FAFSA CHANGES

FOR THE 2024-2025 COLLEGE AWARD YEAR
UPDATED: 9/19/23

The **FAFSA Simplification Act** represents a significant overhaul of the processes and systems used to award federal student aid starting with the 2024–2025 award year.

THIS YEAR ONLY:

Opening Mid-December 2023 *[official date has not yet been announced.]*
It will most likely switch back to Oct. 1st next year.

OFFICIAL CHANGES:

1. Replacing Expected Family Contribution (EFC) With Student Aid Index (SAI)

WHAT THIS MEANS:
- Based more on family wealth vs. income
- Previous unreported "income" must now be reported (child support, etc.)
- Includes family small business assets

2. Modifications to Family Definitions in FAFSA Formulas

WHAT THIS MEANS:
- SAI does not consider the number of children enrolled in college when determining the parent's contribution
- Now based on primary PAYING parent rather than primary legal parent

3. Expanding Access to Federal Pell Grants

WHAT THIS MEANS:
- The new SAI formula allows for more of a student's or family's income to be excluded from the calculation
- Moving away from the EFC to the SAI, it will be easier for some households to show the magnitude of their financial need.
- SAI can have **negative** number
  - Can be as low as negative $1,500
  - Negative SAI $1,500 and $0 = automatically qualifying for the maximum Pell Grant award

4. Streamlining the FAFSA® Form

WHAT THIS MEANS:
- 108 questions ➡ 36 questions
- Simplifying questions that determine the independent status of students in unusual circumstances (i.e. homeless, orphans or former foster youth.) Institutions will have more flexibility in adjusting certain factors that impact federal student aid for these students.

OTHER CHANGES:

- Students no longer must register for the Selective Service in order to complete the FAFSA, and the question will be removed from the application.
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- Drug-related convictions alone will no longer disqualify applicants, and the question won't be included on the FAFSA.
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- The new FAFSA form will be available in at least 11 languages.

FAFSA TIPS AND TRICKS:

- FSA I.D. can be created before the FAFSA Application opens in December (but remember to write down your password!)

- Email and consent are required. Make sure that you use a personal email account, and not your RPSAR.NET gmail account (Your school gmail account will be deleted after graduation.)

- Must say **YES** for IRS income data "population" (i.e. connecting your parent's previous year IRS tax information to the FAFSA Application.)

- After you begin the FAFSA Application, you have 45 Days to finish or it will cancel your application.