The FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid is how students can apply for financial aid for college. The free application is available at www.fafsa.gov and comes out by December 31st this year. It must be renewed by the student from year to year. **Completing the FAFSA is a State of Illinois HS Grad Requirement for the Class of 2024**.

The FAFSA grants you eligibility for

- Pell Grant - Free $$$ from US Dept of Ed
- MAP Grant - Free $$$ from State of IL
- Work Study - On-Campus employment
- Loans - Every student is offered $5,500 in loans
- More - Colleges/Universities can give our additional scholarships/grants based on FAFSA!

To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), you will need:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Your federal income tax returns (2022), W-2s, and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID to sign electronically.

Steps to Completing your FAFSA:

1. Create **FSA ID**, which is your log-in for the FAFSA. You and each parent will need one.
2. Log-in to FAFSA and complete **Consent** for each contributor
3. Students will answer question in the **Personal Circumstances** section
4. Students will fill in the **Student Demographics**
5. Students will then need to report their **Financials**
6. List all schools you plan to apply to in the **Colleges** section (up to 20)
7. Lastly, students will provide a **Signature** and send contributor invites.
8. Parents, using their own account, will complete their own **Demographics**, **Financials** and **Signature**

FAFSA Tips/Tricks

- Double, triple check things like SSN's, Birthdates, incomes etc.
- For Dependent students, a contributor must provide info for the student to qualify for aid
- Don't forget to add *all* of your schools
- Phone and email verification are both required for FSA ID accounts
- Student demographic info can only be seen by student, no college nor parents
- If parents spot any errors on the student end, the student needs to fix them in their account