

Carbondale Community High School District 165

Administrative Center
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Carbondale, IL 62902

Telephone (618) 457-4722
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Administration

Mr. Stephen Murphy
Superintendent

Mrs. Donna Fager
Chief School Business Official

Board of Education

Dr. Brian E. Woodard
President

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Vice President

Dr. Joe Hudgins
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Mrs. Julie VanWinkle

September 11, 2020

Class of 2021 Students and Parents,

I want to make you aware of an important new requirement for graduation: completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is an official form that families must use to apply for federal financial aid to pay for college. It is also used by many colleges and universities in making financial aid decisions for prospective students.

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, students must complete the FAFSA in order to graduate from any Illinois public high school. Alternatively, a parent may opt out of the graduation requirement by completing the ISBE FAFSA Non-Participation Form, which is attached.

Regardless of the graduation requirement, completing the FAFSA is an important step for students to maximize their ability to attend college! Families are eligible to complete the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2020. Your Class of 2021 School Counselor, Krista Antrim will be supporting you throughout the process. Additional materials from Ms. Antrim are included in this mailing for your assistance. Please contact her at 618-457-3371 ext. 206 if you have questions about FAFSA completion. If you have questions about the graduation requirement, contact me at 618-457-4722 ext. 27.

Sincerely,



Stephen Murphy
Superintendent

Attachment: ISBE FAFSA Non-Participation Form

Parents of CCHS Seniors: Please complete and return to the CCHS Attendance Office if you wish to opt out the FAFSA Graduation Requirement. Contact the Principal's Office at 618-457-3371, extension 225 if you have any questions.



Illinois State Board of Education

FAFSA Nonparticipation Form

Starting in school year 2020-21, to receive a diploma from a public high school a student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)¹ or, if applicable, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid². Local school district staff must provide support and assistance to students and parents/guardians in the application process. Additional assistance with completing an application is available from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission³.

Alternatively, a parent/guardian must file a waiver if they choose to opt a child out of this graduation requirement by completing this Nonparticipation form; students who are at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated may complete the form themselves. If you wish to opt yourself or your student out of the Financial Aid Application graduation requirement, please complete this form and return it to your local high school counselor by the date established at your local school district.

School Name:	
School District Name:	
Student Name:	Birth Date:
Parent or Legal Guardian Name:	
Home Address:	City, State, & Zip:
Phone Number:	Email:

I have read the information on the reverse, I understand what the FAFSA and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid are, and I choose not to submit a completed financial aid application. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student listed above, or I am the student and I am either at least 18 years of age, or a legally emancipated minor.

Please check here if you agree to the statement in bold above: Yes ☐

Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

¹ Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-85)

² **Most students should file the FAFSA (fafsa.gov)**. For details on who is eligible to file the Alternative Application, see <https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/>

³ See <https://www.isac.org/students/> for more resources

Frequently Asked Questions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

“What is the FAFSA?” The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the online application that allows a student to apply simultaneously for federal student aid (including the Pell Grant, work-study opportunities, and federal student loans) and the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant. Many colleges and universities use it for their aid programs, too. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is a similar application that provides a path for some students who do not qualify for federal aid to apply for state and school-funded assistance. The maximum state MAP grant for the 2020-21 school year is \$5,340. The maximum federal Pell grant for the 2020-21 school year is \$6,345.

“Isn’t the application too long and difficult to complete?” Most applicants complete the FAFSA in about 30 minutes. If you have questions, talk to your school counselor. Help is also available for FREE from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (studentportal.isac.org).

“If I want to learn a trade, can the FAFSA still be of assistance to me?” The FAFSA isn’t just for associate’s or bachelor’s degree programs! Students can receive need-based Pell grants, federal student loans, and other federal student aid for technical, trade, and vocational programs at community colleges and at many other schools and training programs. Students can check with the school they want to attend or use the federal government’s online College Navigator tool to find out which institutions participate in the programs: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

“Does my family make too much money to benefit from the FAFSA?” Financial aid is left on the table every year by students who didn’t apply because they erroneously thought they were ineligible. You really don’t know until you apply! Income and assets are factors in determining your eligibility, but so are things like the number of students in the family who are in school and the age of the parent(s). For students from families that **do** make too much to qualify for need-based grant aid, the FAFSA can still be helpful, since it’s needed for work-study, an AIM HIGH grant from one of our public universities, or a federal student loan (usually at competitive rates and with more borrower protections than private loans, including options for income-based repayment and forgiveness programs for some careers). Your college may offer aid based on your FAFSA info too, and your eligibility may be different depending on your school. Additionally, some scholarship programs use information from the FAFSA as part of the application process. As most financial aid is awarded in date order based on FAFSA filing date, it is a very good idea to complete the FAFSA as early as possible. This “place in line” can be used for opportunities that come up later, and also can be used if family financial circumstances suddenly change.

“What if I don’t want a student loan?” Filing the application **doesn’t** commit you to anything. You’ll just find out whether you might be eligible for aid!

“How is FAFSA data protected?” I don’t want my information sold, and I don’t want my school to have it.” By law, your personally identifiable Information (PII) in the FAFSA can only be used in furtherance of administering financial aid, including research. Although your high school will know whether you completed the FAFSA, it will not have access to the information that you provide on your FAFSA.

“If I choose to file an application, how will I know that my application is complete?” Once you submit the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, you will receive a confirmation of receipt at the email address you provided in the application. This will allow you to demonstrate that you’ve met the requirement of filing an application even if there are circumstances that will need to be addressed with the college/university’s financial aid office later.

Financial Aid Overview

What is financial aid and why is it important?

- It is **borrowed, given, or earned** money that can be obtained from various sources to help pay for college. Examples include: Grants, Scholarships, Loans, Work Study
 - It is intended to help offset the difference between what your family can afford to pay and what college costs. Financial aid can help make college more affordable.
 - MAP Grant is a \$5,300 grant provided by Illinois for lower income families & is rewarded on a first come, first serve basis. Applying as soon as possible after October 1st is important so that you do not miss the opportunity to qualify for the grant.
 - PELL Grant is a federal gift aid to be used for college-related expenses. Up to \$6,345 may be awarded.
 - It is also important for colleges to receive your FAFSA as soon as possible so that you can receive your official award letter from the school in early spring.
 - For the Class of 2021, the FAFSA or Alternative Application is **mandatory** for graduation. To opt out you must complete a required form.
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Top Five things needed before October 1st.

- FSA ID Completed (SAVE LOGIN INFORMATION! Store it safely & in a place you'll remember.)
 - Social Security Number from student **and** parents
 - Parents 2019 tax return Information, W-2s, or any records of investments or other taxable or non-taxable income.
 - Students 2019 tax paperwork (same as above), if applicable.
 - List of colleges you would like to attend.
 - One college is required but you can include up to ten on the FAFSA.
 - It's recommended you add at least one Illinois college so if you qualify for any MAP Funding (\$5,300) you will know.
-

Why completing your FSA ID before October 1st is important?

- A FSA ID is needed to sign the FAFSA electronically
 - Students and parents must each have their own FSA ID
 - The FSA ID is needed to renew the FAFSA every year
 - **Note:** Parents who do not have a Social Security Number cannot obtain an FSA ID but can print a **signature page** instead
 - FSA ID allows you to use the IRS data retrieval tool to automatically input your tax information into the FAFSA application
-

What is needed for the FSA ID?

- Social Security Number
 - Username/Password
 - Security questions
 - Personal Email (**Not School email; student and parents cannot use the same email**)
-

Additional Thoughts & Resources

- Make an account at CollegeGreenlight.com. Explore colleges that are a good fit for you and start looking into scholarships and deadlines.
- The RISE Act allows eligible undocumented & transgender students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state & financial aid. Instead of completing the FAFSA to begin the MAP application process, said students may choose to complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, and this can be accessed through the ISAC.org website.

Beginning October 1, our ISAC Representative (Nathan.Dyer@illinois.gov) will be available to assist students & families with the FAFSA Application on Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 pm and 5:00-8:00pm as well as Thursdays from 8:30am-12:30 pm. Look for more info on how to schedule your appointment.

Scholarship Overview

College Specific (Merit-based & Program-based) Scholarships

Each college provides their own scholarships. Some are simple awarded through the FAFSA or college admission application, and many are awarded based on a separate scholarship application.

Merit based scholarships are typically awarded on the basis of academic, athletic, or artistic merit. Program based scholarships may be available through your chosen major. Be sure to not only check out general college scholarships, but also scholarships within the program you apply.

Use the college website to search for scholarships they might provide, or you may also contact the admissions or financial aid office for help.

External Scholarships

Explore the following scholarship websites for world- and nation-wide scholarship opportunities:

<https://www.tuitionfundingsources.com/category/scholarships/>

<https://finaid.org/scholarships/>

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

<https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>

<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/scholarships/-s/>

<https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>

<https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

<https://www.raise.me/>

<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>

<https://www.goingmerry.com/>

<https://portal.ilcis.intocareers.org/#CurrentCluster>

For ILCIS: [Click... IL Resident | CIS High School | Carbondale 62901 | Education | Illinois Scholarships]

Internal Scholarships

Local and area scholarships will become available in December 2020 and can be accessed through Naviance. College-bound students are strongly encouraged to complete the CCHS General Scholarship application through Naviance.

*Also consider asking around your personal community: churches, parent's employers, as well as extracurricular or activity based scholarships.

Watch out for scholarship scams! If you have to pay to apply for the scholarship, it is a scam. Never divulge your checking or savings account numbers, social security number or other personal information. If you are unsure, check with your counselor.

get
help...

FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION

*See you
there*

WED.
SEPT
23 @
11 AM
OR
WED.
SEPT
30 @
5 PM



**TO ATTEND, SEE
EMAIL FROM MRS.
ANTRIM WITH LINK**

Email to be sent Monday, Sept. 21

...to
access
free
money

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
KRISTA.ANTRIM@CCHS165.COM

FAFSA Completion

***Need help
completing the
application?***

***Beginning
October 1
30 minute
meetings will
be available***

10/1
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

10/6
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

10/7
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

10/8
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

10/13
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

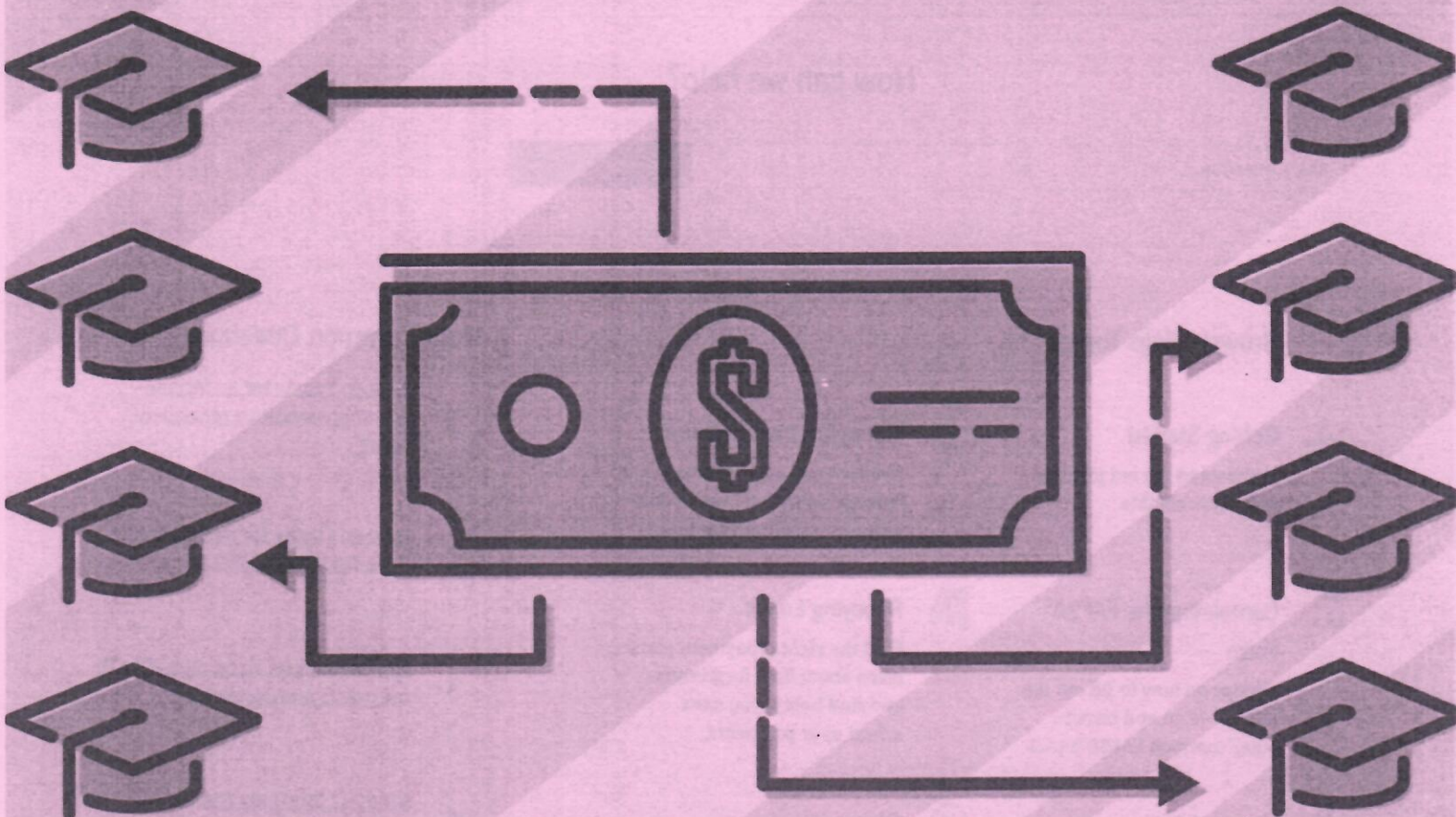
10/14
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

10/15
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Dates & Times Moving
Forward, Beg. 10/20
Tuesdays: 1-3 pm & 5-8 pm
Thursdays: 8:30 am-12:30 pm

*Virtual meetings will be available to assist students & families
with completing the FAFSA application. Look for more info on
how to schedule meetings in an email from Ms. Antrim prior 10/1.*

Apply soon, as money will run out with time.



NEED FINANCIAL AID HELP? CONTACT...

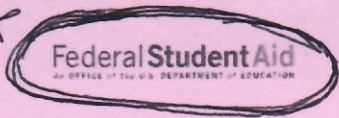
NATHAN DYER, ISAC REP.

Email (preferred communication): Nathan.Dyer@Illinois.gov

Work Phone: 618.713.1653

TEXT SUPPORT: 618.223.6450

Simply send a text (don't call) with your name & then you will receive an automated prompt/question such as parent or student. After you respond, you will then have access to text with a live person.



UNDERSTAND AID ▾

APPLY FOR AID ▾

COMPLETE AID PROCESS ▾

MANAGE LOANS ▾

Log In | Create Account



How can we help?

Ask a question...

Search

Browse Help Topics



Getting Started

Understand the aid process and who's eligible.



Managing Your Account

Review your aid amounts, manage payments, and update your personal information.



Completing the FAFSA® Form

Get tips on how to fill out the FAFSA® form and browse other common FAFSA topics.



Repaying Loans

Find the right repayment plan, learn about loan forgiveness, and find help if you can't afford your payments.



Types of Aid

Learn about types of aid including grants, work-study, loans, and scholarships.



Glossary

Understand terms and definitions related to student aid.

Most Common Questions

1

[How do I apply for an income-driven student loan repayment plan?](#)

2

[How do I apply for Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\)?](#)

3

[How do I create an account \(FSA ID username and password\)?](#)

4

[What if I forget my FSA ID password for my account?](#)

5

[How do I get a federal student loan?](#)

6

[How much money can I get from a Federal Pell Grant?](#)

7

[How do I find scholarships?](#)

8

[What is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool \(IRS DRT\)?](#)

9

[How do I complete entrance counseling?](#)

10

[How do I apply for a PLUS loan?](#)

* Please know this website is very helpful and can assist you with many questions throughout the financial aid process.