Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD

TASFA

Texas Application for State Financial Aid

TASFA

How much experience do you have with the TASFA?

Beginner

Average

Experienced

Texas Higher Education
COORDINATING BOARD

Welcome

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Program Specialist

THECB TASFA

Topics of Discussion

- State Financial Aid Programs
- TASFA History
- TASFA Reminders
- 2024-25 TASFA Updates
  - Paper Form
  - Online Application
- Online TASFA Walkthrough
  - Webpage
  - Decision Tree
  - Application Process
  - Application Guidance

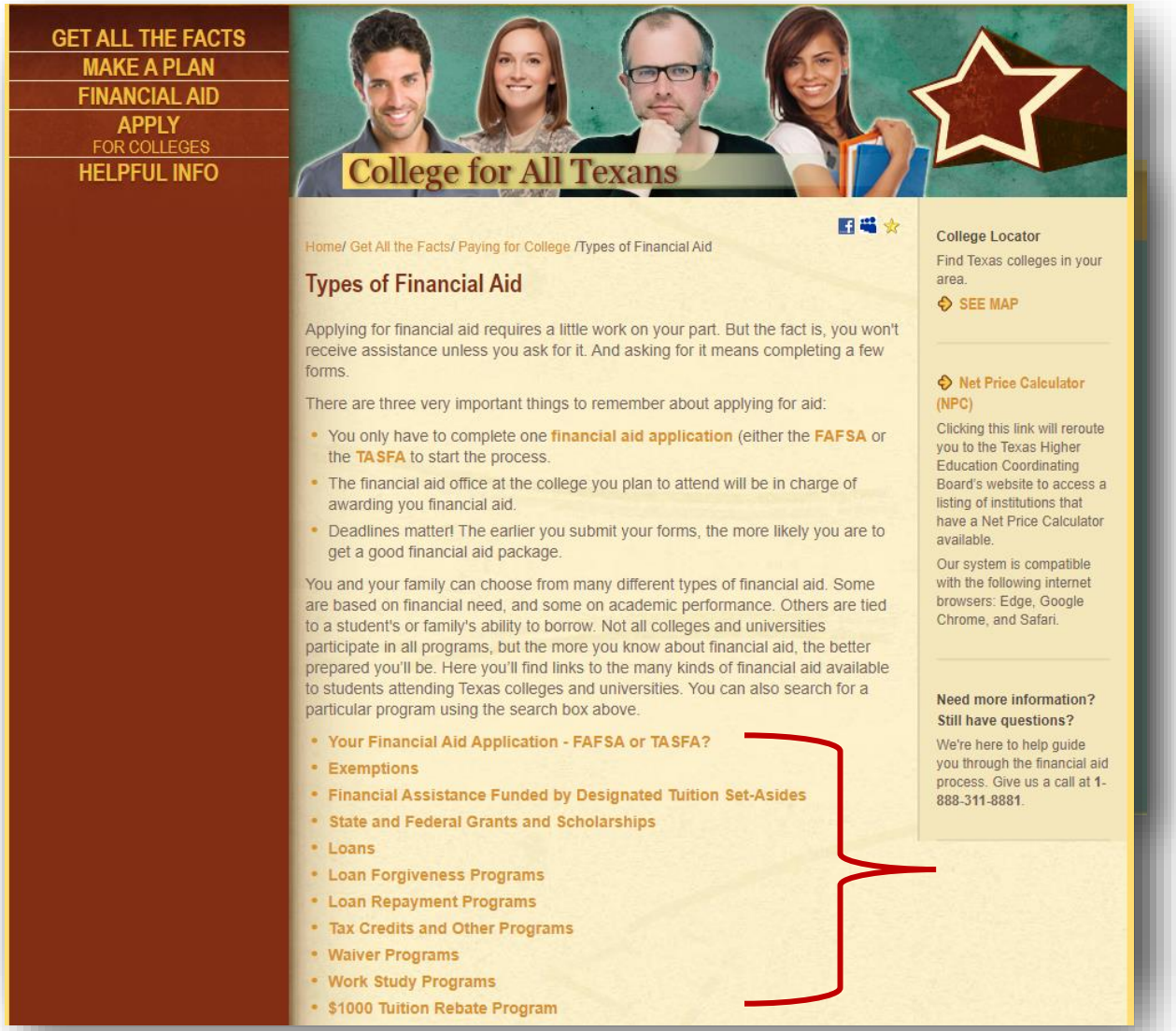
State Financial Aid Programs

TASFA applicants may be eligible for these types of state financial aid:

Grants	• Examples: TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TPEG
Work-Study	• Examples: TCWS, WSMP
Educational Loans	• Example: CAL, FORWARD
Exemption/ Waiver Programs	• Examples: Foster Care, Blind/Deaf, etc.

College for All Texans

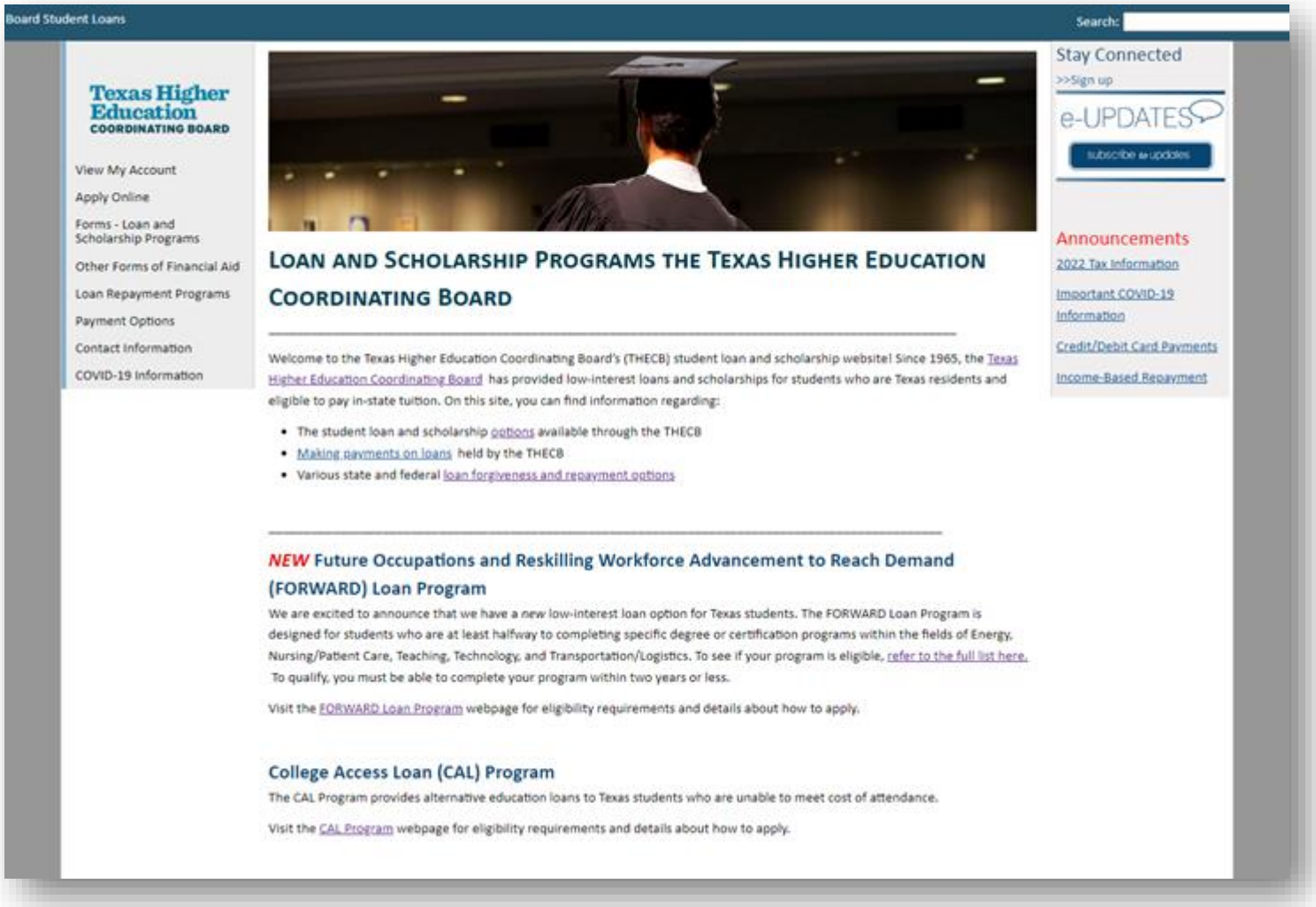
- Applying for college information
- TASFA paper form in English and Spanish
- Eligibility requirements for:
  - ✓ State and Federal Grants & Scholarships
  - ✓ Loan Programs
  - ✓ Exemption & Waiver Programs
  - ✓ Texas College Work-Study Program



College For All Texans: Types of Financial Aid

HHLoans

- Program eligibility information
- Applications for CAL, FORWARD, and TASSP
- Loan repayment information

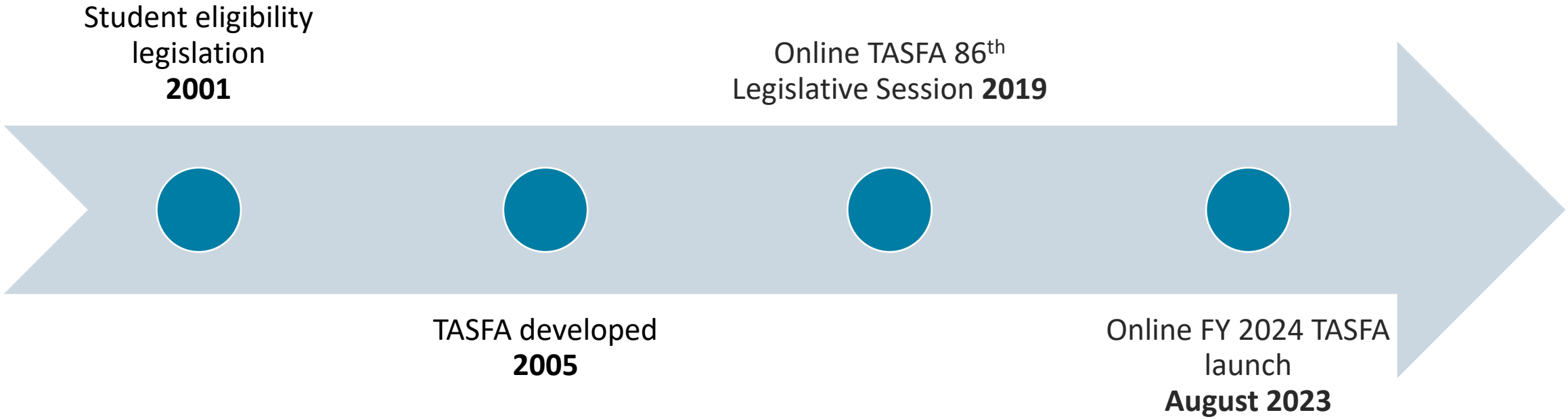


HHLoans

TASFA History

When did the TASFA begin?

TASFA History



High School Graduation Requirement

To graduate from high school in Texas, each student must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) or complete an opt-out form.

Reference: Texas Education Code (TEC), Title 2, Section 28.0256

TASFA Reminders

Common Questions

TASFA Reminders

- The TASFA is free to apply
- The TASFA can be used to apply for institutions participating in state financial aid which include:
    - Public colleges, universities and health related institutions
    - Nonprofit private colleges and universities
- State financial aid programs include grants, scholarships, programs, work-study, exemptions, waivers and loans

Question:

Can a student use the TASFA to apply to a school out of state?

No. They most likely will not accept a paper TASFA in another state and may have their own application, and the Online TASFA is set up to go to only Texas institutions.

Can a student apply for financial aid at a for-profit or proprietary school using the TASFA?

No. State financial aid is not available at for-profit institutions and students cannot choose these schools on the Online TASFA.

Question:

Is the paper TASFA going away?

No. We intend to always have a paper TASFA for those that cannot fill it out online.

Should a student fill out both the paper and online TASFA?

No. A student should fill out one or the other, not both the paper and online TASFA.

Question:

If the student can fill out the FAFSA, should they fill out the TASFA to get state financial aid?

No. The college will use the FAFSA they already filled out to assess state financial aid eligibility.

Should a student send their paper TASFA to the THECB?

No. A student should send their TASFA to the financial aid office at the college they plan to attend and reach out for any further instructions.

2024-25 TASFA

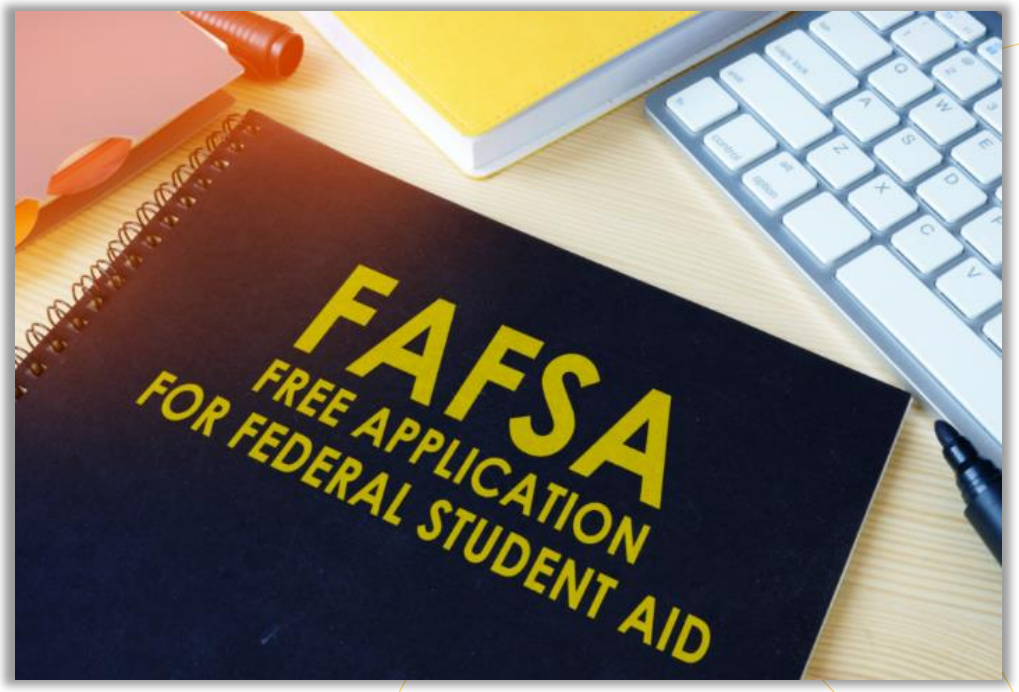
What can you expect?

FAFSA Simplification

Impacts on TASFA

2024-2025 TASFA

- The paper TASFA (English and Spanish) will incorporate FAFSA changes based on draft documents released by Department of Education.
- Paper TASFA form will be released the same time as FAFSA.
- Development changes are in progress, but the online form will not be available until after FAFSA is released.
- The State Priority Deadline was updated to **March 15, 2024**, for the 2024-2025 award year by the THECB. This is only for the specified award year and will revert back to Jan. 15 for future years.



2024-25 TASFA Updates

- Only prioritizing changes on the TASFA that are needed for Student Aid Index components.
- TASFA Subcommittee is providing feedback on changes.
- Paper TASFA form will be released the same time as FAFSA.
    - Have students fill out the paper TASFA until the online TASFA is available, do not wait!
- Online TASFA will not be available until after FAFSA is released.
- User acceptance testing has started on the 2024-25 application.

2024-25 TASFA Changes Overview

- ***Removing*** approx. 22 questions from the TASFA
- ***Adding*** approx. 11 questions from the FAFSA
- ***Updating*** approx. 11 questions to align with FASFA

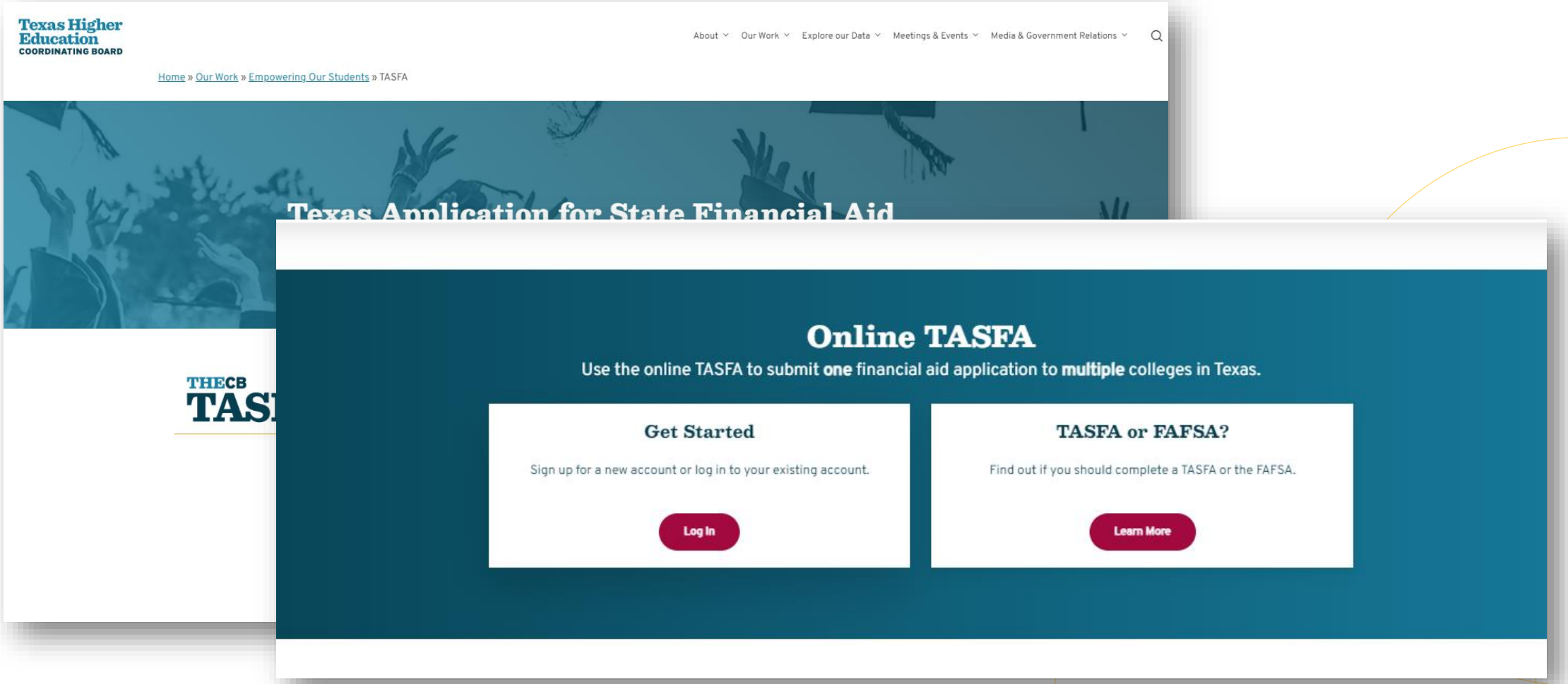
What will remain on the TASFA:

- Selective Service question
- Housing Plan

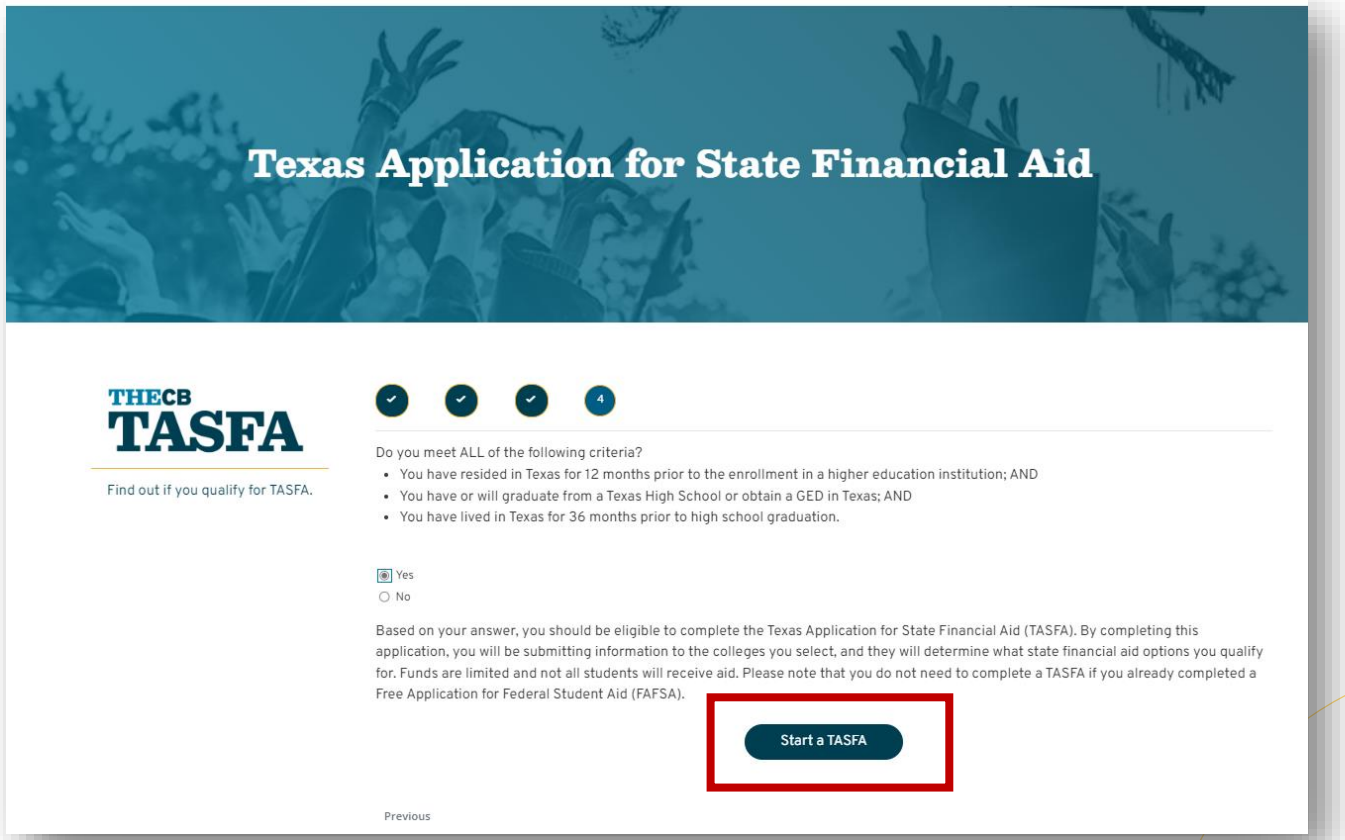
Online TASFA Walkthrough

What does the user experience look like?

TASFA Landing Page



Decision Tree



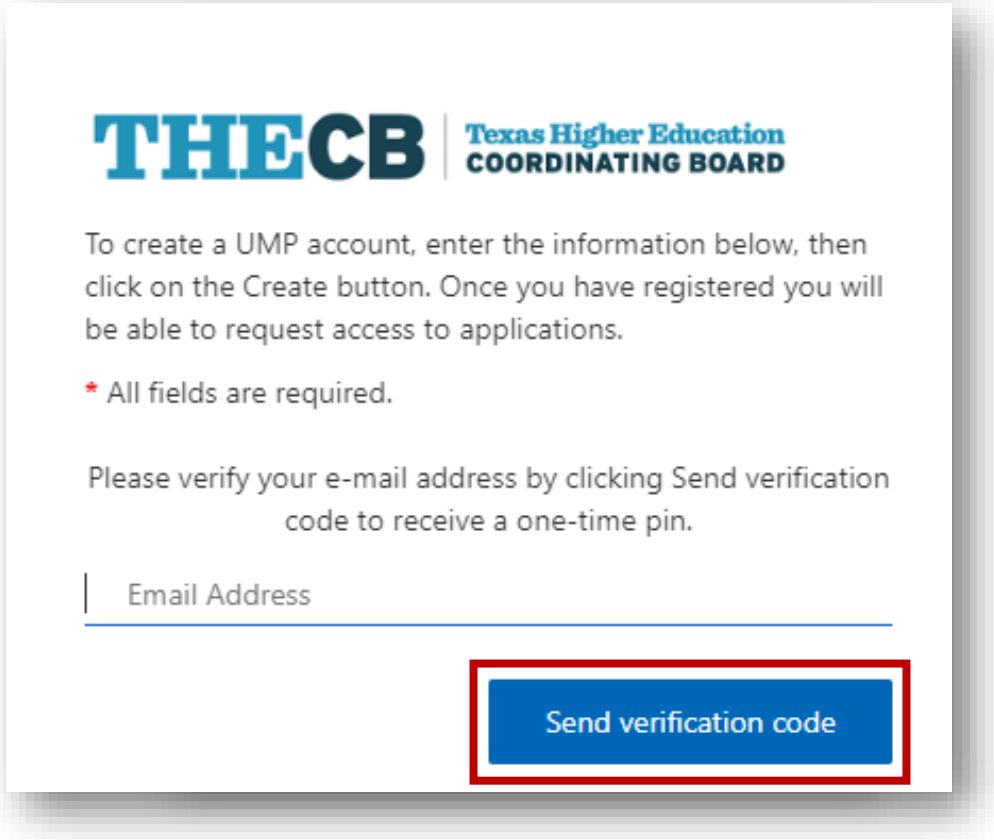
Question

What specific information will I need to fill out the TASFA?

The THECB does not determine what supporting documents are required from TASFA applicants.

We recommend for students to reach out to the institution for additional information.

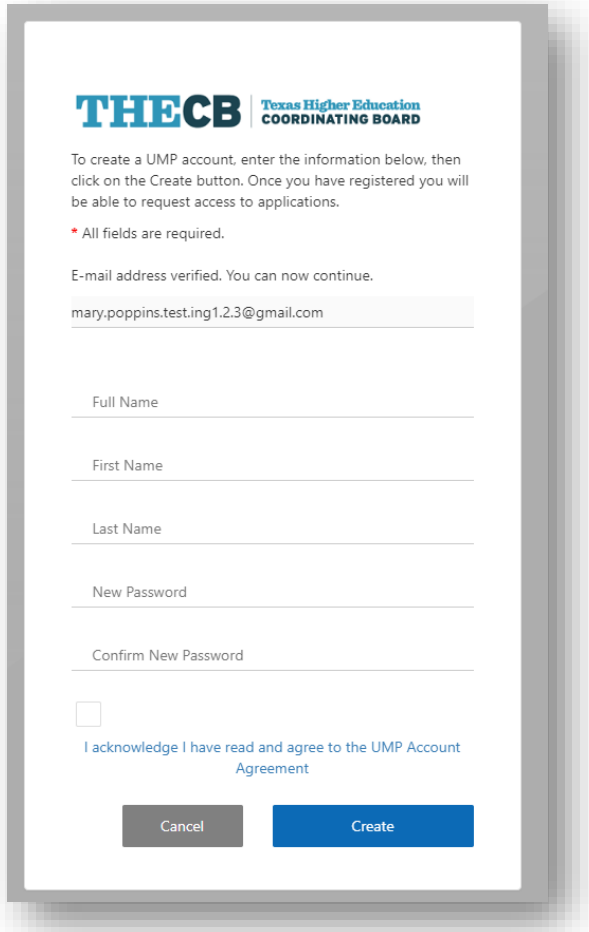
User Account Creation



New users will be required to create an account with a valid email

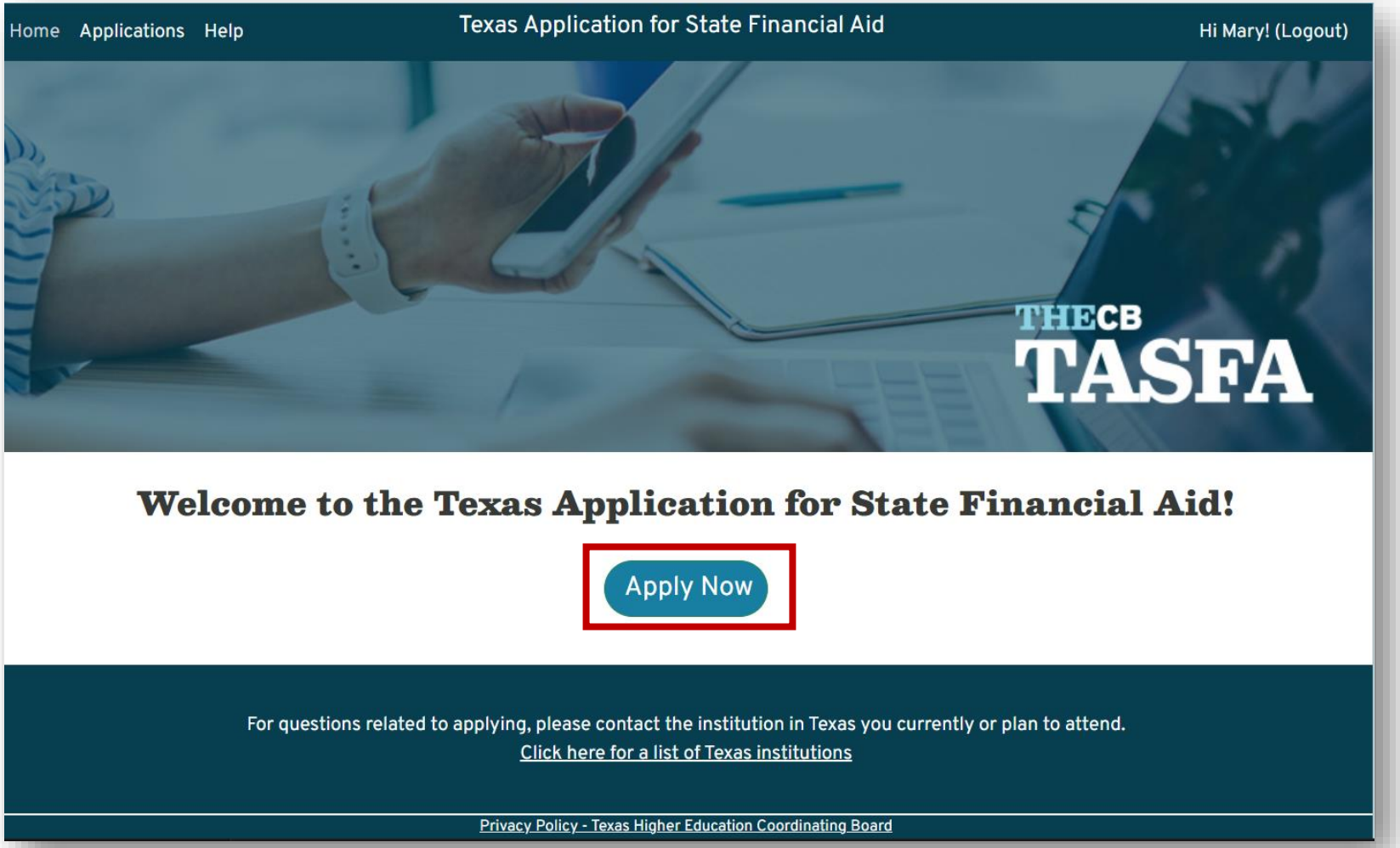
- A secure code will be sent to the user to first verify their email

TASFA Account Registration

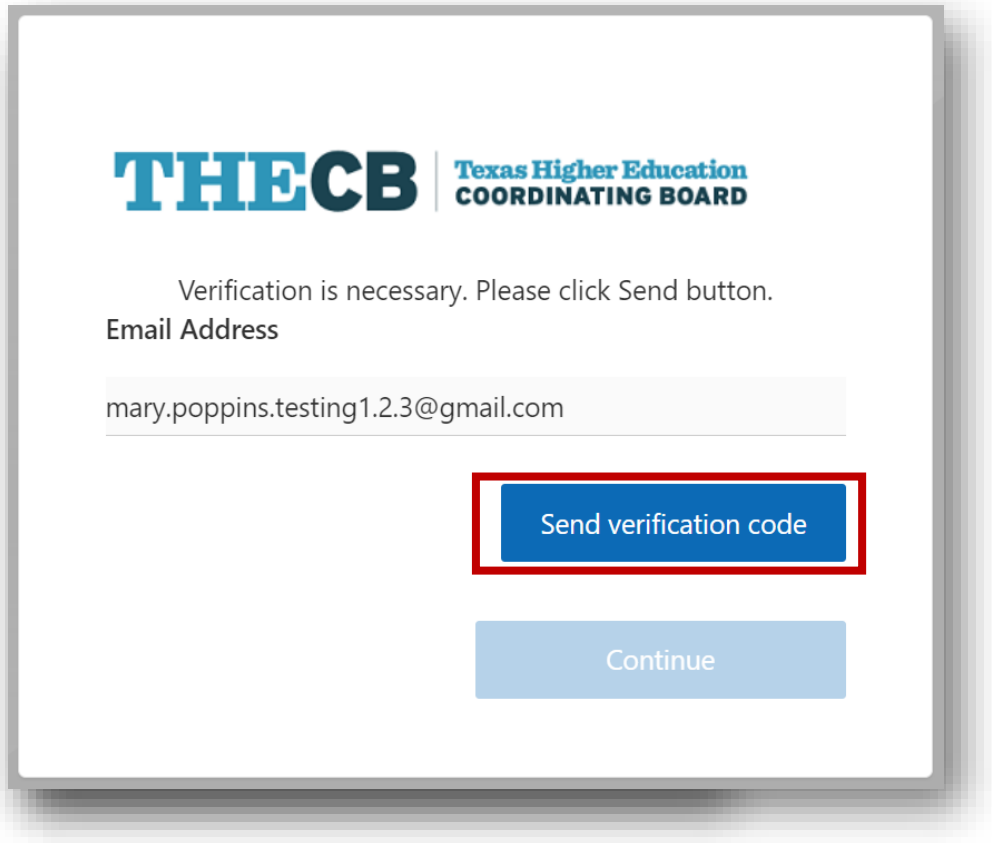


- The user creates their account by completing a short registration form.
- After it's created, they must log in and verify using a code that is provided via email.

TASFA - Apply Now Page



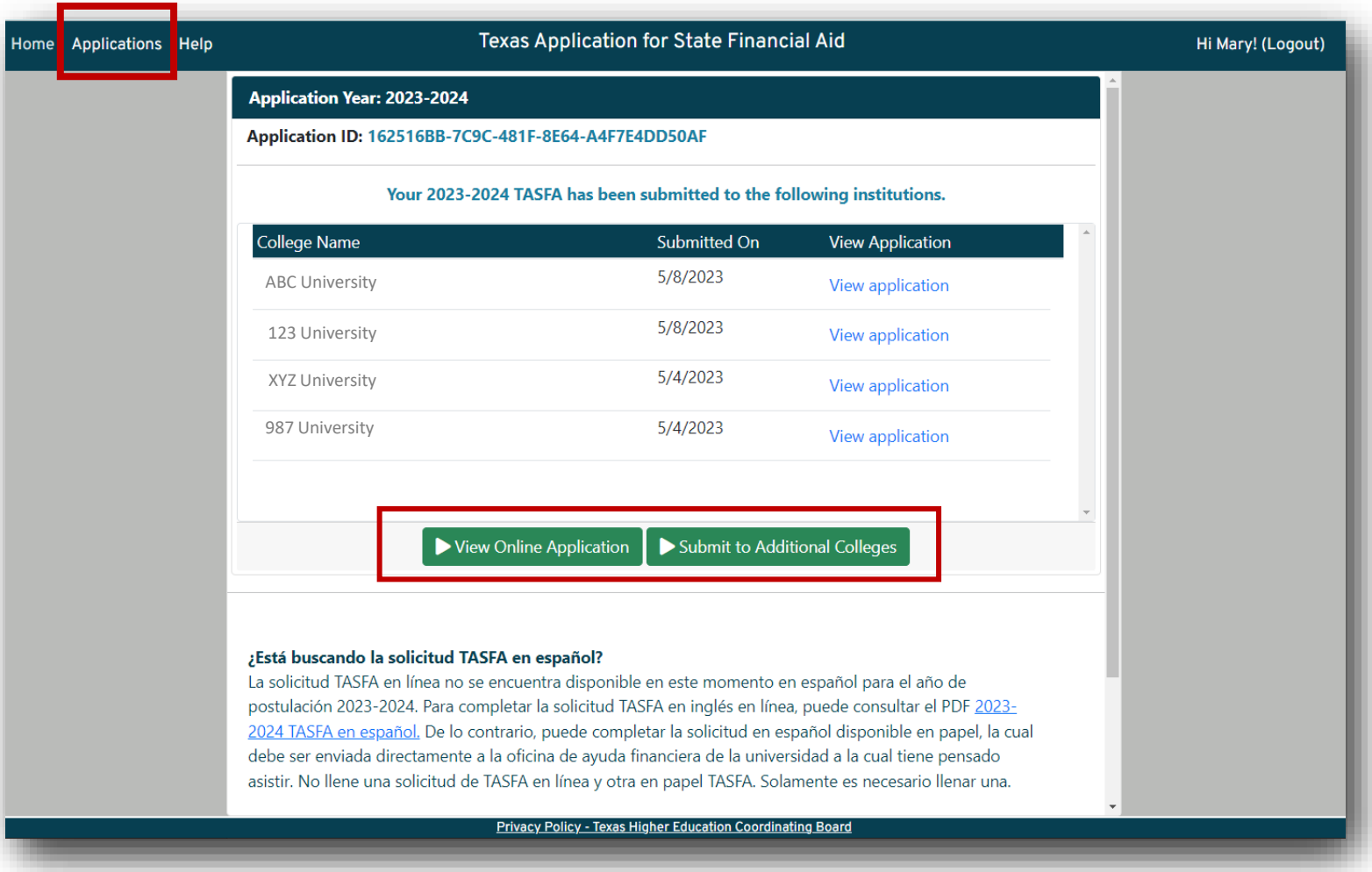
Returning User Log In



Returning users can log in using their account:

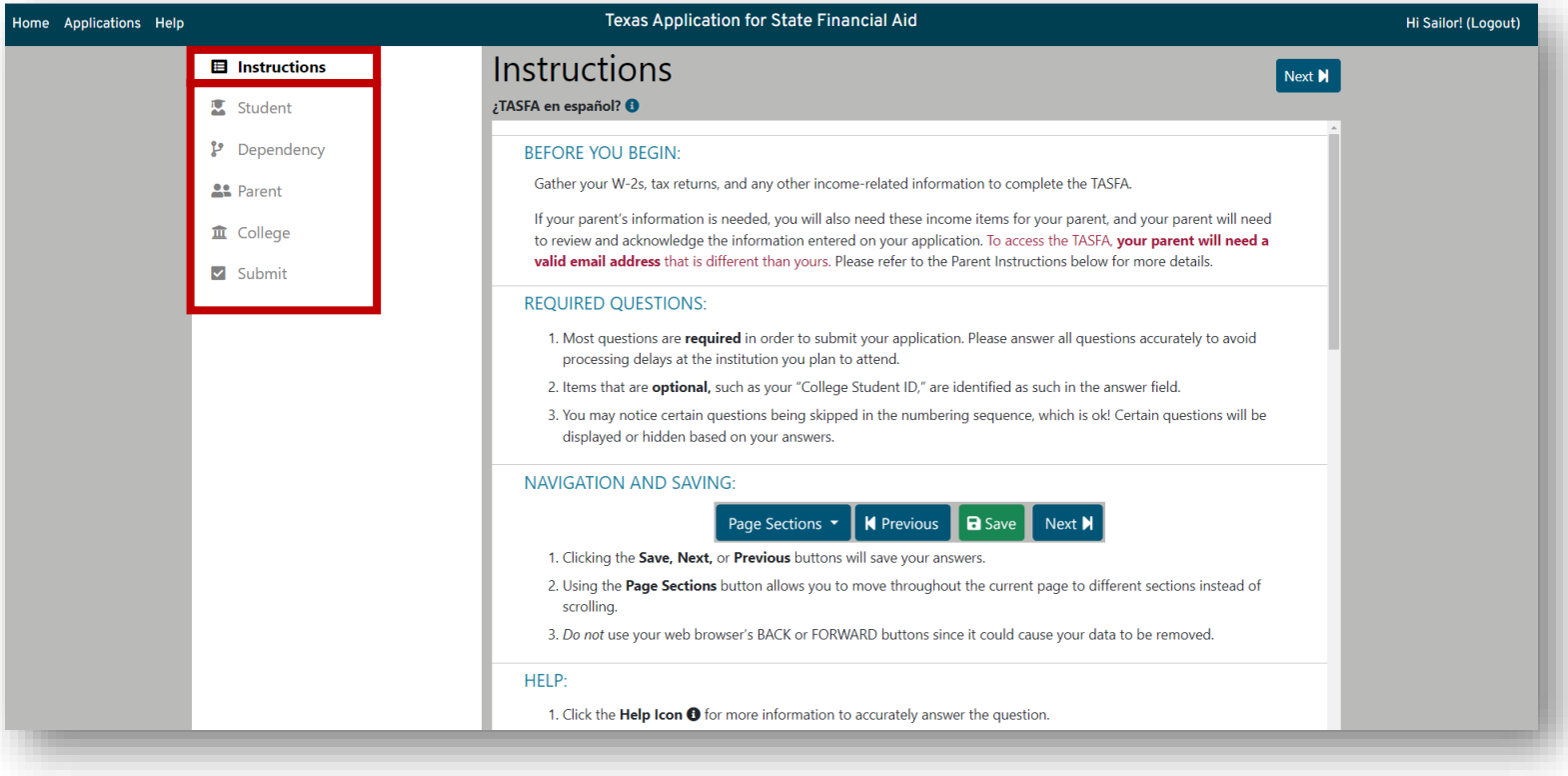
- A secure code will be sent to the user's email each time they access TASFA to validate.

Applications Page



- User will initially see a “Start” button.
- Spanish information is included to allow user to print or use it as a resource. **Online TASFA is not available in Spanish at this time.**
- Once information has been entered and saved, the button changes to “resume” and applicant will be assigned an Application ID.
- Once the application is submitted, the page includes a button to **View Online Application** or **Submit to Additional Colleges**.

Application Menu



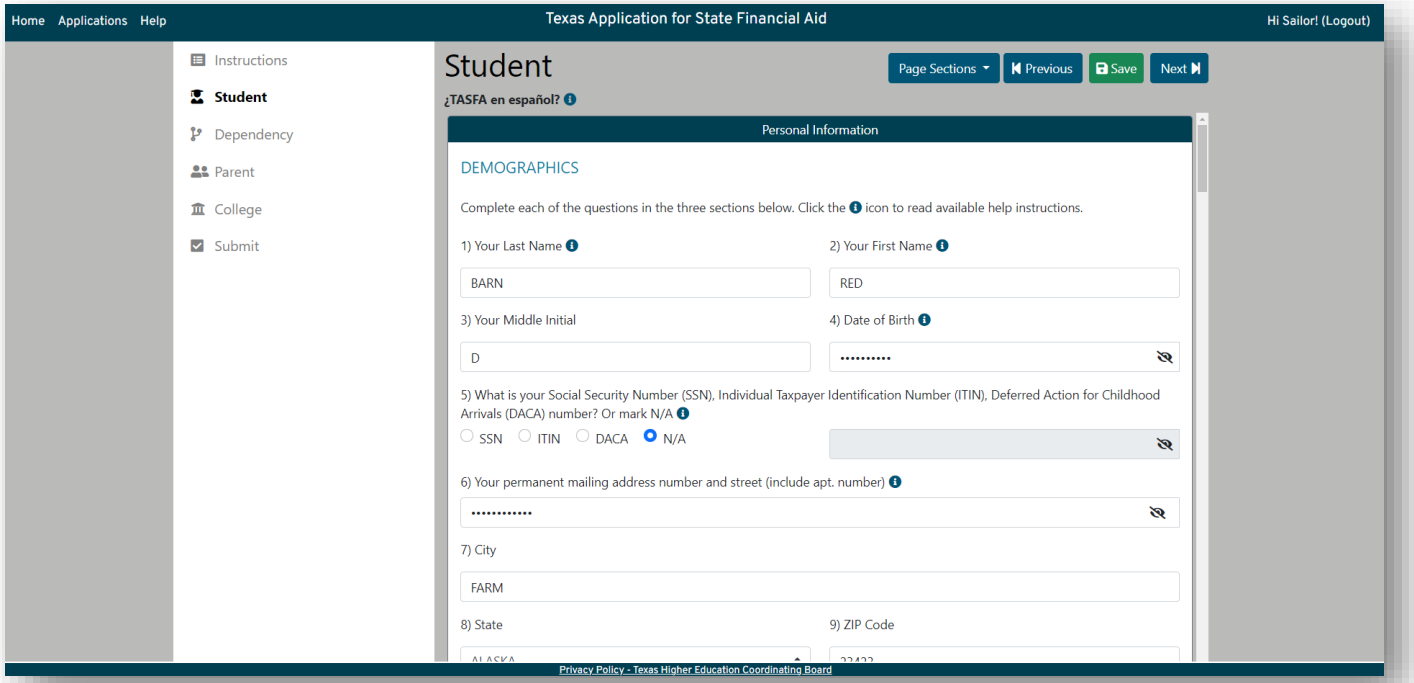
Highlights

Instructions are intended to help the user with application functionality while using the online form.

The student answers questions on the following sections:

- Student
- Dependency
- Parent (if applicable)
- Family Info*
- Colleges
- Submit

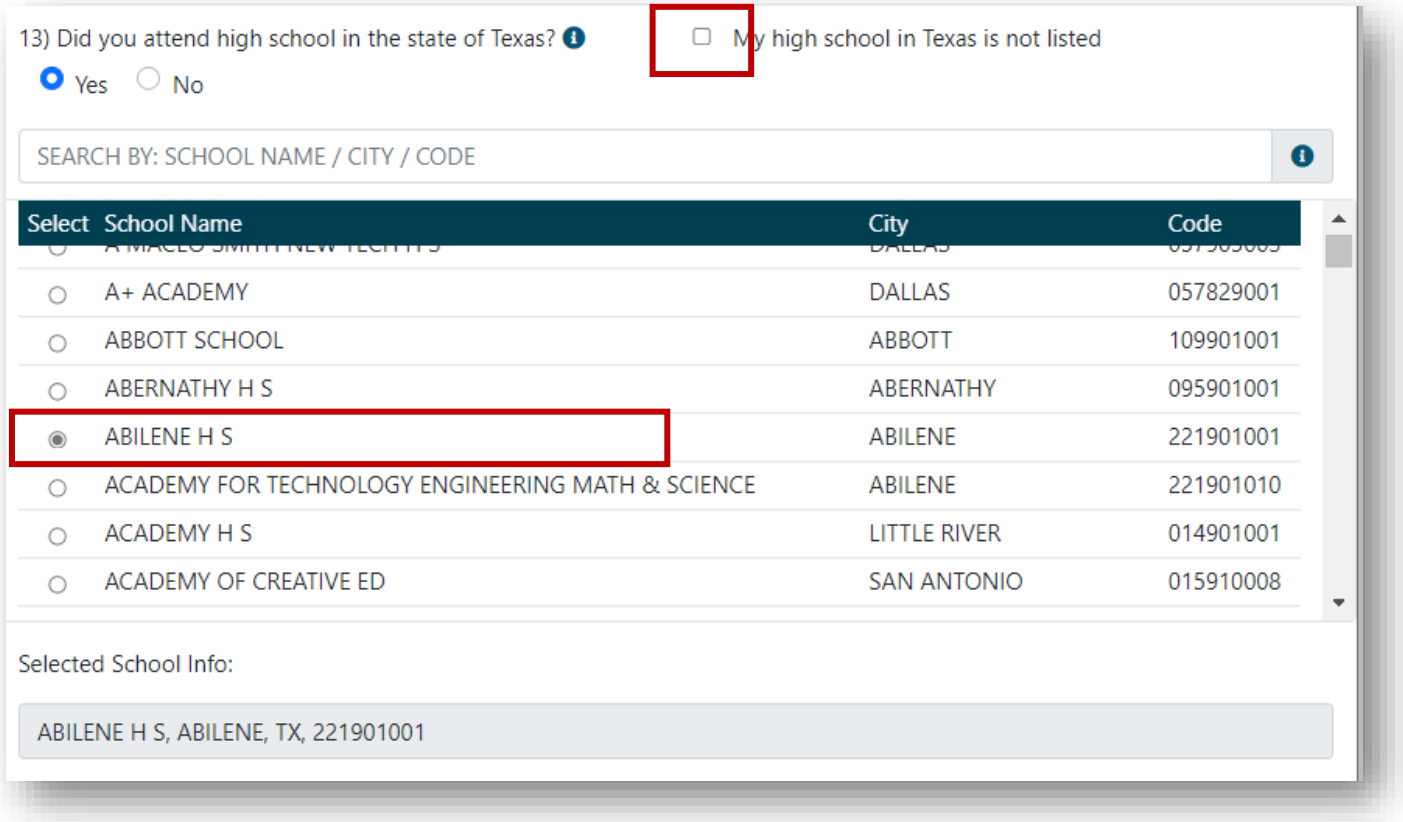
Student Section



Highlights

- Student will complete:
  - Personal Information
  - Income and Assets
  - Spouse information if applicable

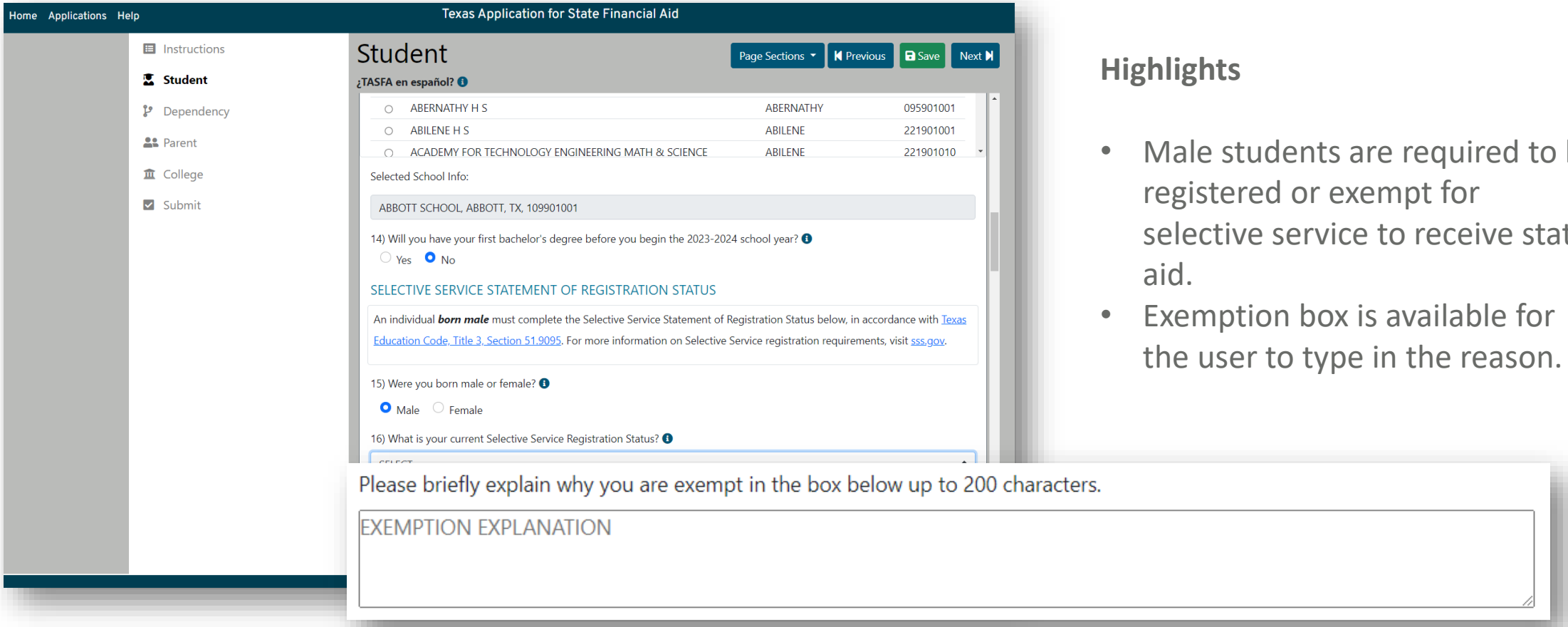
Student Section – High School



Highlights

- If the student graduated in Texas, they can pick from the available listing.
- If their high school is not included, there is a manual entry option.
- Manual entry is also required for students that attended high school outside of Texas.

Student Section – Selective Service



Highlights

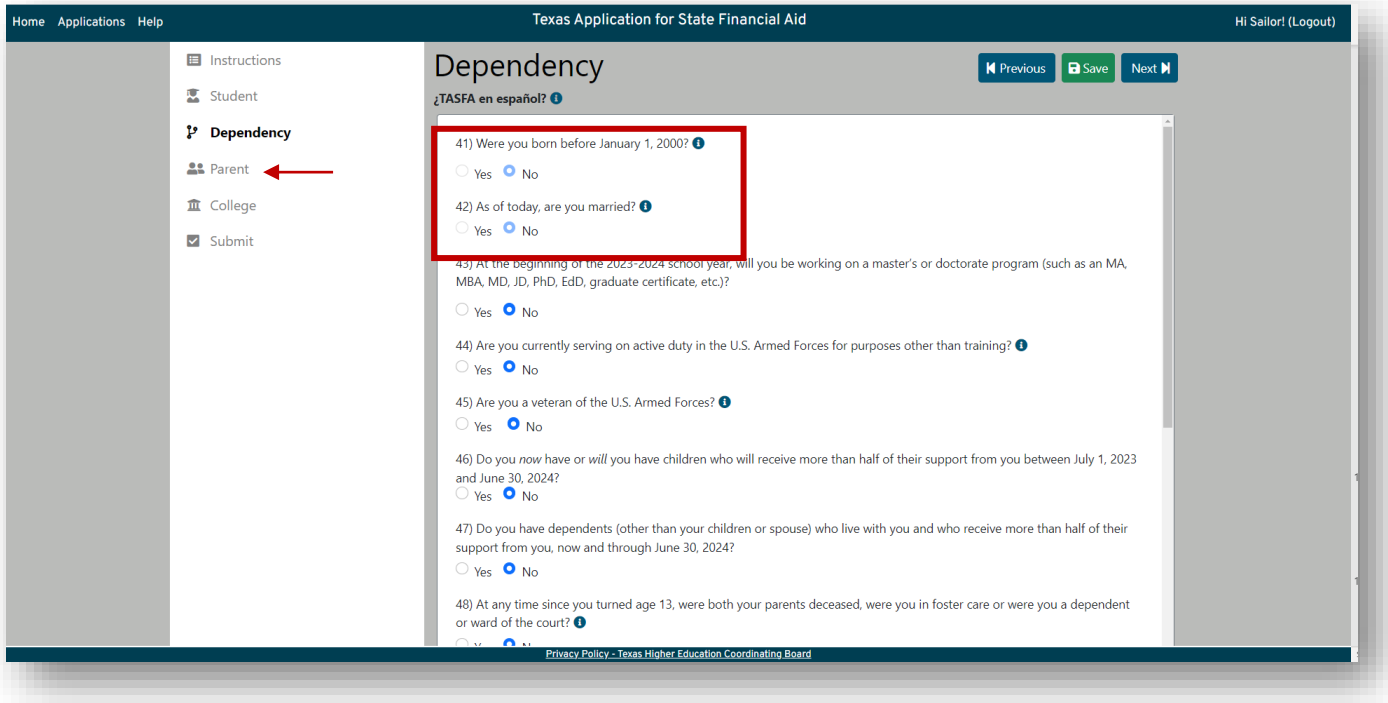
- Male students are required to be registered or exempt for selective service to receive state aid.
- Exemption box is available for the user to type in the reason.

Question

How do I register for Selective Service if I cannot online?

Students can complete and mail a registration form which can be found at most post offices or at www.sss.gov.

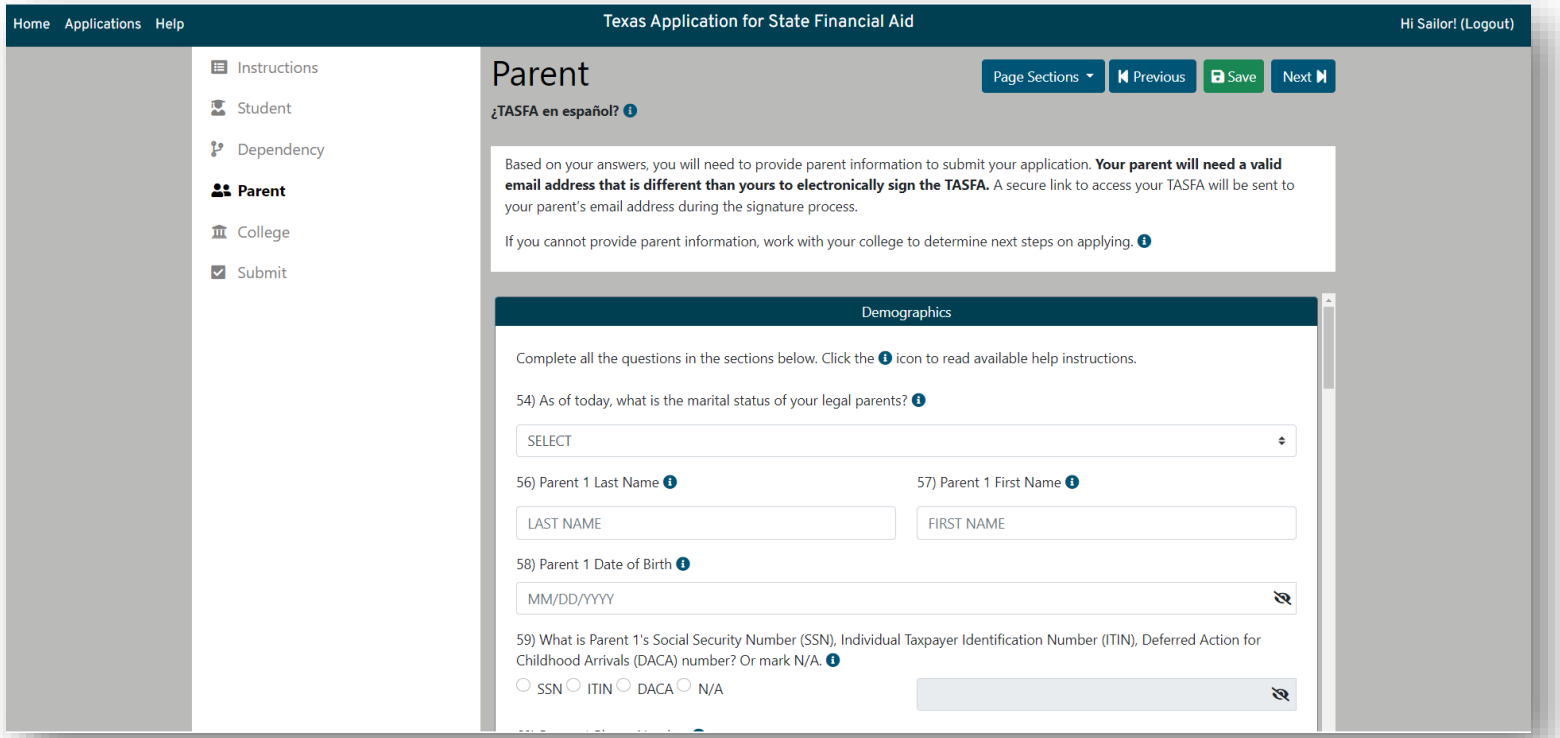
Dependency Section



Highlights

- Dependency questions on age and marital status prepopulated based answers provided on the Student section.
- Parent tab will appear or disappear depending on the dependency responses.

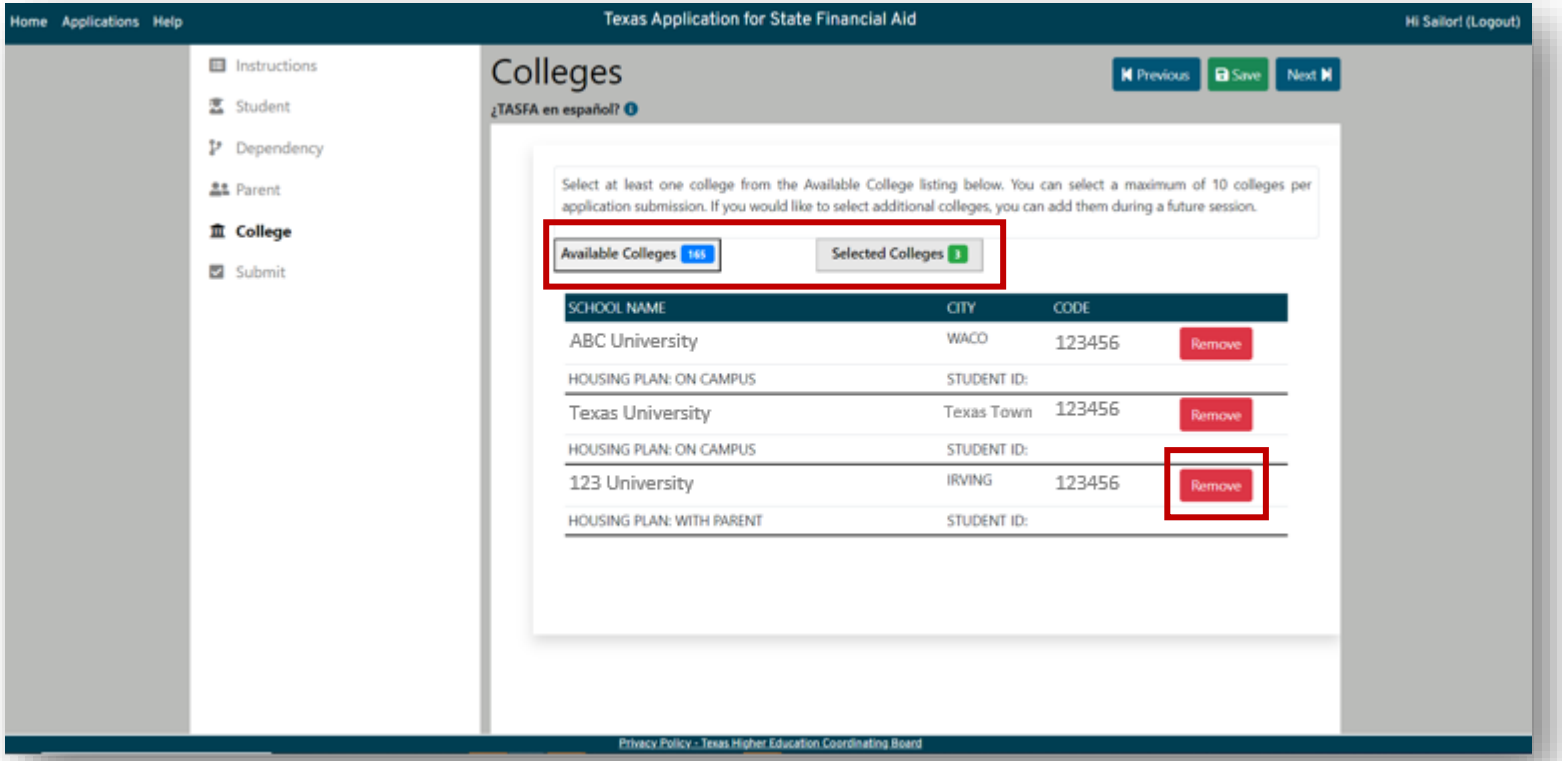
Parent Section



Highlights

- Skip logic is used if the parent is not married; Parent 2 will appear or stay hidden depending on the response to marital status.
- Parent must have an email different than the student to access the TASFA to complete the required acknowledgement confirmation.

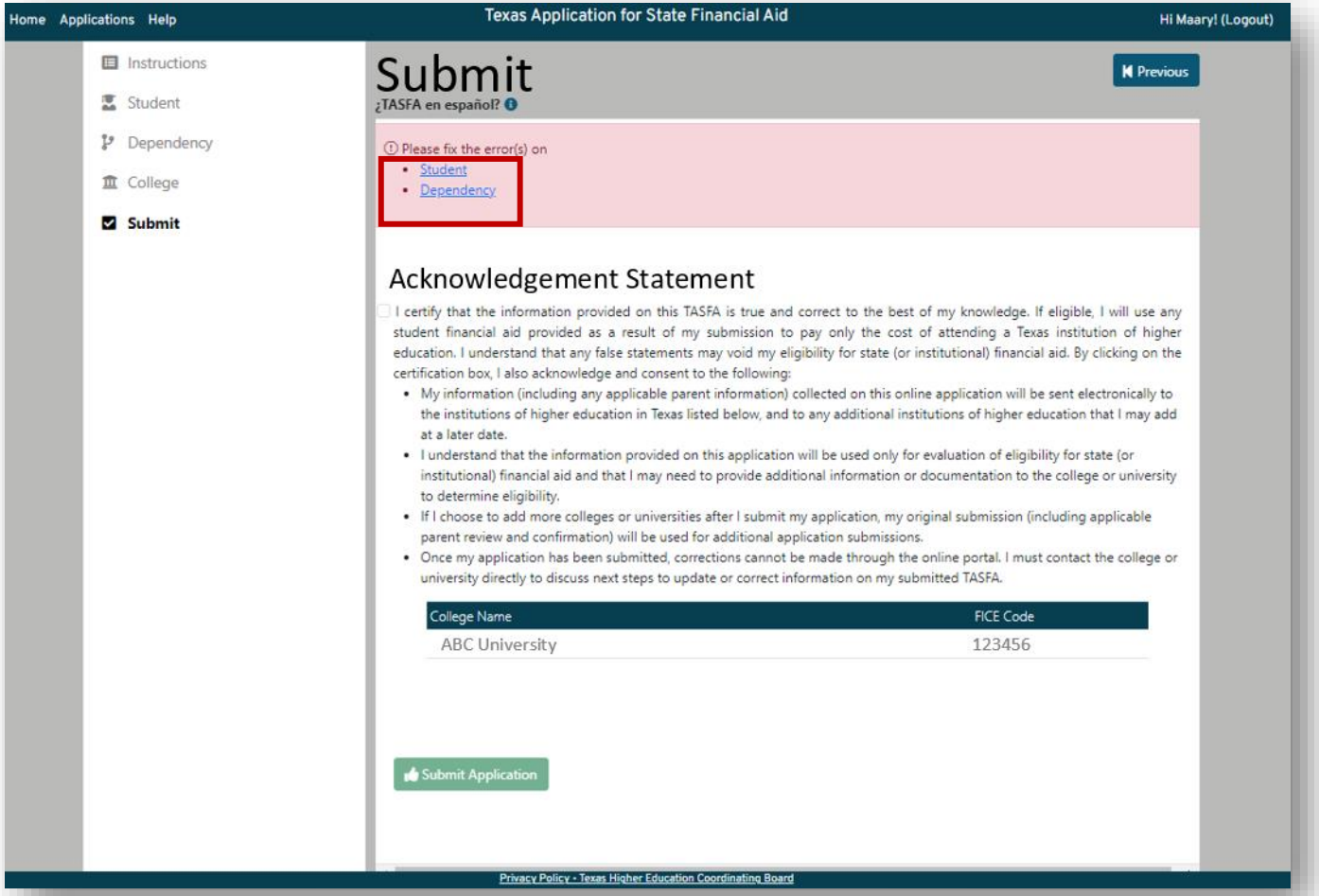
College Section



Highlights

- Available colleges listing will be updated as they are selected.
- User can remove colleges prior to submission by clicking the Selected Colleges tab.
- User can add up to 10 colleges per submission.
  - Housing status is required
  - College Student ID is optional.

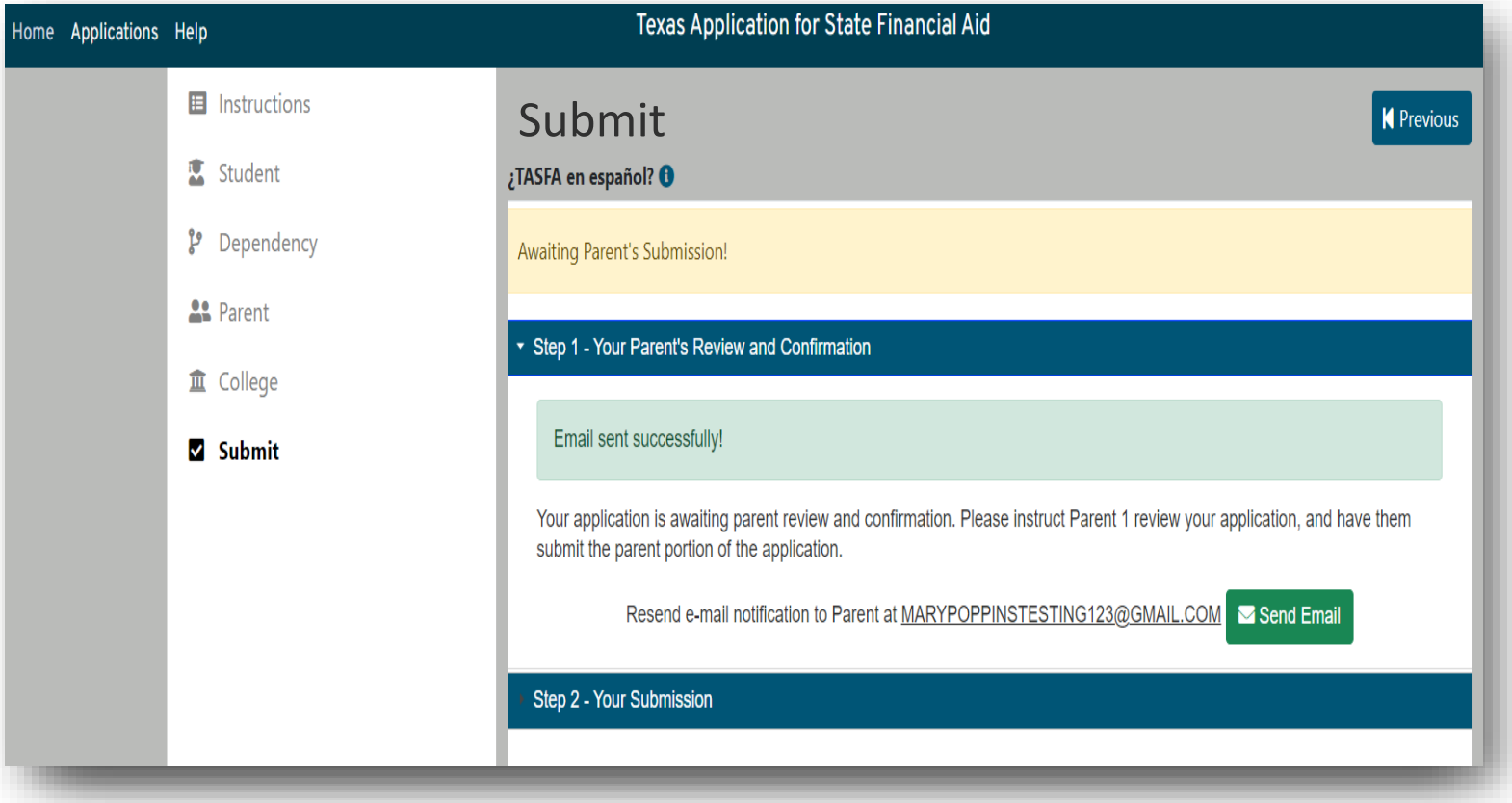
Submit Section



Highlights

- Incomplete sections will show on a banner with hyperlinks to the applicable pages.

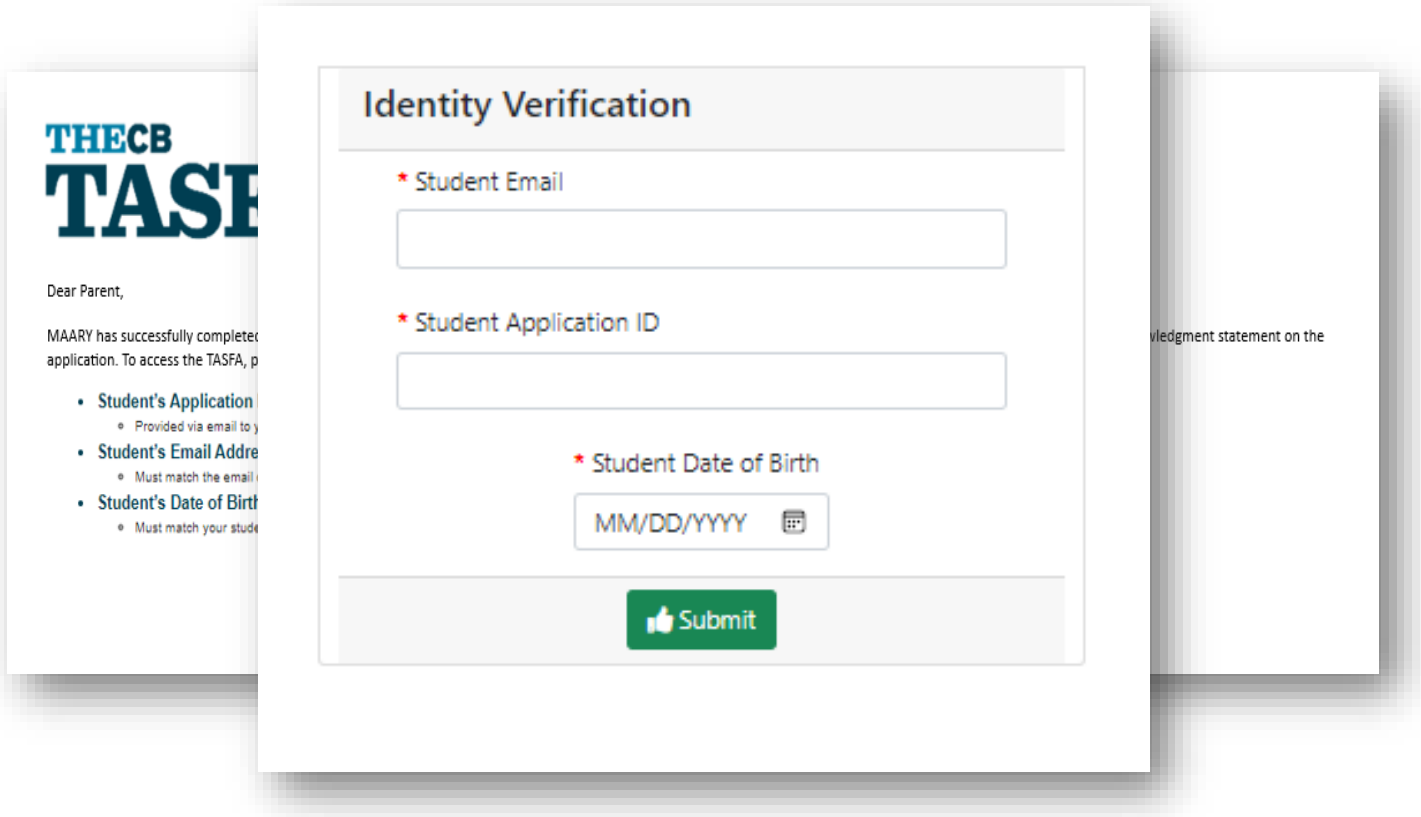
Parent Acknowledgement Process



Highlights

- Once all fields are complete and validated, the student can send their parent a secure link via email to access the application.
- Link is good for 24 hours and user can send additional links until the TASFA is submitted.

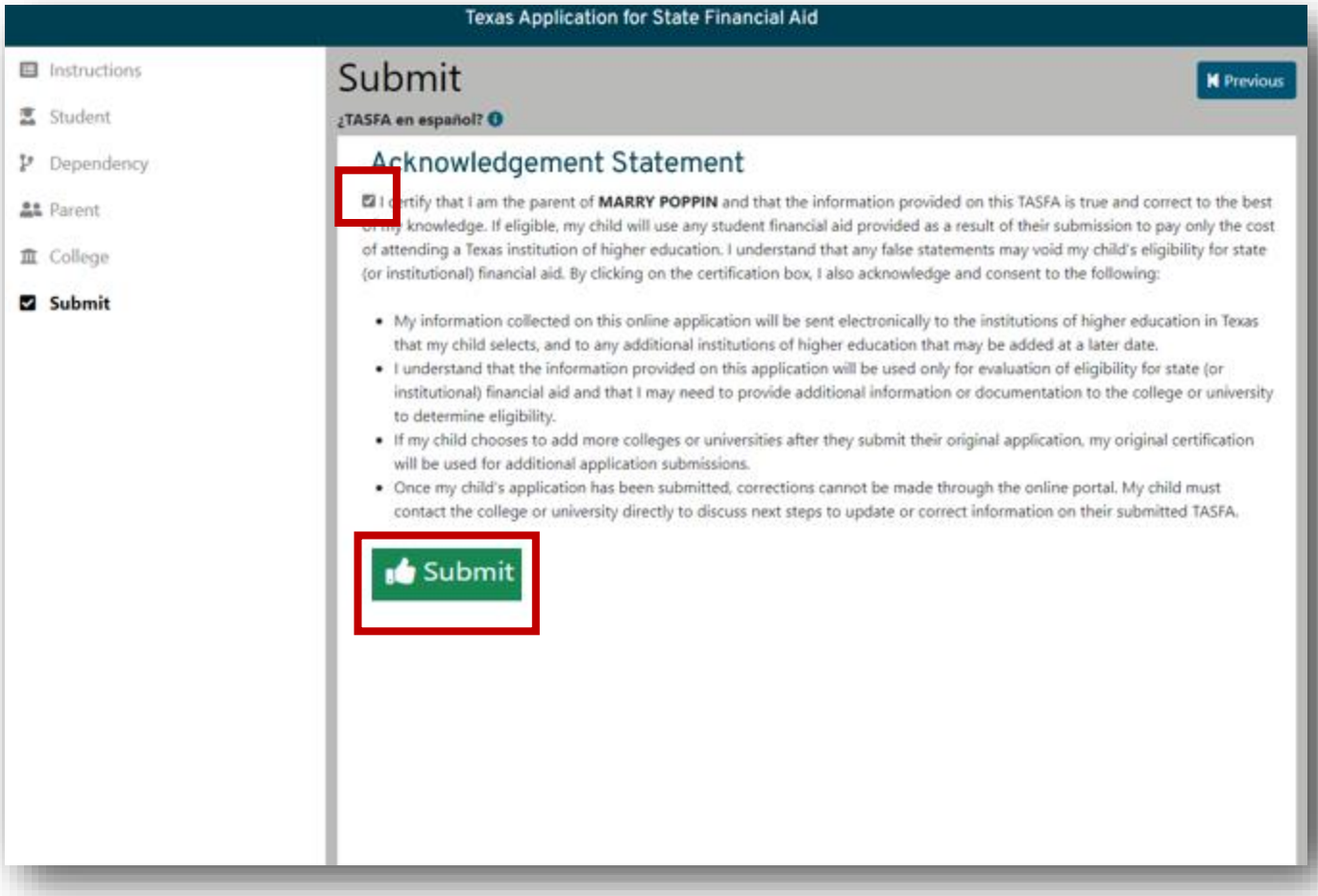
Parent Access Link



Highlights

Parent clicks on the link in the email to launch a new browser and must enter three specific student validation items to access the application.

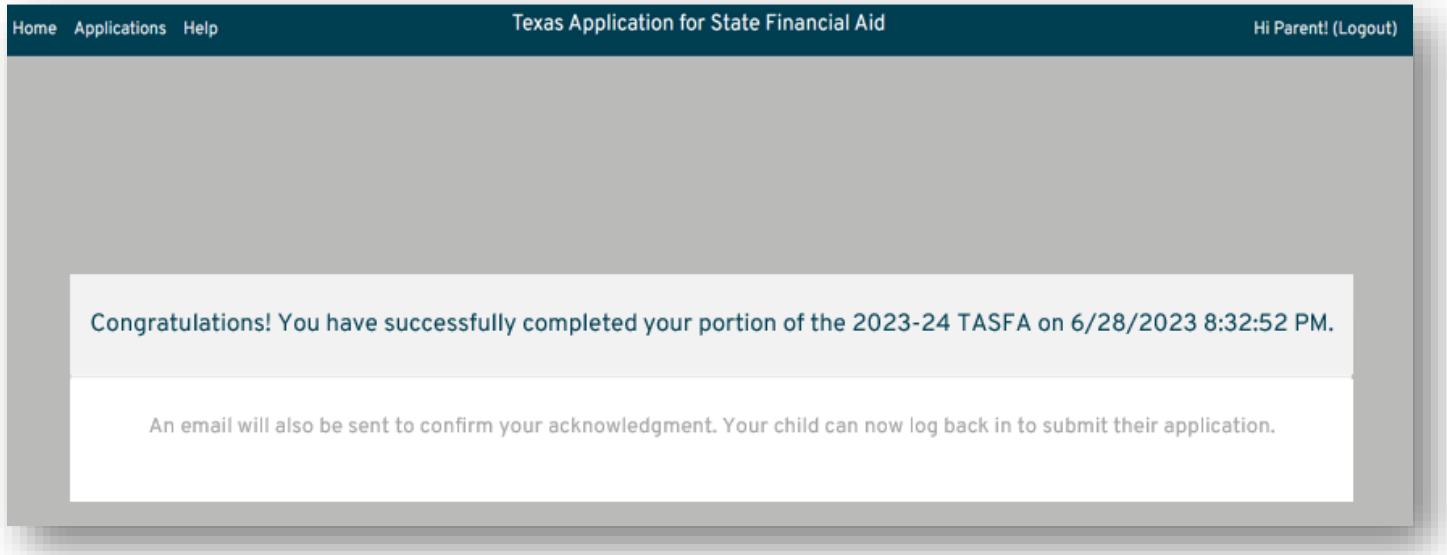
Parent Acknowledgment



Highlights

- Parent will have read-only access.
- Once they have reviewed the application, they go to the Submit section.
- Parent will click Acknowledgement Statement box, the green Submit button.

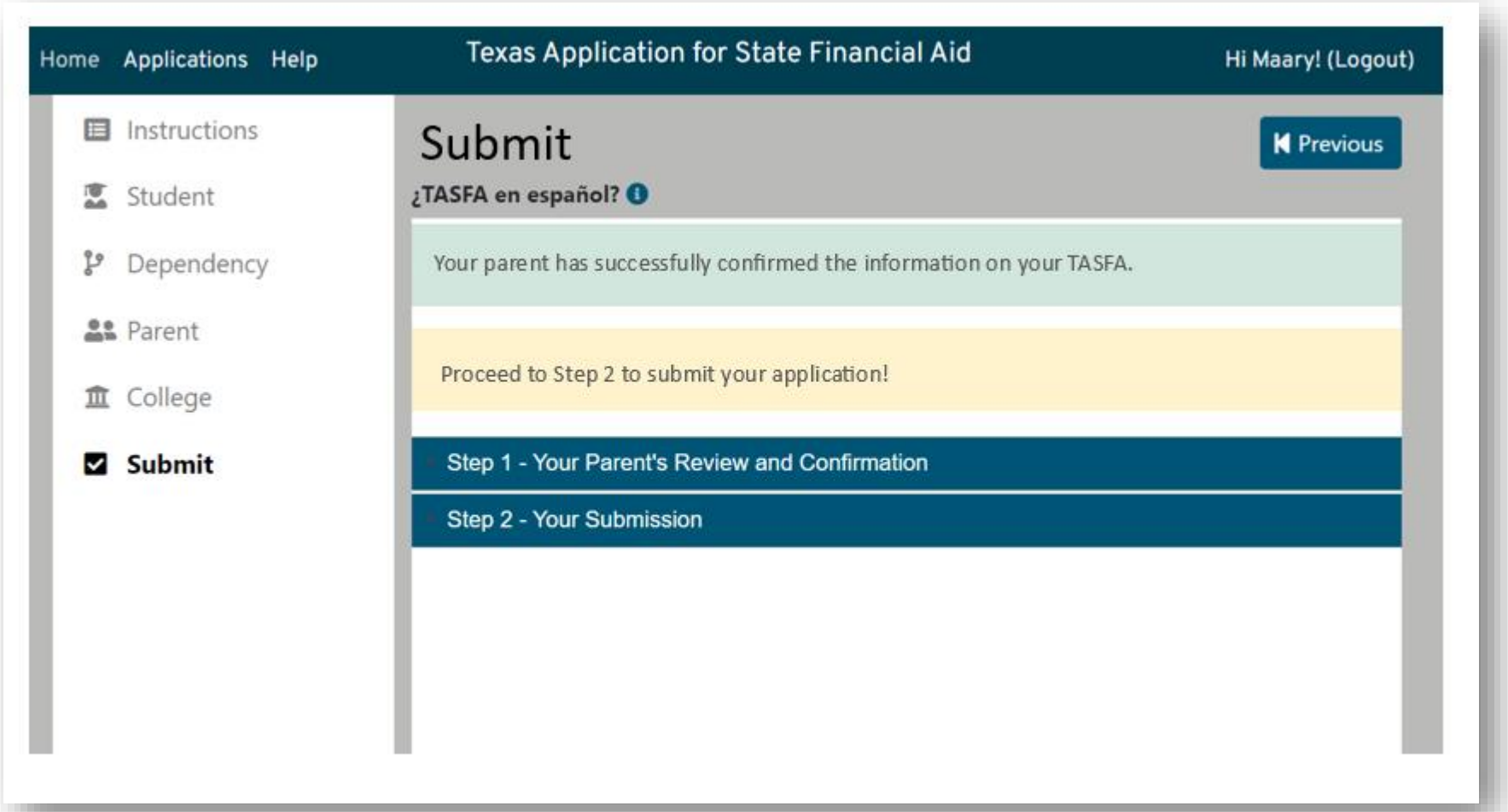
Parent Acknowledgment



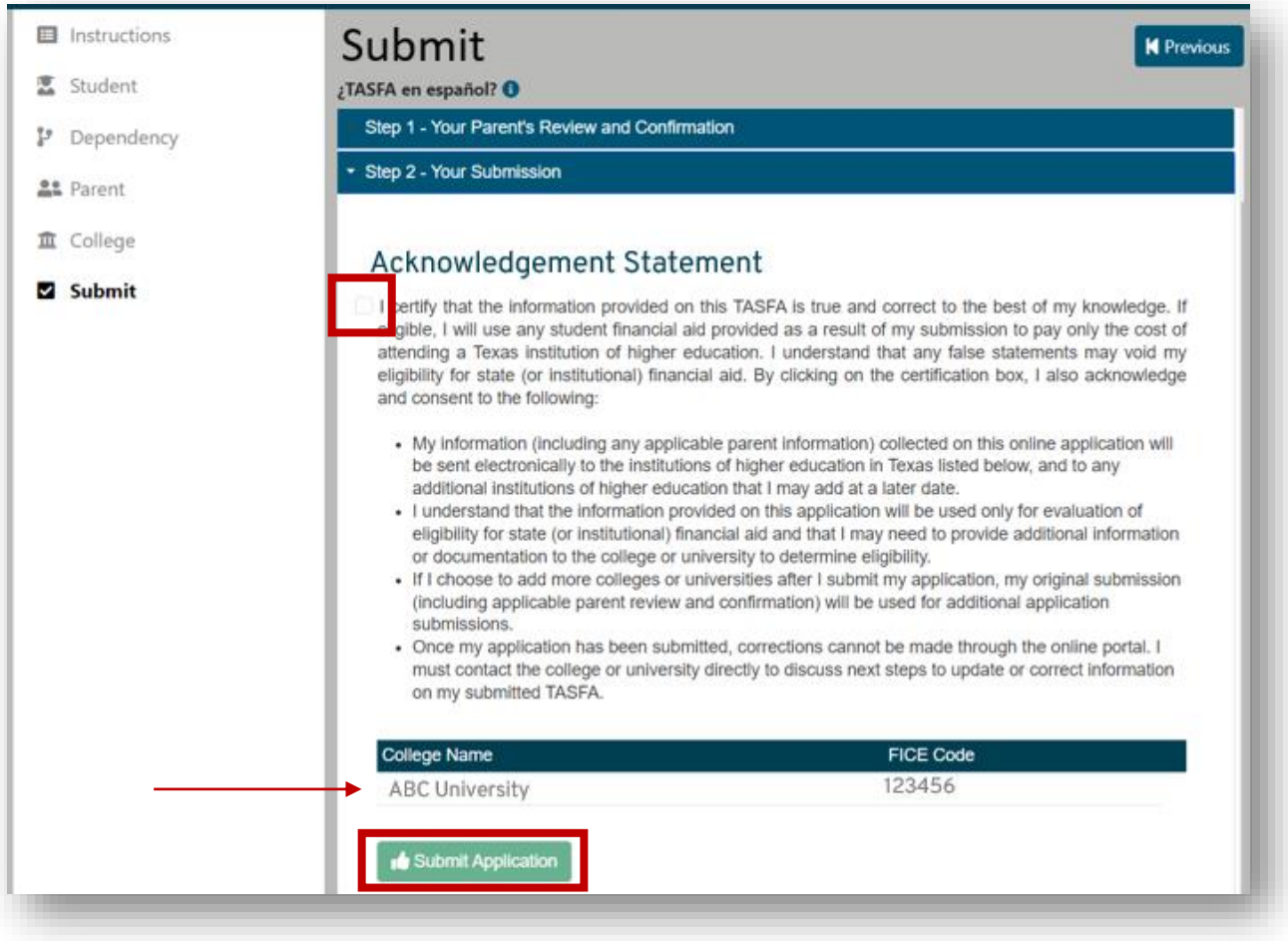
Highlights

- Parent will have read-only access.
- Once they have reviewed the application, they go to the Submit section.
- Parent will click Acknowledgement Statement box, the green Submit button.
- Page will pop up with a confirmation message.

Dependent Student Submission

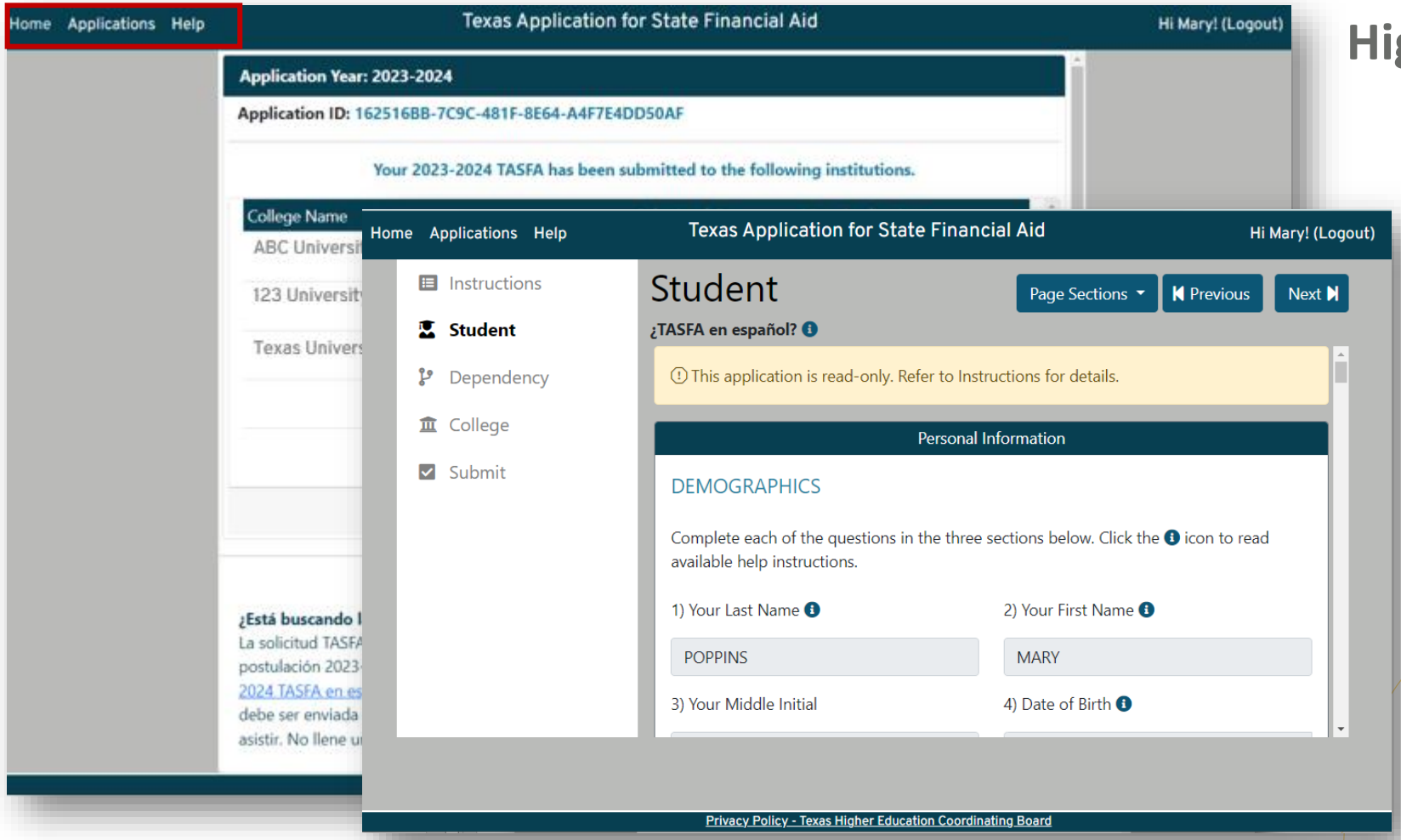


Dependent Student Submission



- Student will review colleges and then click Acknowledgement Statement box, the green Submit Application button.

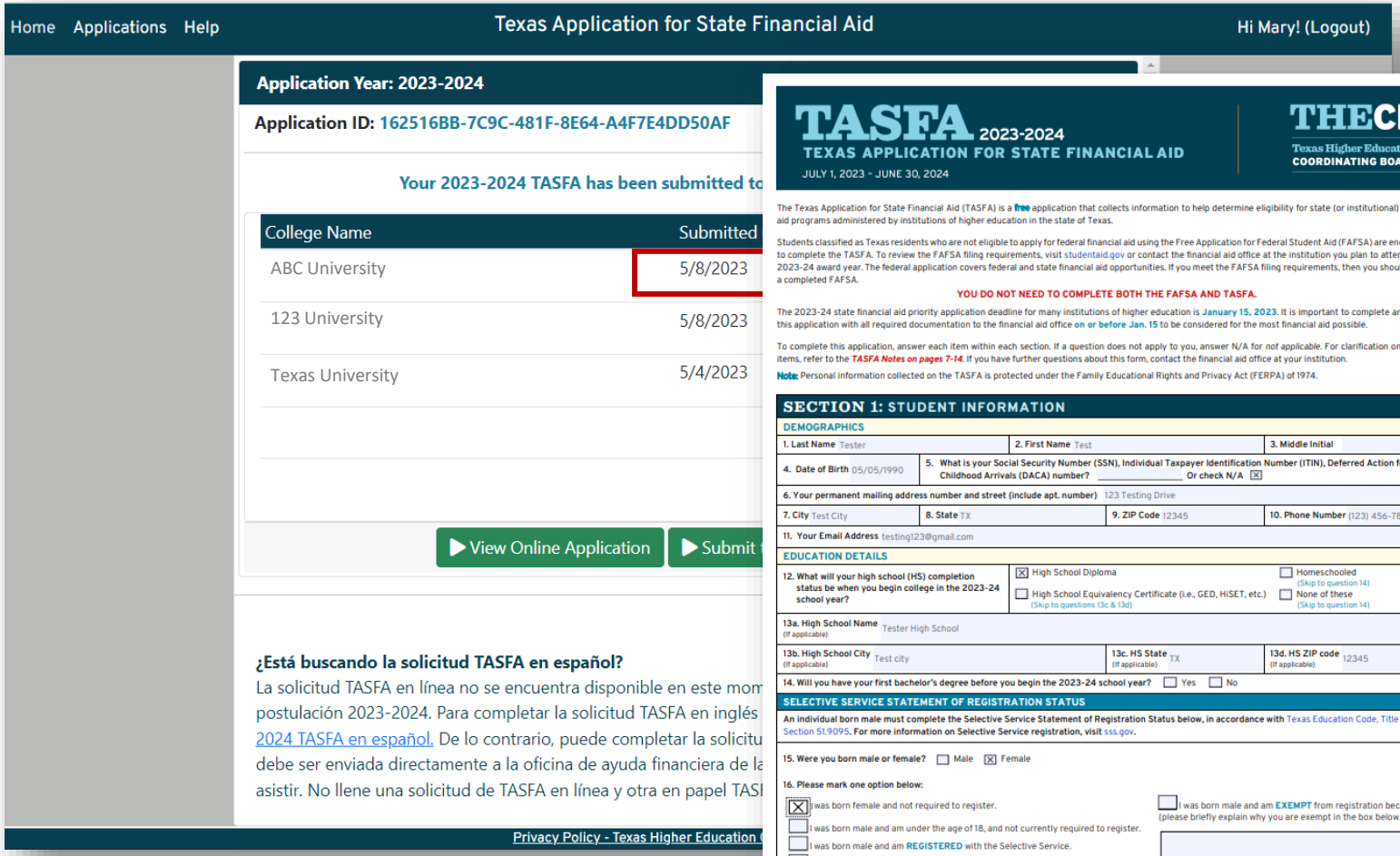
View Application

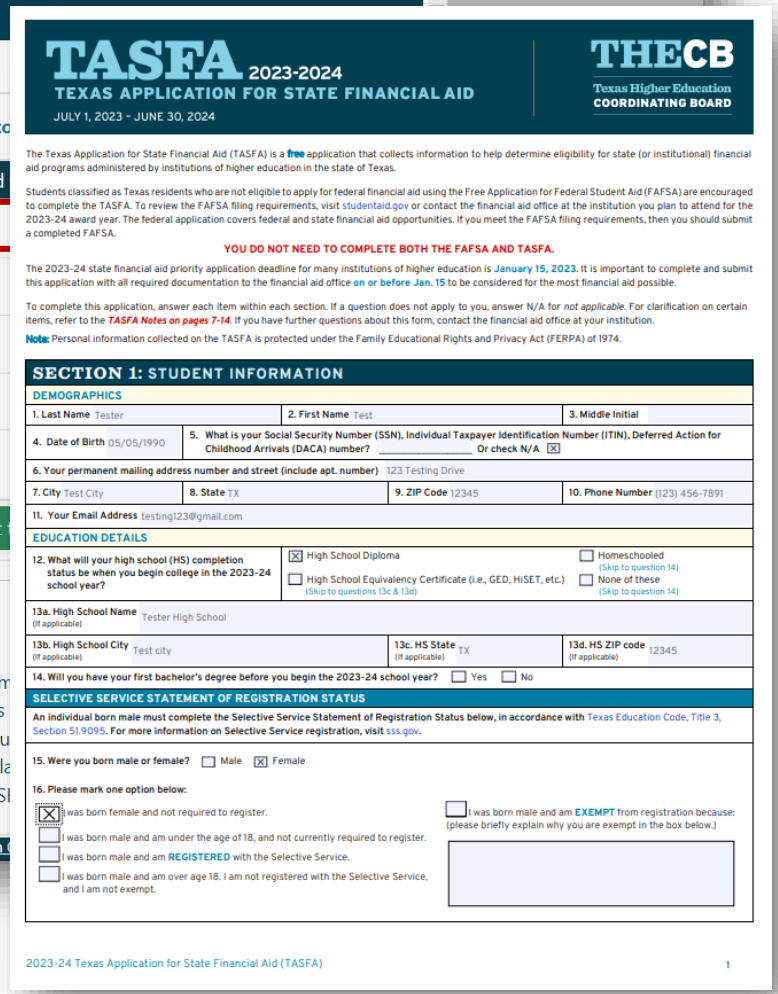


Highlights

- Student can go to the Applications page to:
  - View their submitted TASFA in a read-only format.

Printable Copy





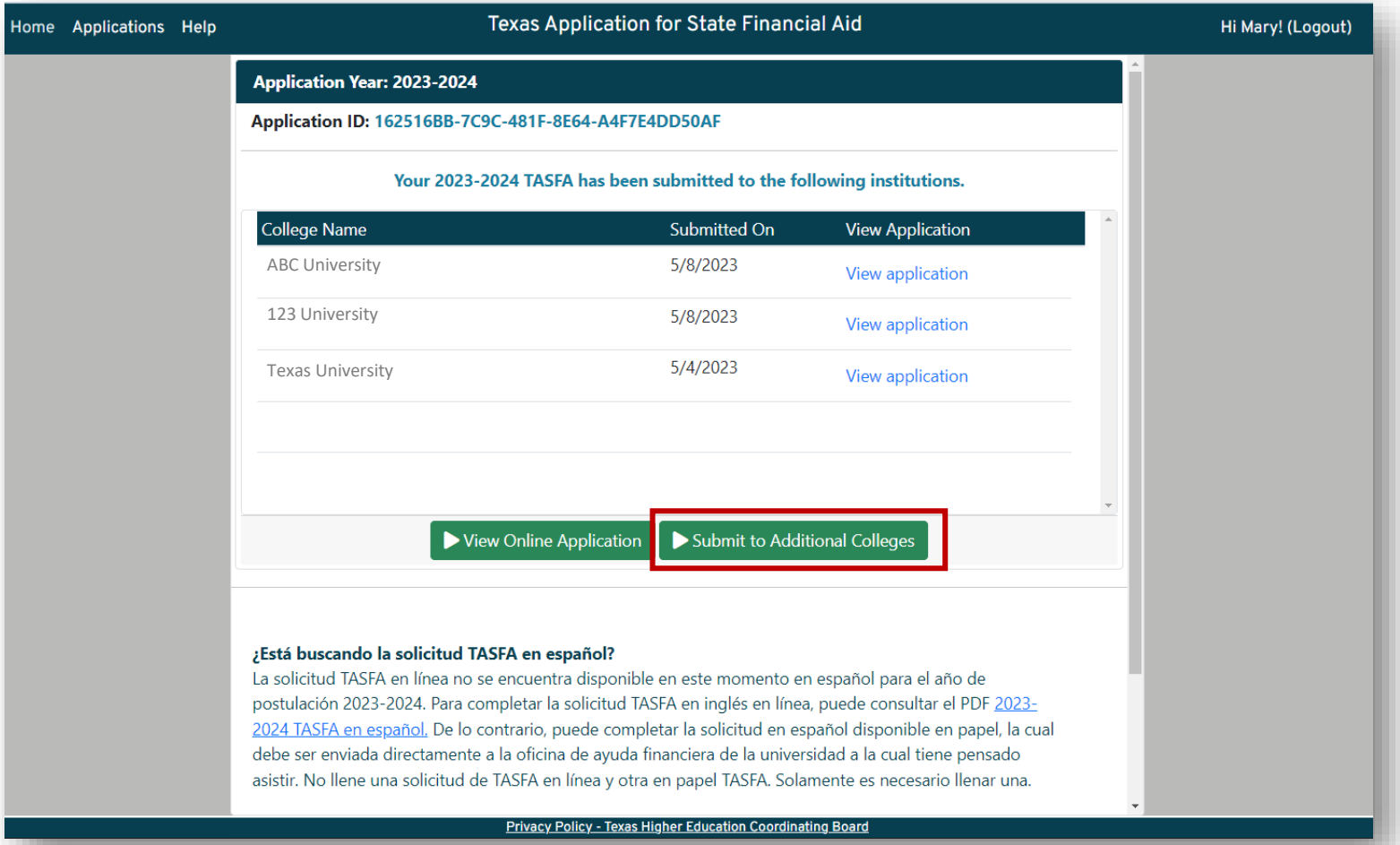
Highlights

- Student can go to the Applications page to:
  - View their submitted TASFA in a read-only format
  - View the date submitted or print a copy of their submitted TASFA (by school) in PDF format.

Question

What does your school collect as proof of a student's TASFA completion?

Add Colleges

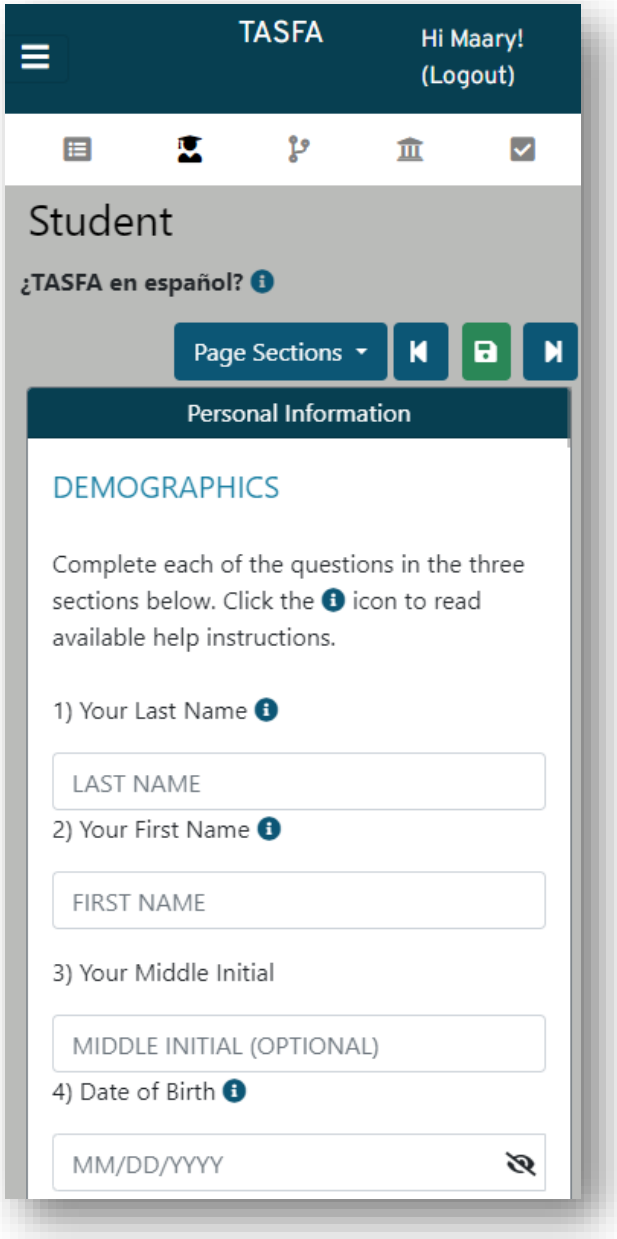


Highlights

- Student can go to the Applications page to:
  - View their submitted TASFA in a read-only format
  - View the date submitted or print a copy of their submitted TASFA (by school) in PDF format.
  - Add up to 10 colleges per submission.

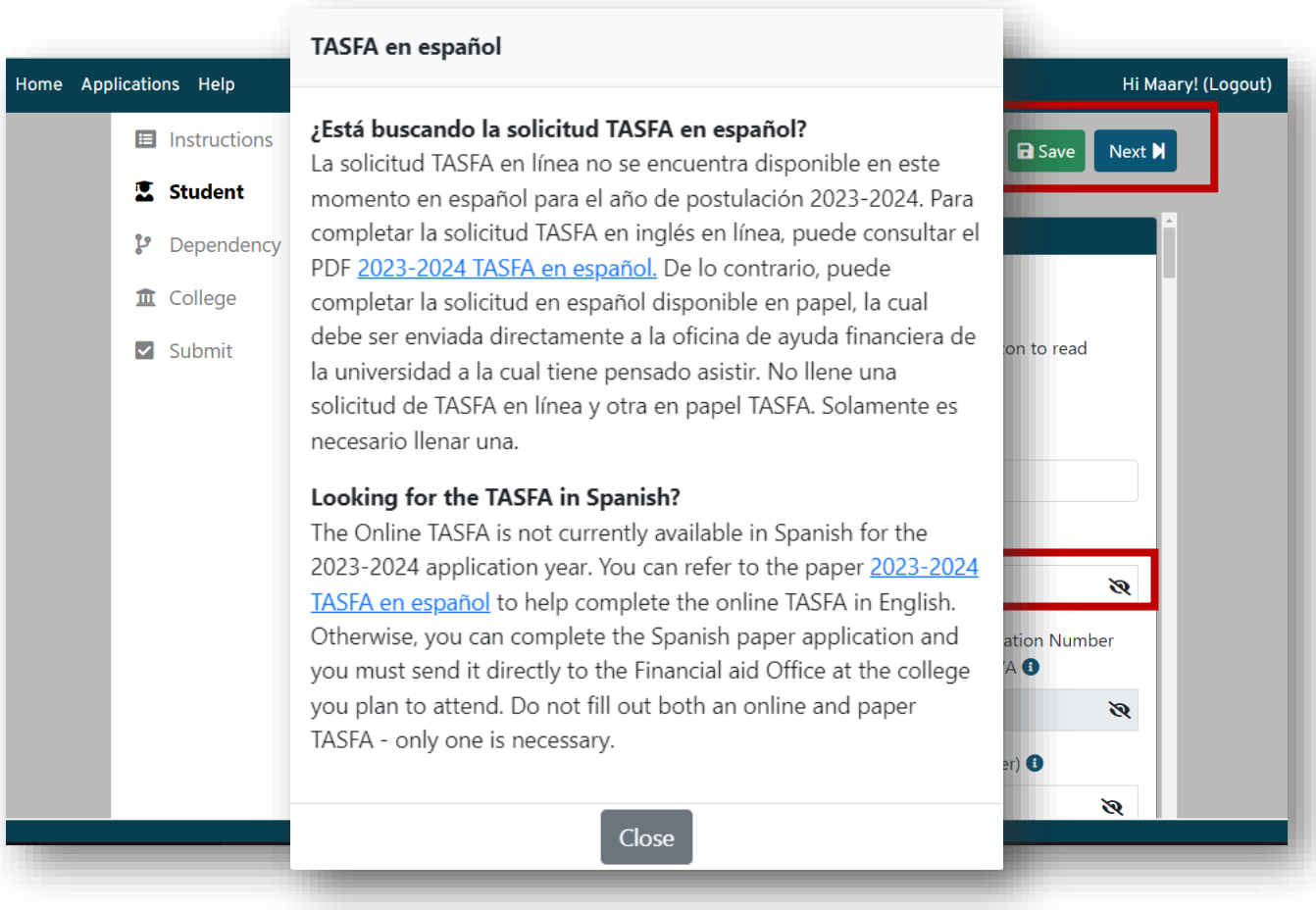
Features

- Application is dynamic so it will adjust to the device being used.



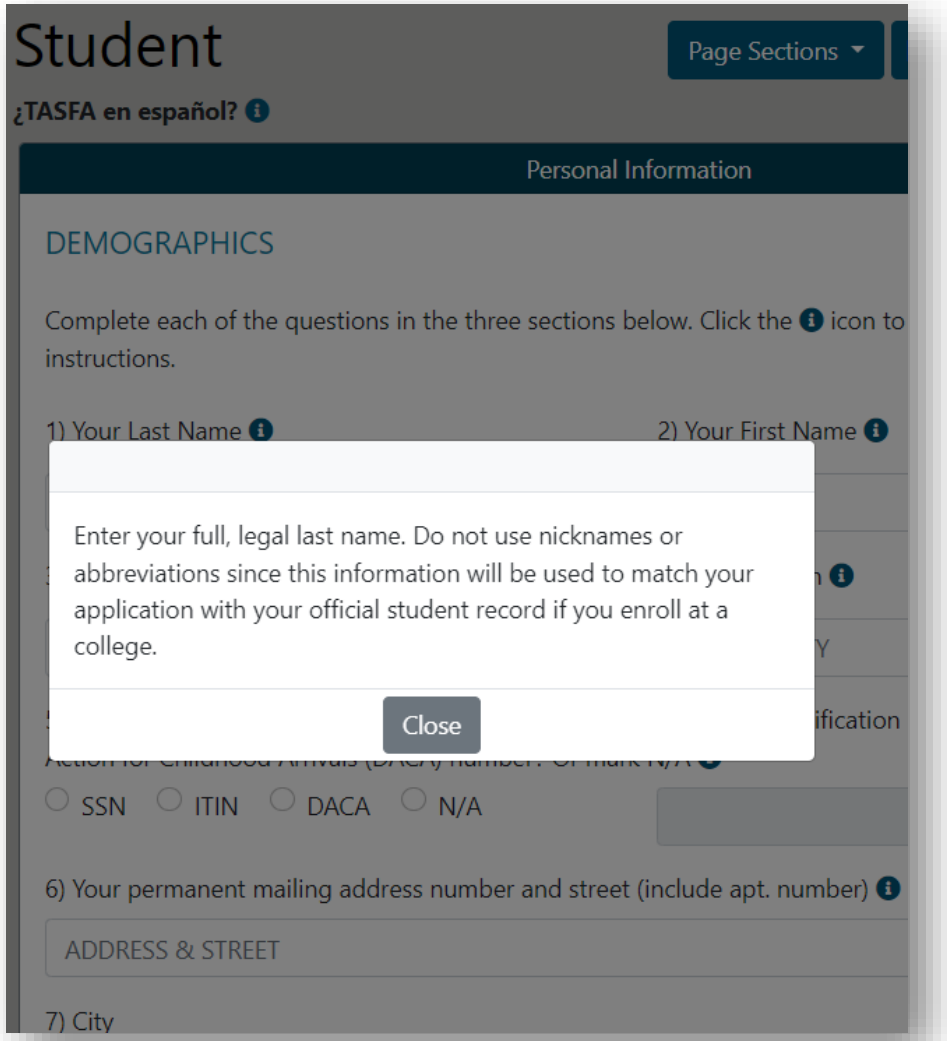
Features

- Application is dynamic so it will adjust to the device being used.
- Navigation buttons include an automatic “save” feature, so the user does not lose any completed progress.
- Links to the Spanish paper TASFA are included on each page so the user can use it as a reference or complete and mail it as an alternative.
- Masking is included to protect sensitive information.



Features

- Application is dynamic so it will adjust to the device being used.
- Navigation buttons include an automatic “save” feature, so the user does not lose any completed progress.
- Links to the Spanish paper TASFA are included on each page so the user can use it as a reference or complete and mail it as an alternative.
- Masking is included on specific fields to protect sensitive information.
- Help icons provide additional clarification on most fields to help user with questions.



Additional Guidance

Contact THECB

- Technical issues completing online TASFA
- General questions on application
- Account access issues
- Questions on THECB webpage

Contact Institution

- Next steps after TASFA has been submitted
- Details on required documentation
- Complex questions on filling out the TASFA

What if a dependent student cannot provide parent information on TASFA?

- The Online TASFA currently does not have a way for a dependent student to bypass providing parent information.
- The student would need to reach out to the financial aid office in these specific circumstances.

What if the student has two parents that are married or living together?

- Both parents' information will be needed on the TASFA.
- Parent 1 will need to acknowledge the information entered on the application for the student to submit.

What if the student has two parents that are divorced or not living together and not remarried?

- The parent that supports the student the most financially throughout over the 12-month period before the TAFSA is submitted will need to report their information on the TASFA as Parent 1.

What if the student has two parents that are divorced or not living together and one or both remarried?

- The parent that provides the most financial support throughout over the 12-month period before the TAFSA is submitted will need to report their information on the TASFA as Parent 1.
- If the parent that provides the most financial support to the student is remarried, then the step-parent will need to report their information on the TASFA as Parent 2.

What if the student lives with a guardian or relatives and their parents live in another country?

- Unless the guardian or relative has legally adopted the student, the guardian or relative should not put their information on the TASFA.
- The parent's or parents' information will still be needed on the TASFA.
- The student will not be able to continue filling out the online TASFA without the parent information and may have to reach out to the college on their circumstance.

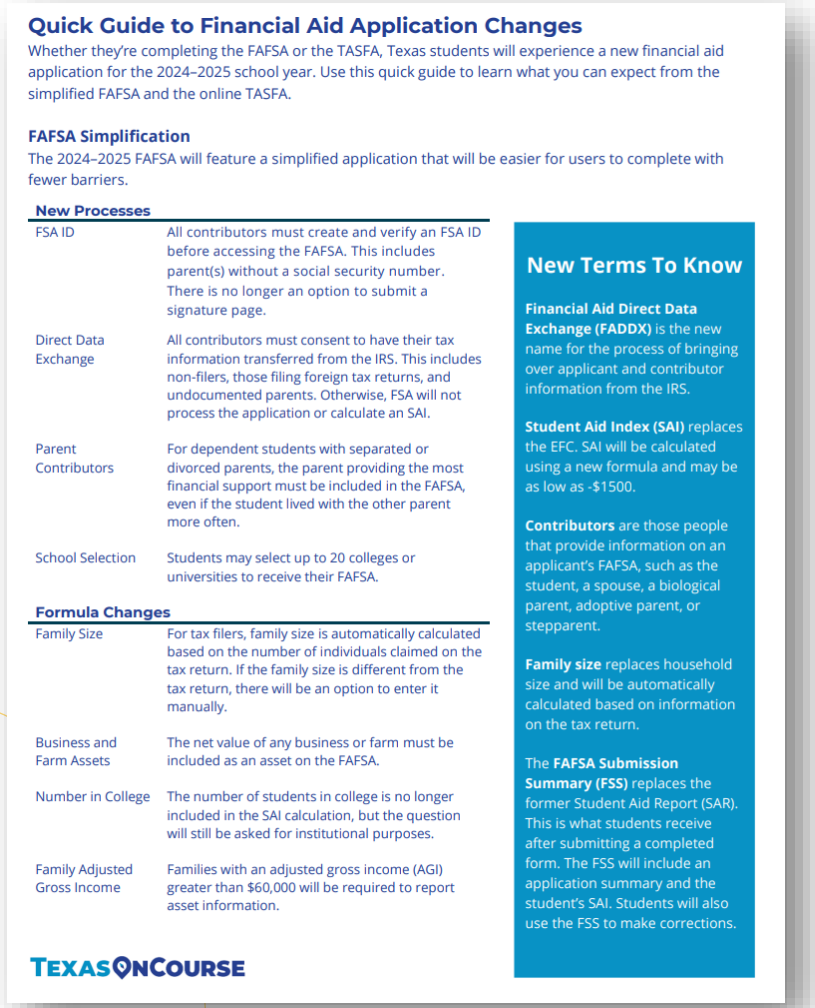
Online TASFA vs Online FAFSA

Unlike the FAFSA, the Online TASFA:

- Cannot pull IRS tax information like the FAFSA, and students will need to follow up with the financial aid office on documentation.
- Will not have upload ability for tax or other documents
- Cannot copy over prior application information for the student like the FAFSA, but the student can use the same account and email.
- Does not calculate a Student Aid Index or estimate financial aid eligibility like the FAFSA. It is only a pass-through of information to the selected college.
- Will not be available in Spanish for 2024-25 but will have linked and available a paper TASFA in Spanish.

But, the online TASFA will continue to improve and develop over time.

Financial Aid Quick Guide



Quick Guide to Financial Aid Application Changes

Whether they're completing the FAFSA or the TASFA, Texas students will experience a new financial aid application for the 2024–2025 school year. Use this quick guide to learn what you can expect from the simplified FAFSA and the online TASFA.

FAFSA Simplification

The 2024–2025 FAFSA will feature a simplified application that will be easier for users to complete with fewer barriers.

New Processes

FSA ID	All contributors must create and verify an FSA ID before accessing the FAFSA. This includes parent(s) without a social security number. There is no longer an option to submit a signature page.
Direct Data Exchange	All contributors must consent to have their tax information transferred from the IRS. This includes non-filers, those filing foreign tax returns, and undocumented parents. Otherwise, FSA will not process the application or calculate an SAI.
Parent Contributors	For dependent students with separated or divorced parents, the parent providing the most financial support must be included in the FAFSA, even if the student lived with the other parent more often.
School Selection	Students may select up to 20 colleges or universities to receive their FAFSA.

Formula Changes

Family Size	For tax filers, family size is automatically calculated based on the number of individuals claimed on the tax return. If the family size is different from the tax return, there will be an option to enter it manually.
Business and Farm Assets	The net value of any business or farm must be included as an asset on the FAFSA.
Number in College	The number of students in college is no longer included in the SAI calculation, but the question will still be asked for institutional purposes.
Family Adjusted Gross Income	Families with an adjusted gross income (AGI) greater than $60,000 will be required to report asset information.

New Terms To Know

Financial Aid Direct Data Exchange (FADDX) is the new name for the process of bringing over applicant and contributor information from the IRS.

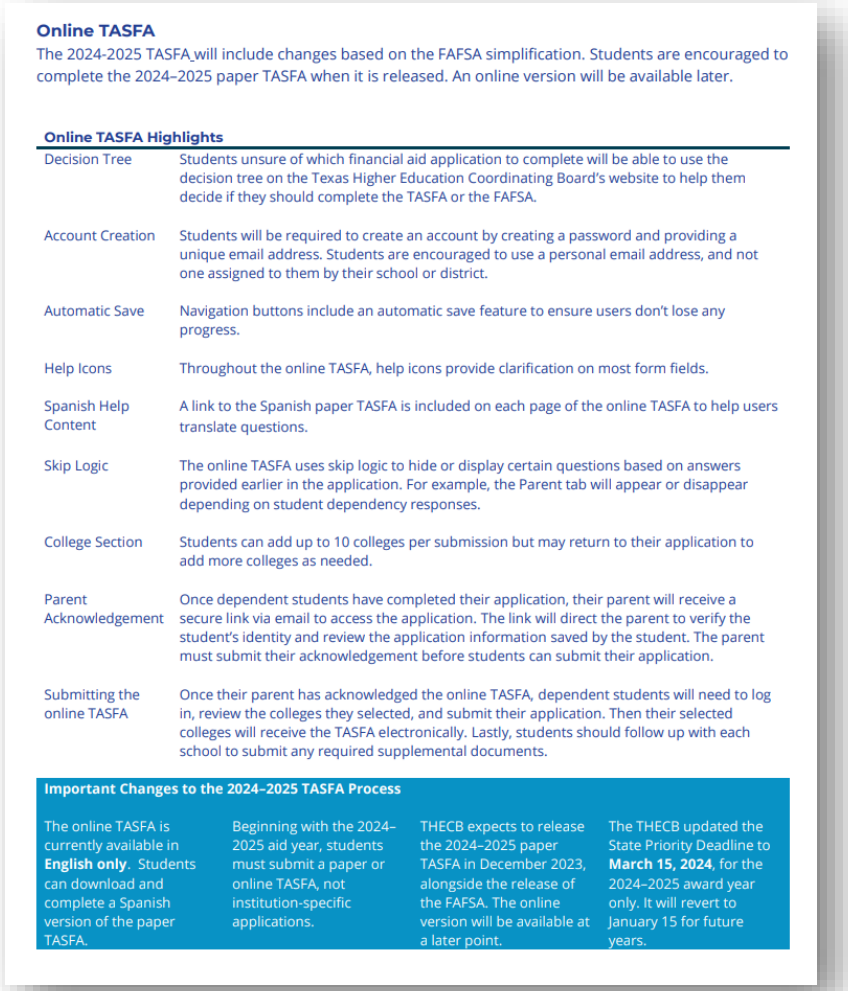
Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces the EFC. SAI will be calculated using a new formula and may be as low as -$1500.

Contributors are those people that provide information on an applicant's FAFSA, such as the student, a spouse, a biological parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent.

Family size replaces household size and will be automatically calculated based on information on the tax return.

The **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** replaces the former Student Aid Report (SAR). This is what students receive after submitting a completed form. The FSS will include an application summary and the student's SAI. Students will also use the FSS to make corrections.

TEXASONCOURSE



Online TASFA

The 2024-2025 TASFA will include changes based on the FAFSA simplification. Students are encouraged to complete the 2024–2025 paper TASFA when it is released. An online version will be available later.

Online TASFA Highlights

Decision Tree	Students unsure of which financial aid application to complete will be able to use the decision tree on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's website to help them decide if they should complete the TASFA or the FAFSA.
Account Creation	Students will be required to create an account by creating a password and providing a unique email address. Students are encouraged to use a personal email address, and not one assigned to them by their school or district.
Automatic Save	Navigation buttons include an automatic save feature to ensure users don't lose any progress.
Help Icons	Throughout the online TASFA, help icons provide clarification on most form fields.
Spanish Help Content	A link to the Spanish paper TASFA is included on each page of the online TASFA to help users translate questions.
Skip Logic	The online TASFA uses skip logic to hide or display certain questions based on answers provided earlier in the application. For example, the Parent tab will appear or disappear depending on student dependency responses.
College Section	Students can add up to 10 colleges per submission but may return to their application to add more colleges as needed.
Parent Acknowledgement	Once dependent students have completed their application, their parent will receive a secure link via email to access the application. The link will direct the parent to verify the student's identity and review the application information saved by the student. The parent must submit their acknowledgement before students can submit their application.
Submitting the online TASFA	Once their parent has acknowledged the online TASFA, dependent students will need to log in, review the colleges they selected, and submit their application. Then their selected colleges will receive the TASFA electronically. Lastly, students should follow up with each school to submit any required supplemental documents.

Important Changes to the 2024–2025 TASFA Process

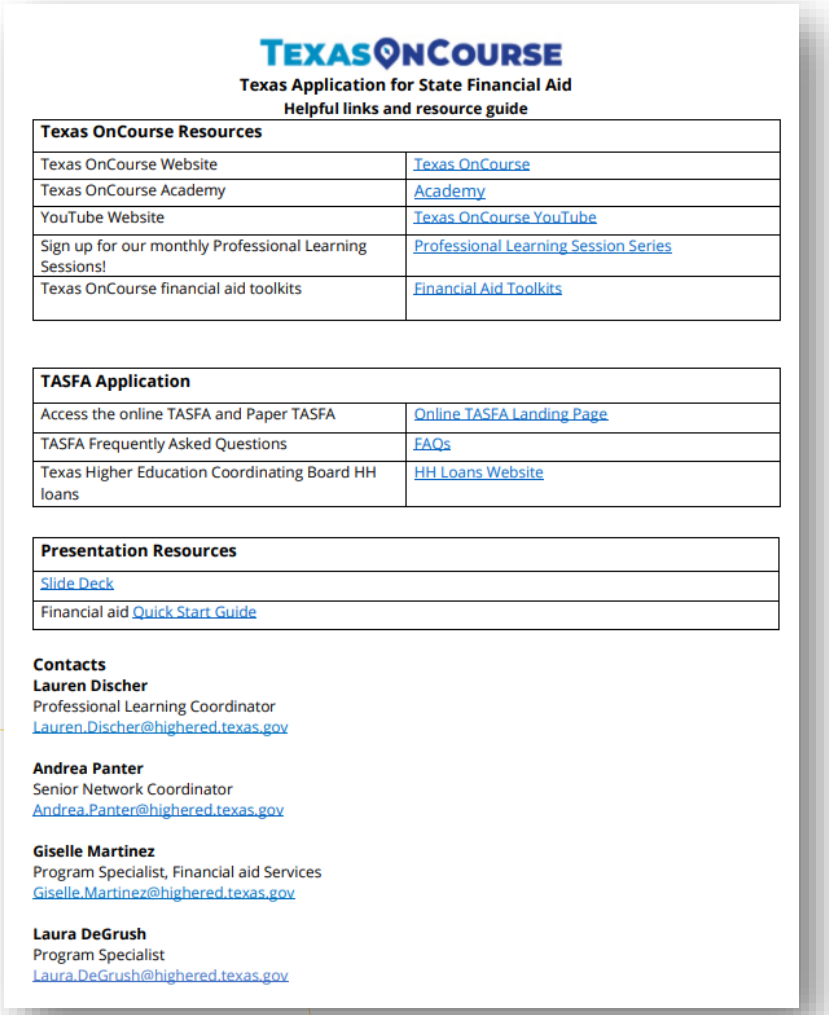
The online TASFA is currently available in **English only**. Students can download and complete a Spanish version of the paper TASFA.

Beginning with the 2024–2025 aid year, students must submit a paper or online TASFA, not institution-specific applications.

THECB expects to release the 2024–2025 paper TASFA in December 2023, alongside the release of the FAFSA. The online version will be available at a later point.

The THECB updated the State Priority Deadline to **March 15, 2024**, for the 2024–2025 award year only. It will revert to January 15 for future years.

Resource Document



TEXAS ONCOURSE

Texas Application for State Financial Aid

Helpful links and resource guide

Texas OnCourse Resources	
Texas OnCourse Website	Texas OnCourse
Texas OnCourse Academy	Academy
YouTube Website	Texas OnCourse YouTube
Sign up for our monthly Professional Learning Sessions!	Professional Learning Session Series
Texas OnCourse financial aid toolkits	Financial Aid Toolkits

TASFA Application	
Access the online TASFA and Paper TASFA	Online TASFA Landing Page
TASFA Frequently Asked Questions	FAQs
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board HH loans	HH Loans Website

Presentation Resources
Slide Deck
Financial aid Quick Start Guide

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Questions?

Thank you!

We appreciate your feedback.

Please take a moment to complete our survey.

Questions?

Texas Higher Education
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