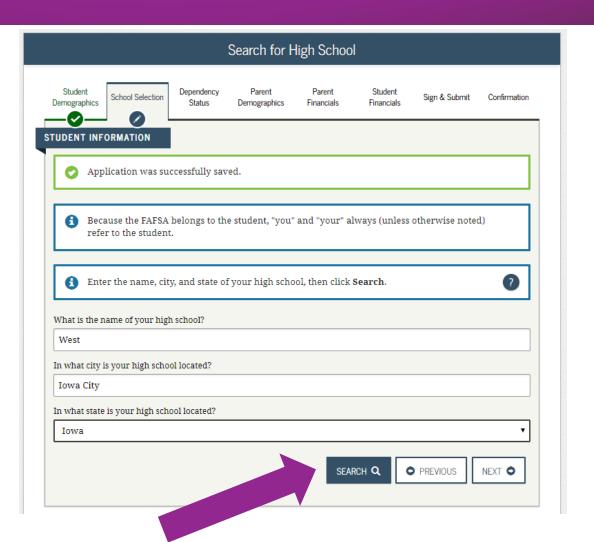
### Foster Care and Education Completion

Select the answer that best describes your parent's (birth or adoptive parent) highest level of education completed.



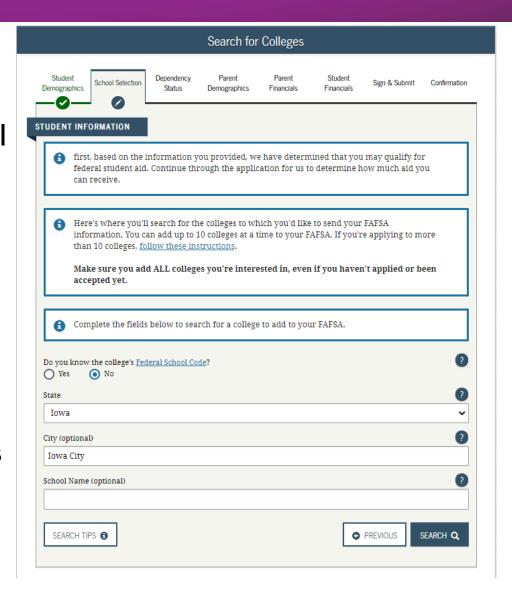
### Search for High School

Click 'Search' and select your High School from the list that appears



### **Search for Colleges**

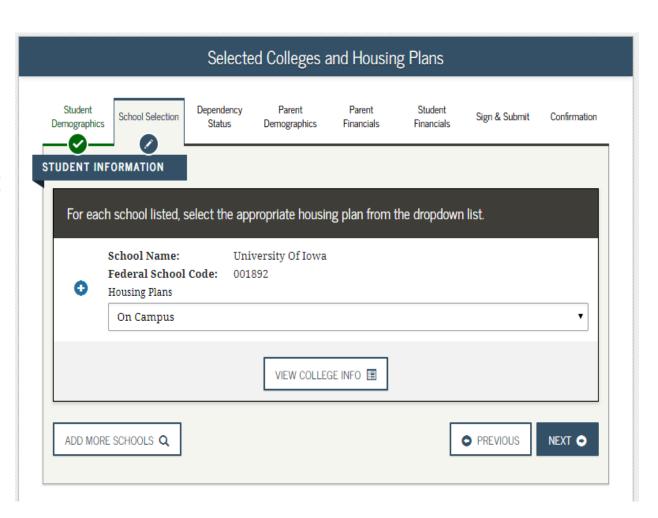
- List more than one!
- Only schools that are listed will be able to see your FAFSA information.
- Students can list up to 10 colleges at a time – Schools can be added or deleted at any time
- Once the final school choice is made, students should update their PA State Grant record.



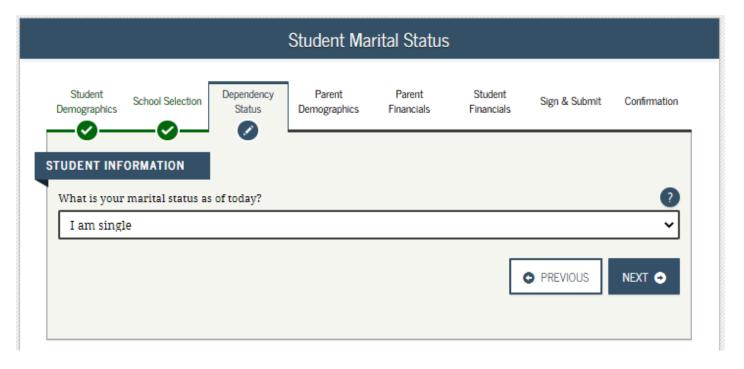
### Selected Colleges and Housing Plans

#### Housing choices are:

- on campus
- > off campus
- with parent



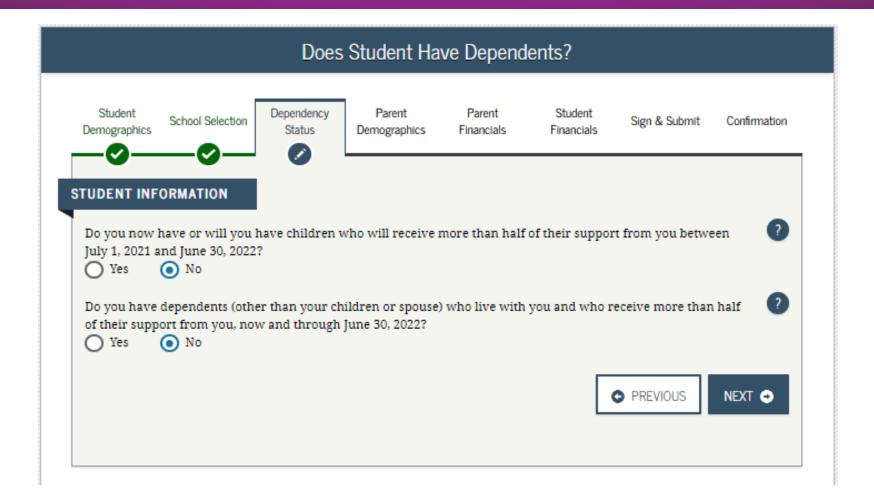
#### **Student Marital Status**



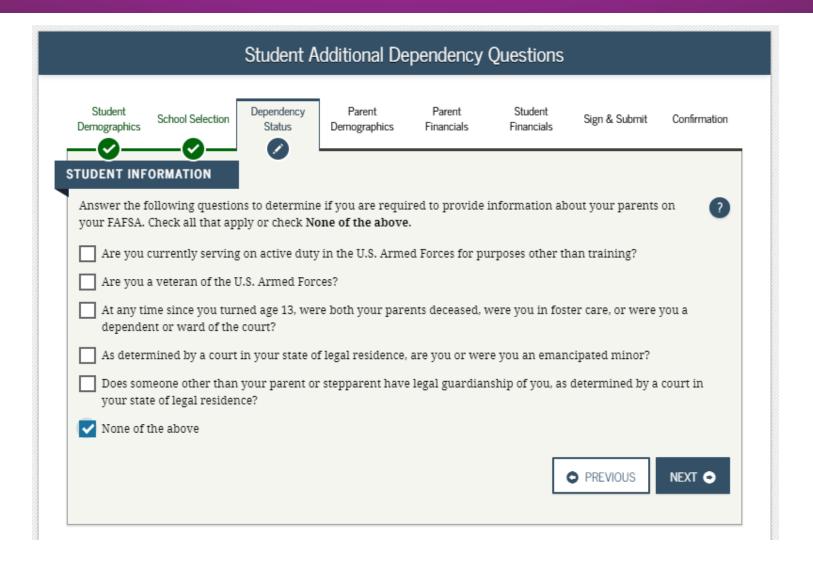
Confirm the marital status of the student.

- Single
- Married/Remarried
- Separated
- Divorced/widowed

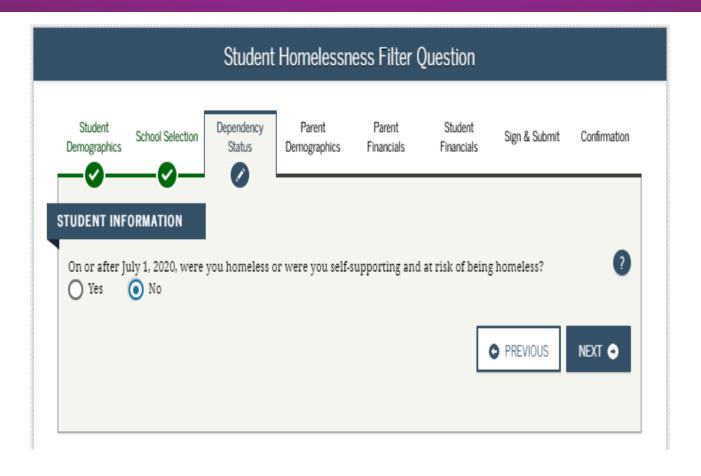
#### **Does Student Have Dependents?**



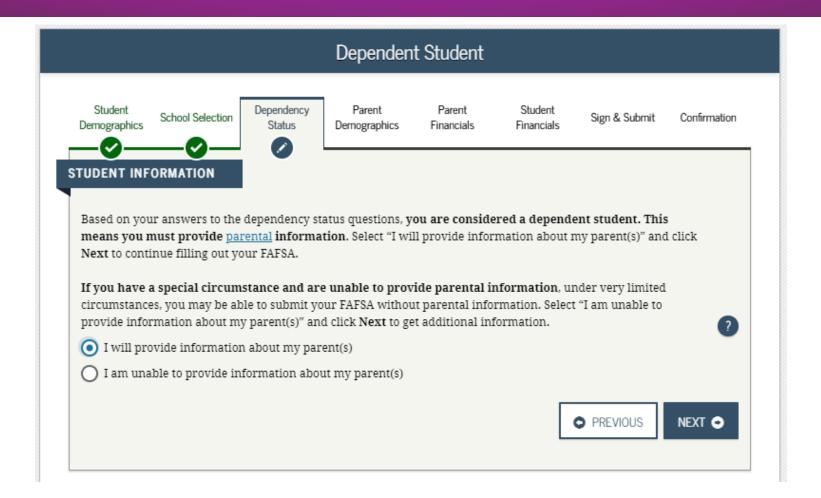
#### **Additional Dependency Questions**



#### **Student Homelessness**



#### **Dependent Student**



# Aside from the Student, Who Reports Info on the FAFSA?

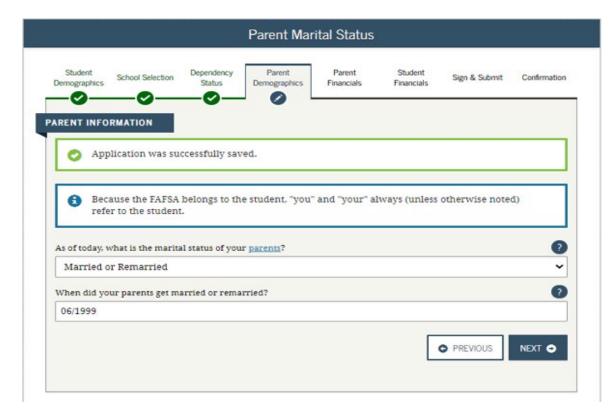
#### YES

- Married parents living together
- Biological parents living together
- Divorced or separated parents:
  - » The parent the student lived with the most over the past 12 months
  - » If equal, then the parent who provided more than 50% of student's support
- Stepparent If part of the student's household
- Adoptive parents

#### NO

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
  - » By Court Order
- Anyone else the student is living with

#### **Parent Marital Status**

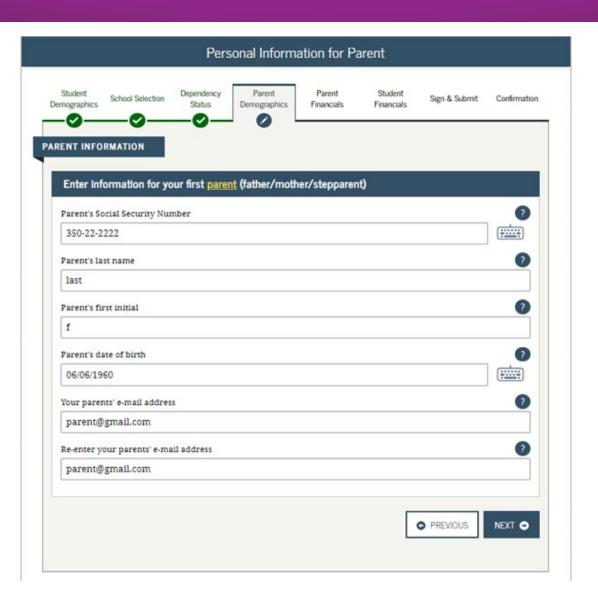


## Update parent marital status and month/year

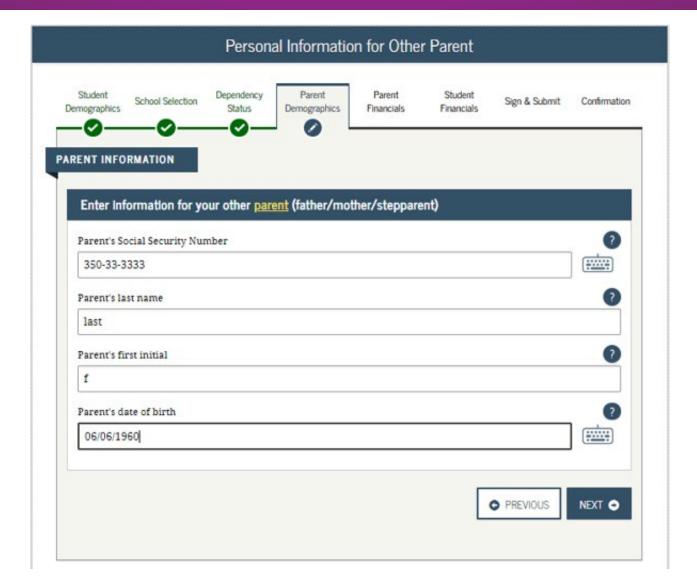
- Married/remarried
- Divorced/separated
- Never married
- Widowed
- Unmarried and both legal parents living together

#### **Personal Information for Parent**

Remember which parent you list first



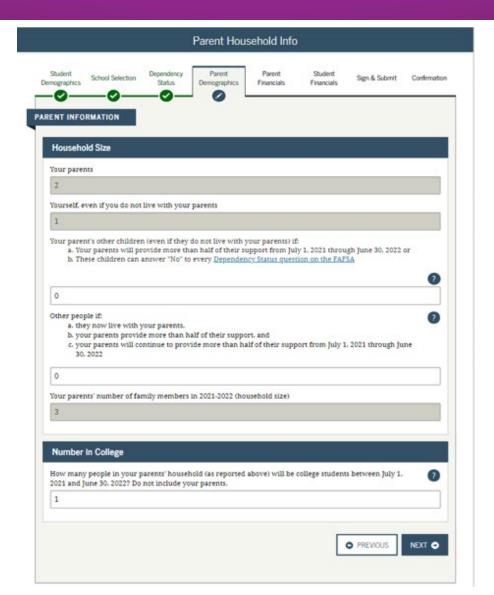
#### **Personal Information for Other Parent**



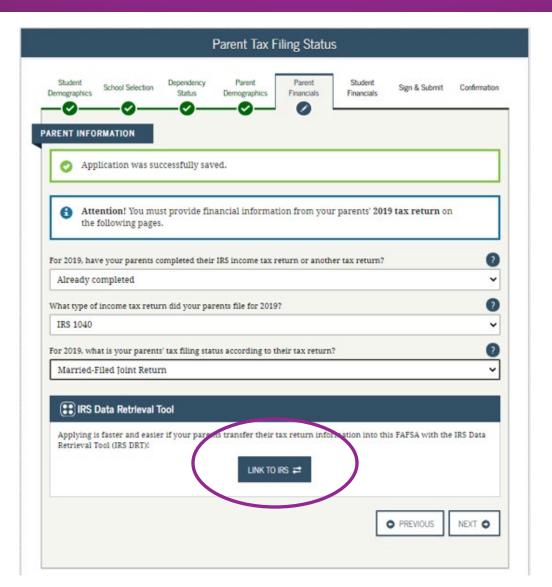
# Parent State of Legal Residence



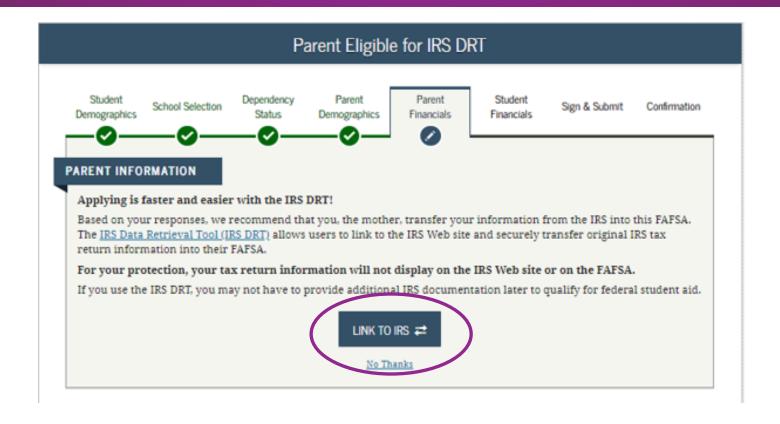
#### **Parent Household Info**



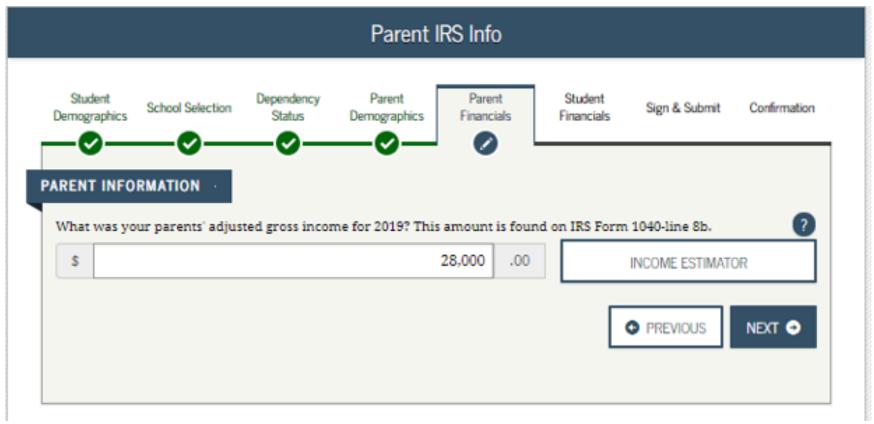
# **Parent Tax Filing Status**



# Parent Eligible for IRS DRT



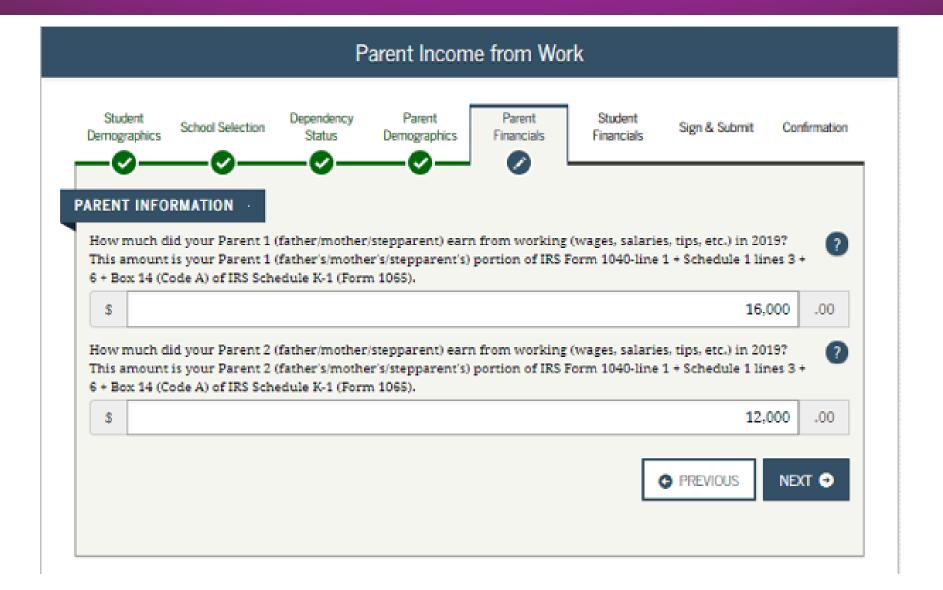
#### Parent IRS Info



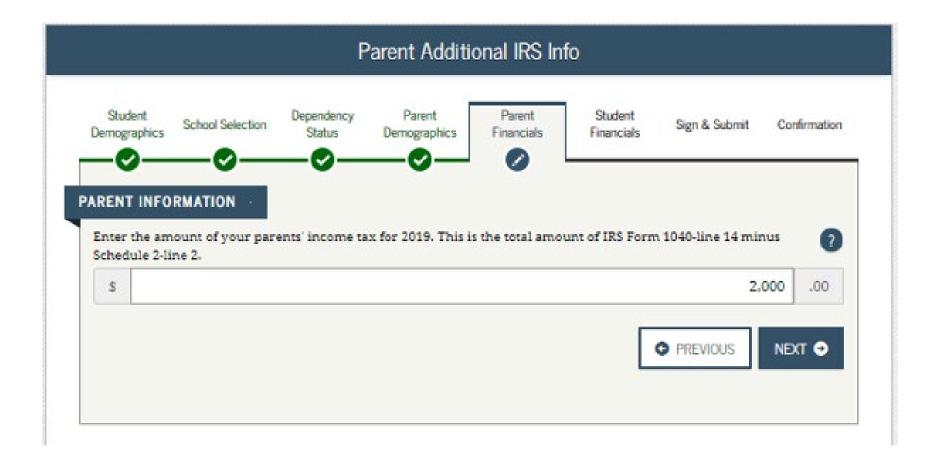
\*If you don't use IRS DRT, you will need to answer this question

\*If you use the DRT the amount will show as "Transferred from the IRS"

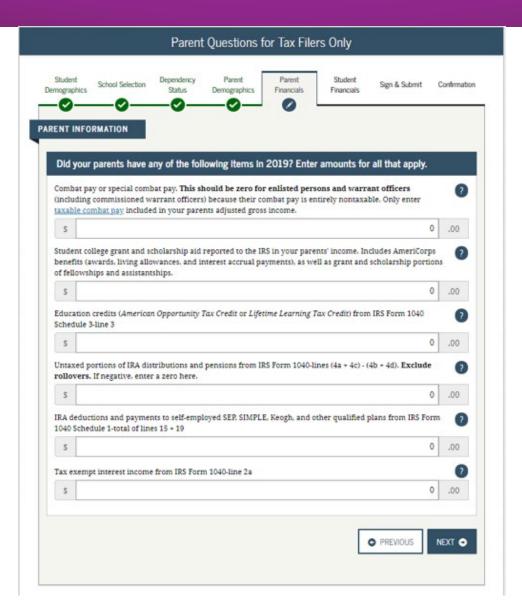
#### Parent Income from Work



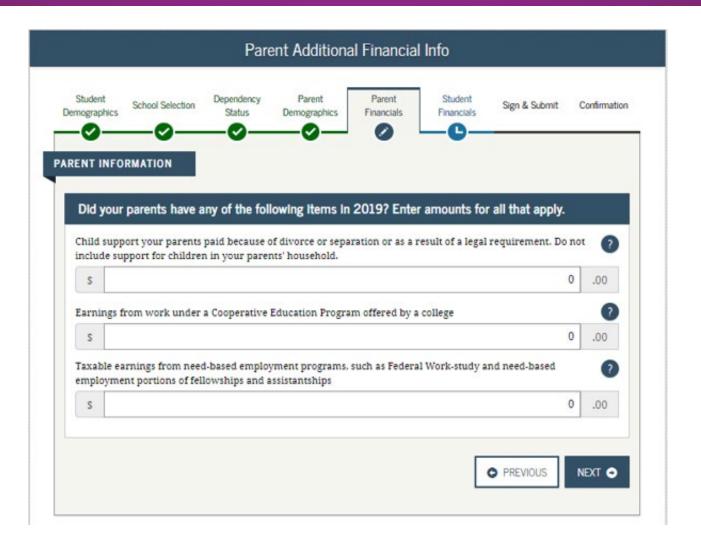
#### Parent Additional IRS Info



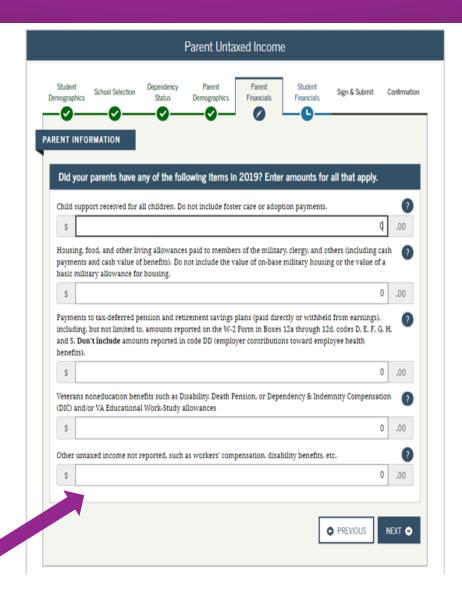
### Parent Questions for Tax Filers Only



#### Parent Additional Financial Info

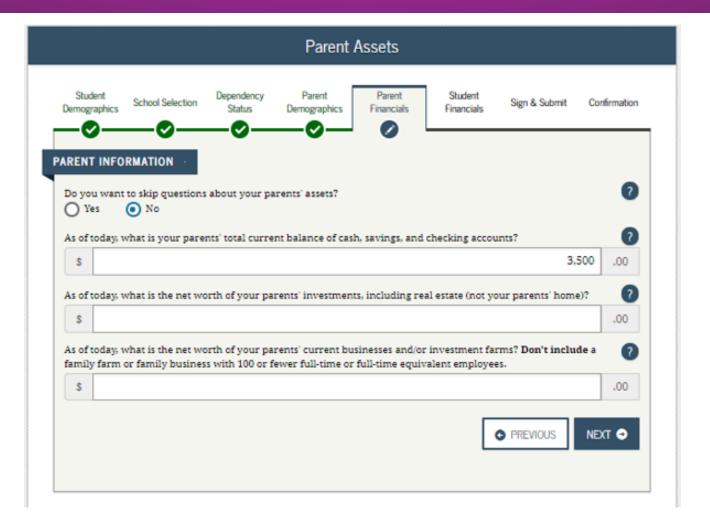


#### **Parent Untaxed Income**

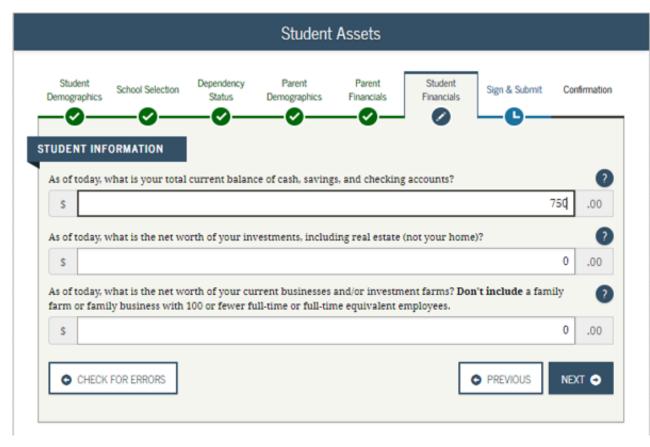


Don't include untaxed social security benefits or Supplemental Security Income

#### **Parent Assets**



#### Student Income & Assets

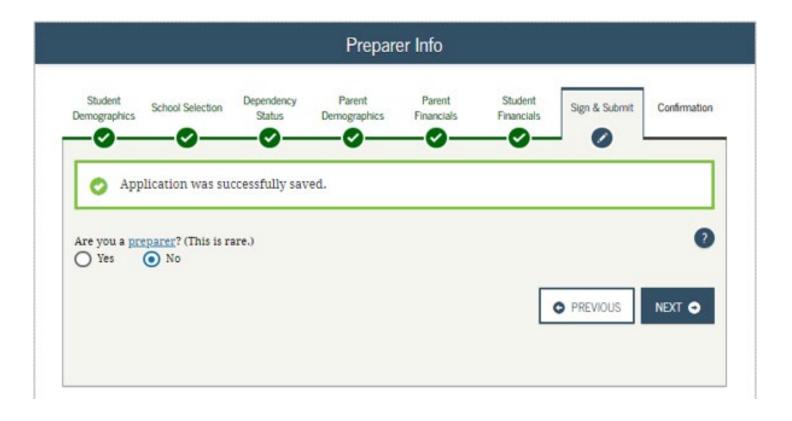


Asset value is as of the day you are filing the FAFSA

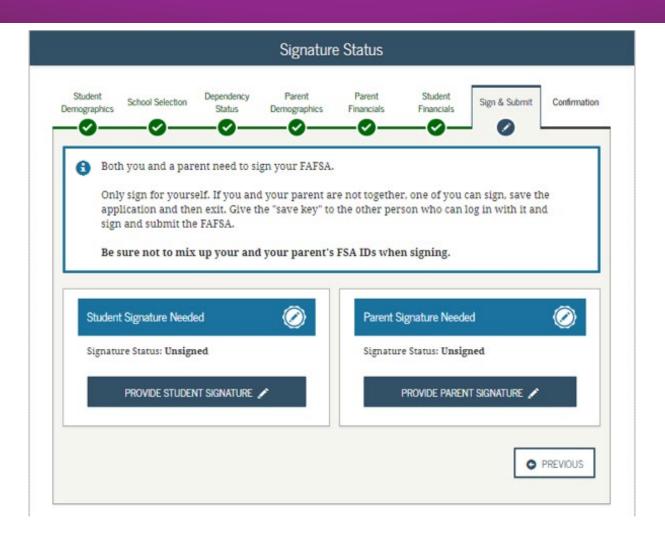
Student is presented with same income questions as the parent financials section

If the student filed a tax return, use the IRS DRT to transfer income into the FAFSA

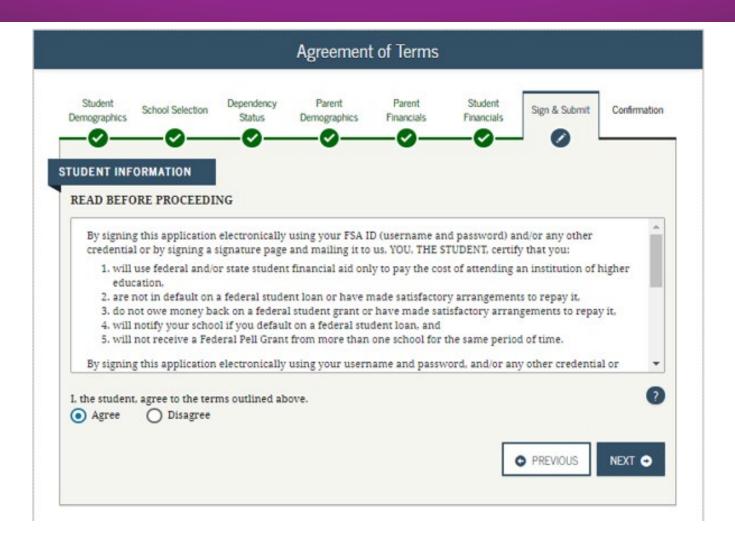
# **Preparer Info**



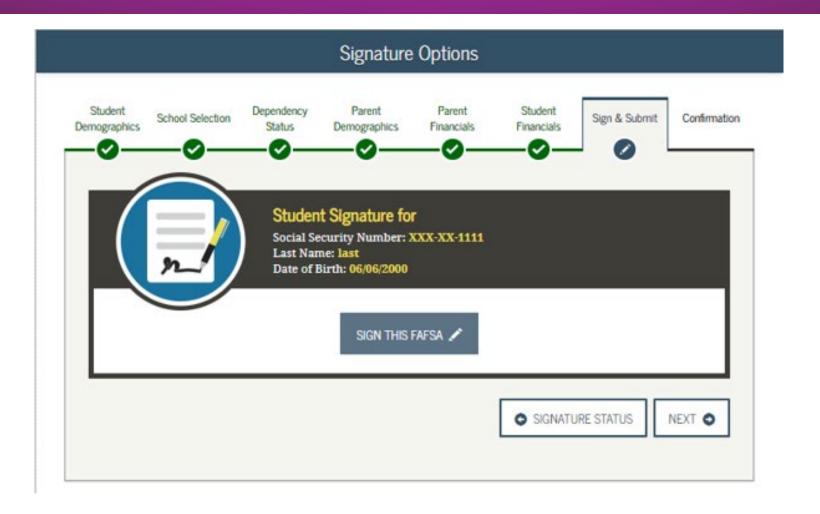
### **Signature Status**



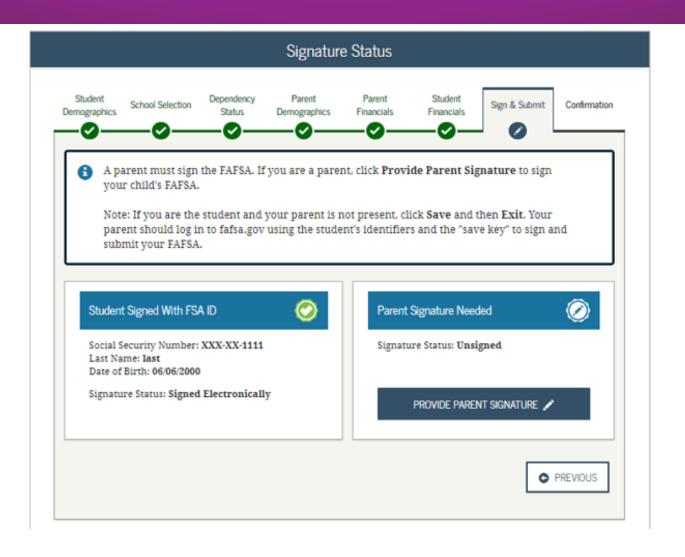
### **Agreement of Terms**



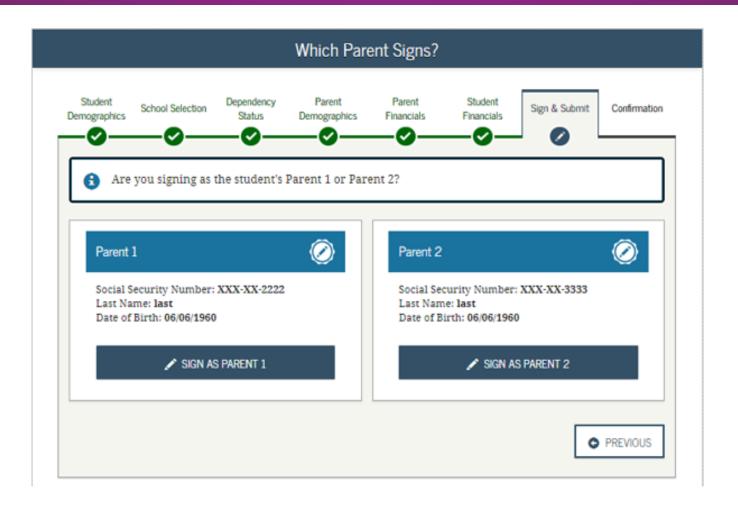
# **Signature Options**



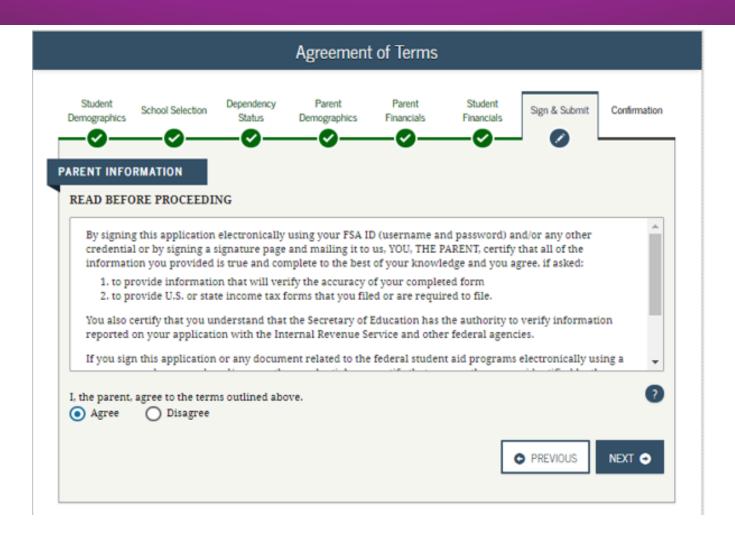
# Signature Status



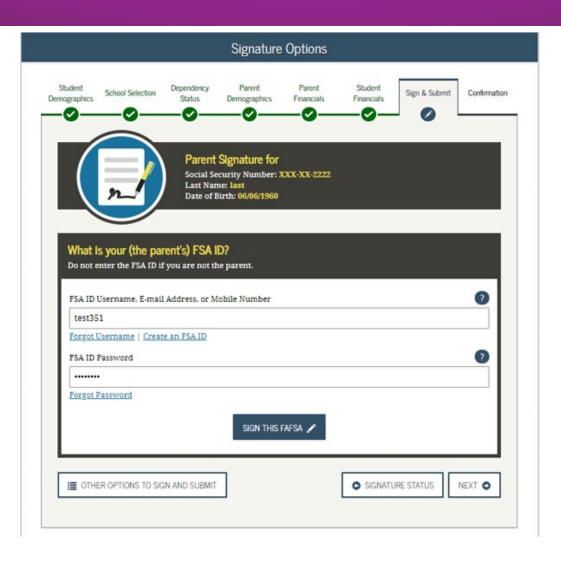
# Which Parent Signs?



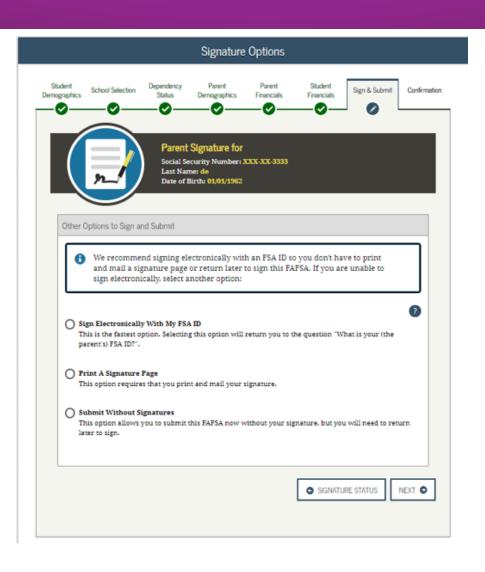
### **Agreement of Terms**



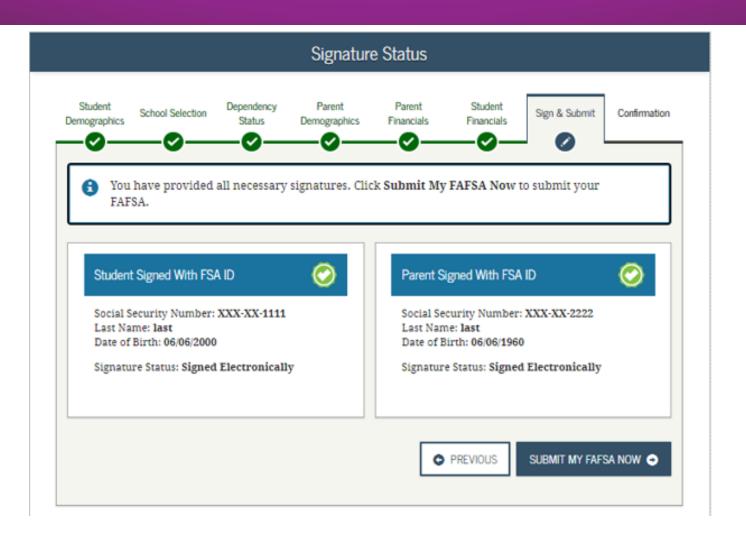
# **Signature Options**



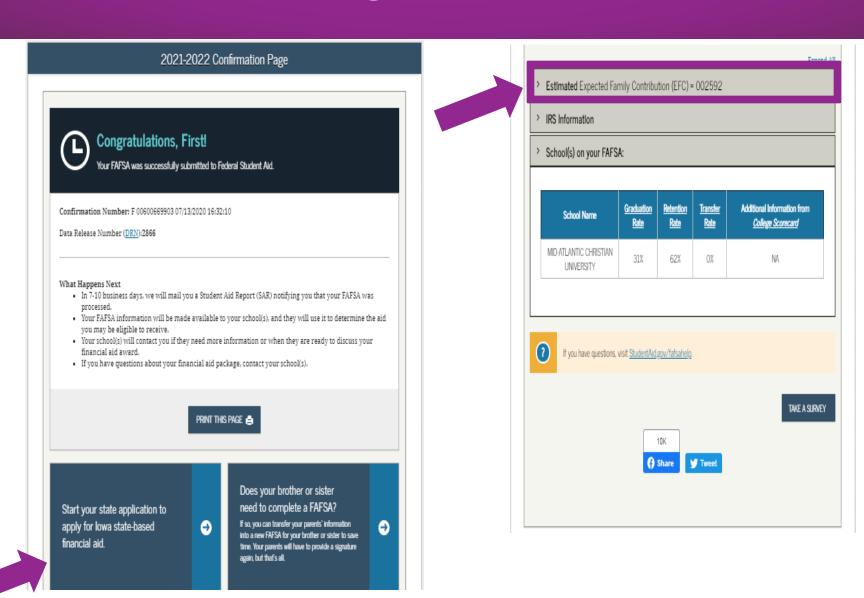
### **Other Signature Options**



### **Signature Status**



# **Confirmation Page**



#### Completing the PA State Grant Form

#### Pennsylvania State Grant Form 2021-22

#### **Getting Started**

As the Student applying for a Pennsylvania State Grant, here's some information that you'll want to have ready.

- If applicable, the month and year your diploma was received (for High School or GED).
- If married, your spouse's 9-digit Social Security Number.
- If you have a savings account through PA 529, you may need a recent account statement for the total savings, or visit <u>pa529.com</u>.
- Adobe Reader is required to view and print your PA State Grant Form. The plug-in is available as a <u>free</u> download from Adobe.

Print this page

**CONTINUE** »

#### **CSS Profile**



#### CSS Profile

- College Scholarship Service Profile
- Created/Maintained by the College Board
- Required at Some Institutions & Scholarship Organizations – 400 Across the US
- Used in Addition to the FAFSA, not a Replacement
- Used to Award Need Based & Institutional Aid
- Also Complete the FAFSA for Federal Aid options
- CSS Profile Costs \$25.00 + \$16.00 for Additional Schools — A Waiver May be Available for Domestic Students

www.student.collegeboard.org

# **After Filing**

Information will be shared with PHEAA and all college choices.

In a few days an email will be sent to the student regarding the processing of their FAFSA and their Student Aid Report.

Students should monitor the email account provided on the FAFSA and respond to requests from Federal Student Aid, PHEAA and the colleges.

# **Special Circumstances**

#### If things change....

- Divorced or separated parents
- Stepparents
- Adoptive parents
- Foster parents

- Legal guardians
- Living with others
- Recent death or disability
- Reduced income

# How is the EFC Calculated?

- In theory, the EFC is a number calculated to measure and compare the general financial strength of all families applying for aid - it is NOT the amount you are expected to pay.
- EFC formula considers a family's taxed & untaxed income, assets, size, how many will be attending college, and age of oldest parent



COA (Cost)

- EFC

= NEED

### **Federal Programs**

- Pell Grant max award \$6,345\*
- Max EFC is 5711
- Campus-based aid (amounts determined by Financial Aid Office at each potential school)
  - » FSEOG.....up to \$4,000
  - » Federal Work-Study...FAO determines

For most programs, student must be enrolled at least half-time.

<sup>\*</sup> Goes to most financially needy students

# PA State Grant Maximum Awards

Reciprocal states: Delaware, DC, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia



The maximum award for student attending an approved school in a reciprocal state is \$578, and \$770 (qualified veteran)

Must be at least half-time to be eligible

Cost Tier	Final Maximum Award	Minimum Award
\$0 - \$12,000	\$2,407	\$500
\$12,001 - \$19,000	\$3,851	\$500
\$19,001 - \$29,000	\$4,140	\$500
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$4,525	\$500

# **Other State Programs**

- State Work-Study
- Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant
- Educational Assistance Grant (EAP) National Guard
- PA Military Family Education Program (MFEP)
- Chafee Education and Training Grant co-administered with the PA Department of Human Services
- Foster Ed Tuition Waiver



### **Other State Programs**





- Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
- Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA –TIP)
- Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS)
- For details, see the PA Student Aid Guide, or visit PHEAA.org.

# Federal Student Loan Program

- Available to ALL students (US citizens and eligible non-citizens) REGARDLESS of need
- Additional unsubsidized funds available for Independent & Parent PLUS denials
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- No payments required while attending school & sixmonth grace period
- Flexible Repayment options

#### **Subsidized**

#### Unsubsidized

- Based on financial need
- No interest charged to student while enrolled or in grace period
- There is a 1.059% fee deducted from loan amount at disbursement

- Interest accrues while student is in school and in grace period
- Any interest not paid during grace will be capitalized at repayment
- There is a 1.059%
   fee deducted from
   loan amount at disbursement

# Federal Direct Stafford Loan Borrowing Limits

Undergraduate Students		Graduate Students	
Annual Limits	Dependent Students	Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan	Graduate or Professional Studies
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	\$5,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$9,500</b> Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	\$6,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$10,500 Total  No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$20,500</b> each academic year Graduate / Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year and beyond	<b>\$7,500</b> Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	\$12,500 Total  No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	
Aggregate Limits	\$31,000 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$57,500 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$138,500 Total No more than \$65,000 may be subsidized

# **Step 4:** Compare Schools' Financial Aid Notices Carefully

- There is no required standard format for Financial Aid Notices from schools.
- Some include Federal loans, some do not.
- If you receive a scholarship, do you know if there are conditions for maintaining it?
- Is the scholarship for the first year only or can you renew it?
- Do you understand what is offered to you as a grant, scholarship or the need for you to borrow?

**Bottom Line: What are your out of pocket costs?** 

# What School Costs Are Considered?

#### School costs include:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous living expenses
- Child care, if necessary



You can receive financial aid up to the total of the school regardless of your EFC!

# Reviewing the Financial Aid Notification

How much of the financial aid is free money?

Which awards are based on need, and which are based on merit?

Are there any conditions on the free money? GPA requirement?

Will awards increase as tuition increases?

Will awards change from year to year?

Will loans be needed?

# **Step 5:** Be Sure You Have The Money You Need

- Have you made an affordable choice of school?
  - » Do you understand your actual costs?
- Have you considered annual out of pocket costs beyond the first year?
- Do you have a strategy for handling out of pocket costs?
- Do you understand loan options and their limitations?

#### Federal Direct PLUS Loan

- For parents of dependent undergraduate or graduate level students
- In parent's name for student costs
- Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
- Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
- MUST apply each year
- No Debt-to-Income test, only lenient credit check
- Can have an endorser (co-signer)
- Principal can be deferred while student is in school; Interest will continue to accrue
- IF denied student is eligible for an additional \$4,000 unsubsidized loan
- Must file a FAFSA

### Private/Alternative Loans

- From private lenders or financial institutions
  - » In student's name/co-signers usually required
  - » Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
  - » Based on credit scores and debt-to-income
  - » Repayment may be deferred until education completed
  - » Terms vary by lender compare before making choices
  - » Students must sign a "Self Certification Form" per DOE
- READ THE FINE PRINT

# PHEAA's New – PA Forward Education Loan Program

- Low cost affordable student loan products, originated and serviced through PHEAA, available to help Pennsylvania Students & families.
- Variety of repayment options.

#### Who can use PA Forward?

- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Parents, Stepparents, Guardians
- Refinancing Option
- PA Residents attending any Title IV eligible school
- OH, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA residents attending a PA school



It's worth a look to find what works for you!



## What Can You Do Now?



Apply for FSA ID Account

**Explore** Scholarships

Visit College Websites

**Use Net Price Calculators** 

Talk about what is affordable

#### **Net Price Calculators**

- Enables current and prospective students, families and consumers to determine an estimate of an individual net price at a particular institution.
- ESTIMATED data must be provided by each institution:
  - » Total price of attendance
  - » Tuition, Fees, Room and Board
  - » Expenses (i.e., personal, transportation)
  - » Estimated total merit and need-based grant aid
  - » Estimated net price (attendance minus grant aid)
- May not include scholarships



# Return On Investment (ROI)

- Return on investment measures the gain or loss generated on an investment
- ROI is relative to the amount of money invested.



# **Necessary Things to Consider**

## Students – Return On Investment

- Your Academic Major Choice,
   Academic Demands Realistic?
- What is your Expected Salary?
  - » Versus the Cost of Your Education Choice



- What are the Employment Demands? Now/Future?
- Where are your best Employment Options?
  - » Big city? Rural location? What is theCost of Living where you may work?

# MySmartBorrowing.org

An interactive, online tool created by PHEAA that helps students and families:

- Estimate career salaries & college tuition
- View the impact of savings on overall cost
- Calculate loan repayment
- Avoid over borrowing

### MySmartBorrowing.org



# Ways to Reduce the Need for Financial Aid

- Graduate on time!
- Research the right major
- Earn college credits in high school
- 2+2 or 3+2 Strategy
- Consider commuting or leaving car at home
- Choose your meal plan carefully
- Buy used or rent textbooks

### **Use Your Resources**



- PHEAA.org
- EducationPlanner.org
- MySmartBorrowing.org
- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- MyFedLoan.org
- FASFA.gov
- StudentAid.gov
- StudentLoans.gov
- PHEAA: 800-692-7392
- Federal Student Aid: 800-433-3243

- Fastweb.com
- FinAid.org
- Unigo.com
- Scholarships.com
- Scholarship-Page.com
- DoSomething.org/Scholarships
- Colleges.Niche.com
- StudentScholarships.org
- BigFuture.Collegeboard.org
- CollegeAnswer.com
- CollegeNet.com
- MeritAid.com

## **Social Media Outreach**





PHEAA
American Education Services
FedLoan Servicing



@PHEAAaid

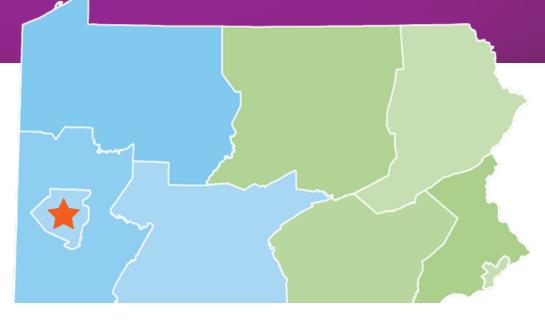
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