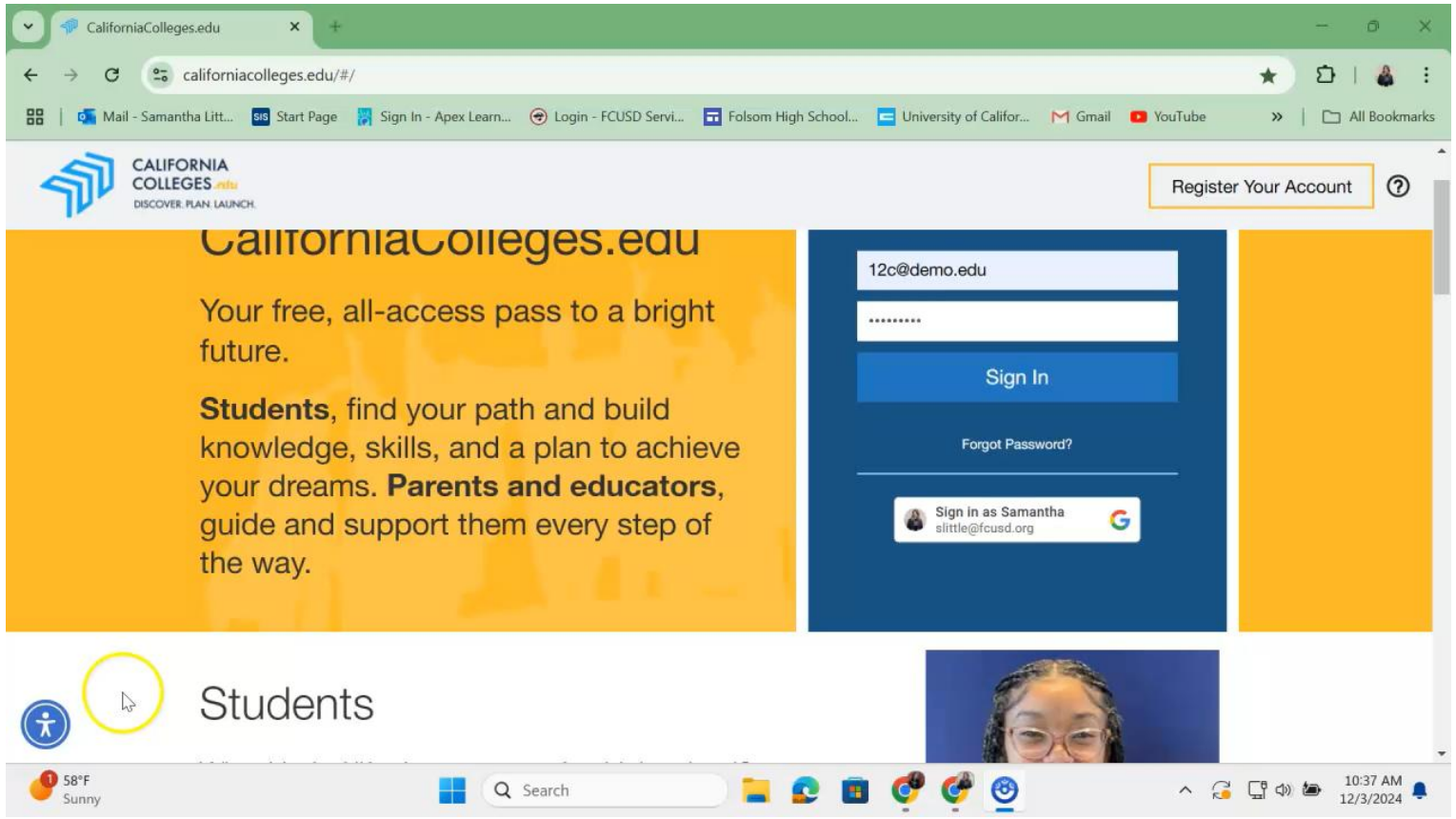
Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA)

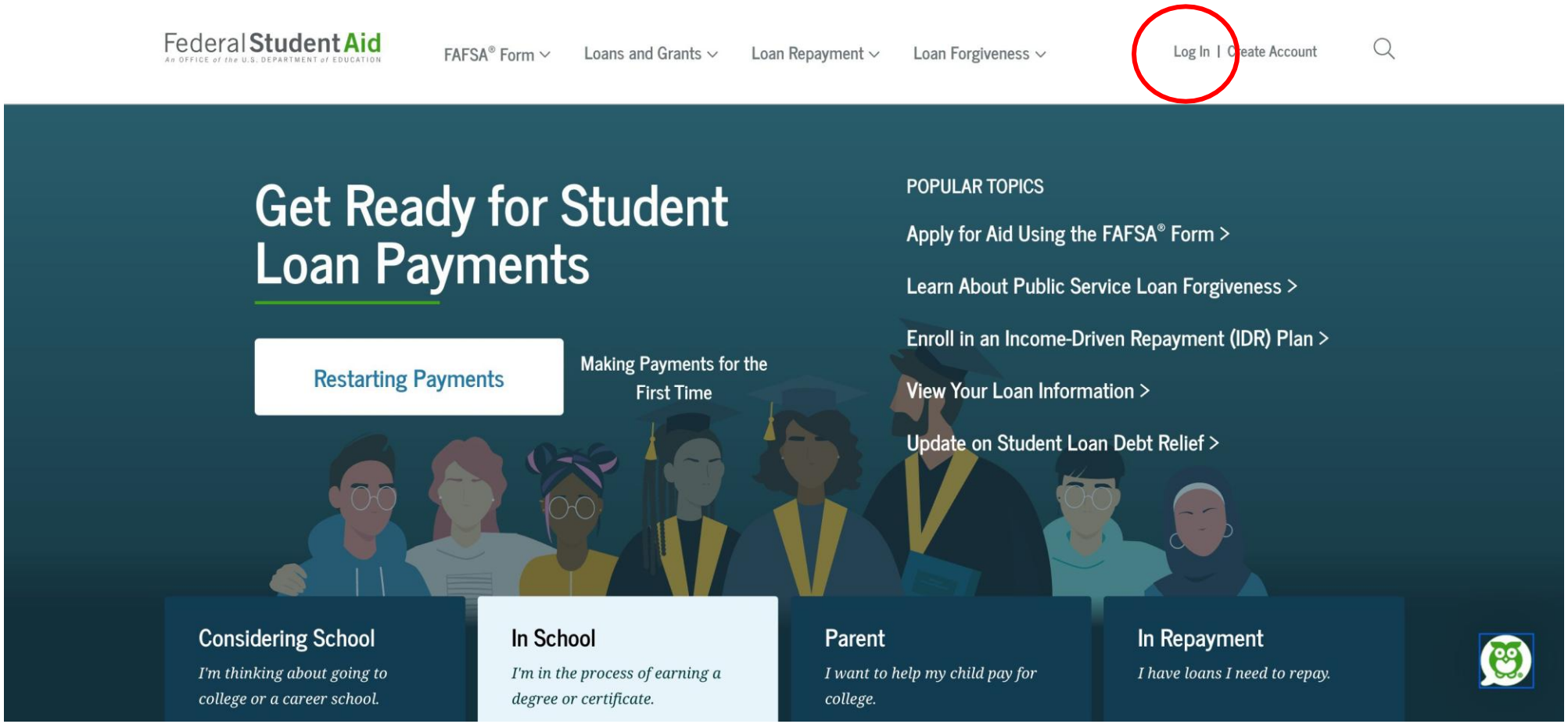
https://go.screenpal.com/watch/cZleF5nnjj0

Apply using CaliforniaColleges.edu



Let's Get Started!

www.studentaid.gov



Students and Parents Need to Create a studentaid.gov account/ FSA ID

What You Need:

- Name
- SSN
- DOB
- Phone Number
- Email

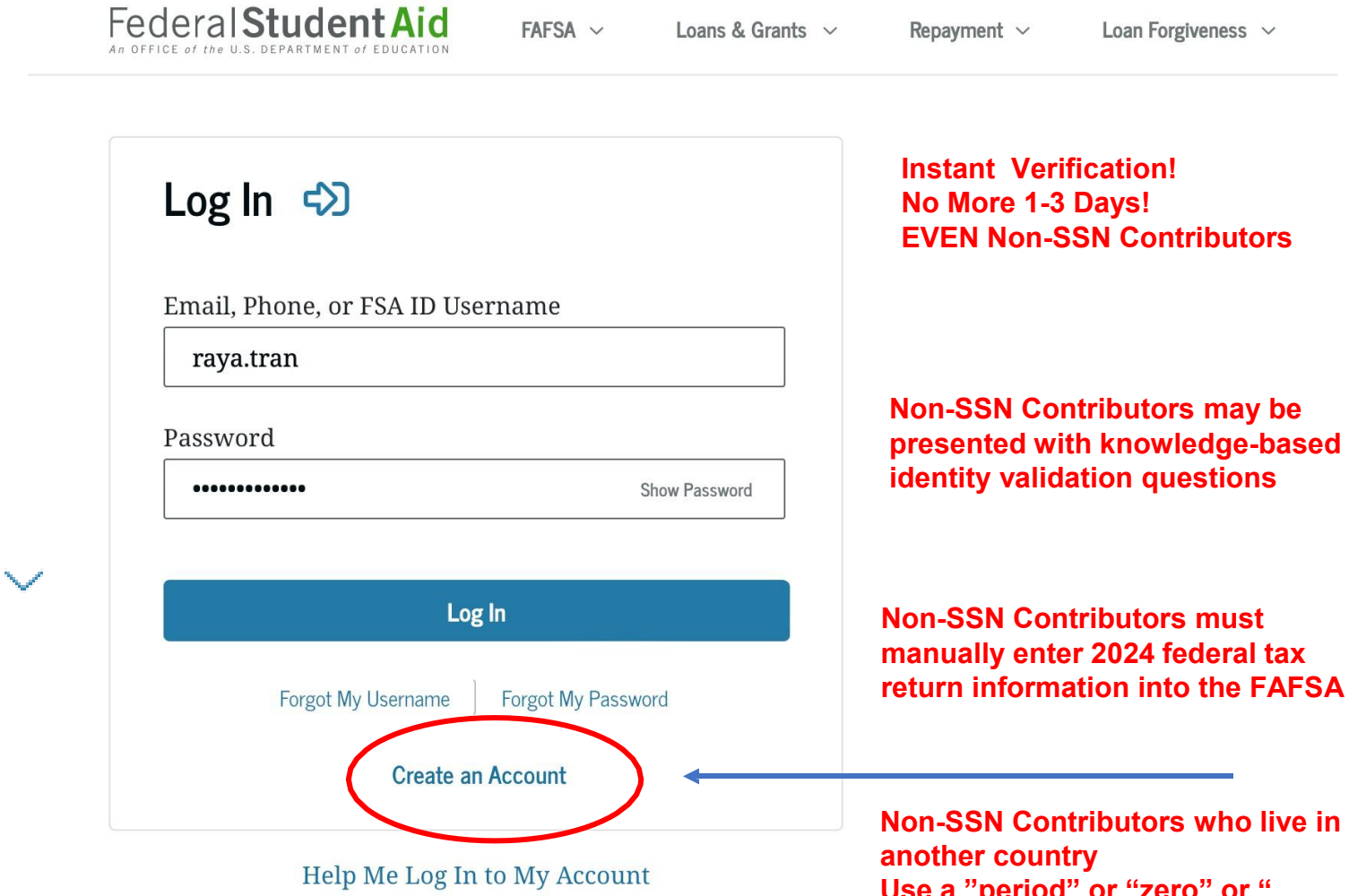
PARENTS: IF you DO NOT have an SSN…. Click

What if I don't have a Social Security number?

If you don't have a Social Security number (SSN) **and** at least one these two statements describes you, you can check the box below to create an account without an SSN:

- I am a citizen of the Freely Associated States who needs to complete the FAFSA® form online.
- I am a parent or spouse of a student who is applying for aid.

☐ **I do not have a Social Security number.**
I am a citizen of the Freely Associated States and I do not have a Social Security number (SSN); *OR* I am a parent or spouse of a student who is applying for aid and I do not have an SSN.



Instant Verification!
No More 1-3 Days!
EVEN Non-SSN Contributors

Non-SSN Contributors may be presented with knowledge-based identity validation questions

Non-SSN Contributors must manually enter 2024 federal tax return information into the FAFSA

Non-SSN Contributors who live in another country
Use a "period" or "zero" or " space" for the street address or leave it blank and edit later
Skip the phone number
Enter email only

Which of a Dependent Student's Parents Needs an FSA ID?

If parents are **married**	If parents are **unmarried + living together**	If parents are **divorced/separated + NOT living together**
+ File taxes together = only one parent needs an account	**Both parents** need accounts	**The parent who provided more financial support** in the last 12 months needs an account
OR		**OR**
+ DIDN'T file taxes together = both parents need accounts		**If that parent remarried + DIDN'T file taxes together = both the parent and step-parent** need accounts

FSA ID STEP BY STEP VIDEO

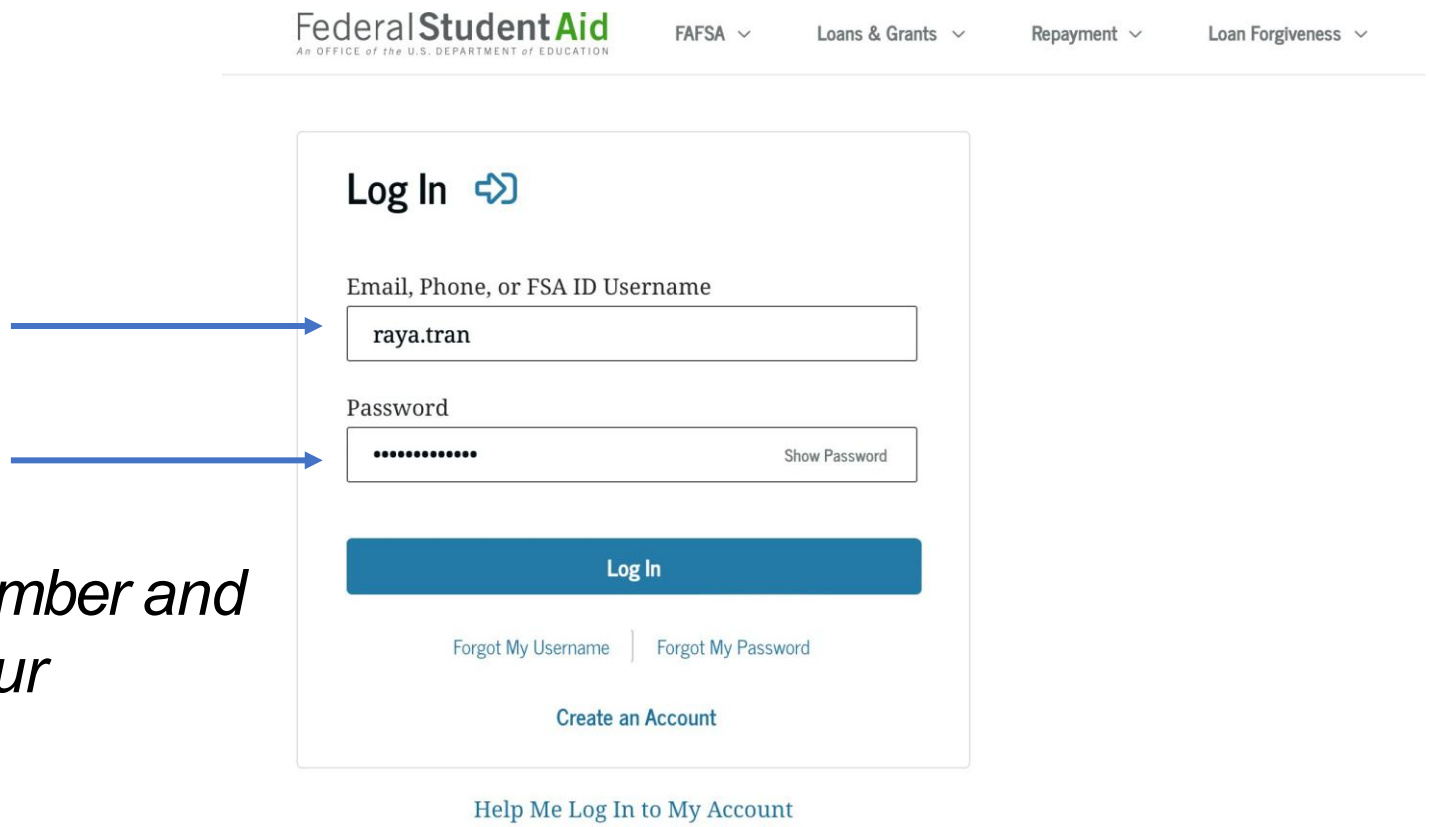


Log Into The FAFSA

Log In: FSA ID

- Username
- Password

If you verified your phone number and email you can use that as your username



Start A New FAFSA

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA | Loans & Grants | Repayment | Loan Forgiveness | Raya

2026–27 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.



Start a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

Edit a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form

Edit Existing Forms

Accept an Invitation for a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form

Accept an Invitation

Need the 2025–26 FAFSA Form?

Start New Form | Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in

Some states and schools use information from the FAFSA® form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline doesn't impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year

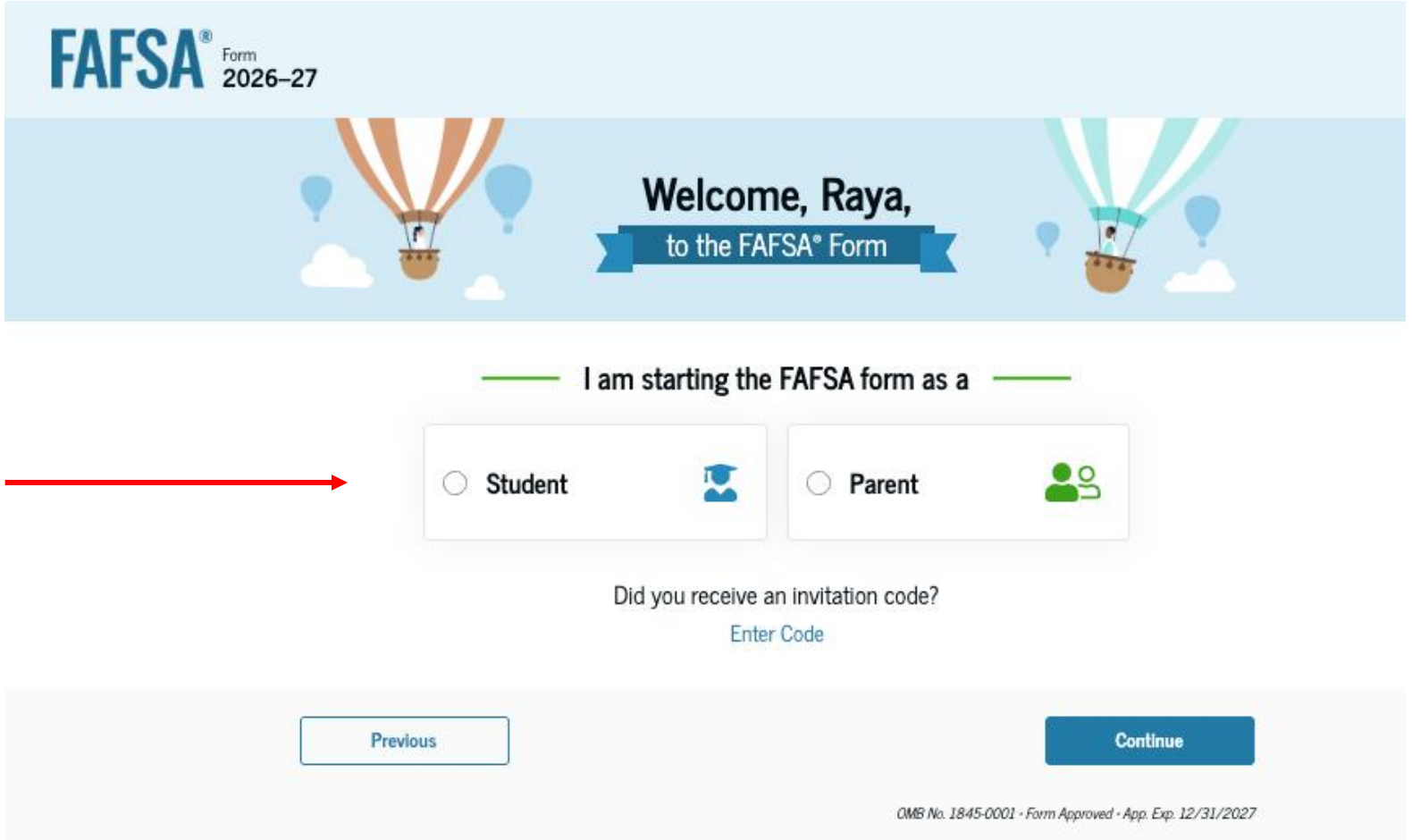
State of Residence

Find Deadlines

View All FAFSA Deadlines

Who is Completing the FAFSA?

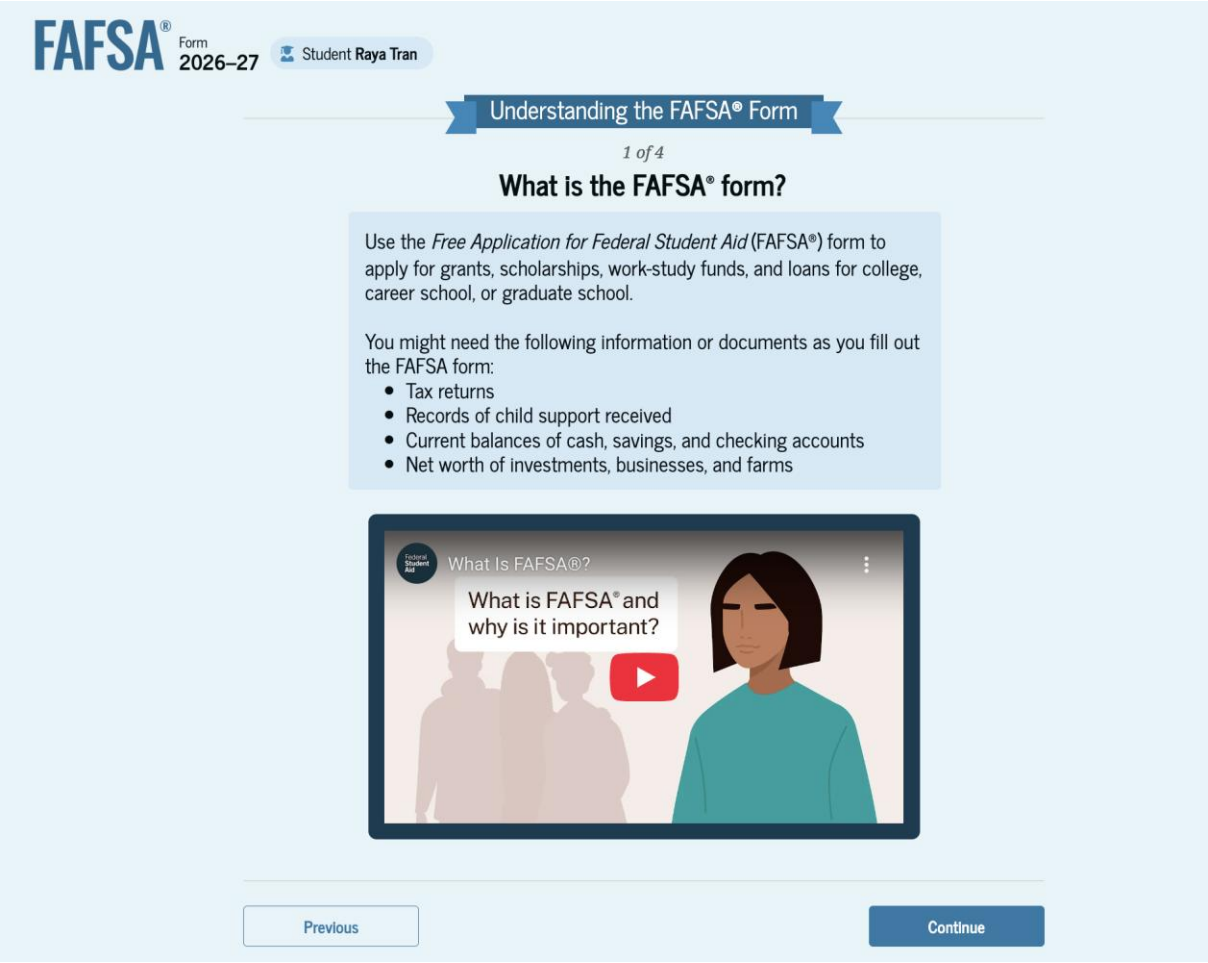
After logging in, the student can select the applicable role to fill out the FAFSA® form: "Student" or "Parent." The student selects "Student."



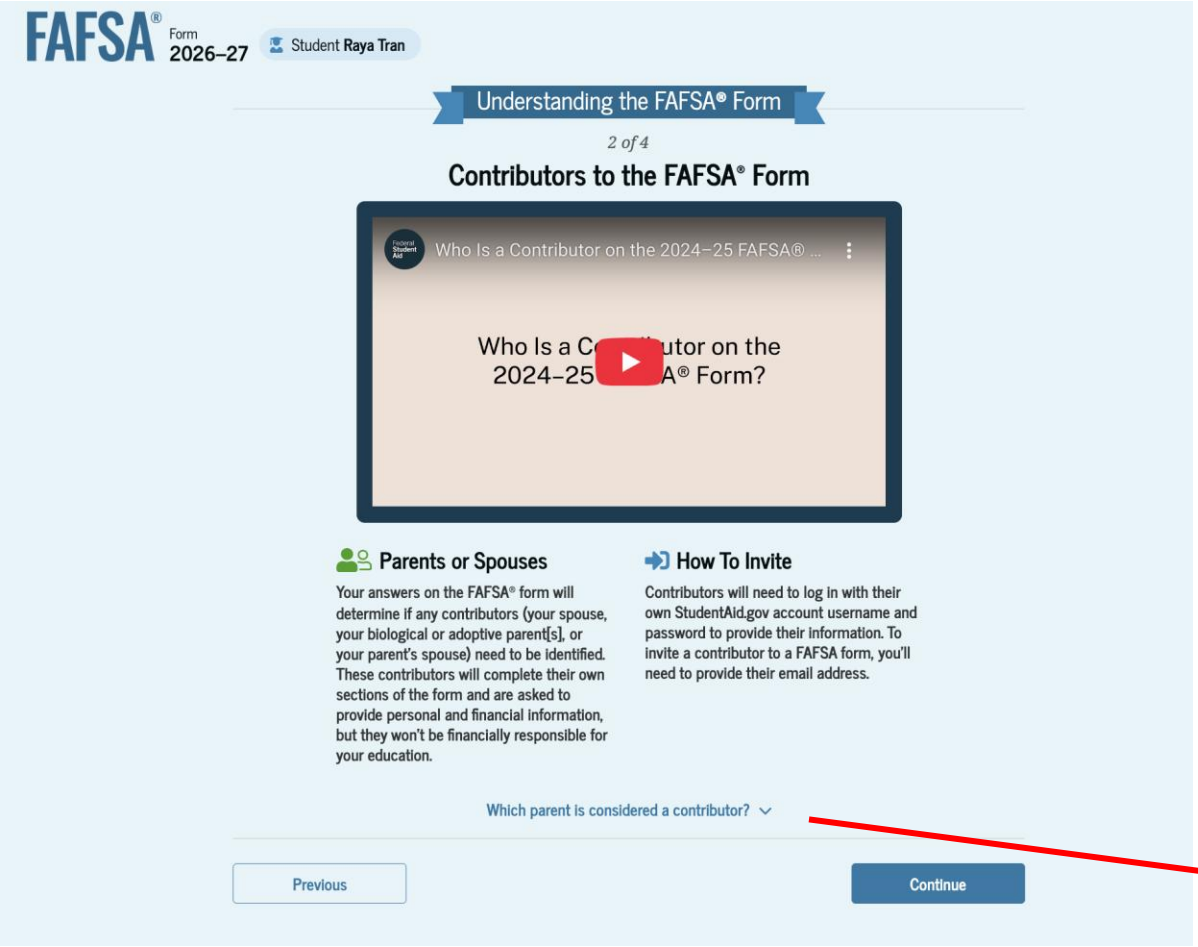
What is the FAFSA Form?

Short FAFSA Overview Video

When the student starts the 2026-2027 FAFSA® form for the first time, they are taken through the FAFSA onboarding process. The first onboarding page provides an introduction of the FAFSA form and an accompanying video.



Contributors: Parents



PARENTS!: You will be invited by email by your student to complete the Contributor Section of the FAFSA

Students will **ONLY** need Parent's:
Personal Email Address

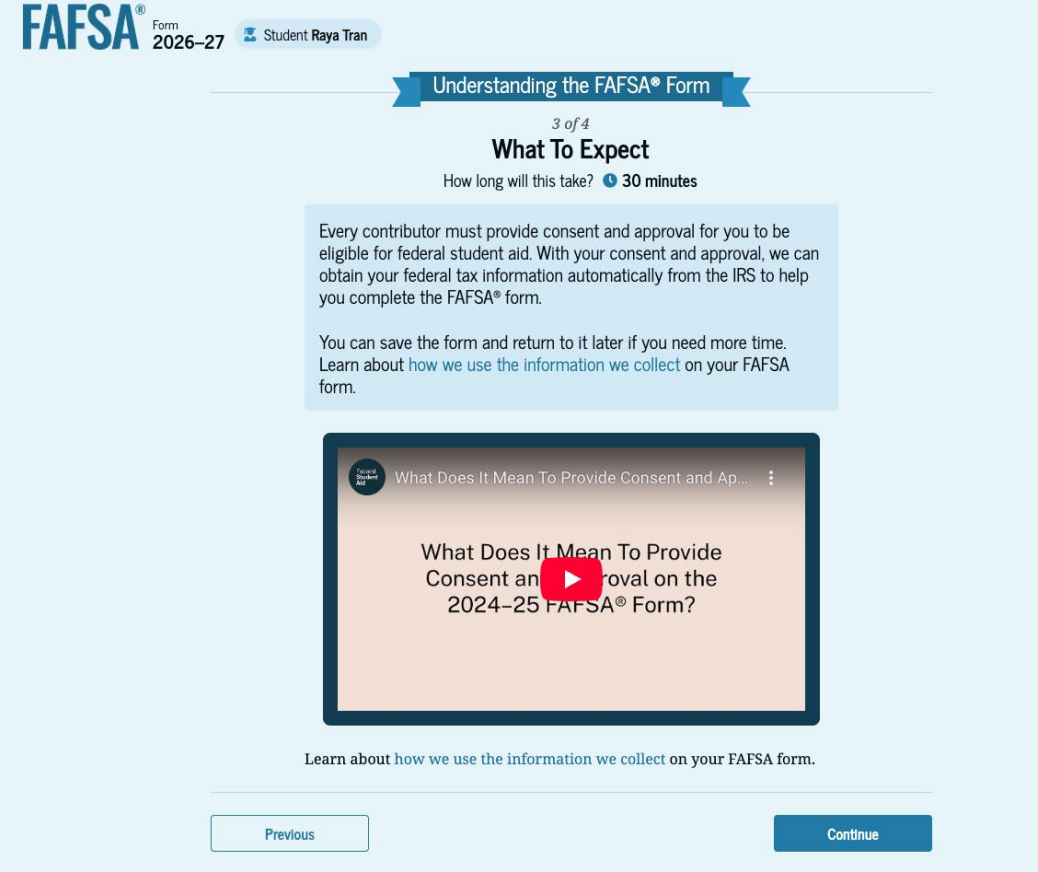
- Non-case sensitive code is sent via email to the contributor
- Contributor can then sign in or create and FSA ID
- Only when the student is the FAFSA initiator

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

The second FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about contributors that may be required to participate in the student's FAFSA form, including an accompanying video that explains contributors, and information on how the student will invite them. Documents that may be needed to fill out the form are also included on this page.

What to Expect!



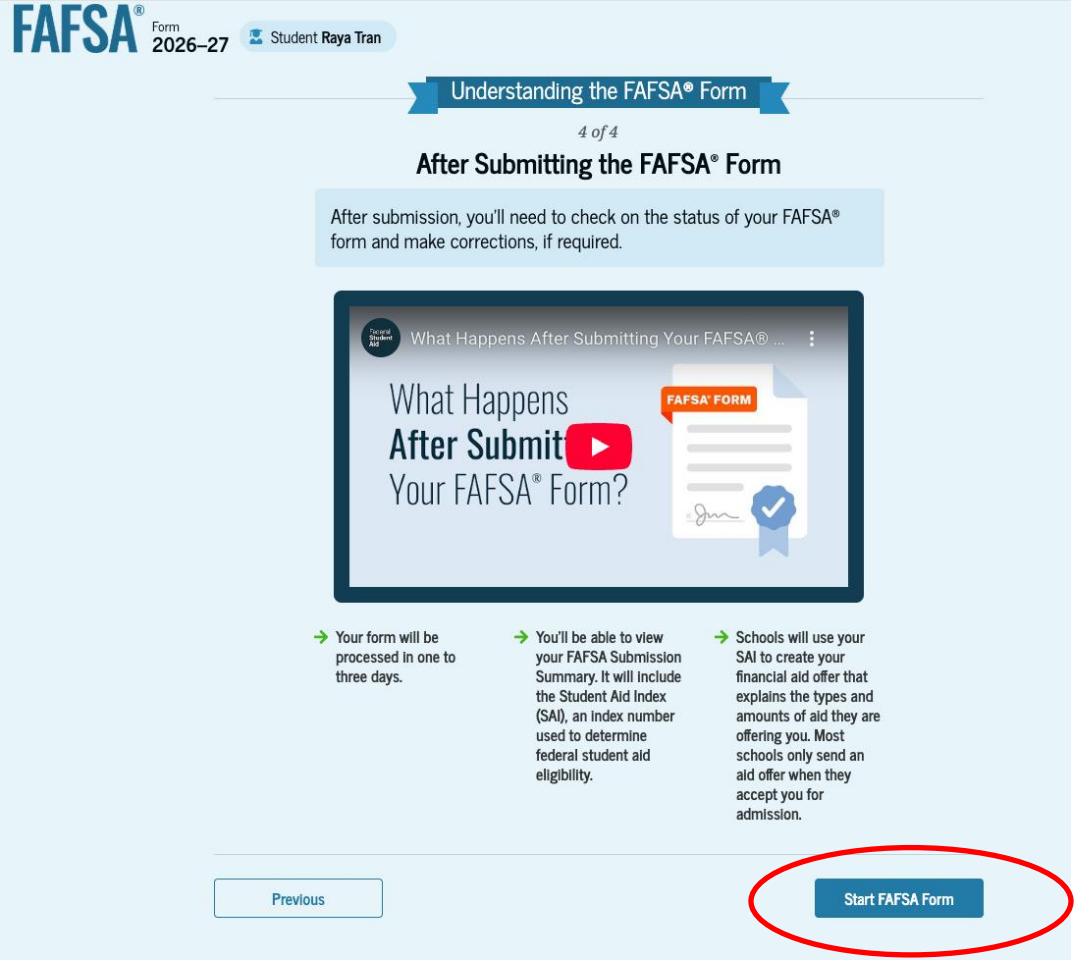
FSA estimates 30 minutes to complete

You can save and return to the form if needed

All Contributors **MUST** provide consent for the IRS Direct Data Exchange

The third FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about what the student can expect when completing their FAFSA form. This includes information about consent and approval, a time estimate for completing the form, and that they can save the form and return later if needed, along with an accompanying video.

After Submitting the FAFSA



The last FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about what to expect once the FAFSA form is completed, submitted, and processed. On this page, the student can select "Start FAFSA Form" to begin.

Your form will be processed in 3 days

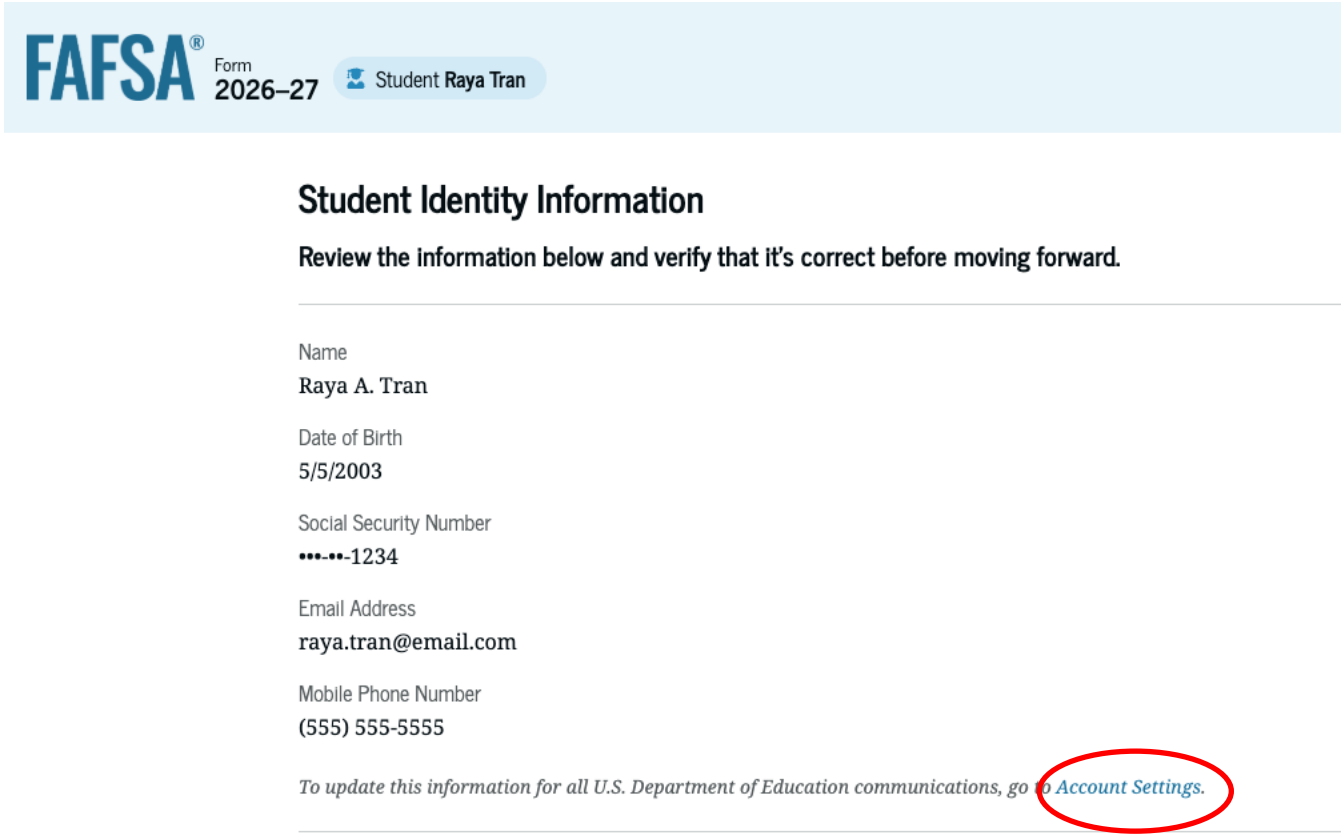
You will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary. It will include the SAI (Student Aid Index)

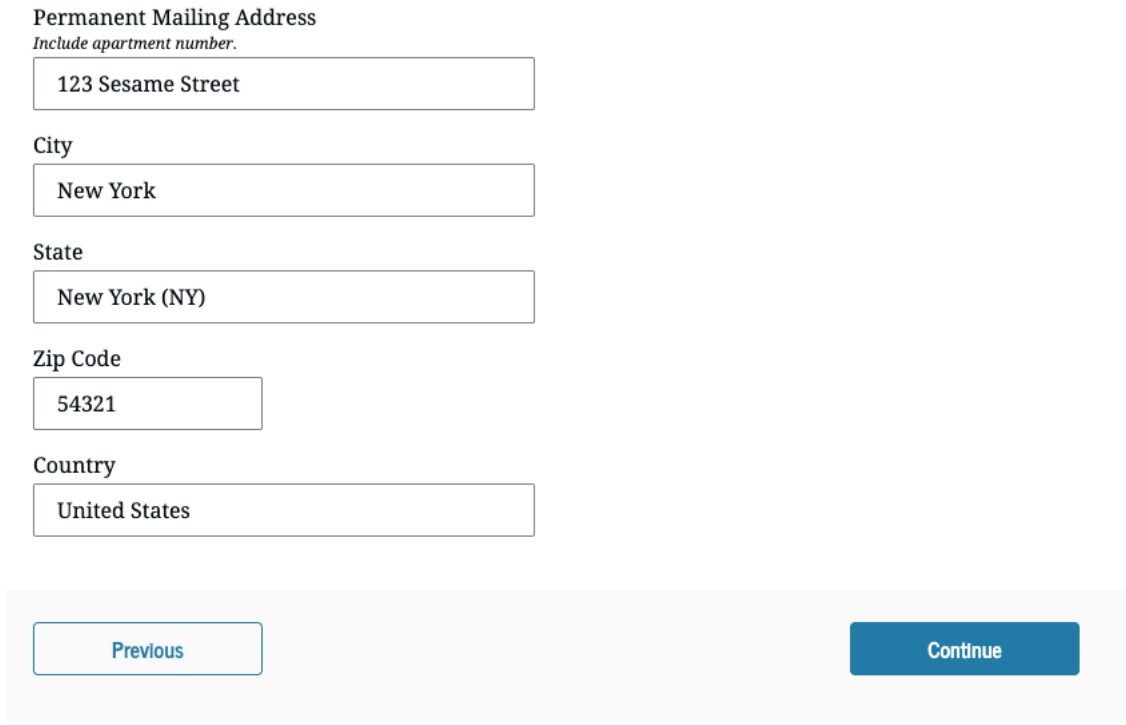
SAI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid

Colleges will use your SAI to create your Financial Aid Offer, that explains the types and amounts of aid you are offered

Colleges send out Financial Aid Offers in the Spring after students are admitted

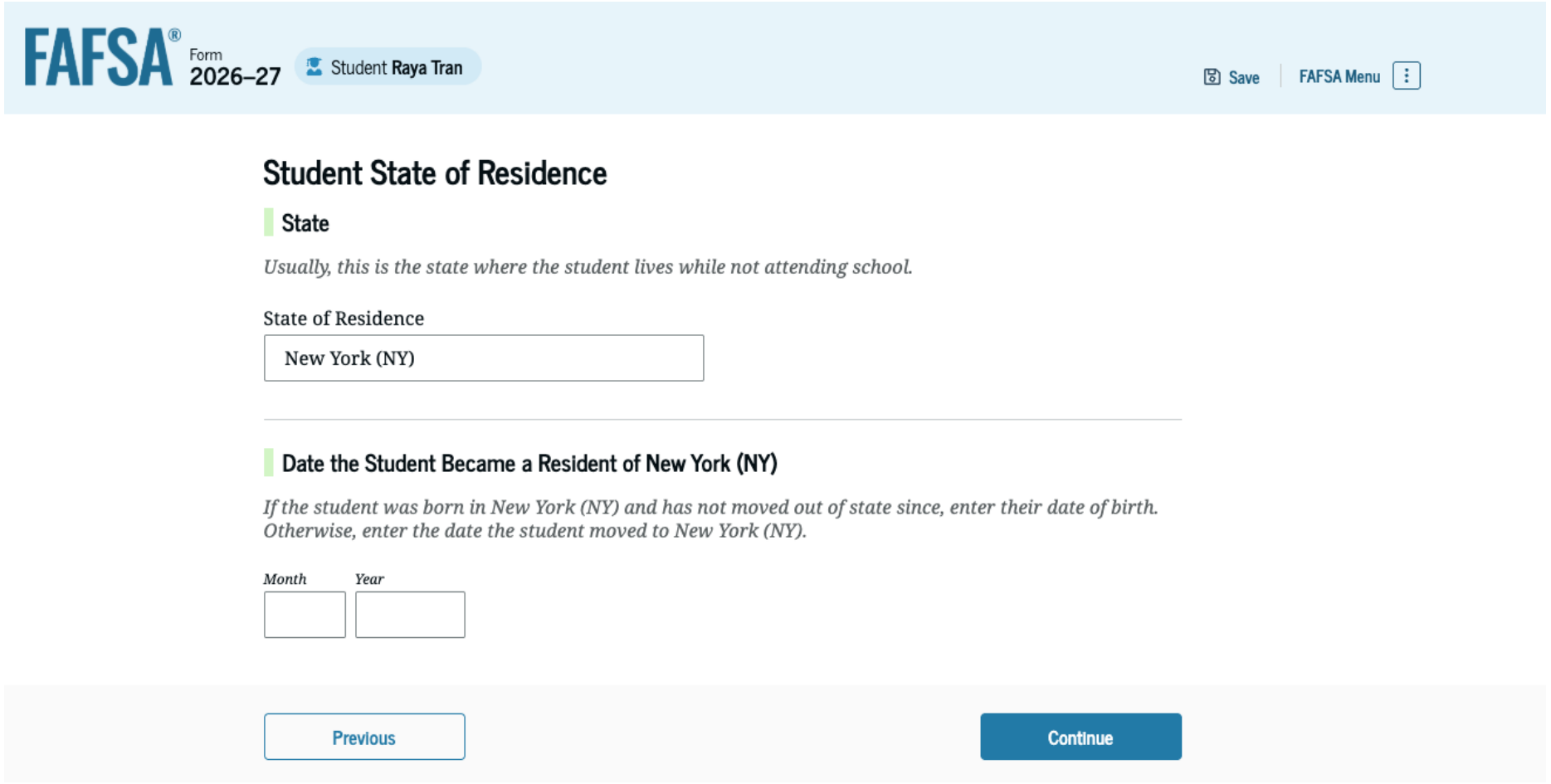
Student Identity Information





This is the first page within the student section. The student can verify that their personal information is correct. To update any of the personal information, the student must access their Account Settings on StudentAid.gov.

California Residency



The student is asked about their state of legal residence. The student selects the state from a drop-down box and provides the month and year when they became a legal resident.

MUST PROVIDE CONSENT

Student Provides Consent for IRS Direct Data Exchange

NO CONSENT= NO FED AID

Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- → Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026–27 FAFSA form.
- → Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- → Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of *Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid who has requested that I share my federal tax information on their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Who should provide consent and approval?
- If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?
- What happens after I provide consent and approval?
- What happens if I decline consent and approval?

The Student Will Not Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid

You did not agree to the terms on this page. The student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans, if you don't agree to the terms.

Select "Approve" to provide your consent and approval.

Decline Approve

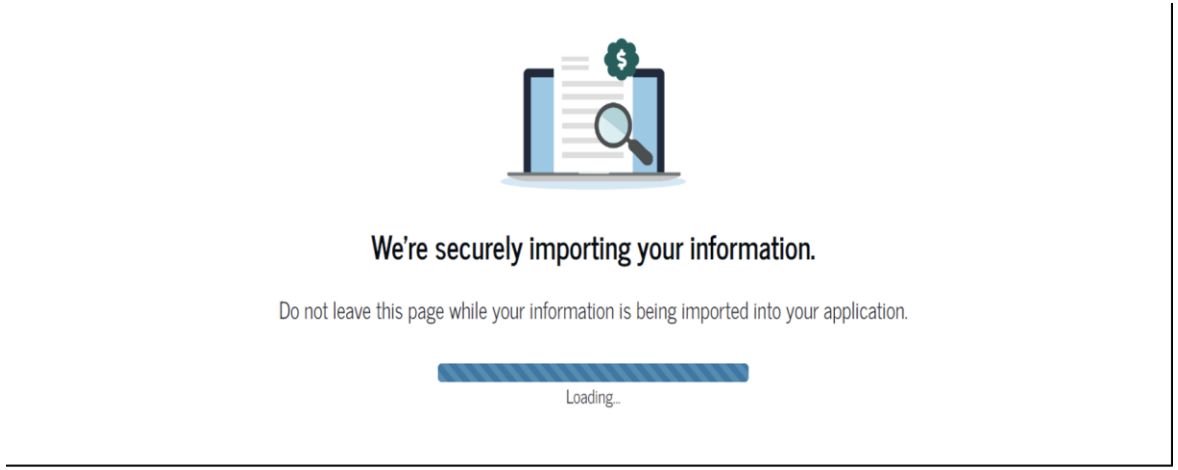
Select "Approve" to provide consent and approval for the use of your federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you won't be eligible for federal student aid.

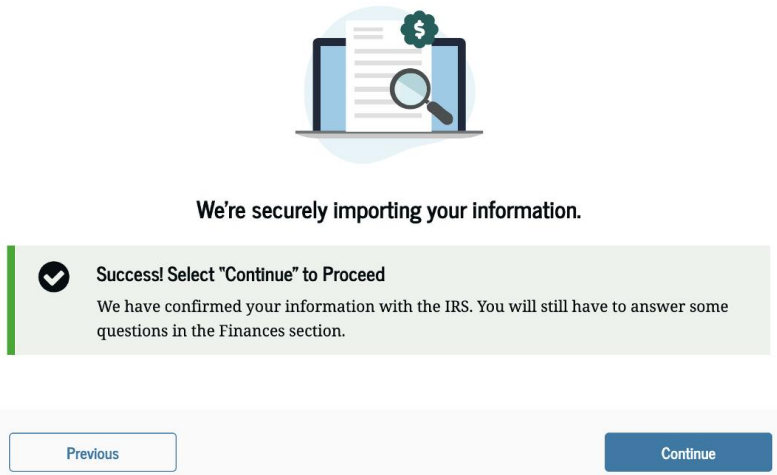
Previous Decline Approve

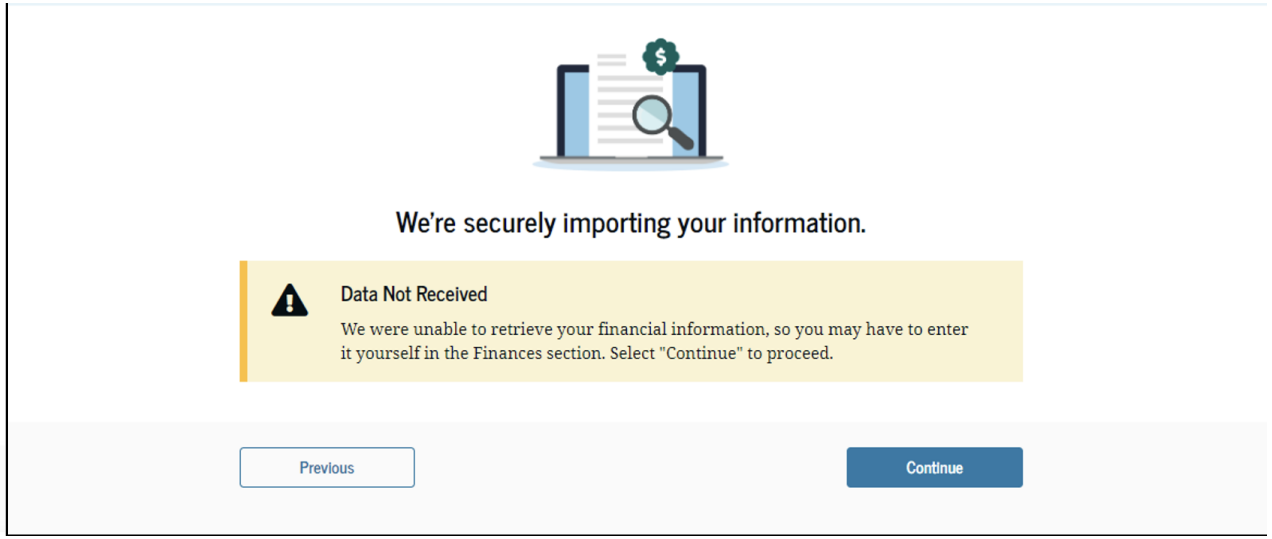
This page informs the student about consent, approval, and the use of their federal tax information. By providing consent and approval, the student's federal tax information is transferred directly into the FAFSA® form from the IRS to help complete the "Student Finances" section.

Student Imports IRS Information

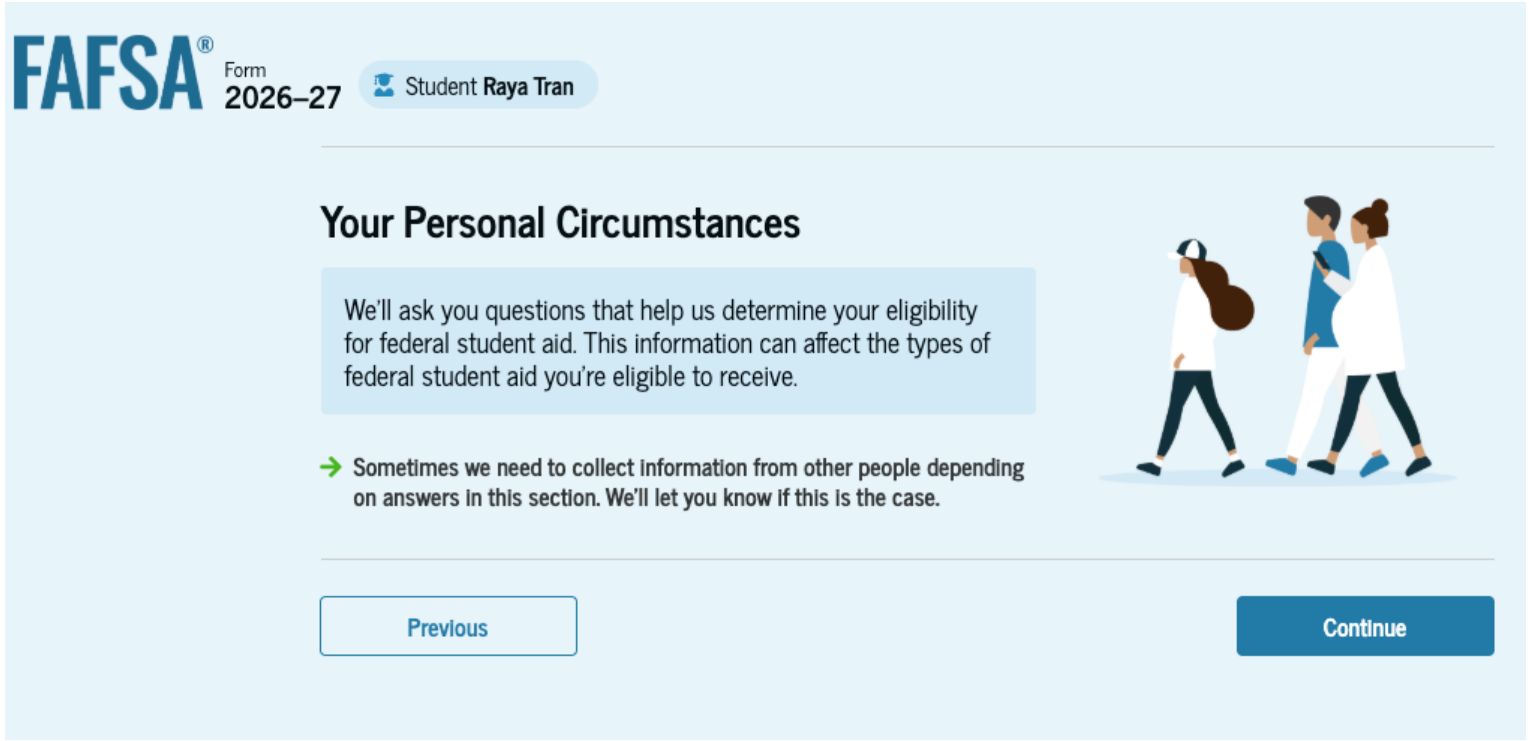
This page imports the student's federal tax information by directly transferring it into the FAFSA® form from the IRS to help complete the "Student Finances" section







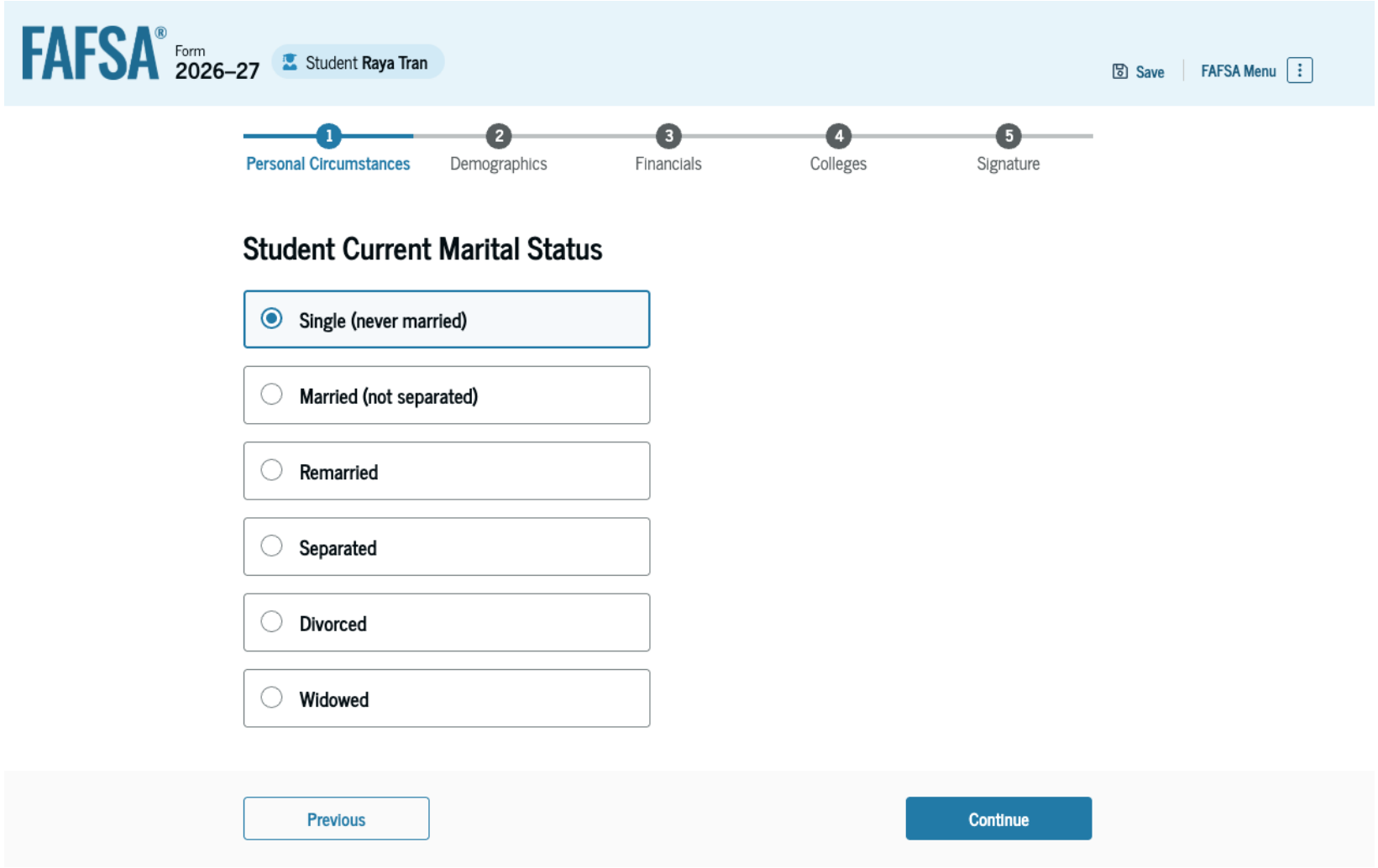
Section 1: Personal Circumstances



The questions in this section will determine if the student is a dependent or independent student

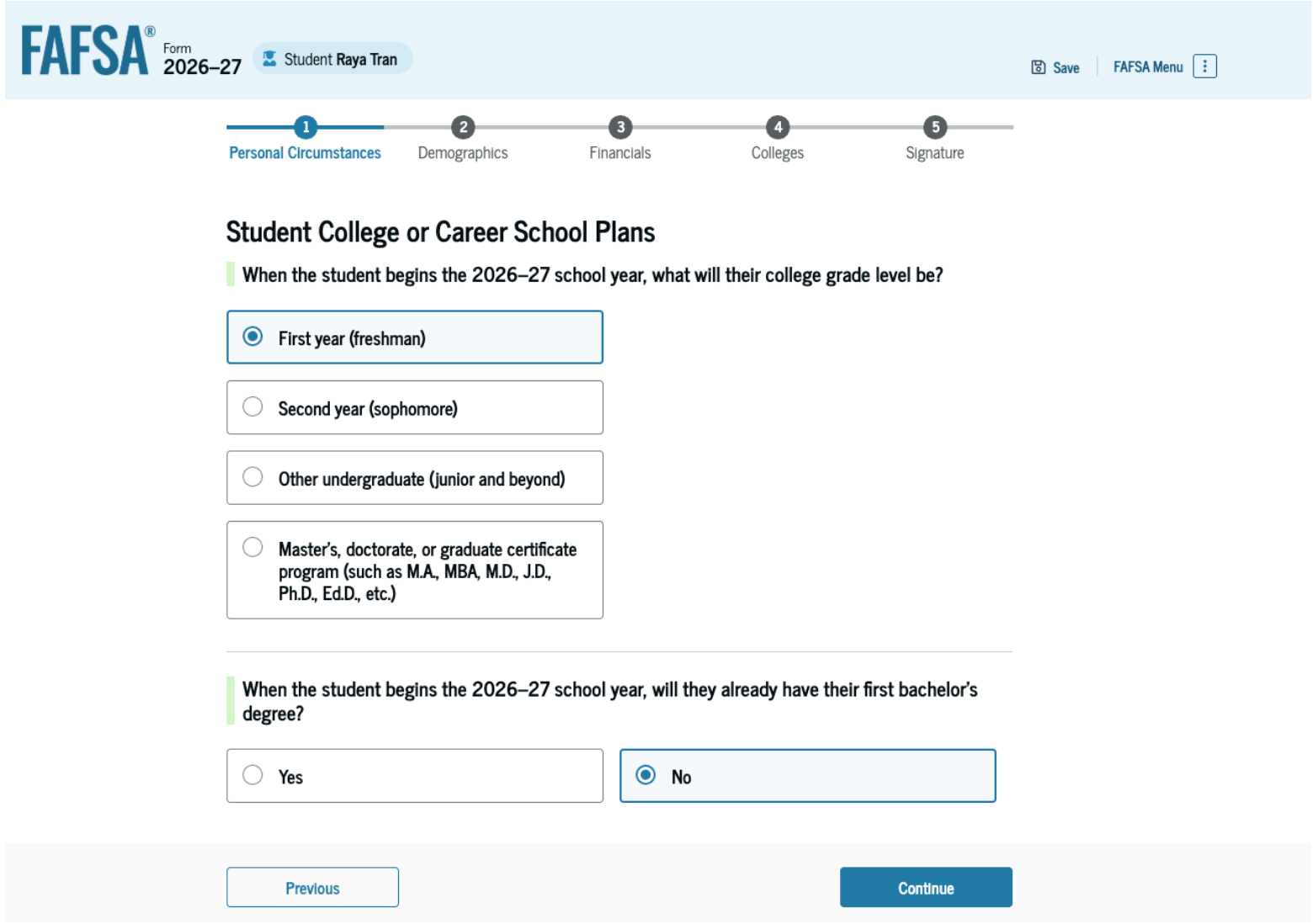
Section 1: Personal Circumstances

The student is asked about their marital status.



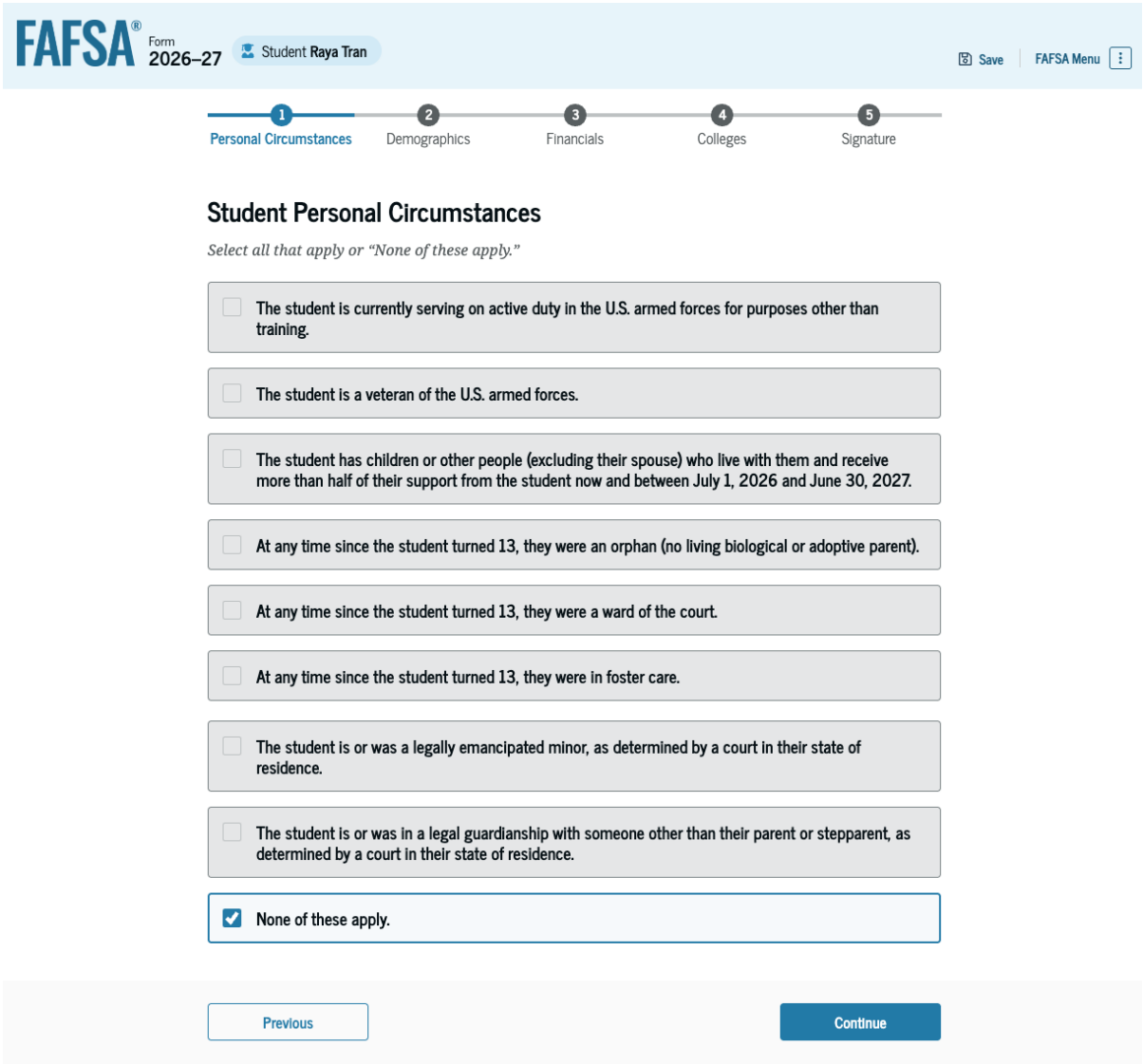
Section 1: Personal Circumstances

The student is asked about their college grade level for the 2026-2027 school year and if they will have their first bachelor's degree. The student selects that they will be a "First year (freshman)" and that they will not have their first bachelor's degree.



Section 1: Personal Circumstances

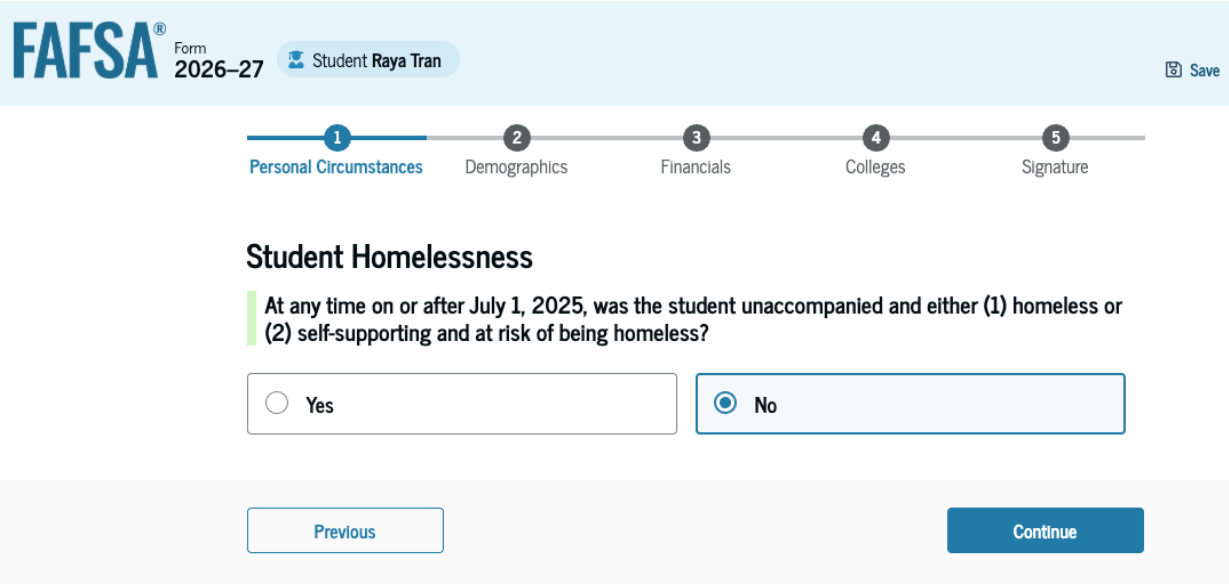
Selecting 1 or more may identify a student as independent and will require supporting documentation



Selecting “ None of these apply” will identify a student as dependent and will require Contributor (Parent) information

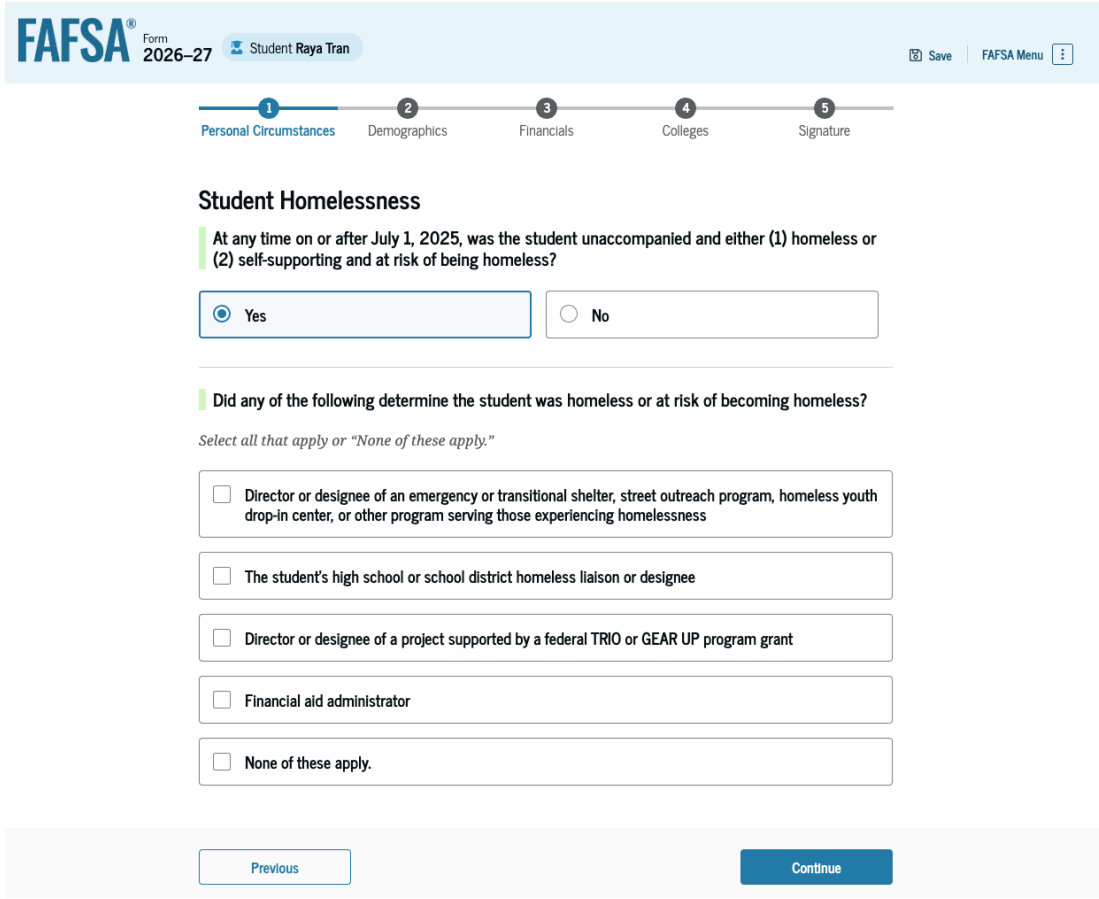
Section 1: Student Homelessness

The student is asked if they were homeless or at risk of being homeless.



IF **NO**…Click Continue

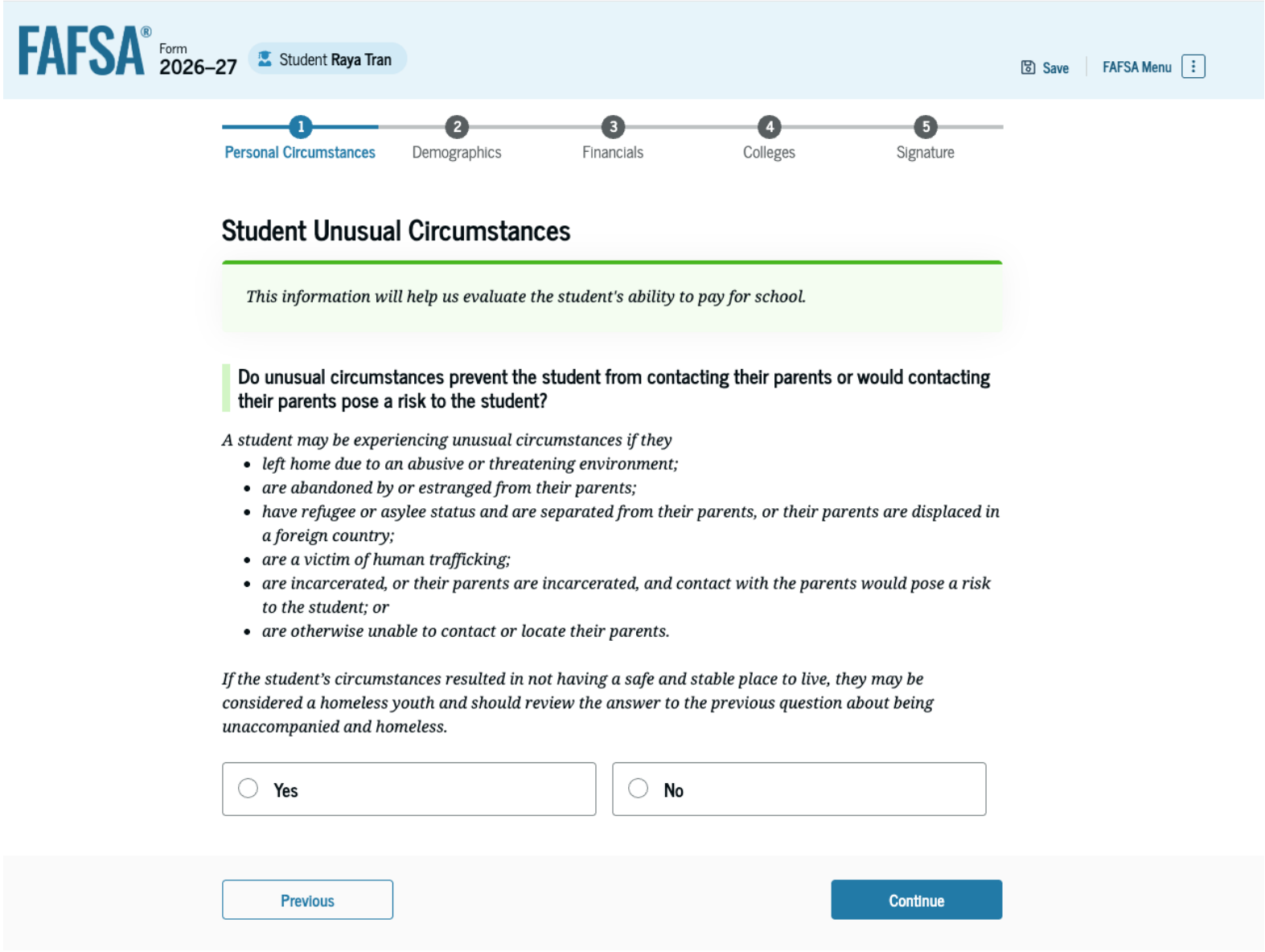
IF **YES**… Who determined the Student was homeless or at risk of becoming homeless



Student may need to submit documentation to the college they attend.

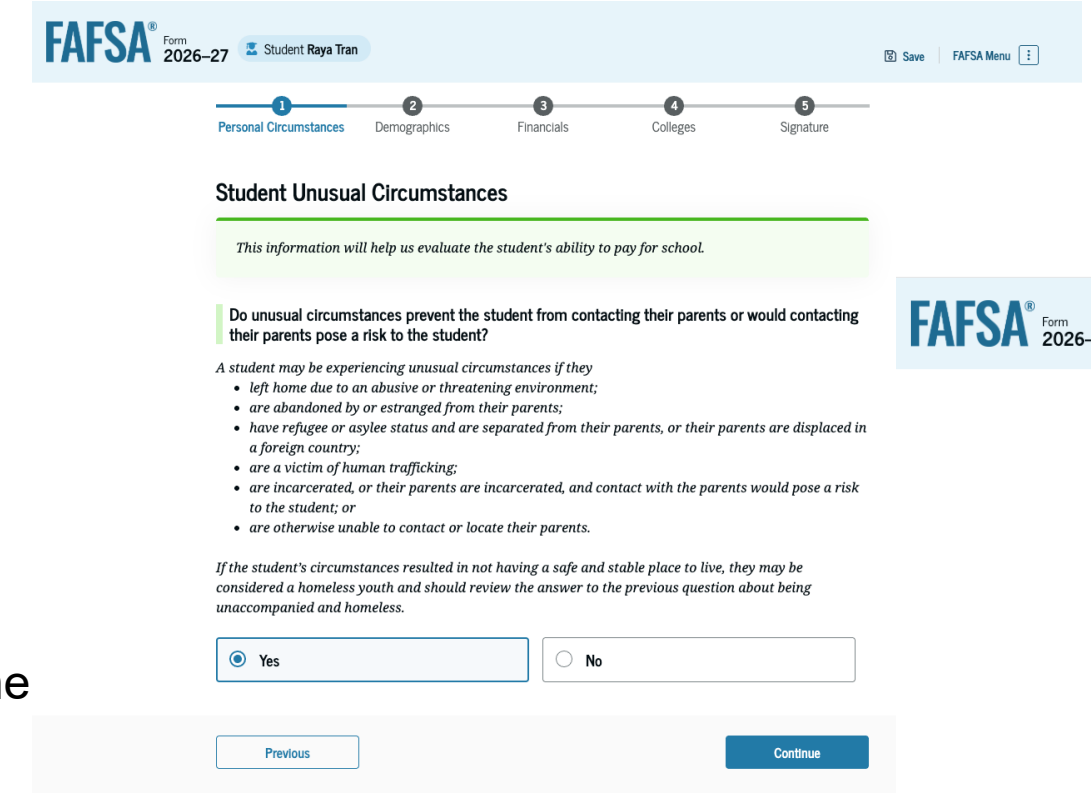
Section 1: Unusual Circumstances

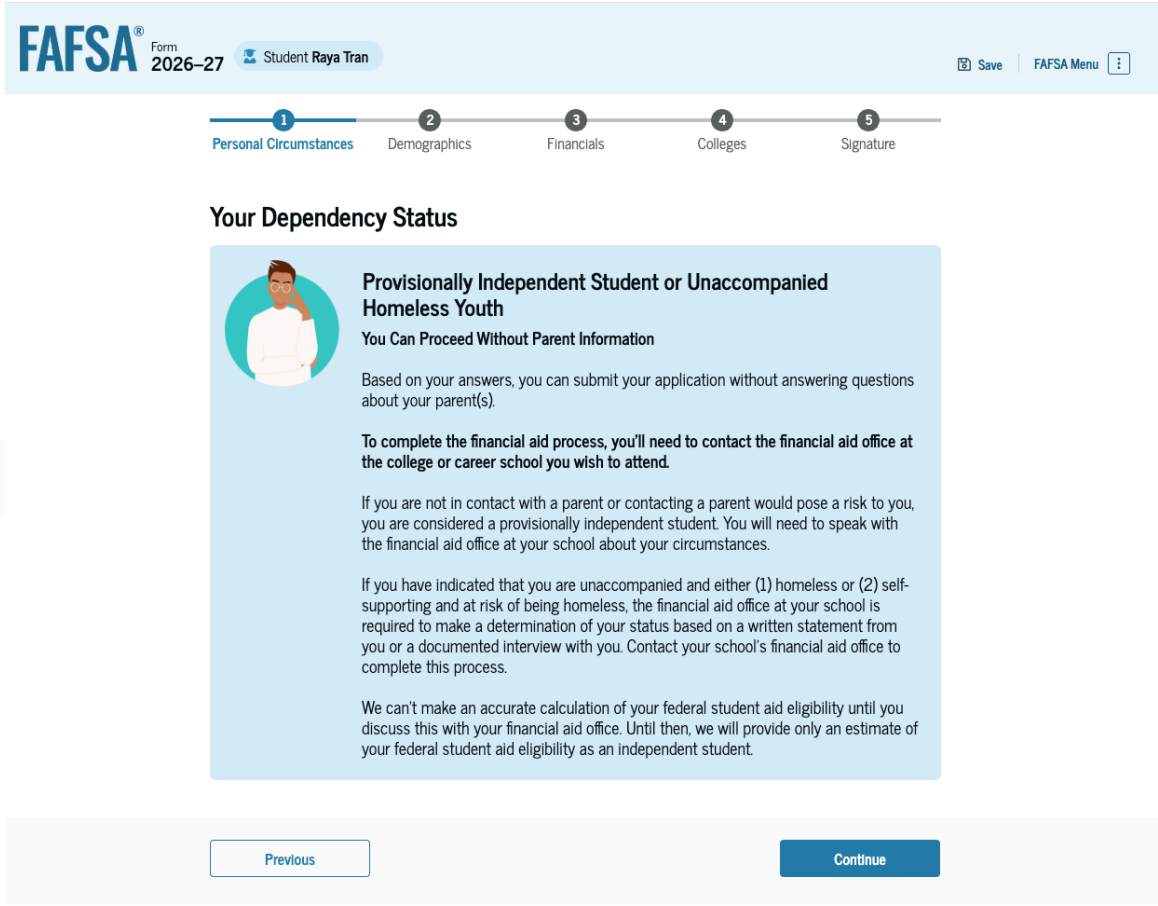
The student is asked if unusual circumstances prevent them from contacting their parent(s).



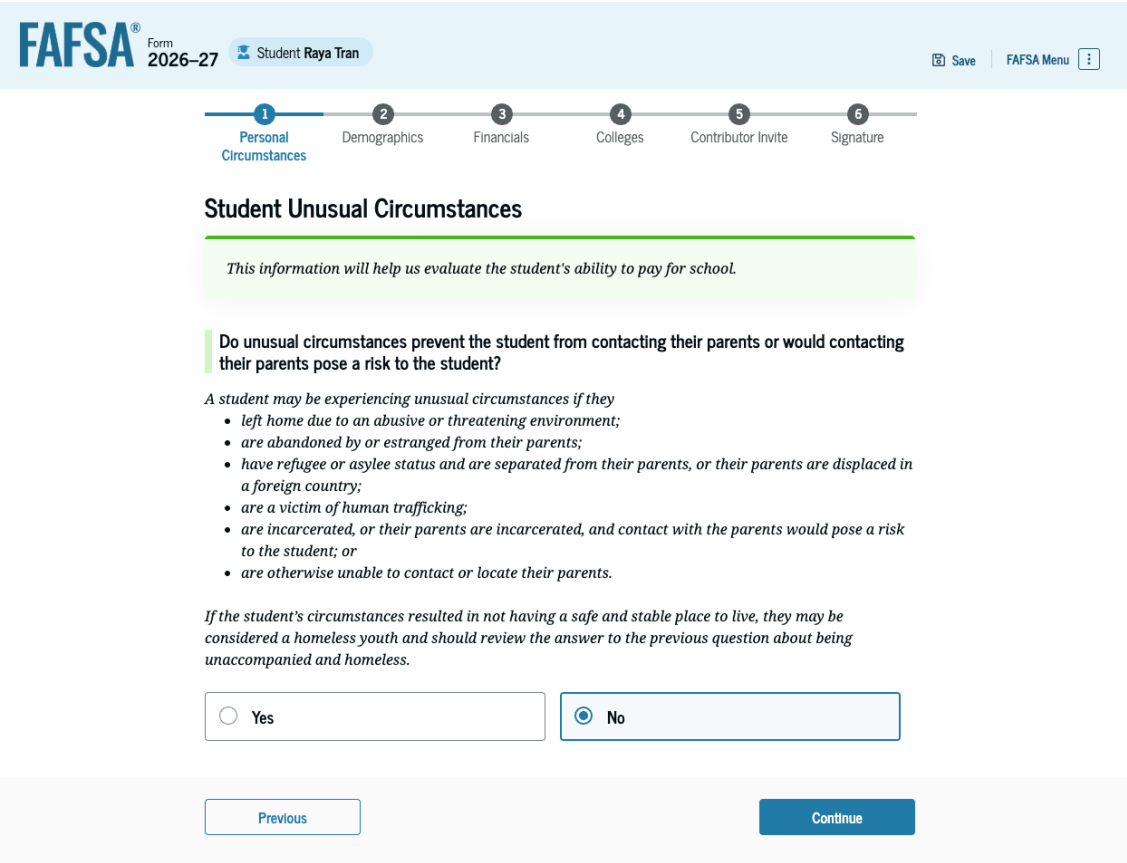
Section 1: Unusual Circumstances

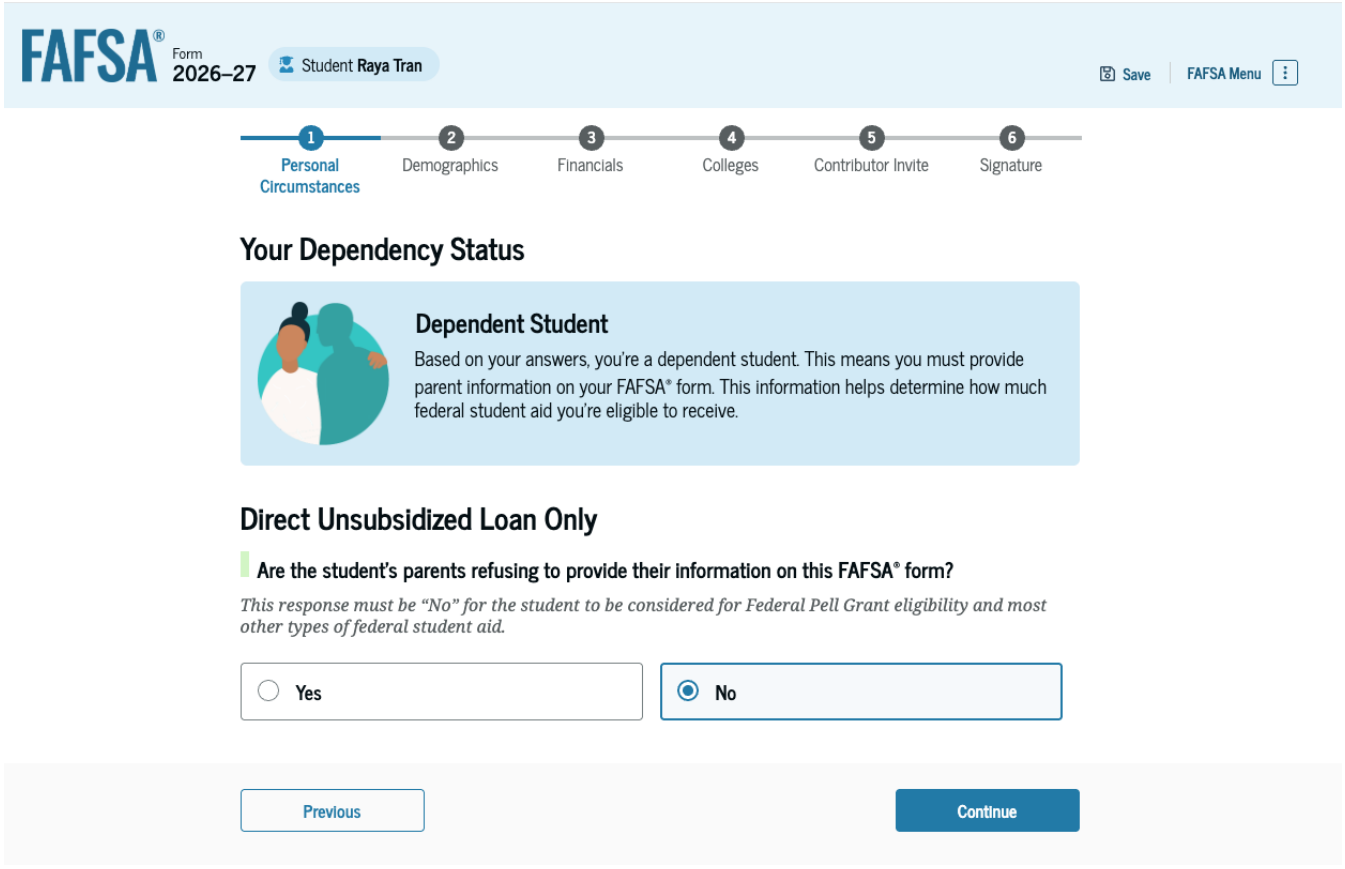
If the answer is ”yes” the student will be offered provisional independence or unaccompanied homeless youth and will need to contact the financial aid office at the college, they wish to attend





Section 1: Dependency Status

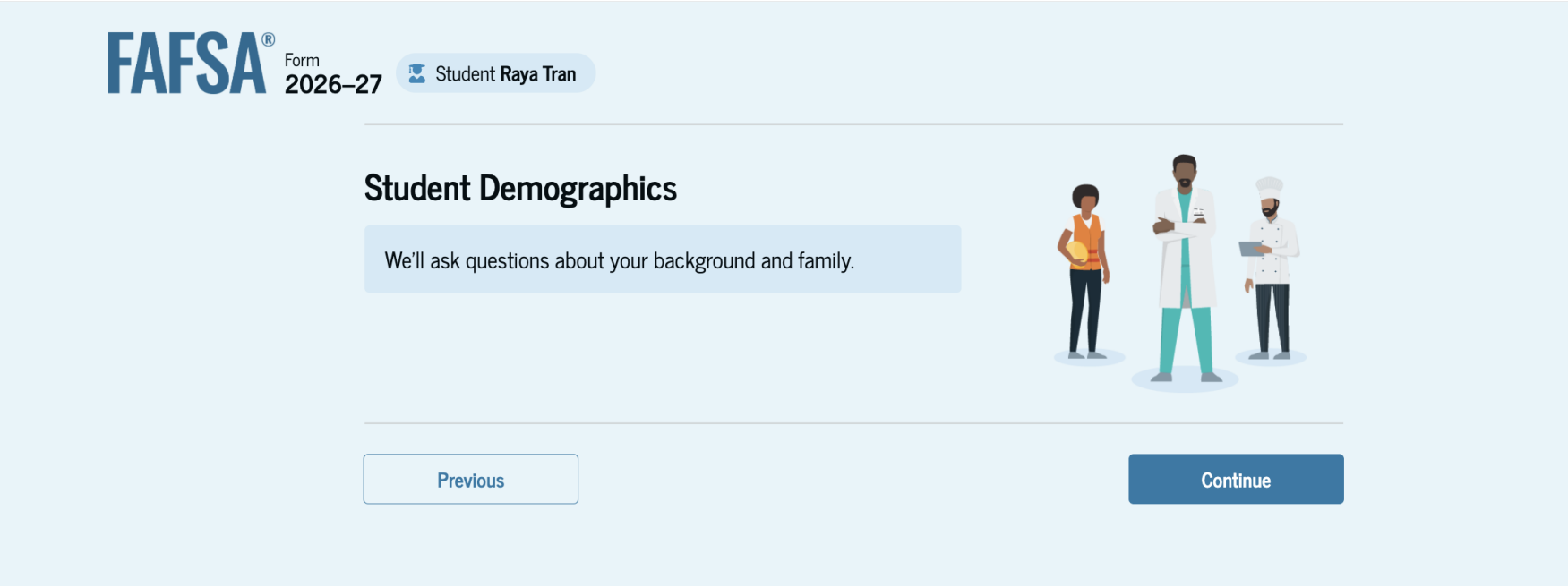




If the answer is “No” the student is considered a dependent student. The student is asked if they want a financial aid administrator to determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only. This is an option if the student’s parents are unwilling to provide information. The response must be "No,“ to be considered for federal aid. If the student selects “Yes,” a modal would appear to warn them about missing out on other potential federal student aid.

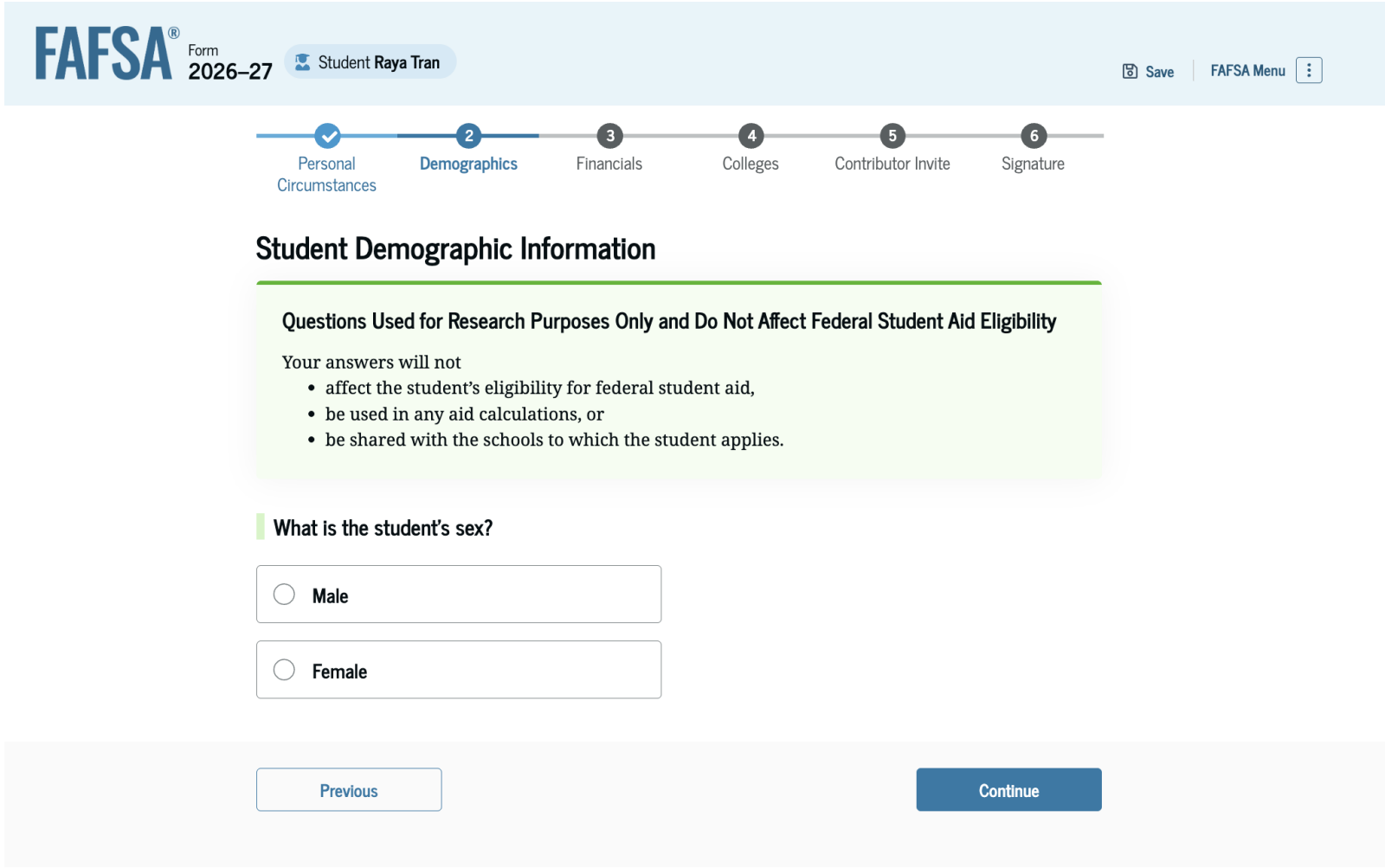
Section 2: Student Demographics

This is the first page within the "Student Demographics" section. It provides an overview of the section.



Section 2: Student Demographics

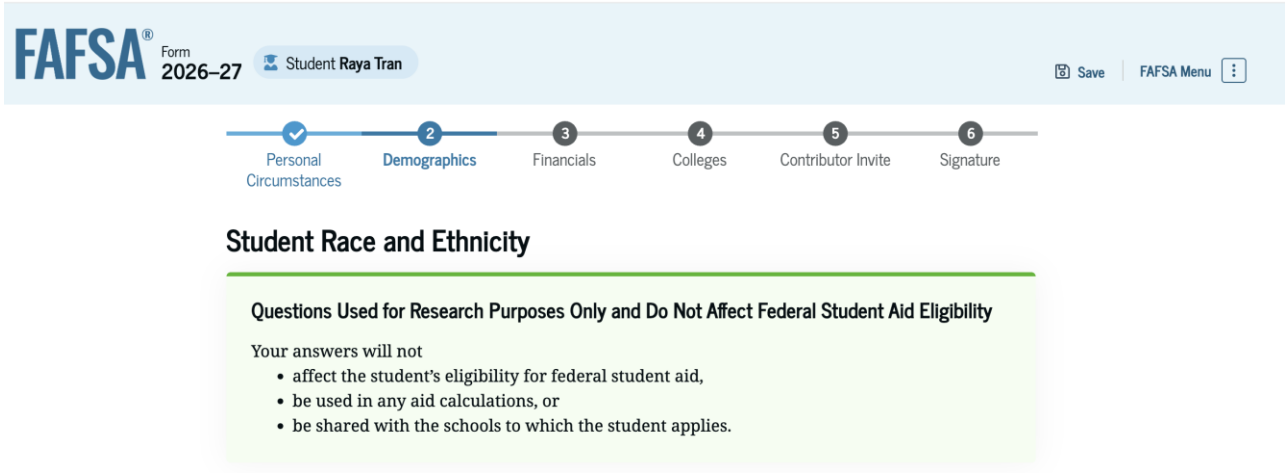
The student is asked about their biological sex.

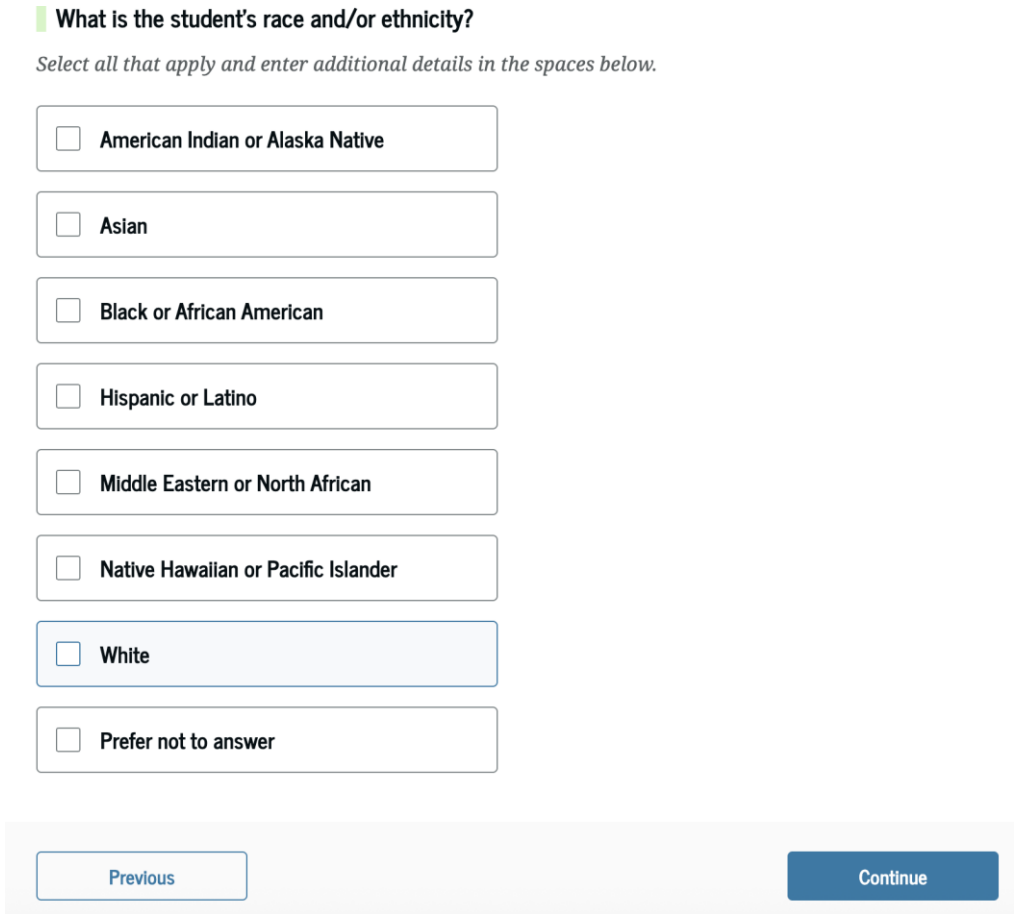


Statistical Purposes Only!

Section 2: Student Demographics

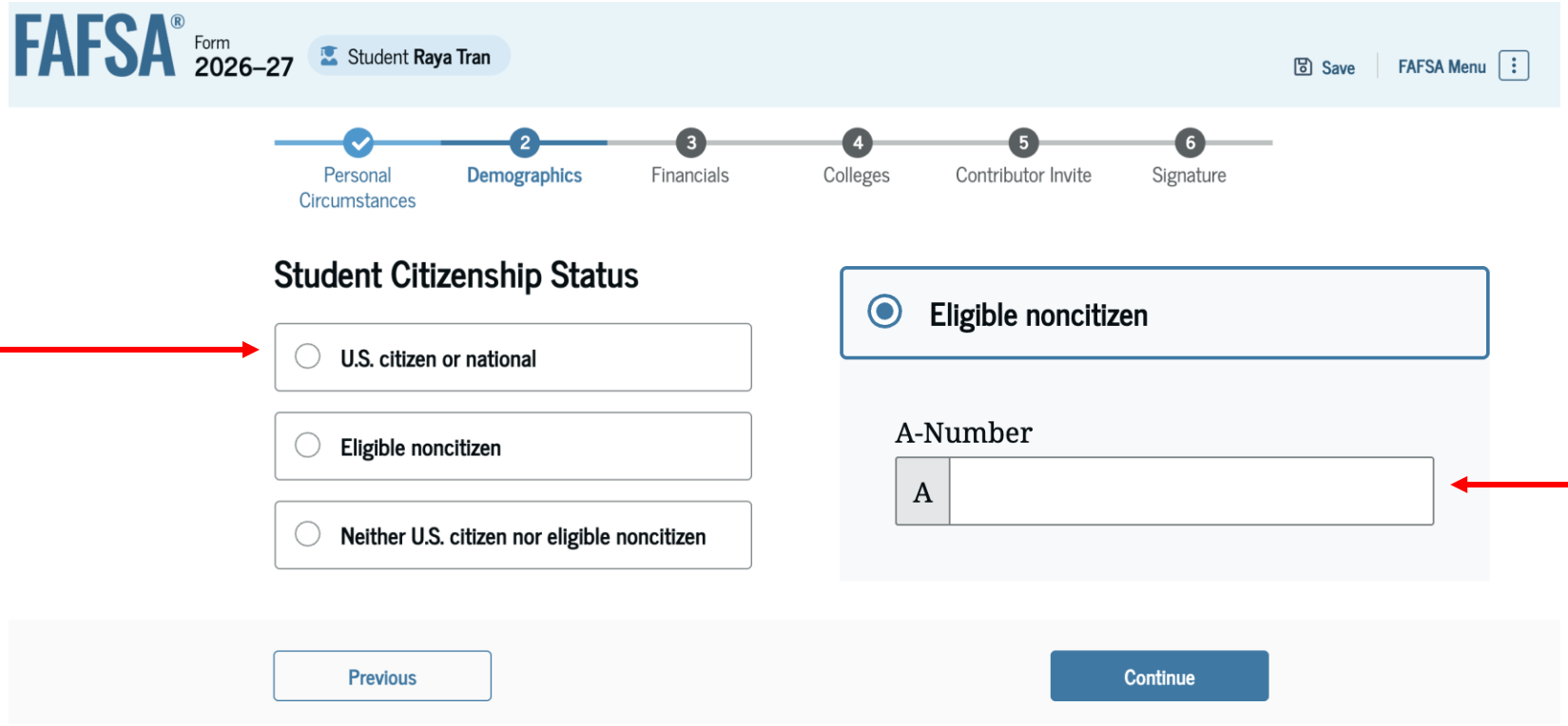
Statistical Purposes Only!





The student is asked to identify their race. The student selects the checkboxes that apply to them. Student can select prefer not to answer.

Section 2: Student Demographics



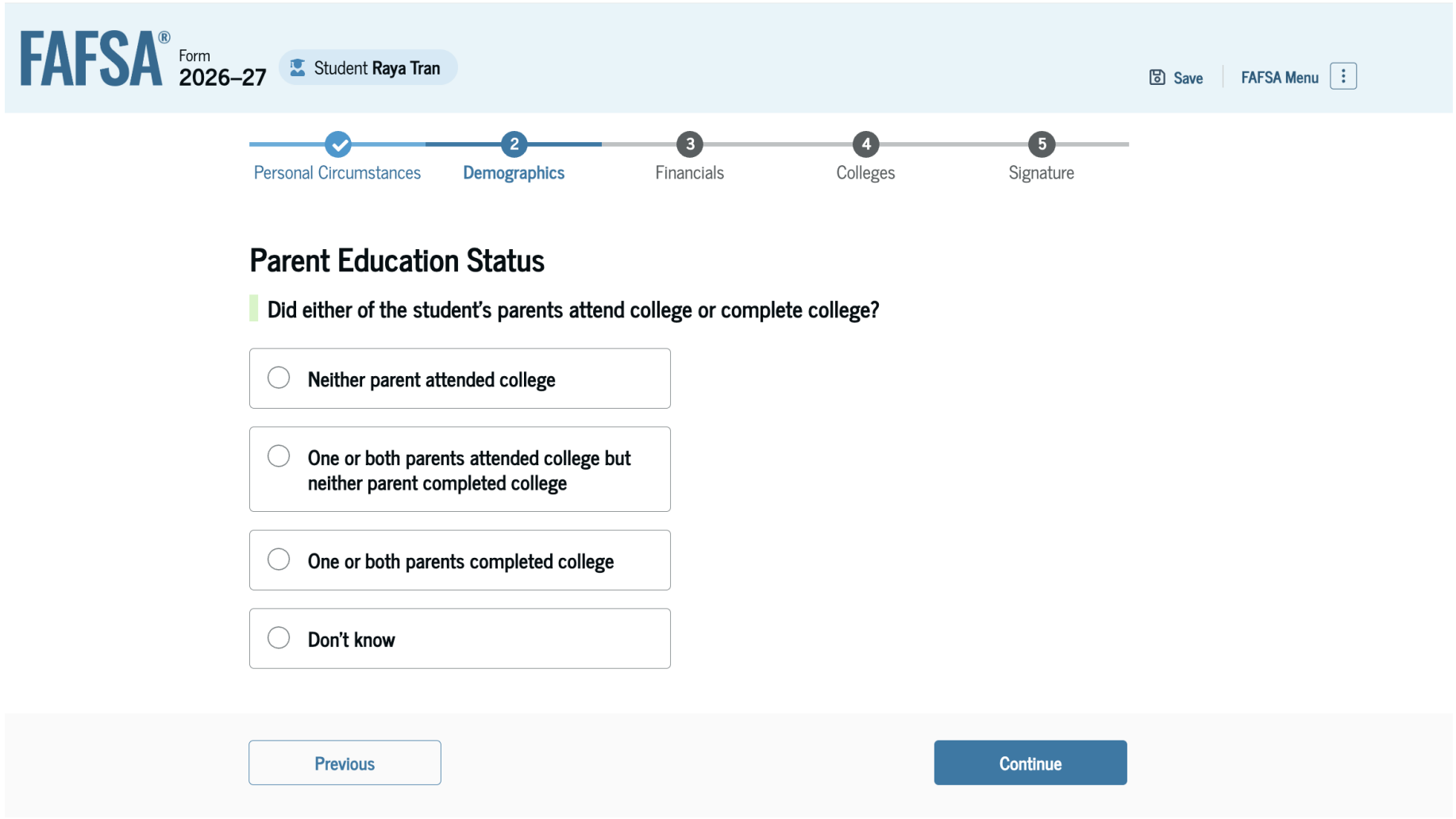
Most choose U.S. citizen

If you choose Eligible non-citizen, you will be asked for your A-Number

The student is asked about their citizenship status.

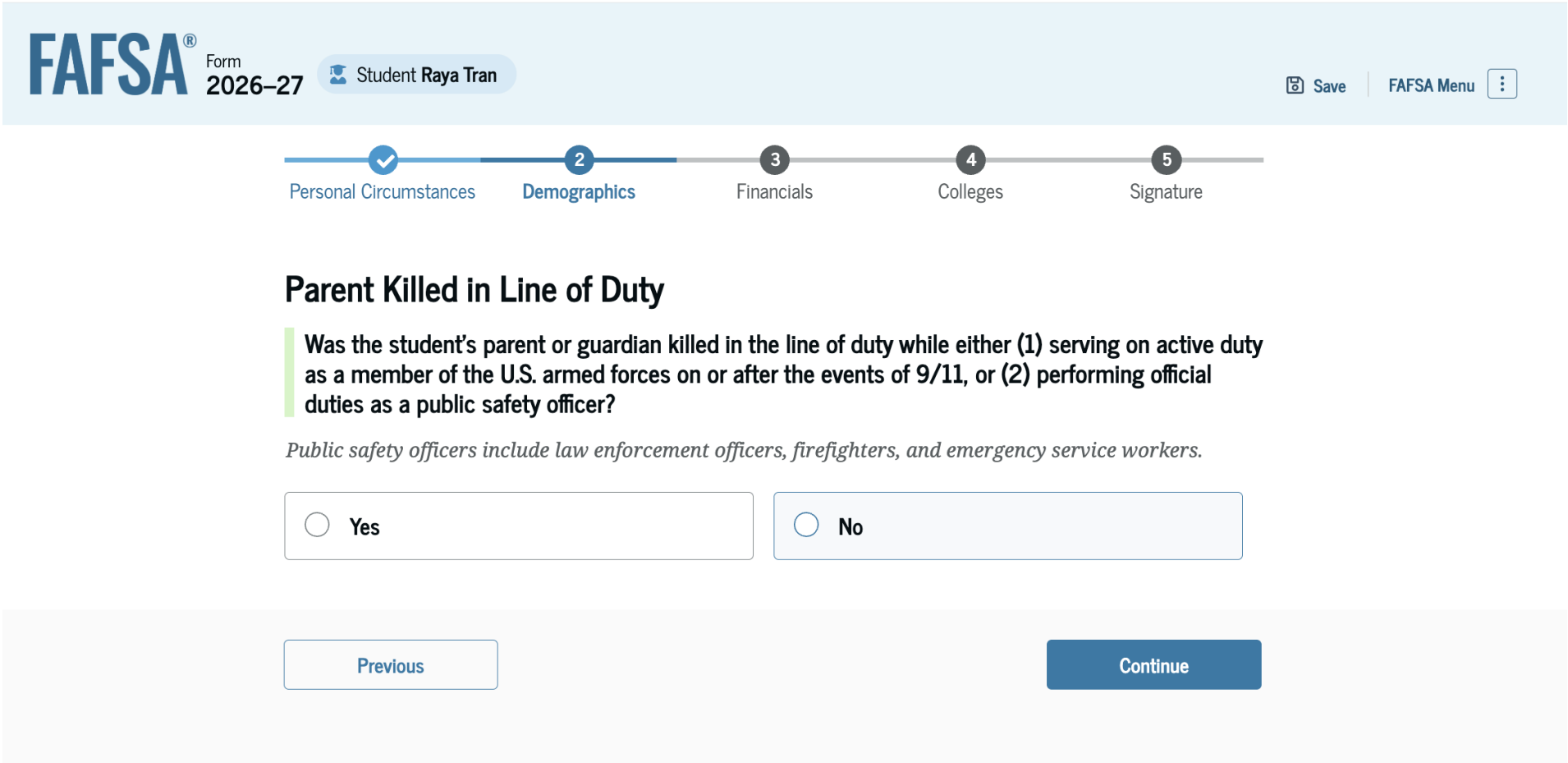
Section 2: Student Demographics

The student is asked about their parents' education status.



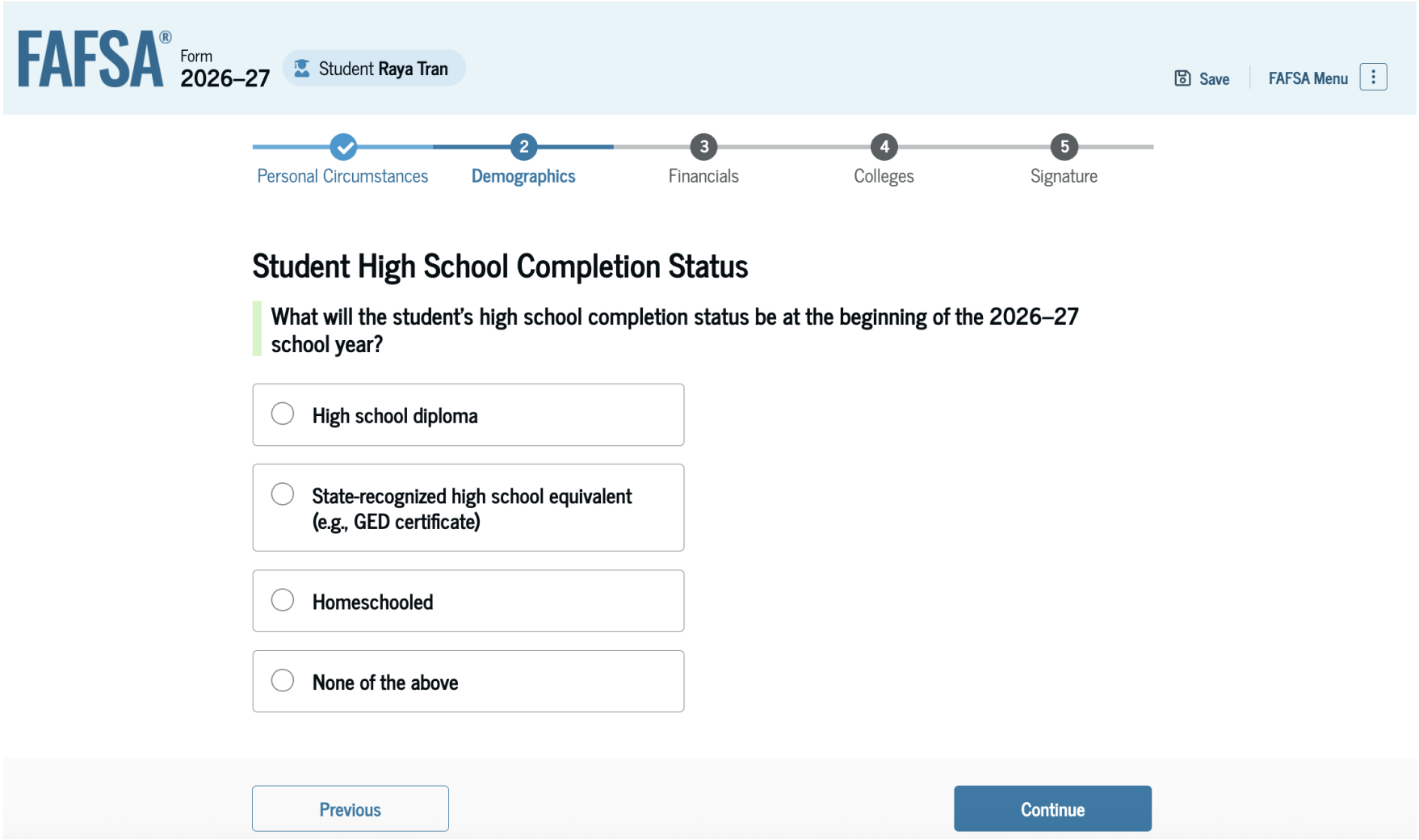
Section 2: Student Demographics

The student is asked if their parent was killed in the line of duty.

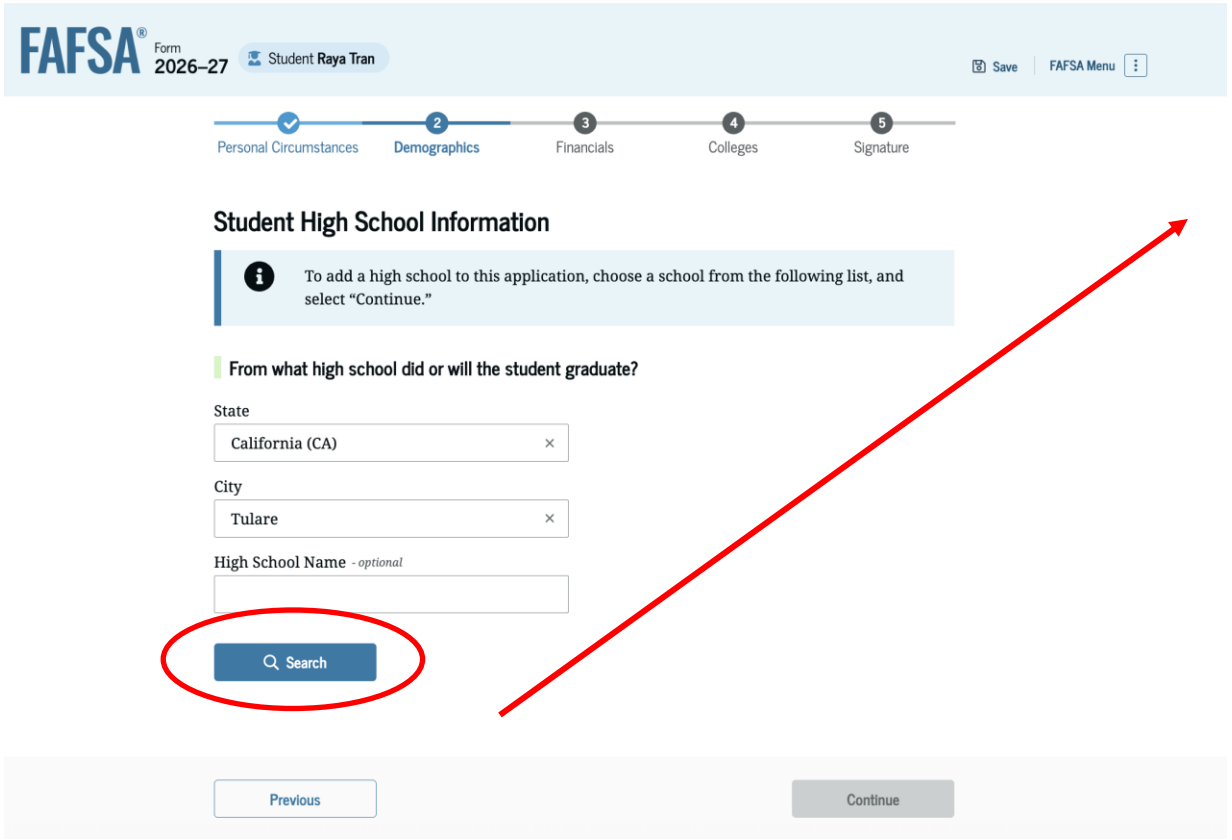


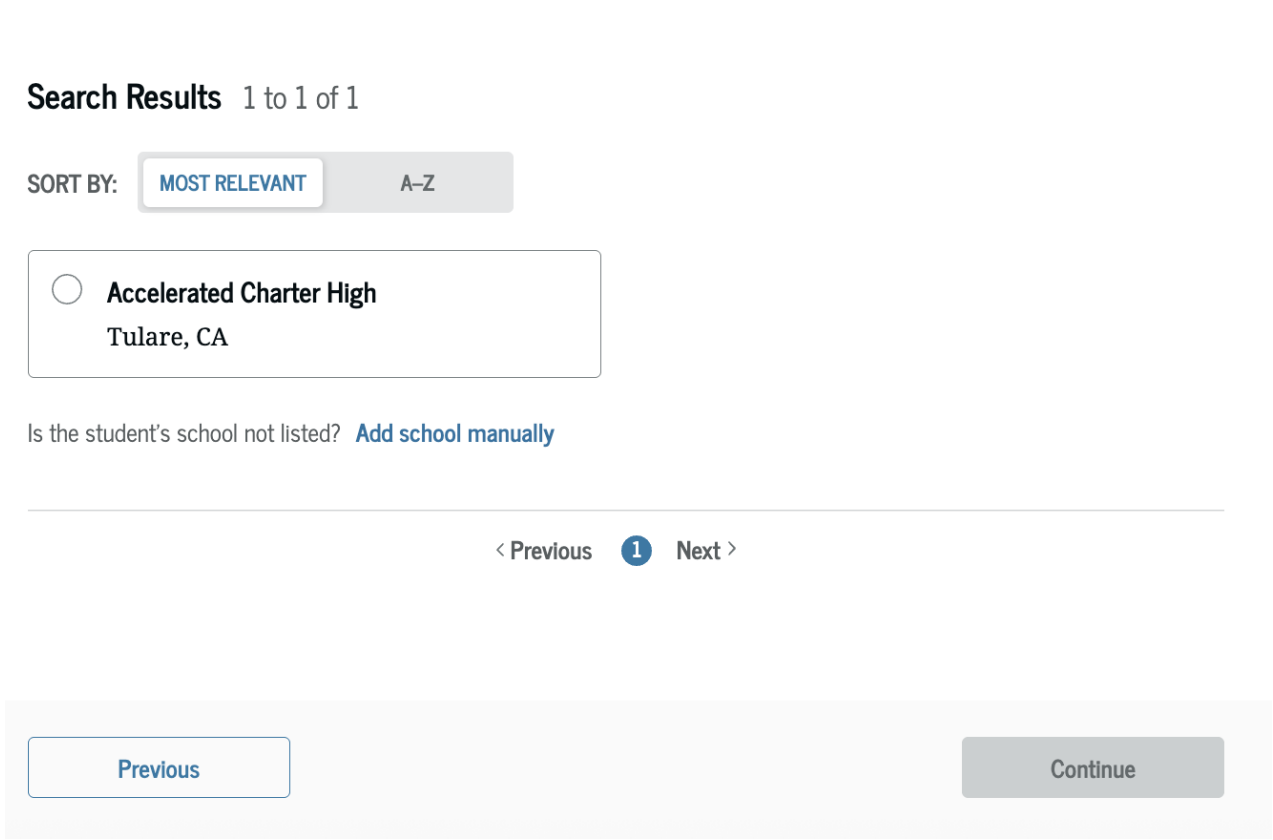
Section 2: Student Demographic

The student is asked about what their high school completion status will be when they start the 2026-2027 school year. Most students select the "High school diploma" option.



Section 2: Student Demographics



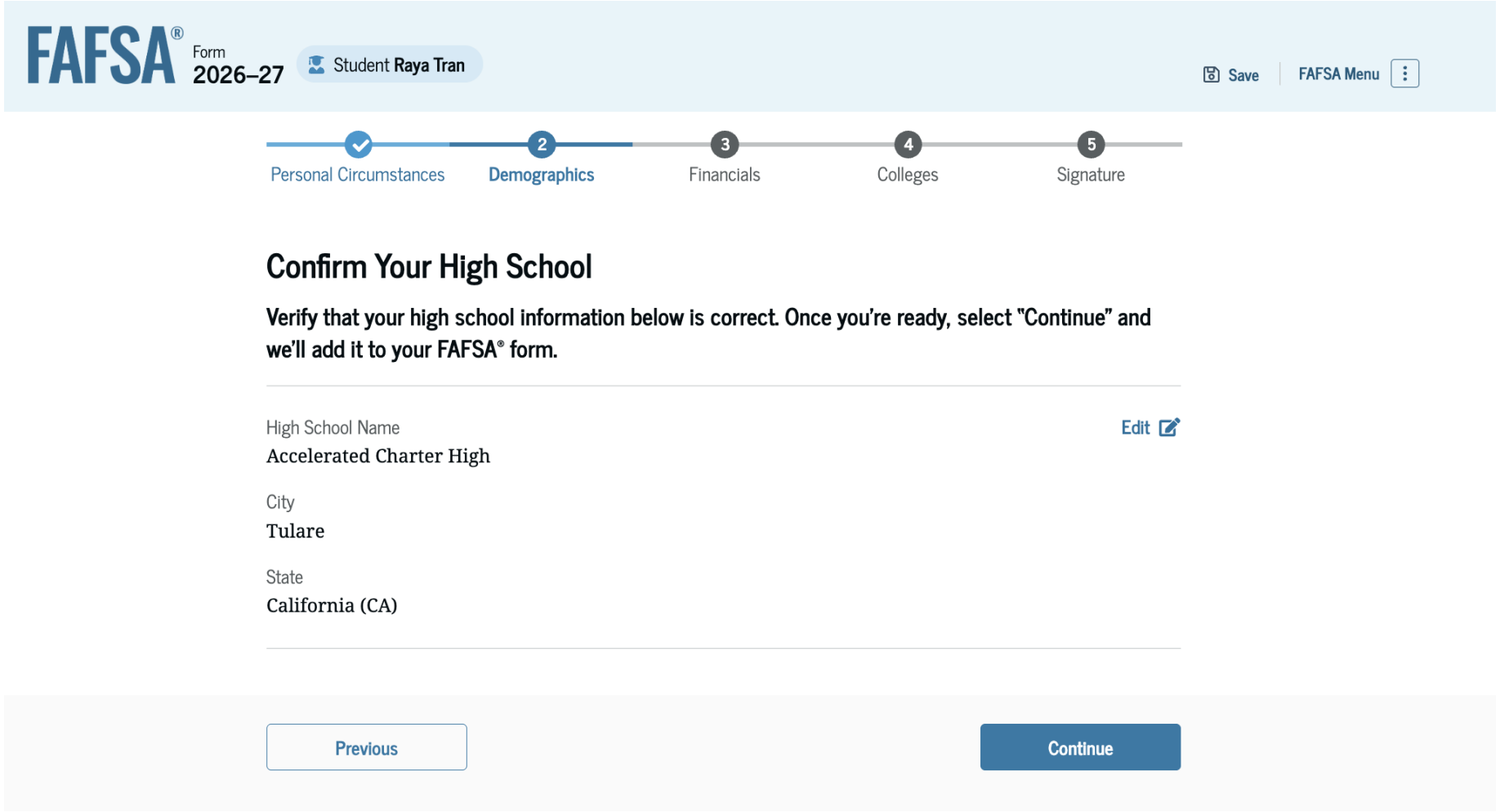


The student is asked which high school they did or will graduate from. The student enters their high school's state and city. After selecting "Search," they select the correct high school from the search results.

Section 2: Student Demographics

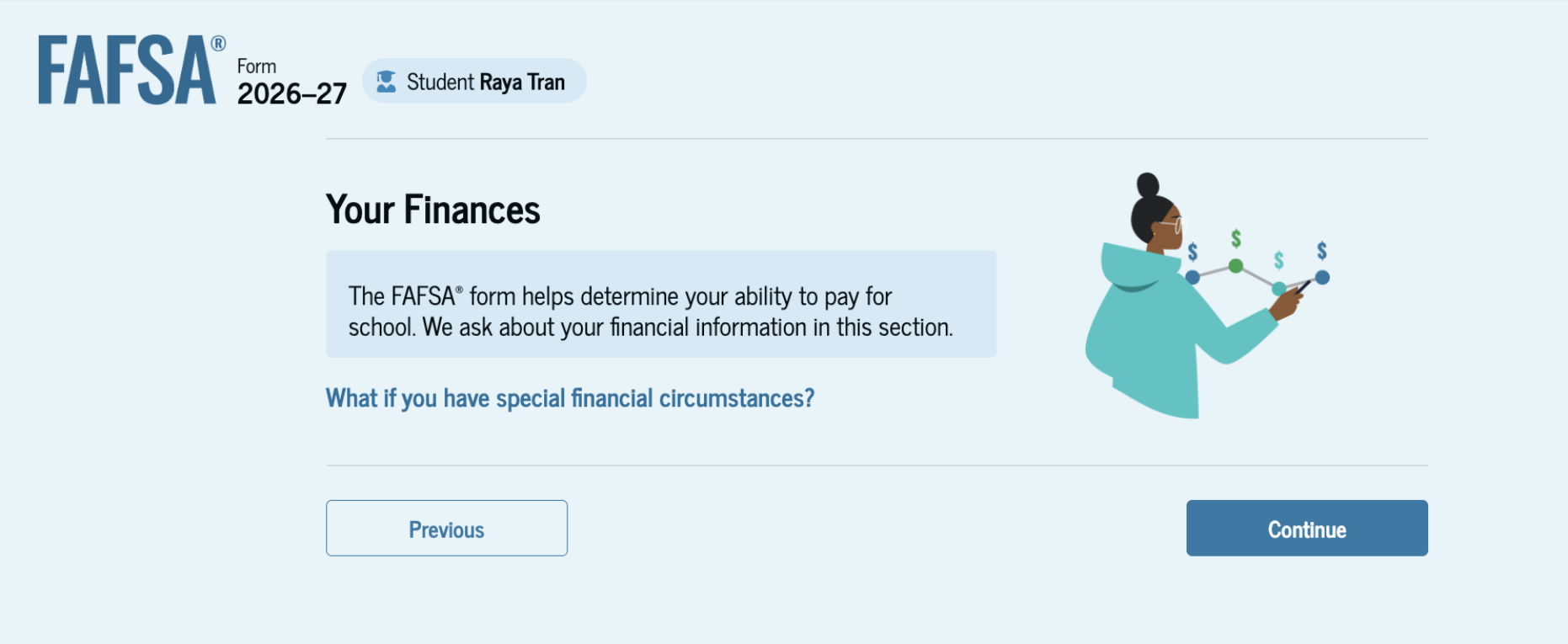
The student confirms their high school information and selects "Continue" to proceed to the next section.

The student has the option to edit the high school information presented on this page by selecting "Edit," which will return them to the high school information page.



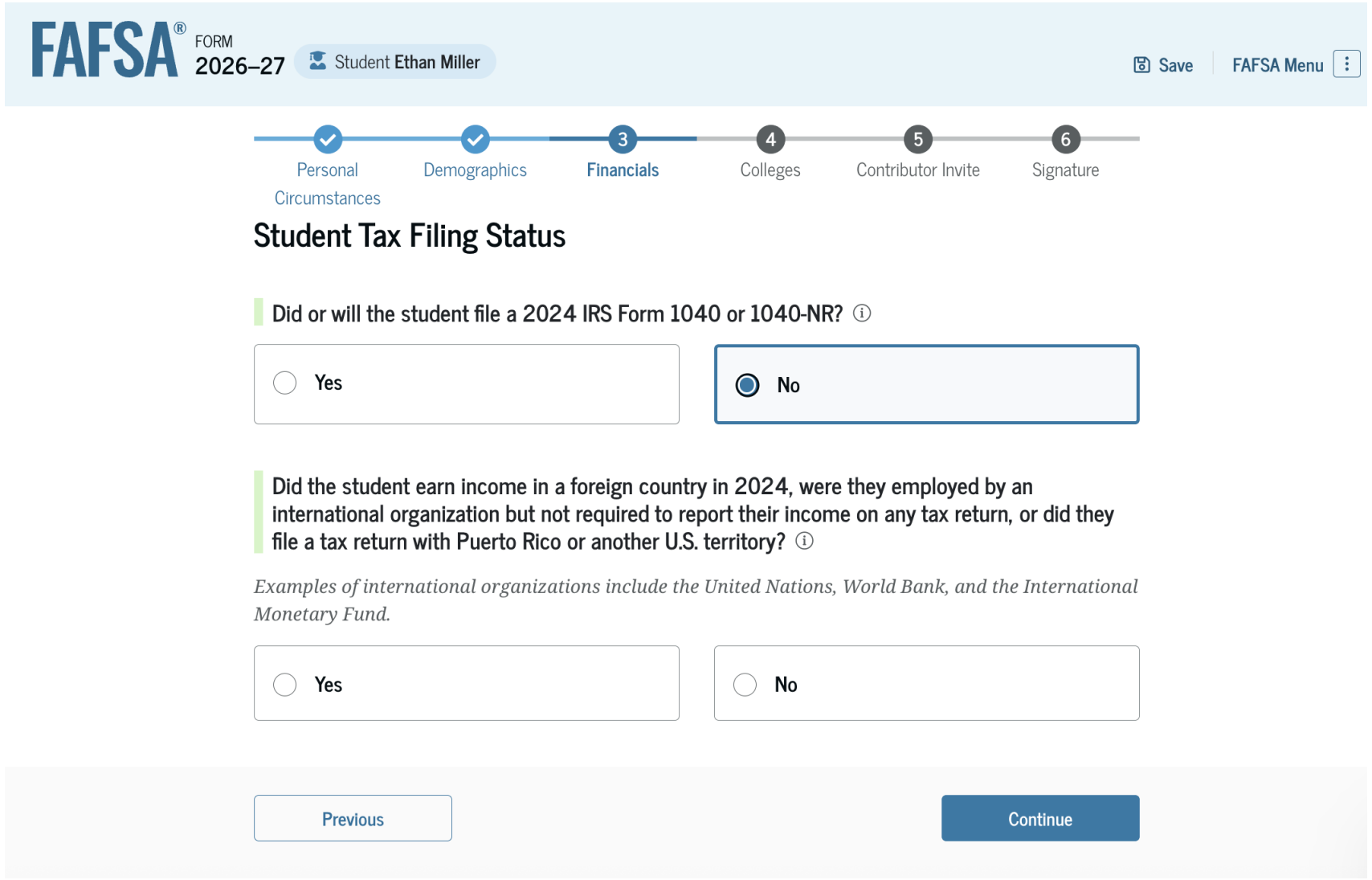
Section 3: Student Finances

This is the first page within the "Student Finances" section. It provides an overview of the section. The student can select the hyperlink if they want to learn about special financial circumstances.



Section 3: Student Finances

The student is asked about their tax filing status. Most students have not filed taxes; however, students should choose the appropriate answer for their situation.

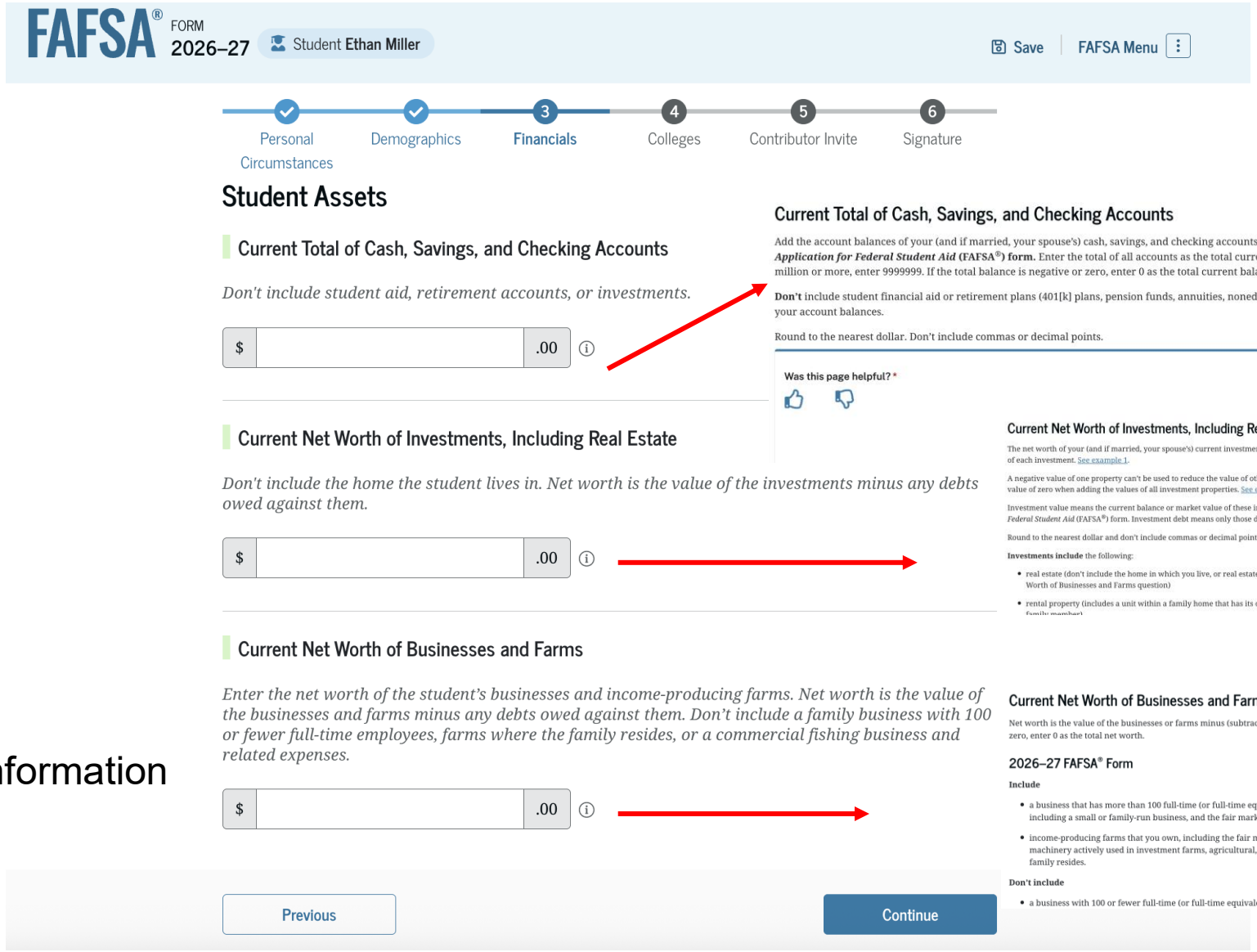


Section 3: Finances

The student is asked about their assets.

The student enters a response in each entry field.

Utilize the “!” for additional information



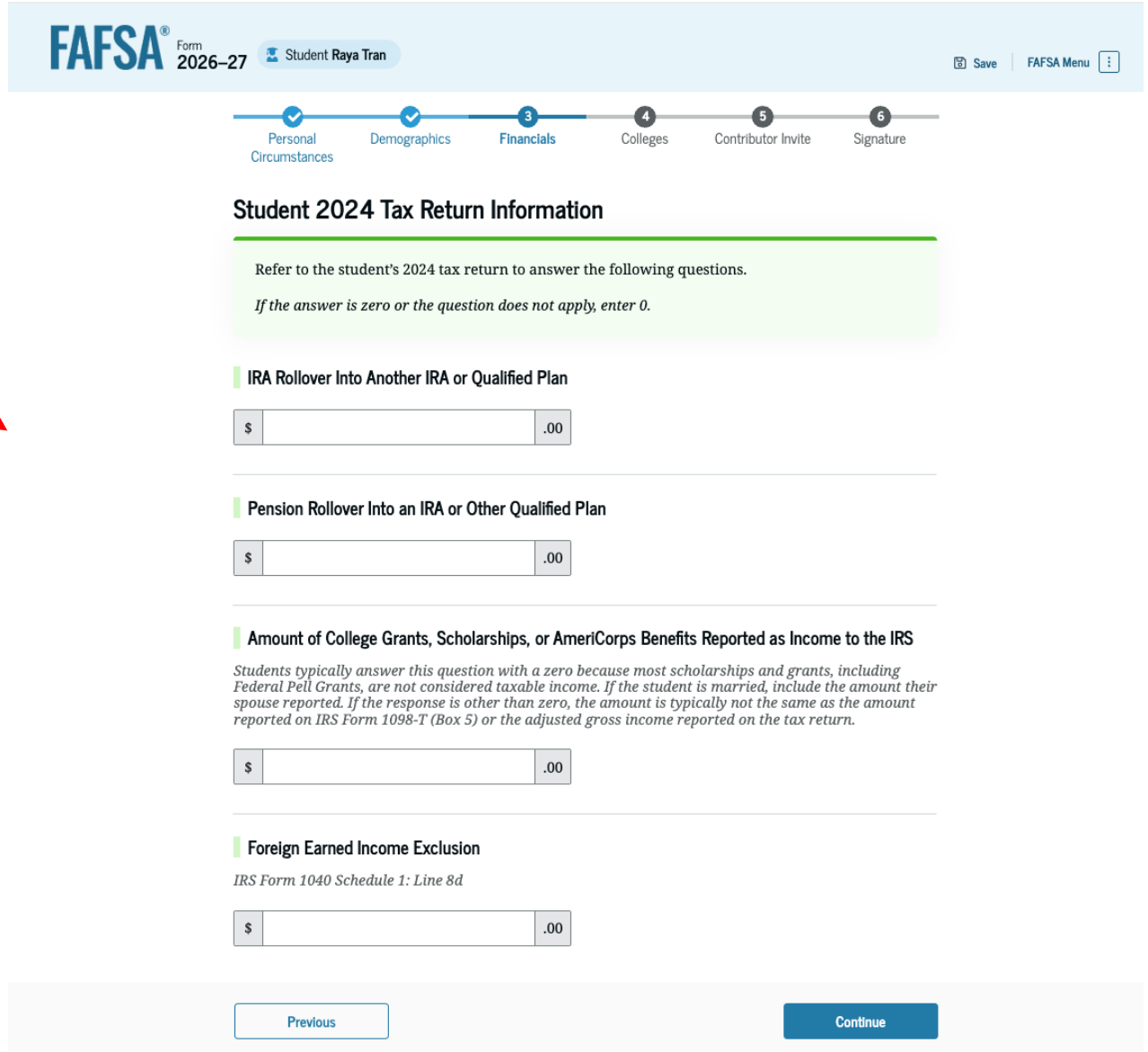
https://studentaid.gov/2627/help/find-tax-information

Section 3: Finances

Demo site not on Beta

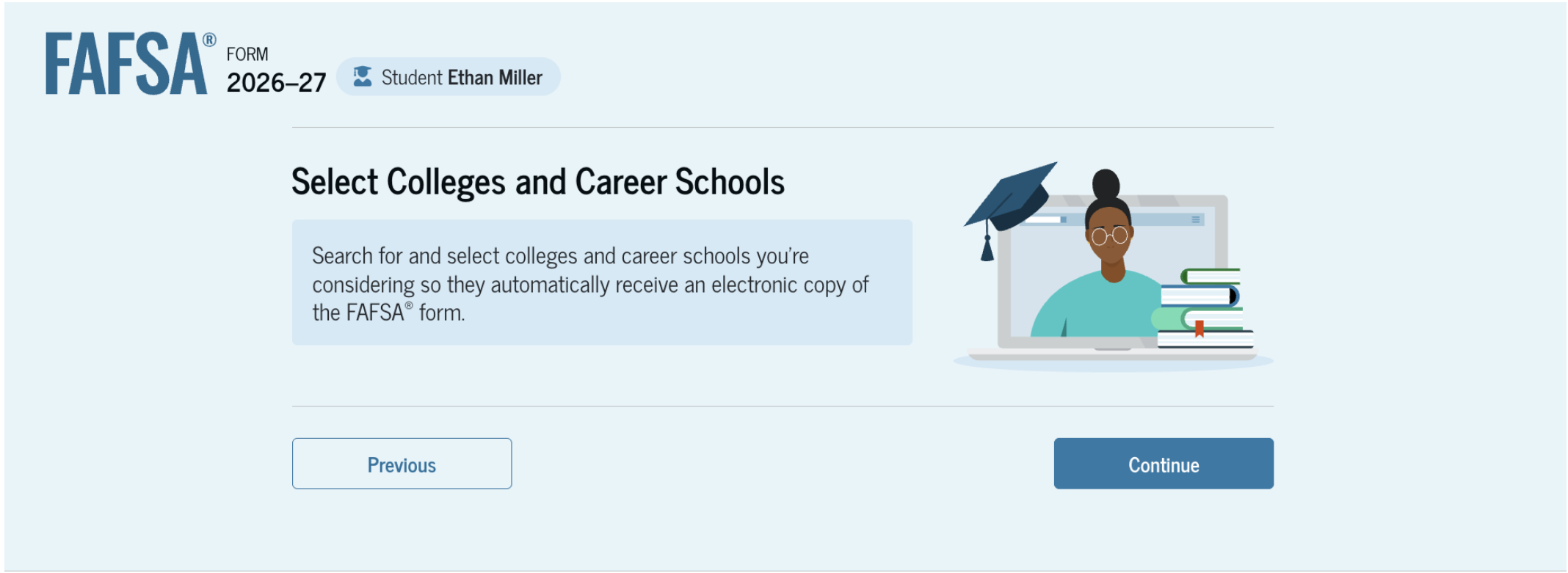
The student is asked about their assets. The student enters a response in each entry field.

Utilize the “!” for additional information



https://studentaid.gov/2627/help/find-tax-information

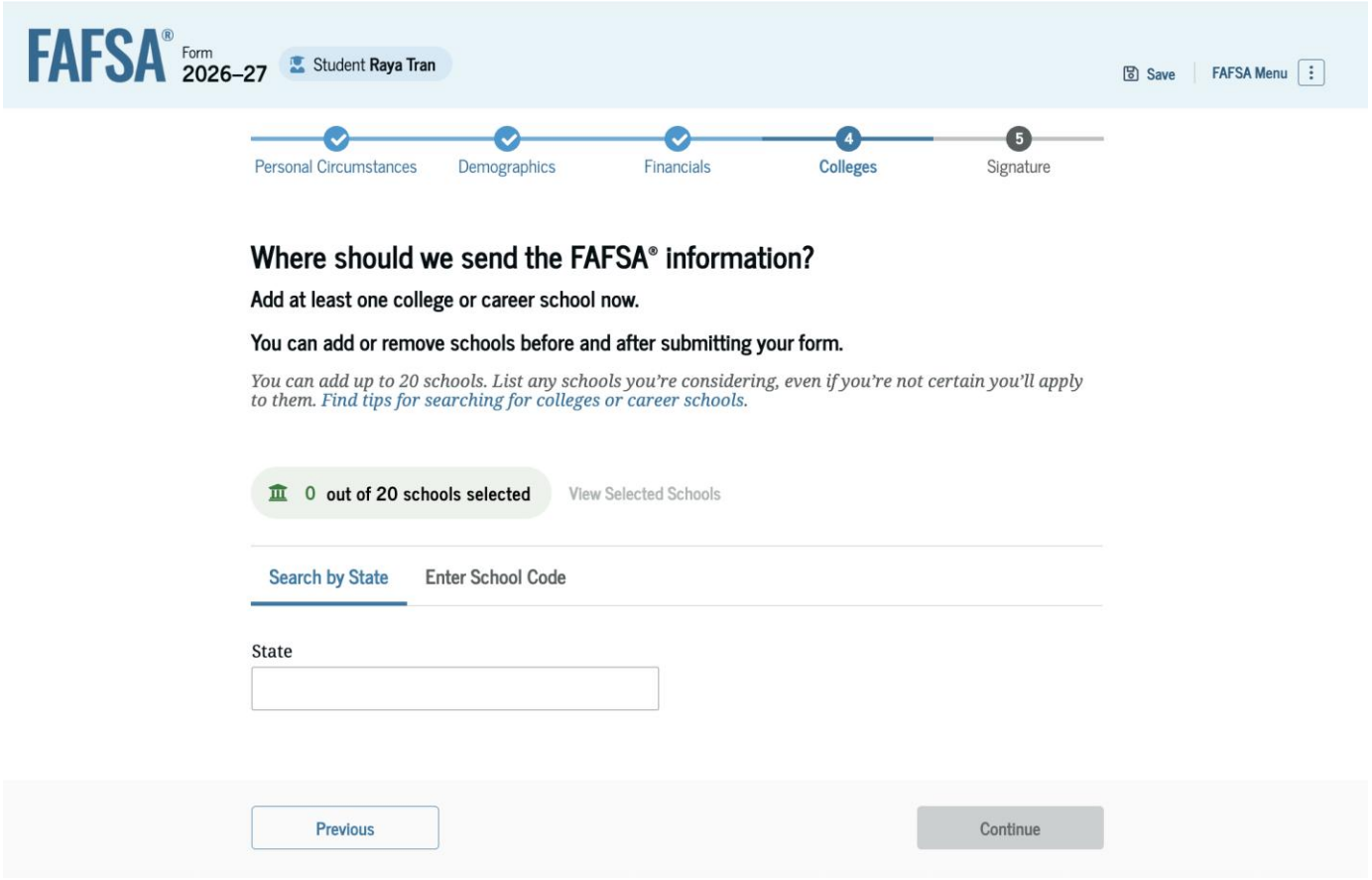
Section 4: Colleges

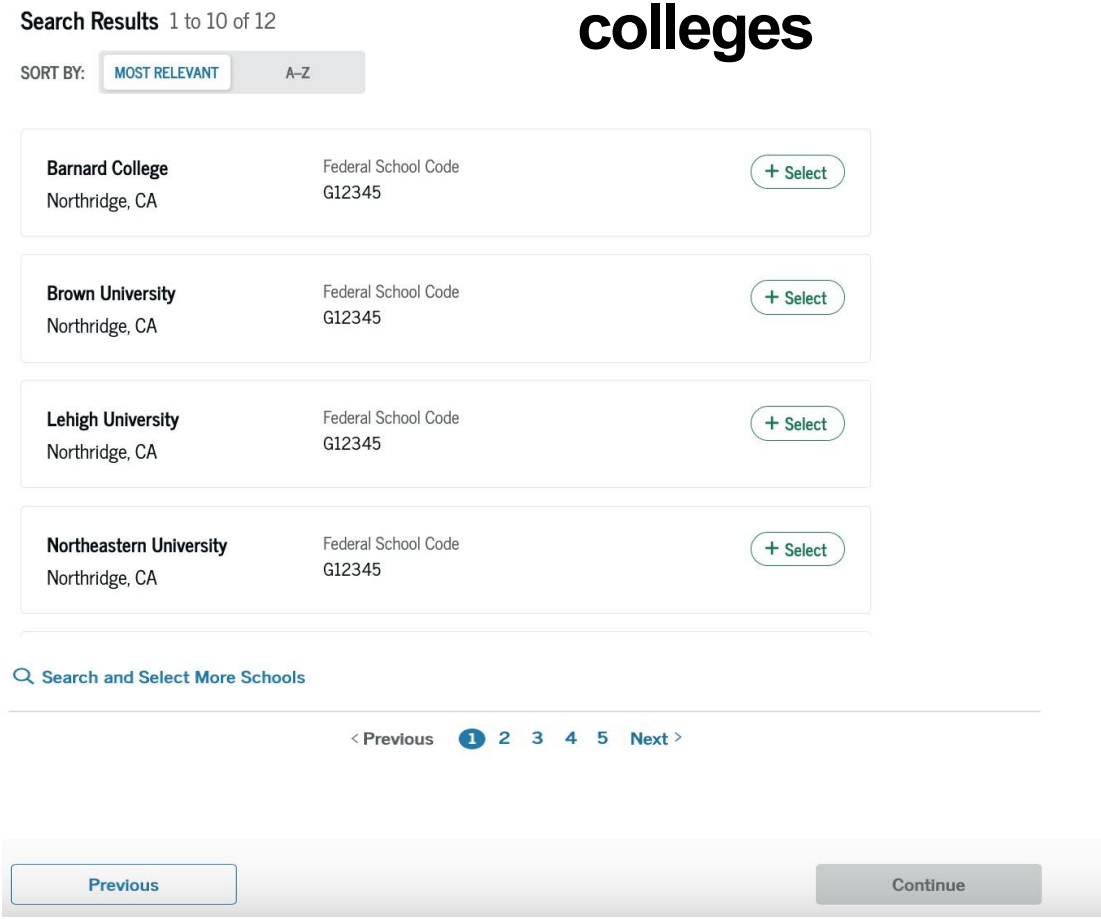


This is the first page in the "Select Colleges and Career Schools" section, which is the final part of the FAFSA® form's student section to require information. It provides an overview of the section.

Section 4: Colleges

Click "Select" to select your colleges

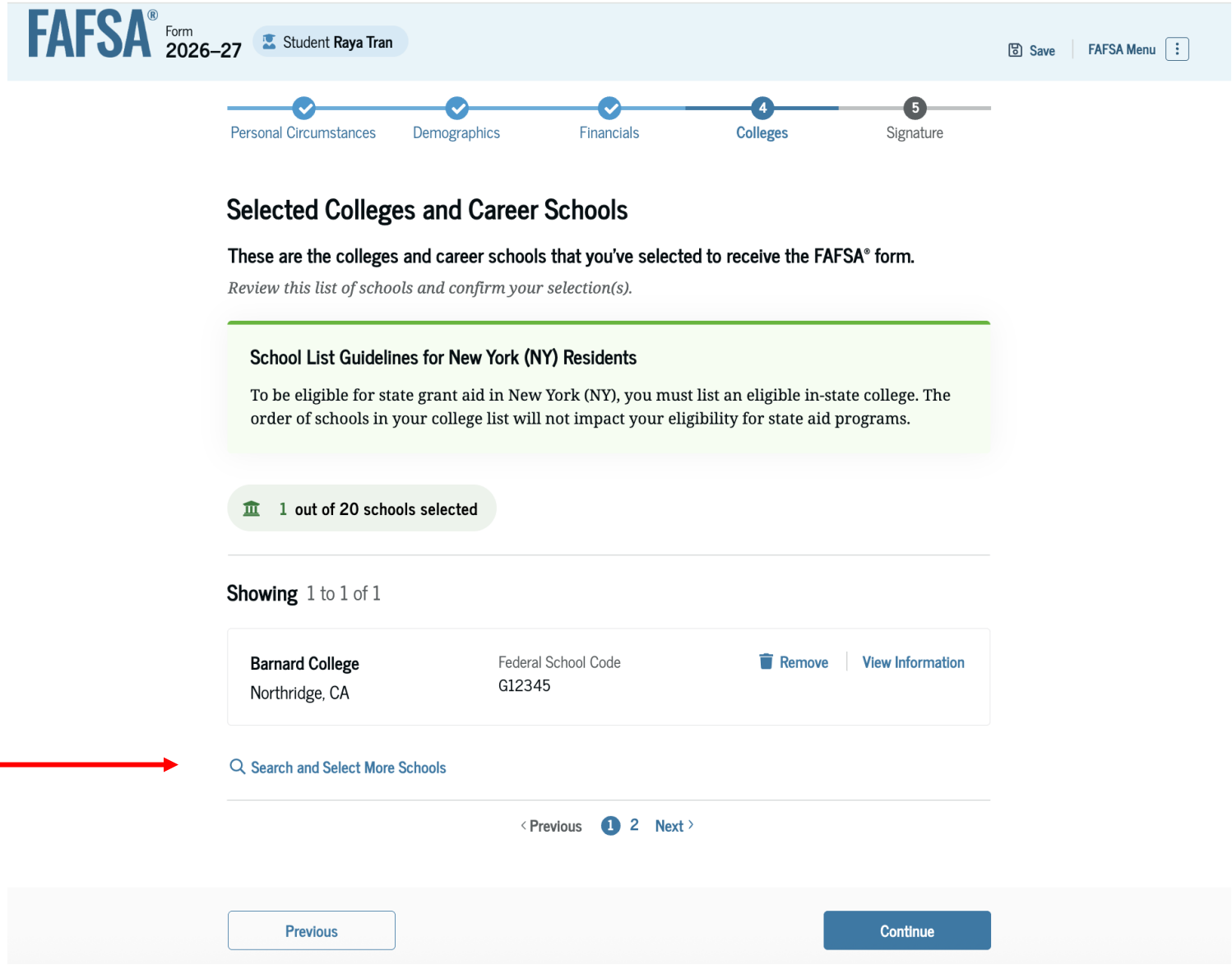




The student is asked to search for the colleges and/or career schools they would like to receive their FAFSA® information. The student searches for a school by entering a state, city, and/or school name and selecting "Search." If the student can't find a school searching by school name or state, they can search by school code. **Students can select up to 20 schools**. *The student must add at least one college or career school to continue.*

Section 4: Colleges

After the student selects the correct school(s) from the search results, they can review the school(s) they chose before continuing and add or remove school(s) if needed.



Section 5: Invite Parents to the FAFSA Form

FAFSA® Form 2026–27

Student **Raya Tran**

Invite a Parent as a Contributor

A contributor is anyone who's required to provide information on your FAFSA form. You must invite a legal parent—a biological or adoptive parent as determined by the state.

Stepparents and other types of guardians do not count unless they have legally adopted the student.

Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Previous

Who should enter as a parent on the FAFSA® form?



A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's dependency status.

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's FAFSA form.

To begin using the tool, enter the first name of the student's legal parent(s).

This helps us provide clear direction on which parent(s) should participate in the student's FAFSA form.

Who is considered a legal parent?

First Name (Parent 1)

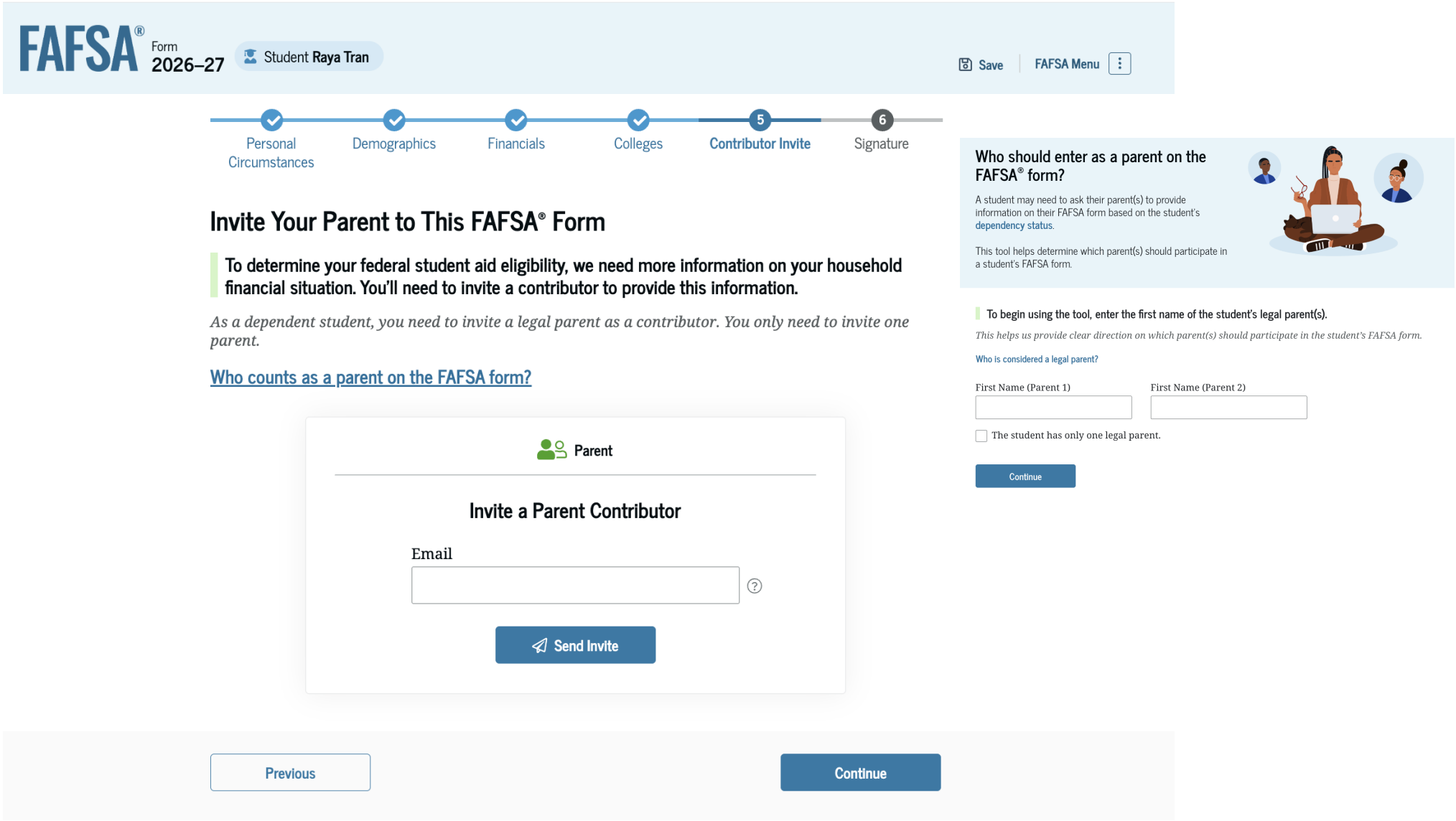
First Name (Parent 2)

☐ The student has only one legal parent.

Continue

Continue

Section 5: Invite Parents to the FAFSA Form



Who Counts As a Parent on the FAFSA Form Parent Wizard Tool

Who should enter as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's dependency status.

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's FAFSA form.



To begin using the tool, enter the first name of the student's legal parent(s).

This helps us provide clear direction on which parent(s) should participate in the student's FAFSA form.

Who is considered a legal parent?

First Name (Parent 1)

First Name (Parent 2)

☐ The student has only one legal parent.

Continue

Who Counts As a Parent on the FAFSA Form Parent Wizard Tool

Who should enter as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's dependency status.

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's FAFSA form.



Start Over

The Student's Legal Parents:

Nico

Emly

Are Nico and Emly married to each other (not separated)?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Which parent has provided more financial support for the student over the past 12 months?

If both parents provided an equal amount of financial support or if neither supports the student financially, select the parent with the greater income and assets. The parent who provided more financial support may or may not be the same parent that the student lives with.

- ○ Nico
- ○ Emly

The Student's FAFSA® Parents

Both **Nico** and **Emily** are parents on the FAFSA® form.

- The student will need to invite only one parent to the FAFSA form: Nico **or** Emily .
- The parent should report their current marital status as married (not separated).
- If the parents filed taxes jointly, only one parent is required as a contributor and will report information for both parents.
- If the parents did not file taxes jointly, then both parents are contributors on the FAFSA form. The parent will be prompted to invite their spouse. Both parents' individual information, consent and approval, and signatures will be required.
- The parent (and spouse if identified as a contributor) needs their own StudentAid.gov account username and password to fill out their portion of the student's FAFSA form.

How To Invite a Parent

The Student's FAFSA® Parent

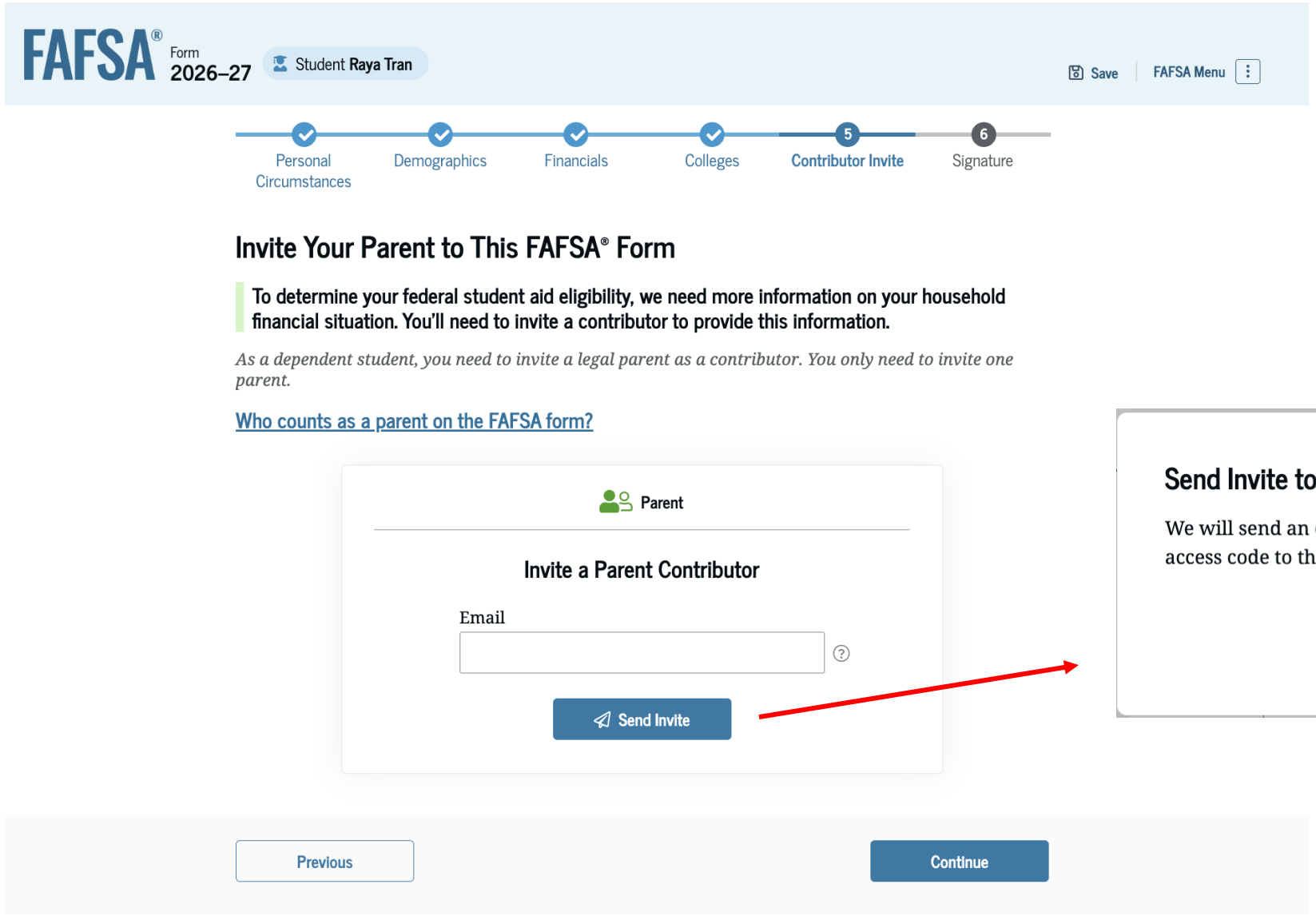
Only **Emly** is a parent on the student's FAFSA® form.

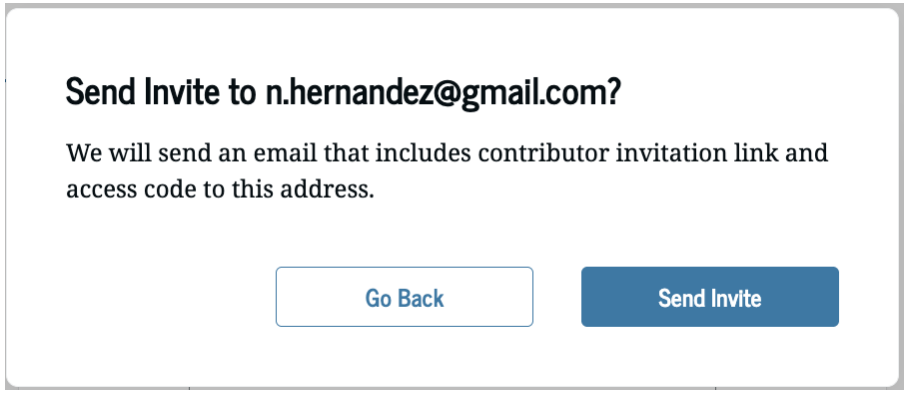
- The student will need to invite only Emly to the FAFSA form.
- Emly should report their current marital status as single (never married), separated, divorced, or widowed.
- The student's FAFSA form will need financial information related to Emly .
- Emly will need a StudentAid.gov account username and password to fill out their portion of the student's FAFSA form.

How To Invite a Parent

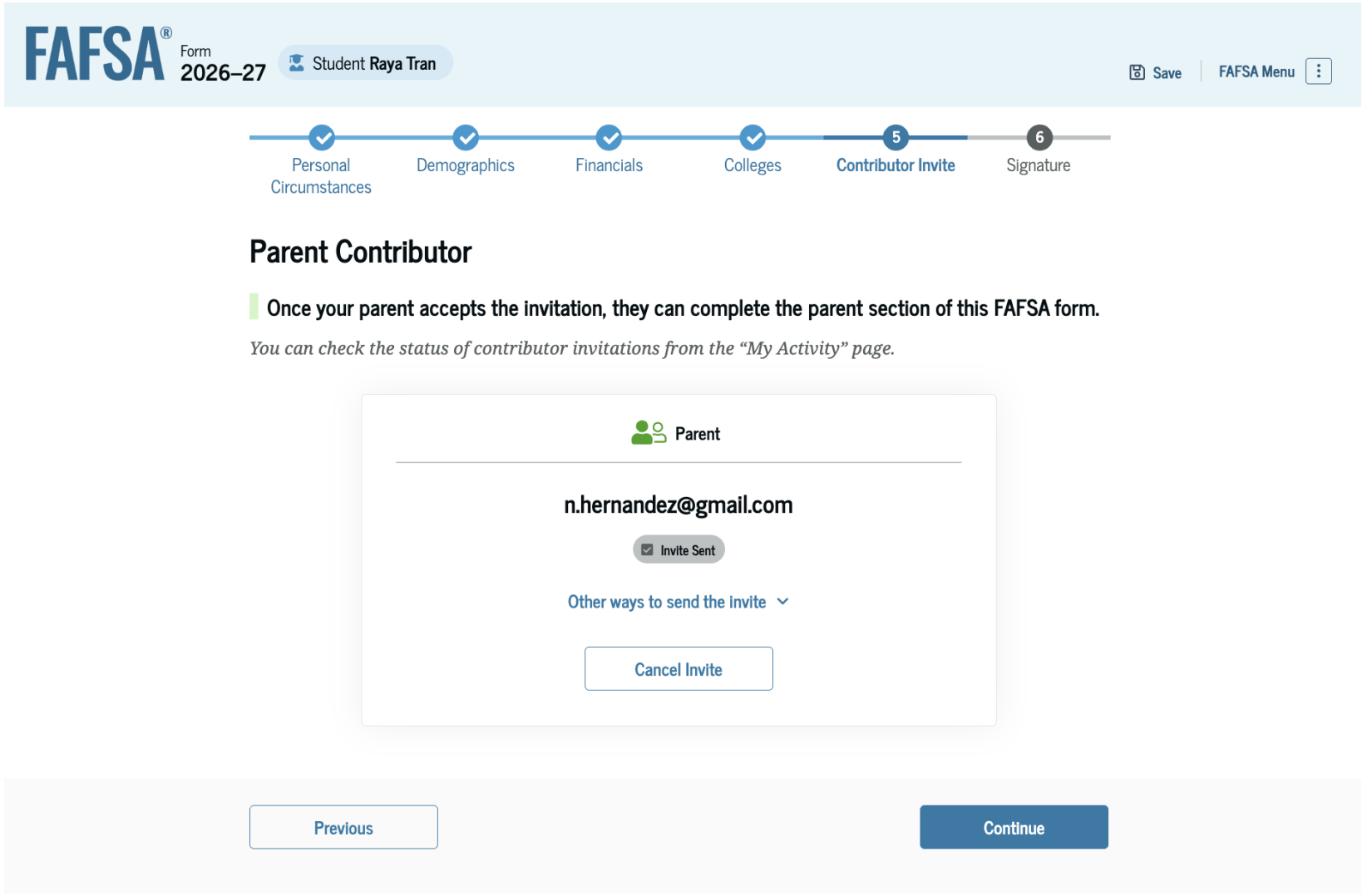
Can a parent start a FAFSA form for the student?

Section 5: Invite Parents to the FAFSA Form





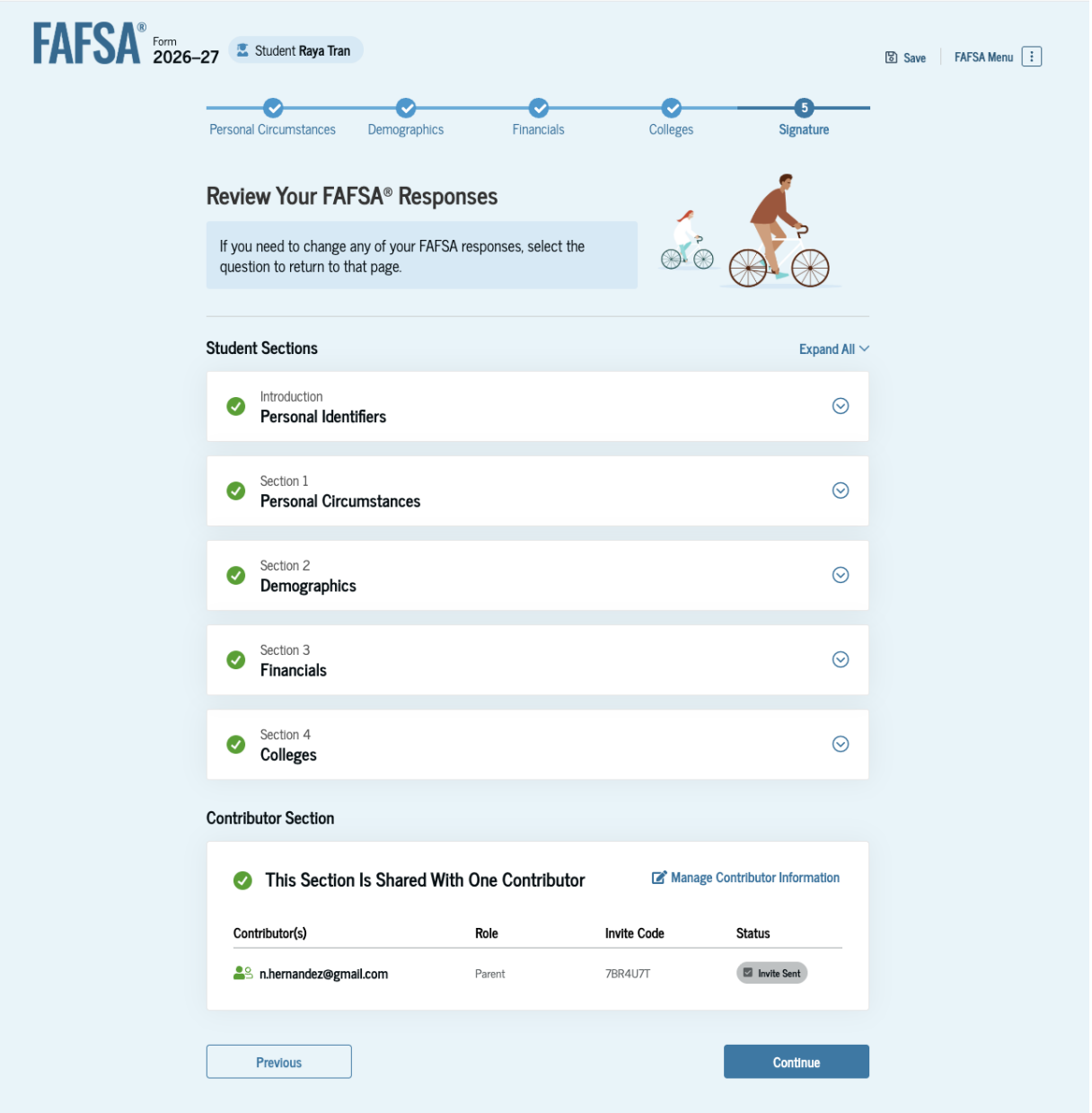
Section 5: Invite Parents to the FAFSA Form



Take a Moment To Review Before Signing

The review page displays the responses that the student has provided in the FAFSA® form. The student can view all their responses by selecting "Expand All" or expand each section individually. To edit a response, the student can select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page.

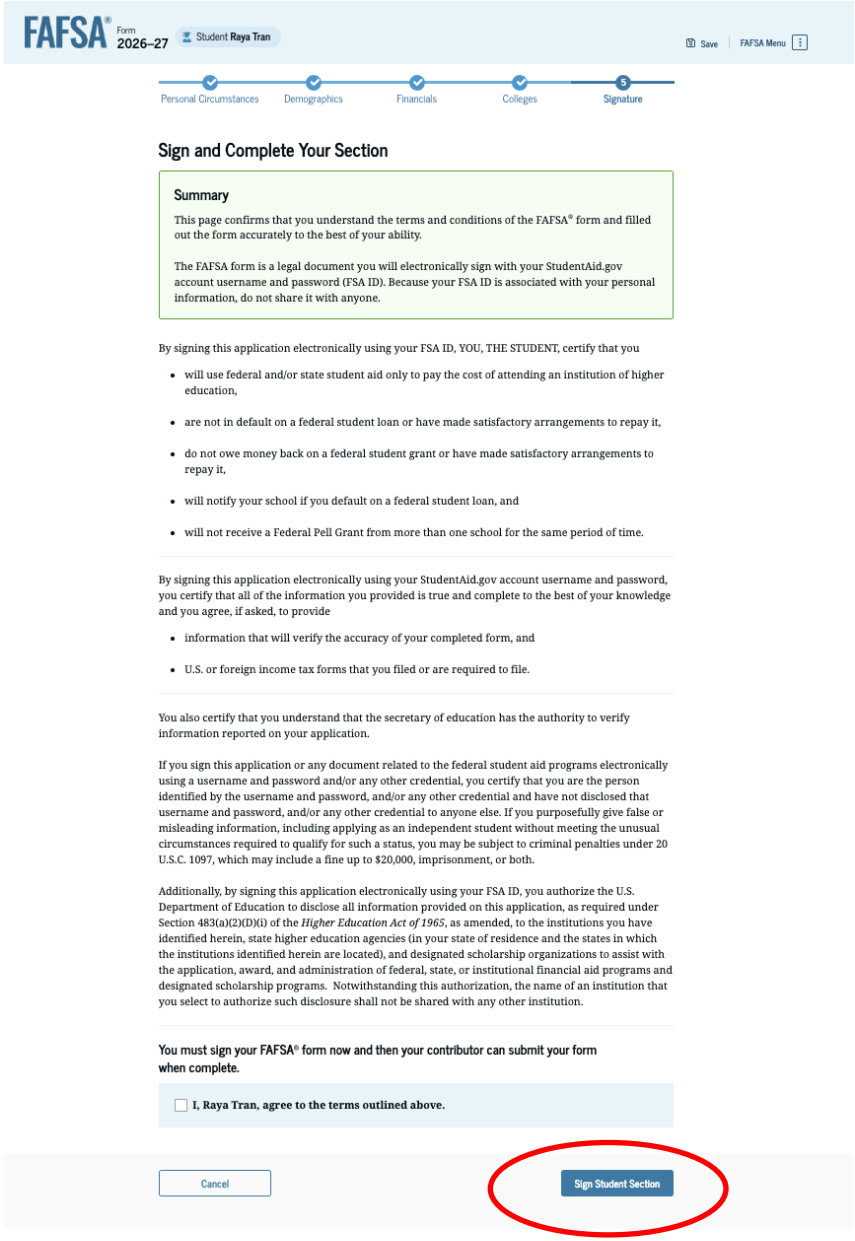
- Review Each Section
- Make Corrections if needed by clicking on the arrow
- Make sure contributor invitation is sent



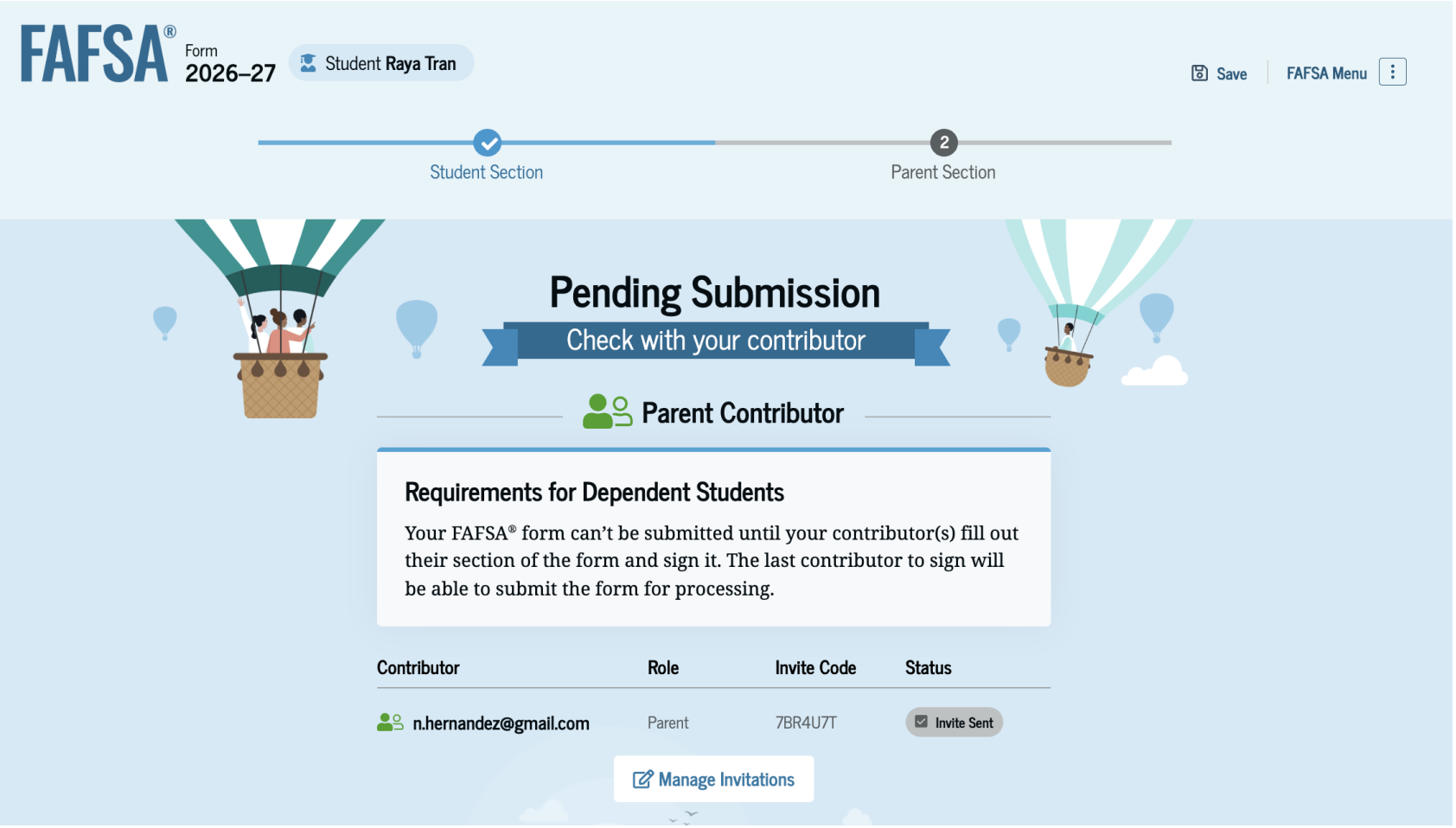
Students: Sign and Complete Your Section

On this page, the student reviews the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and what they'll agree to if they sign the form.

Agree to the Terms and Conditions and Sign Your FAFSA



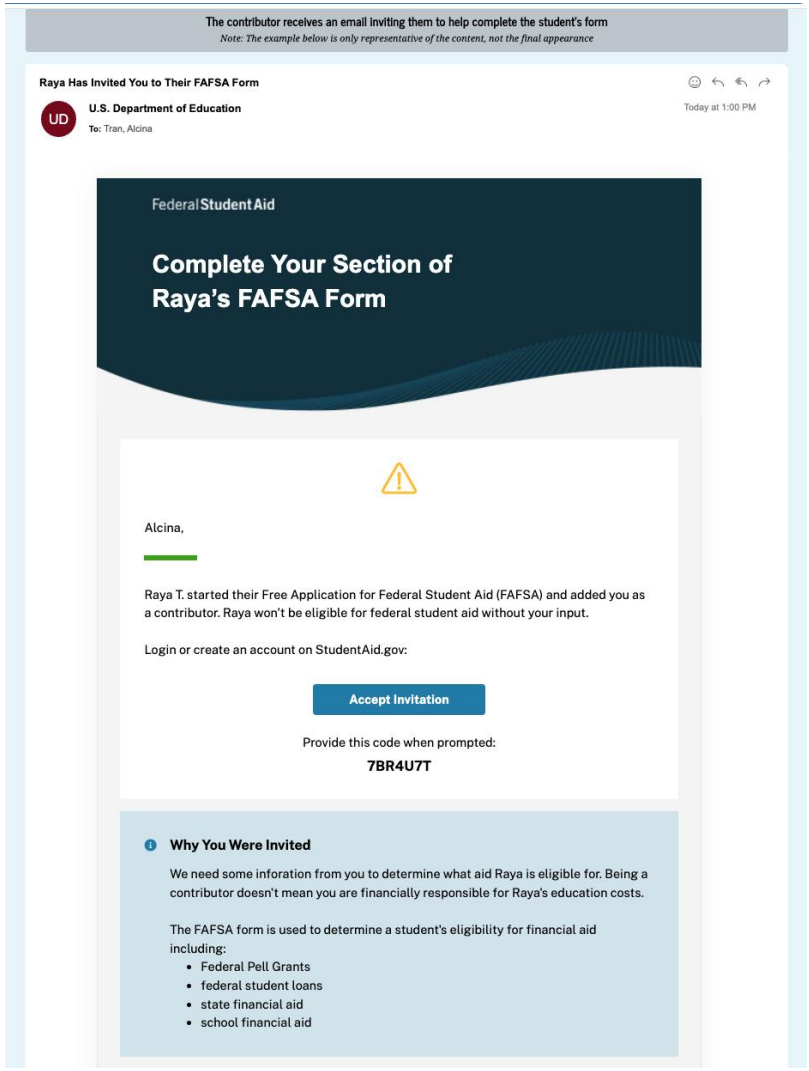
Student Section is Complete!
Pending Submission



Upon signing the student section, the student is presented “Pending Submission” page. The student is reminded to check with their contributor(s) to complete their sections.

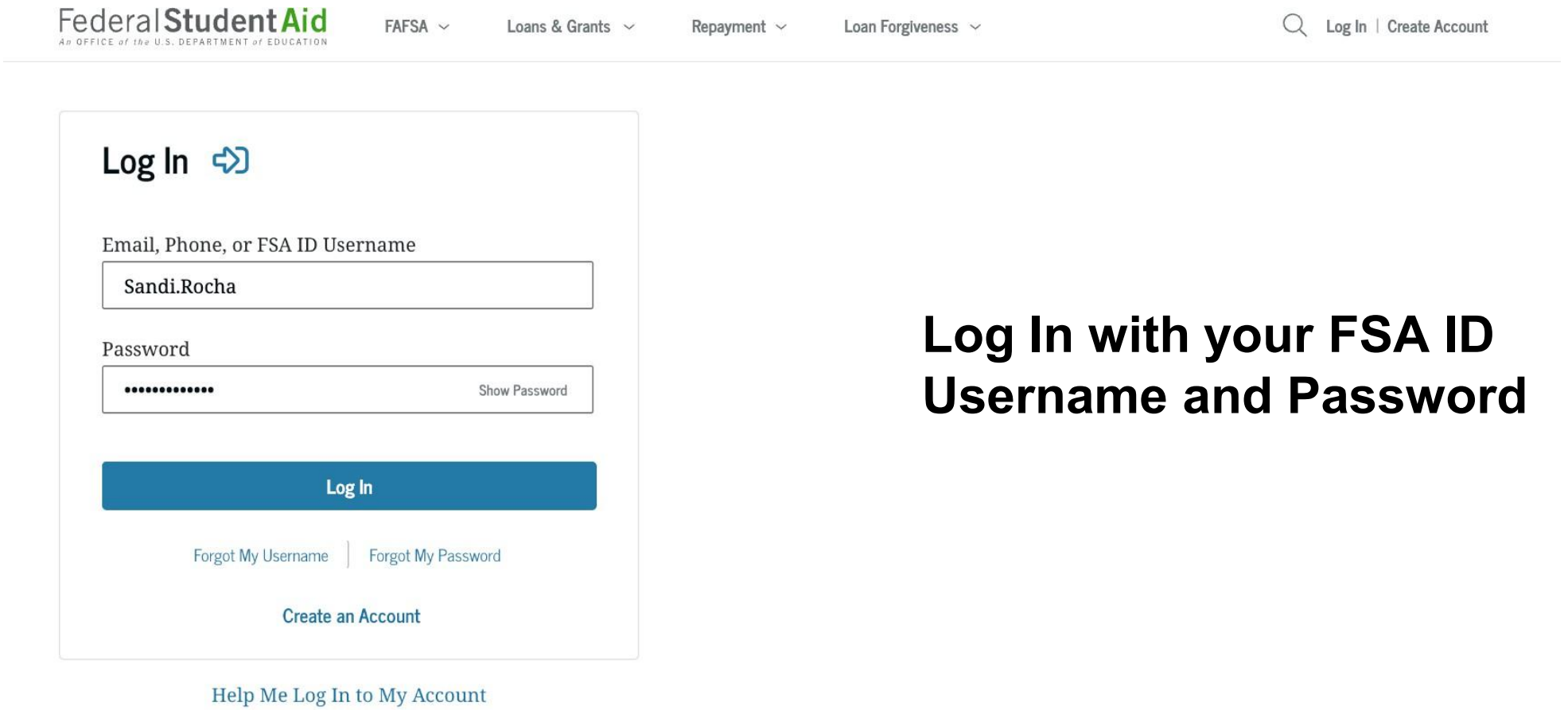
Contributors Receive an Email Invitation to Complete Contributor's Section

This view demonstrates a parent opening the FAFSA invitation from their email. The parent selects "Accept Invitation" and is provided the code. When accepting the invitation, the contributor is taken to StudentAid.gov.



This is NOT a view within StudentAid.gov or the FAFSA® form.

Contributor Log In

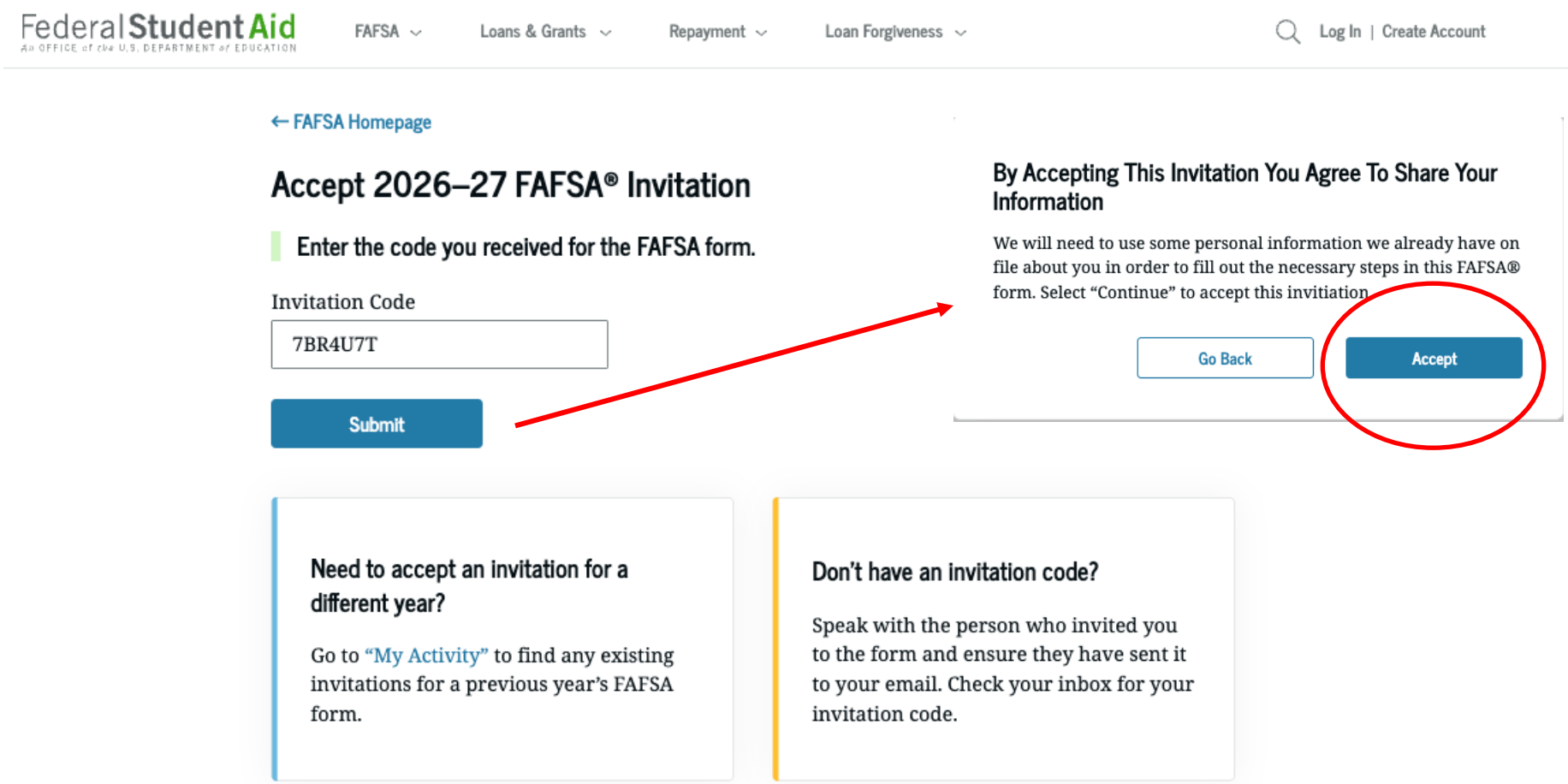


Log In with your FSA ID Username and Password

The parent is taken from their email to the "Log In" page to enter their credentials. To access the FAFSA® form, all users are required to have an FSA ID (StudentAid.gov account username and password). If the parent doesn't have an FSA ID, they can select "Create an Account."

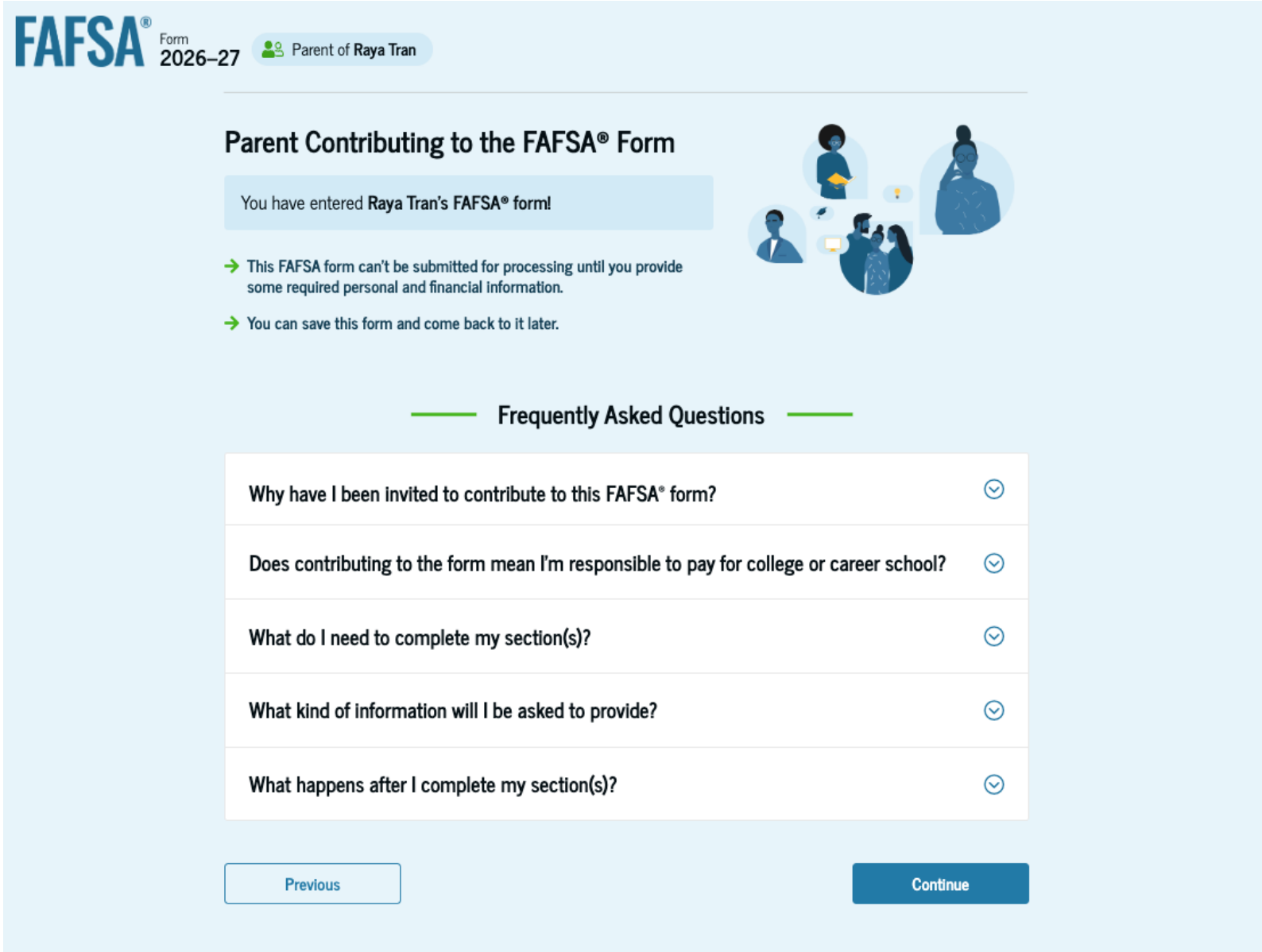
Accept the Contributor Invitation

After successfully logging in, the parent enters the invitation code and will be prompted to accept the invitation and agree to share their information.



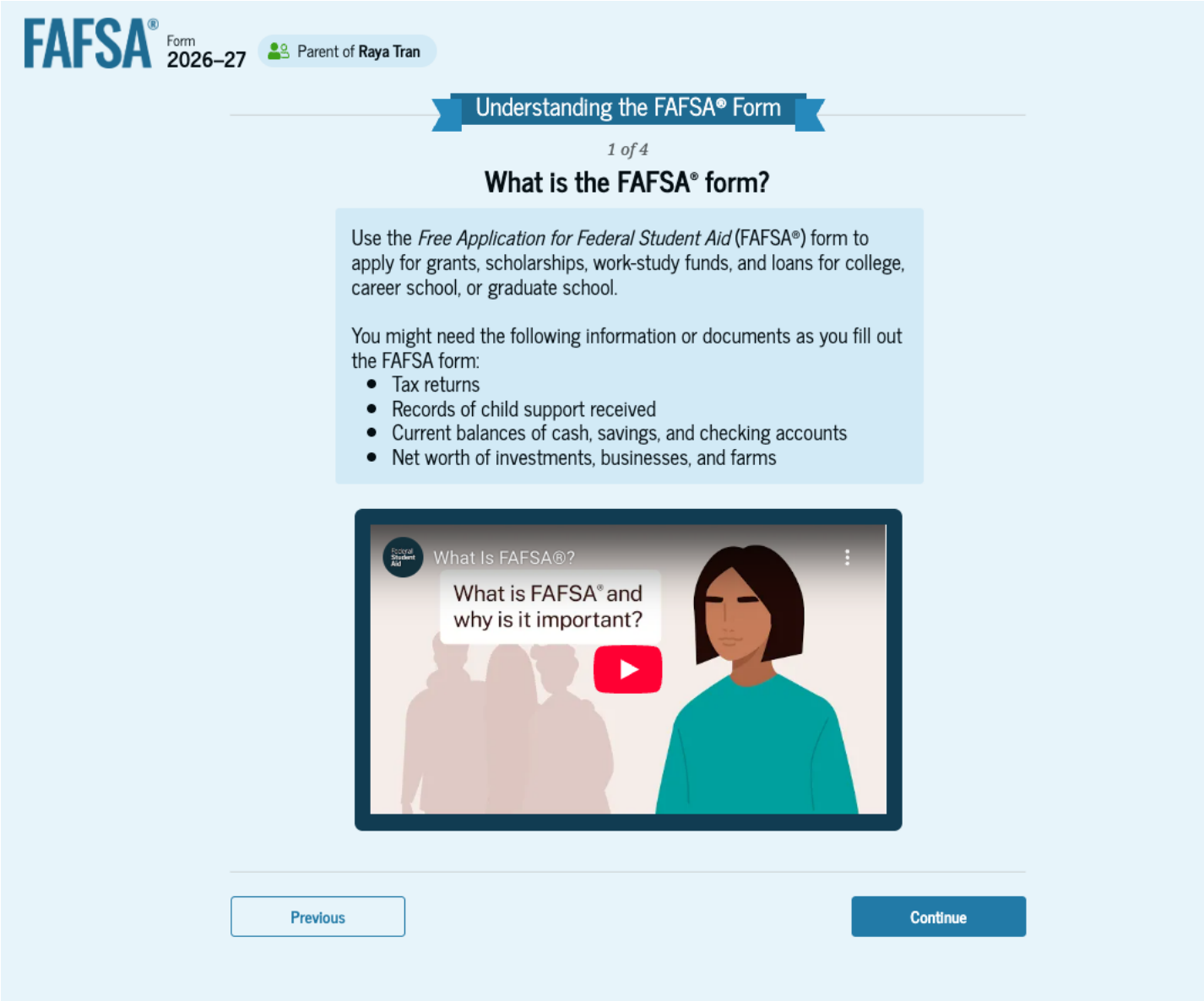
Contributor's Section

Parents will be directed to the Parent Contributors page where frequently asked questions are reviewed.



Parent FAFSA Onboarding

When the parent enters a 2026-2027 FAFSA® form for the first time, they are taken through the FAFSA onboarding process. The first onboarding page provides an introduction of the FAFSA form and an accompanying video.



Parent FAFSA Onboarding

The second FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about contributors that may be required to participate in the student's FAFSA form, including an accompanying video that explains contributors, and information on how the parent will invite them. Documents that may be needed to fill out the form are also included on this page.



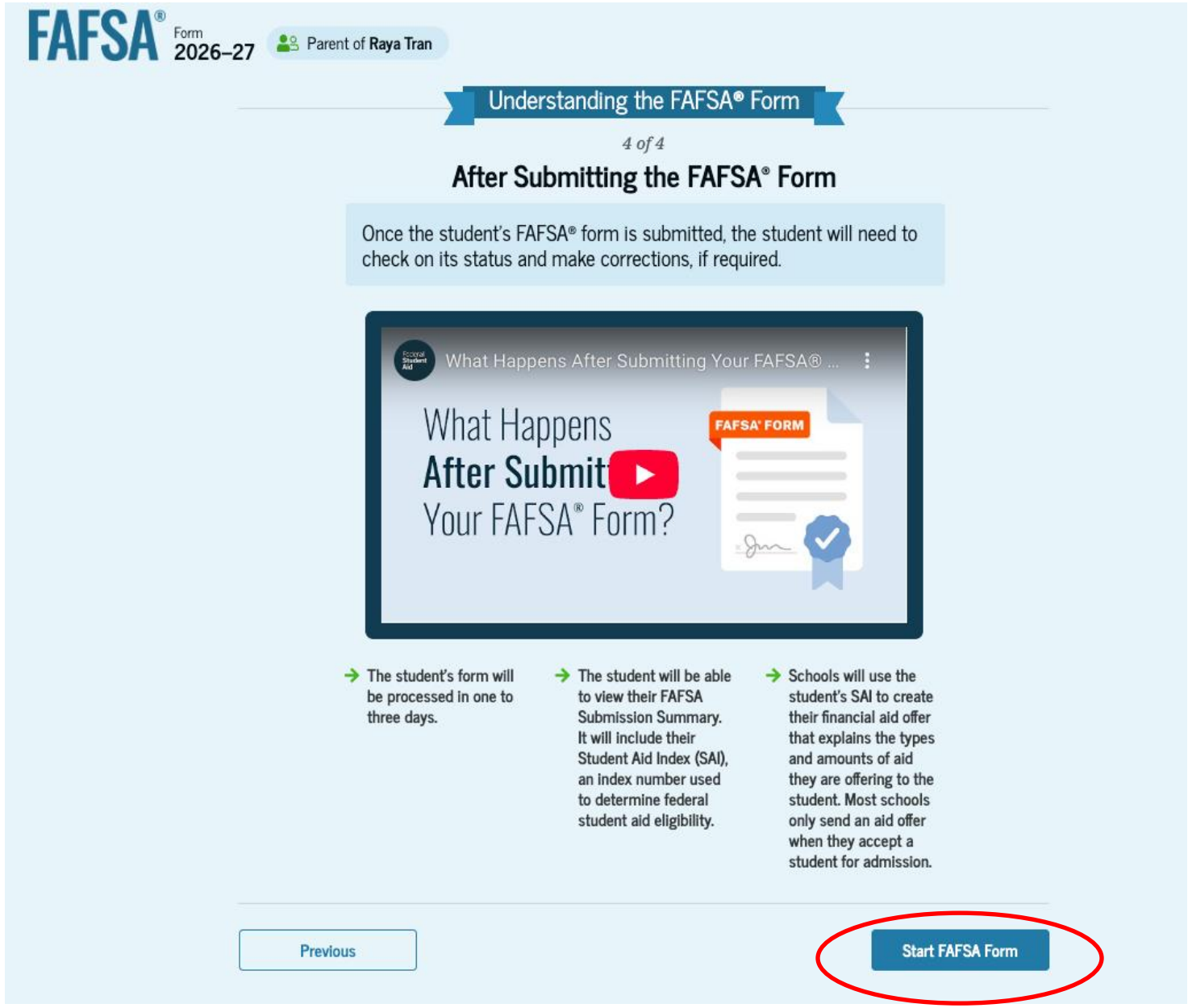
Parent FAFSA Onboarding

The third FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about what the parent can expect when completing the student's FAFSA form. This includes information about consent and approval, a time estimate to complete the form, and that they can save the form and return later if needed, along with an accompanying video.

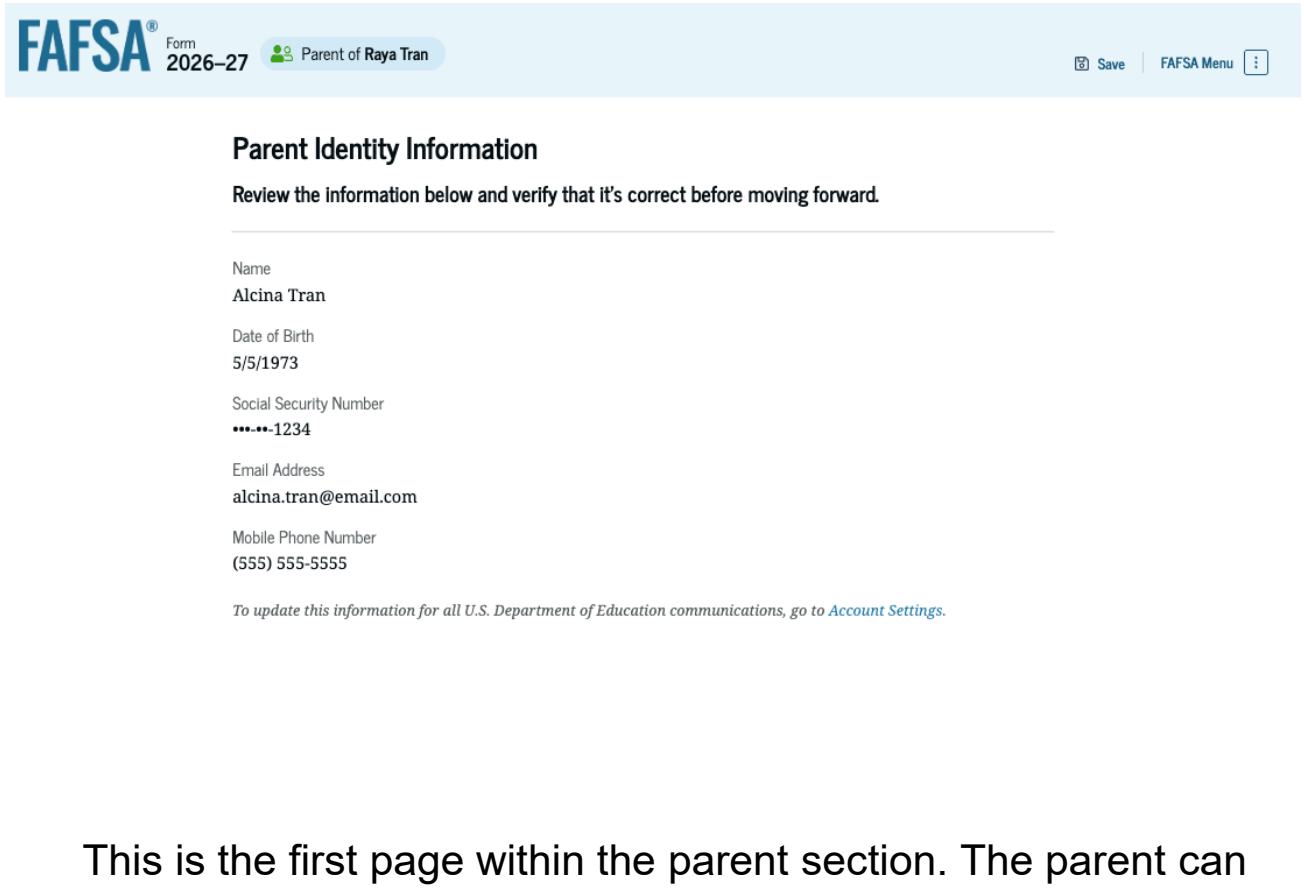


Parent FAFSA Onboarding

The last onboarding page provides information about what to expect once the FAFSA® form is completed, submitted, and processed. On this page, the parent selects "Start FAFSA Form" to begin the parent section.



Parent Identity Information



This is the first page within the parent section. The parent can verify that their personal information is correct. To update any of the personal information, the parent must access their Account Settings on StudentAid.gov.

MUST PROVIDE CONSENT

Parent Provides Consent for IRS Direct Data Exchange

NO CONSENT= NO FED AID

Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- → Get your 2023 tax return information for the 2025–26 FAFSA form.
- → Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- → Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, as described below, and further affirmatively approve of the receipt and use of my federal tax information and to the U.S. Department of Education (ED)'s redisclosure of my federal tax information, as described below. By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of *Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid who has requested that I share my federal tax information on their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Who should provide consent and approval?
- If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?
- What happens after I provide consent and approval?
- What happens if I decline consent and approval?

Select "Approve" to consent to using your tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous | Decline | Approve

The Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

You did not agree to the terms on this page. The student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans, if you don't agree to the terms.

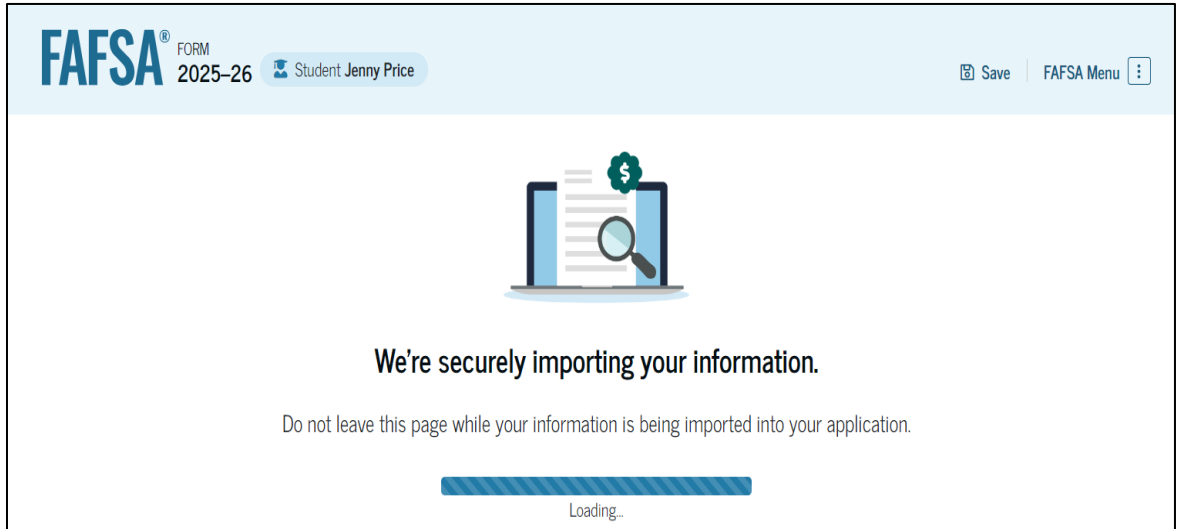
Select "Provide Consent" to provide your consent.

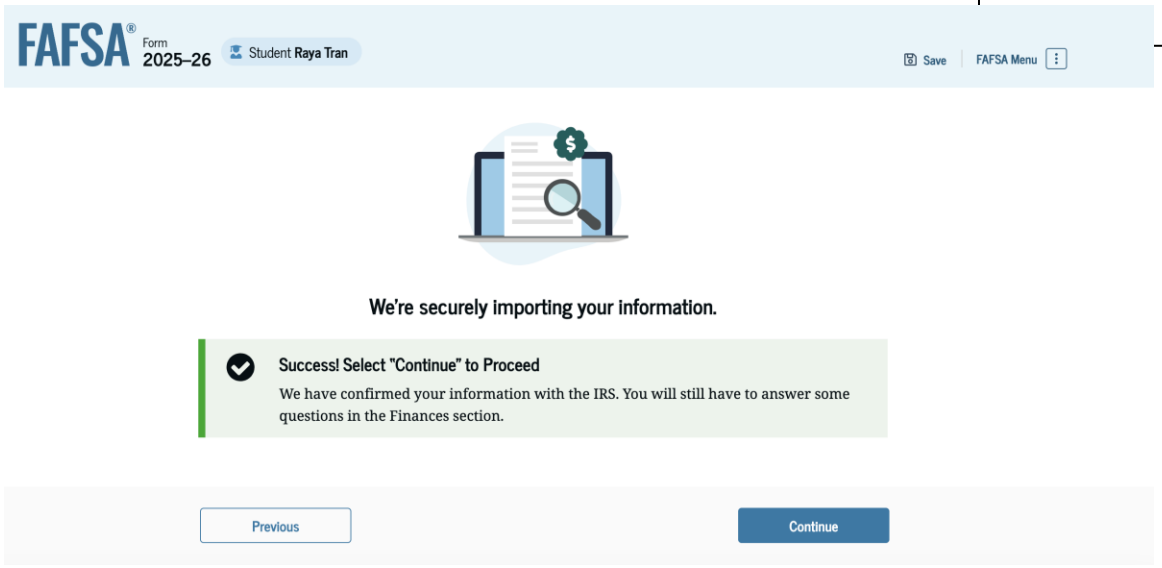
Decline | Provide Consent

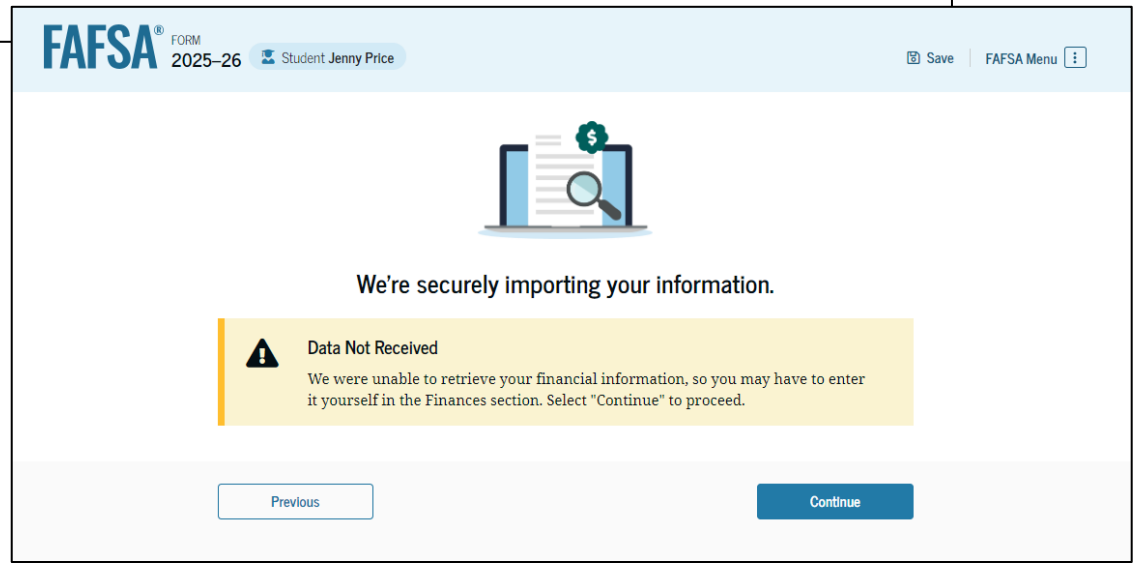
This page informs the parent about consent, approval, and the use of their federal tax information. By providing consent and approval, the parent's federal tax information is transferred directly into the FAFSA® form from the IRS to help complete the "Parent Finances" section.

Parent Imports IRS Information

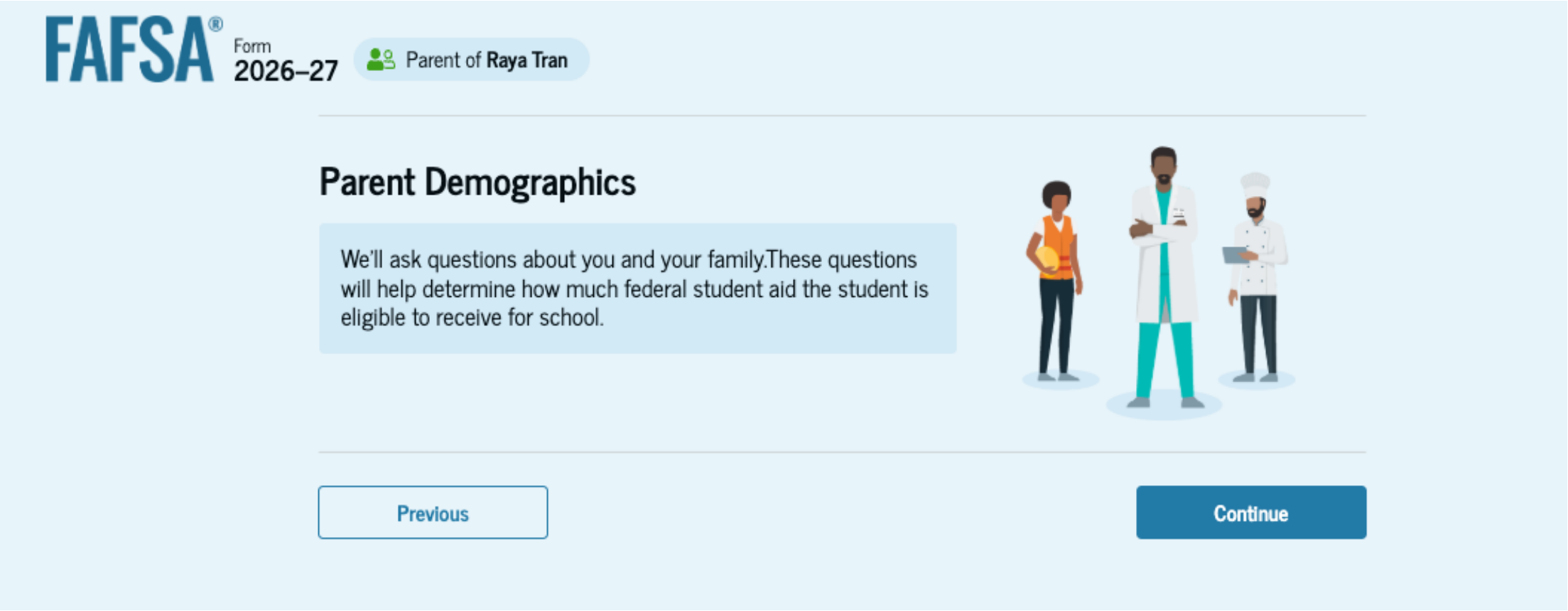
This page imports the parent's federal tax information by directly transferring it into the FAFSA® form from the IRS to help complete the "Parent Finances" section





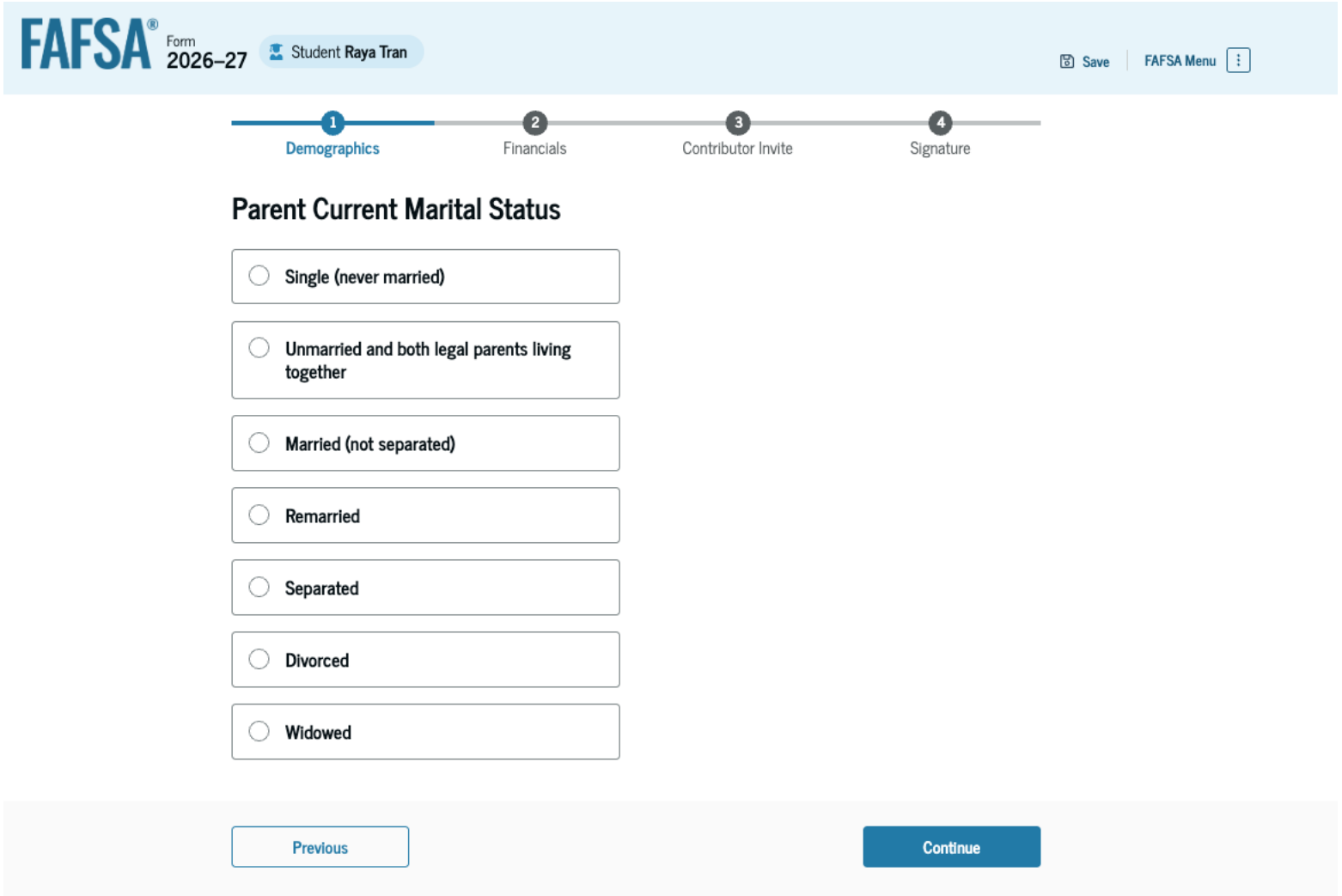


Parent Demographics



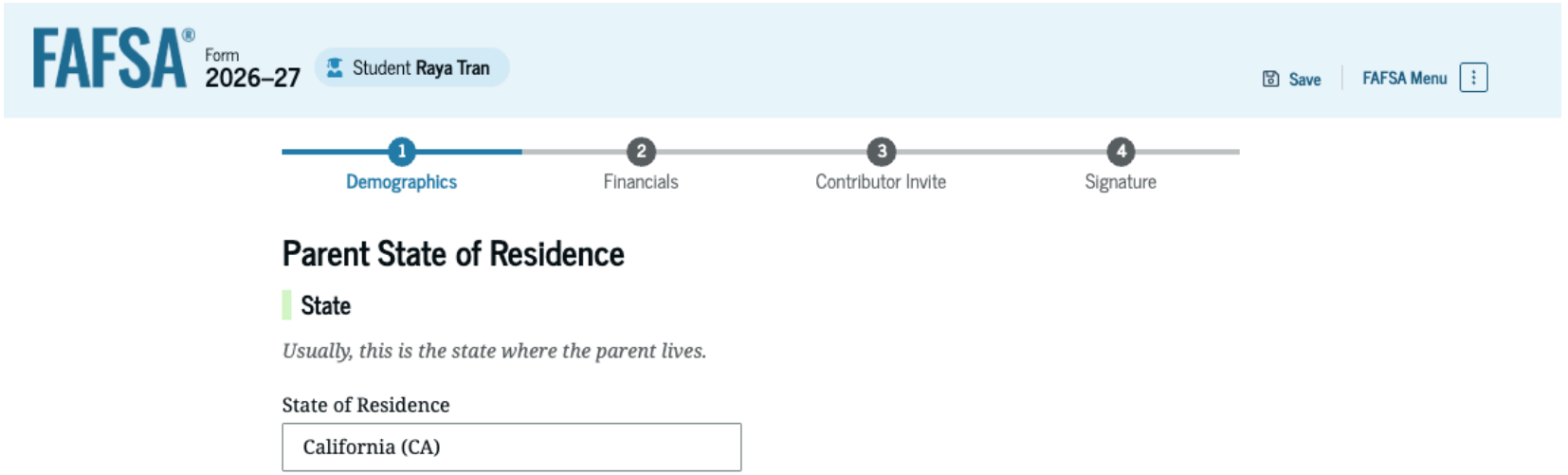
This is the first page in the "Parent Demographics" section. It provides an overview of the section. “We’ll ask questions about you and your family. These questions will help determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive for school.”

Section 1: Parent Demographics



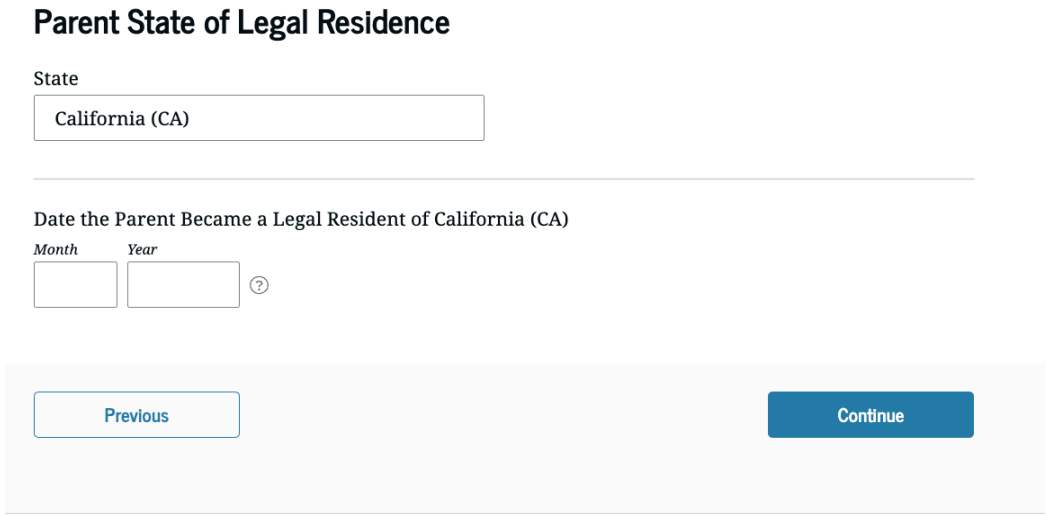
The parent is asked about their current marital status.

Section 1: Parent Demographics

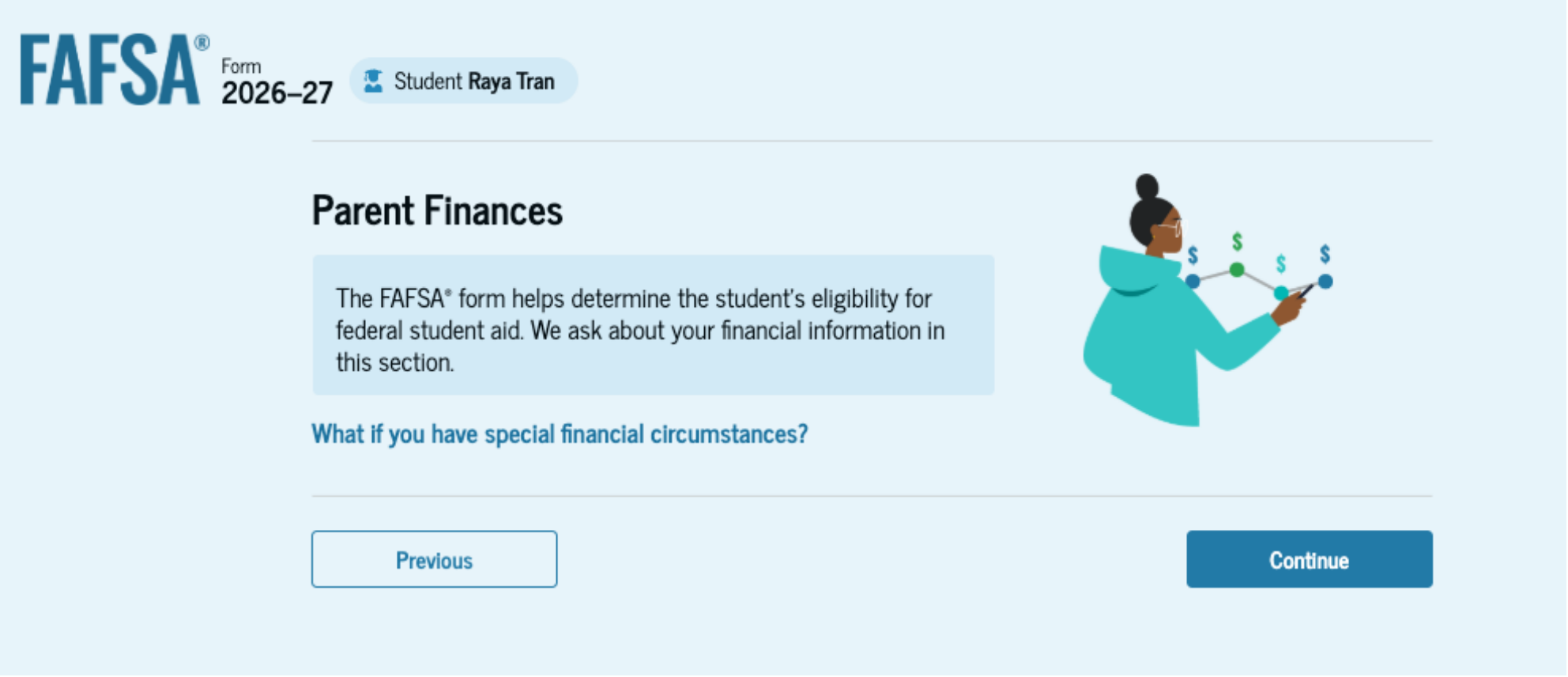


The parent is asked about their state of legal residence. The parent selects the state from a drop-down box and provides the month and year when they became a legal resident.

Enter Date Parent Became Legal Resident of CA



Section 2: Parent Finances



This is the first page within the "Parent Finances" section. It provides an overview of the section ” The FAFSA® form helps determine the student’s eligibility for federal student aid. We ask about your financial information in this section.”

Section 2: Parent Finances

Earned Income Tax Credit = Helps low- to moderate-income workers and families get a tax break. Earn under $63,389

Federal Housing Assistance = Section 8

Free and Reduced Lunch= Free lunch at school

Medicaid = Medical is CA Medicaid Program

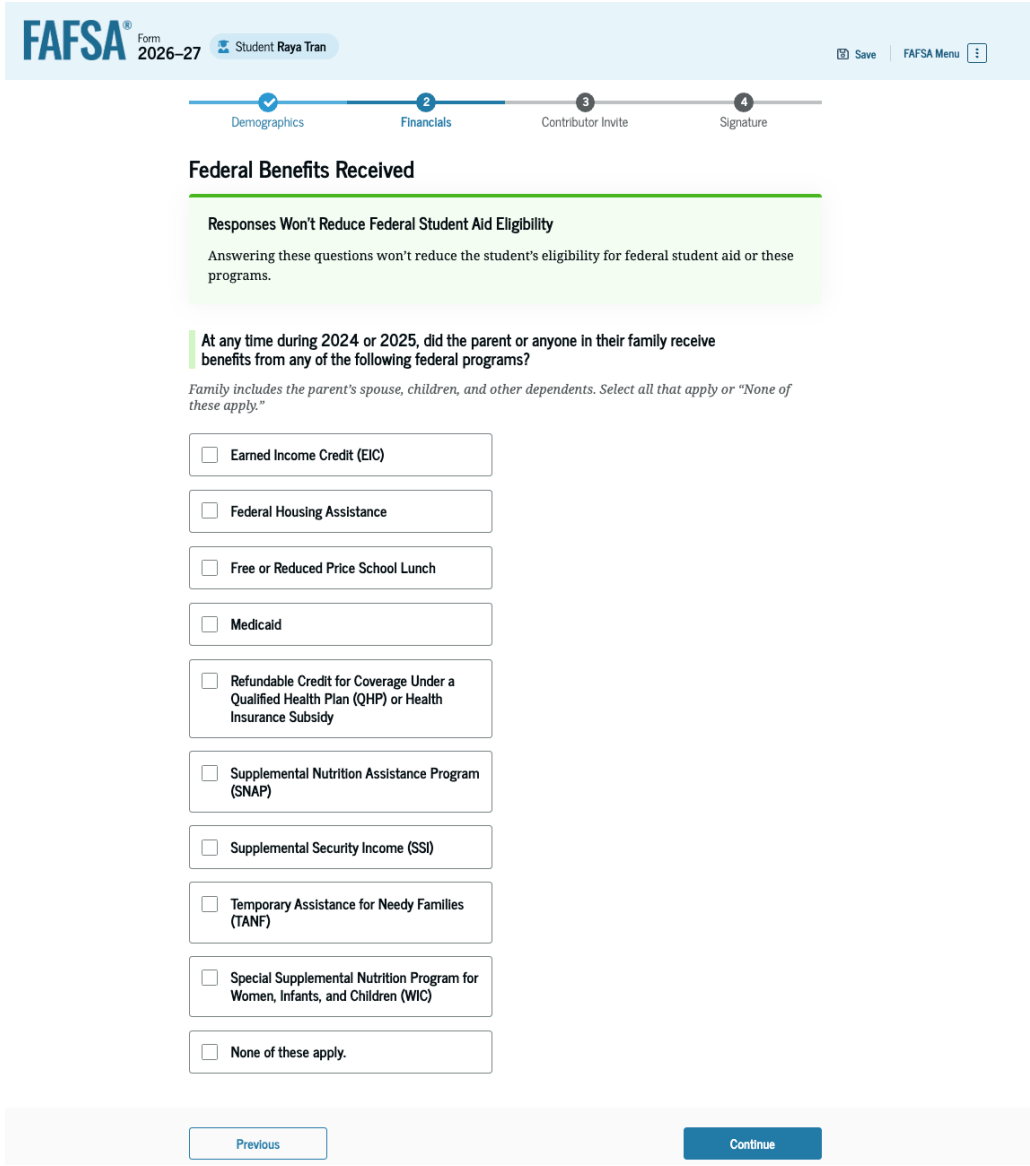
Refundable Credit for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) = if you qualify for a refundable credit and the amount of the credit is larger than the tax you owe, you will receive a refund for the difference.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) = Food Stamps or Cal Fresh

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) = 65 or older, as well as people of any age, including children, who are blind or have disabilities

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) = CalWORKS

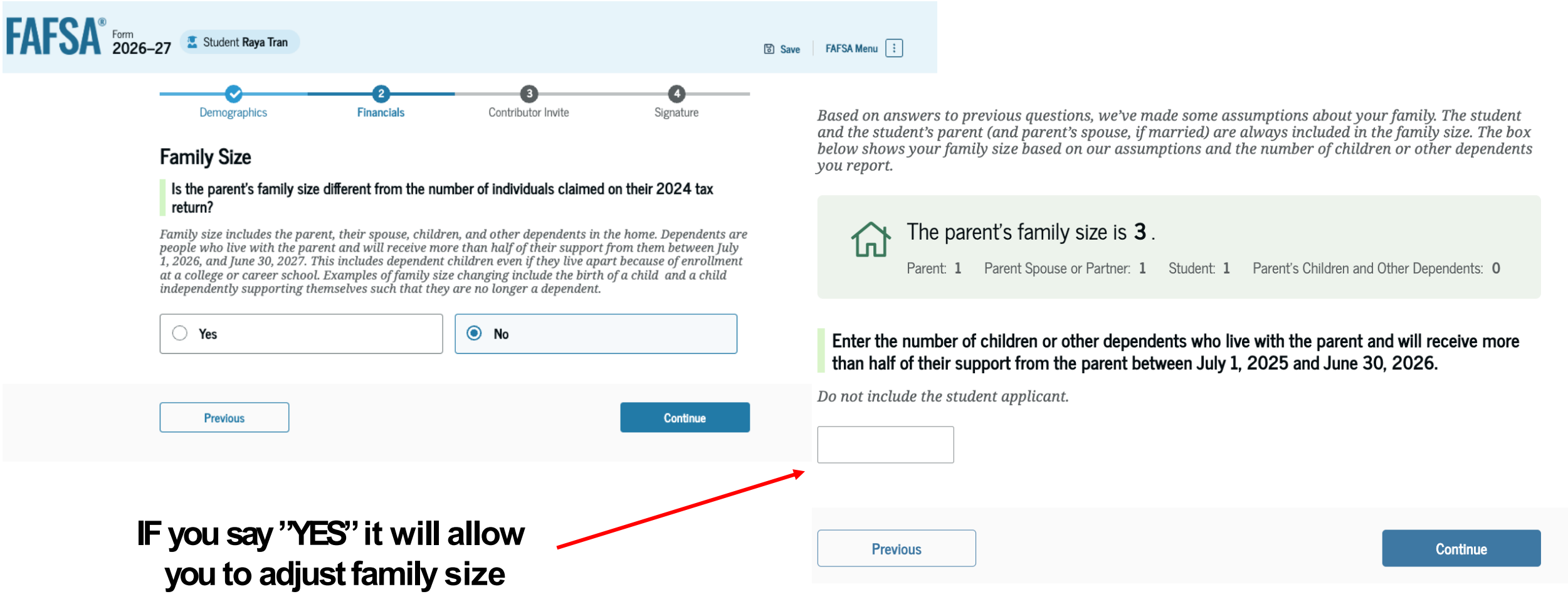
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) = breastfeeding support, nutritious foods, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care to pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and children up to age five



This page asks the parent if they or anyone in their family has received federal benefits.

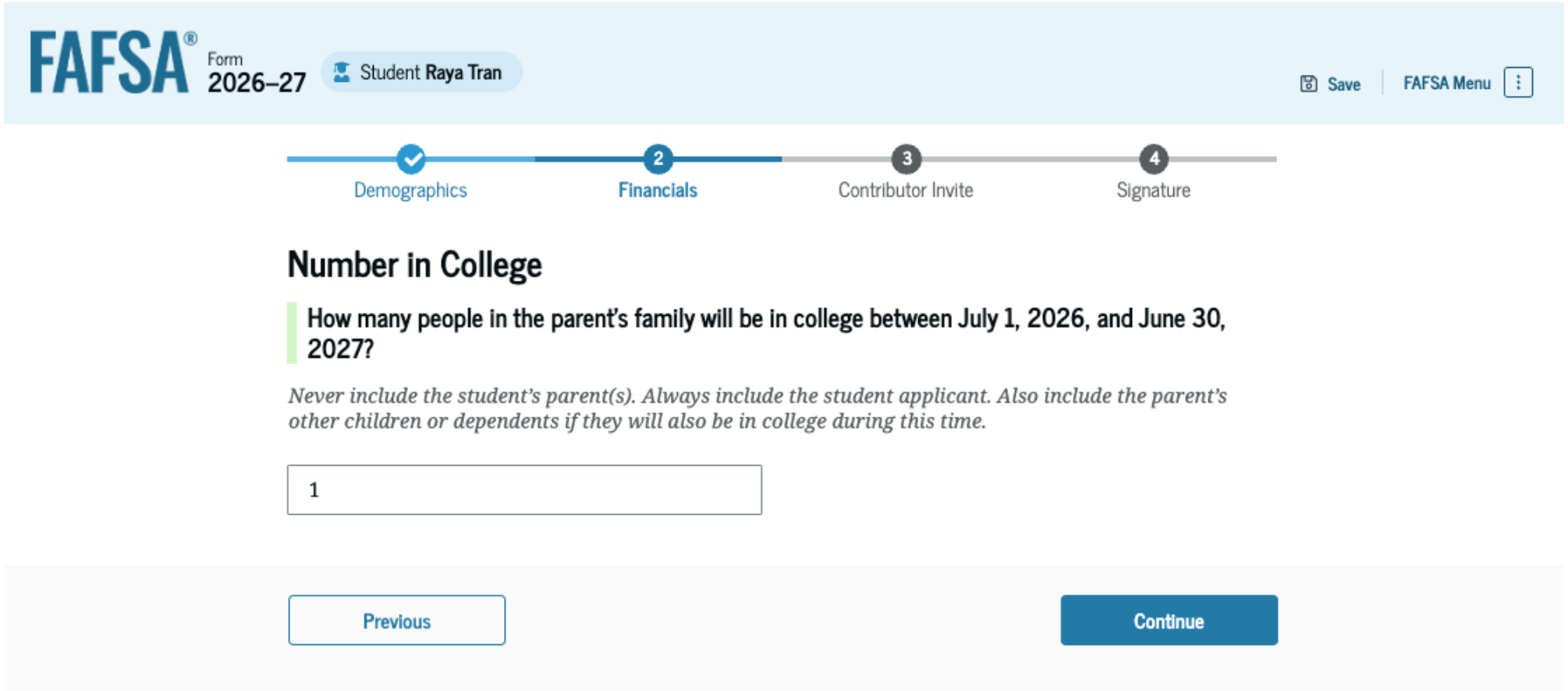
Section 2: Parent Finances

This page displays the family size for the student. The parent has the option to enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.



IF you say "YES" it will allow you to adjust family size

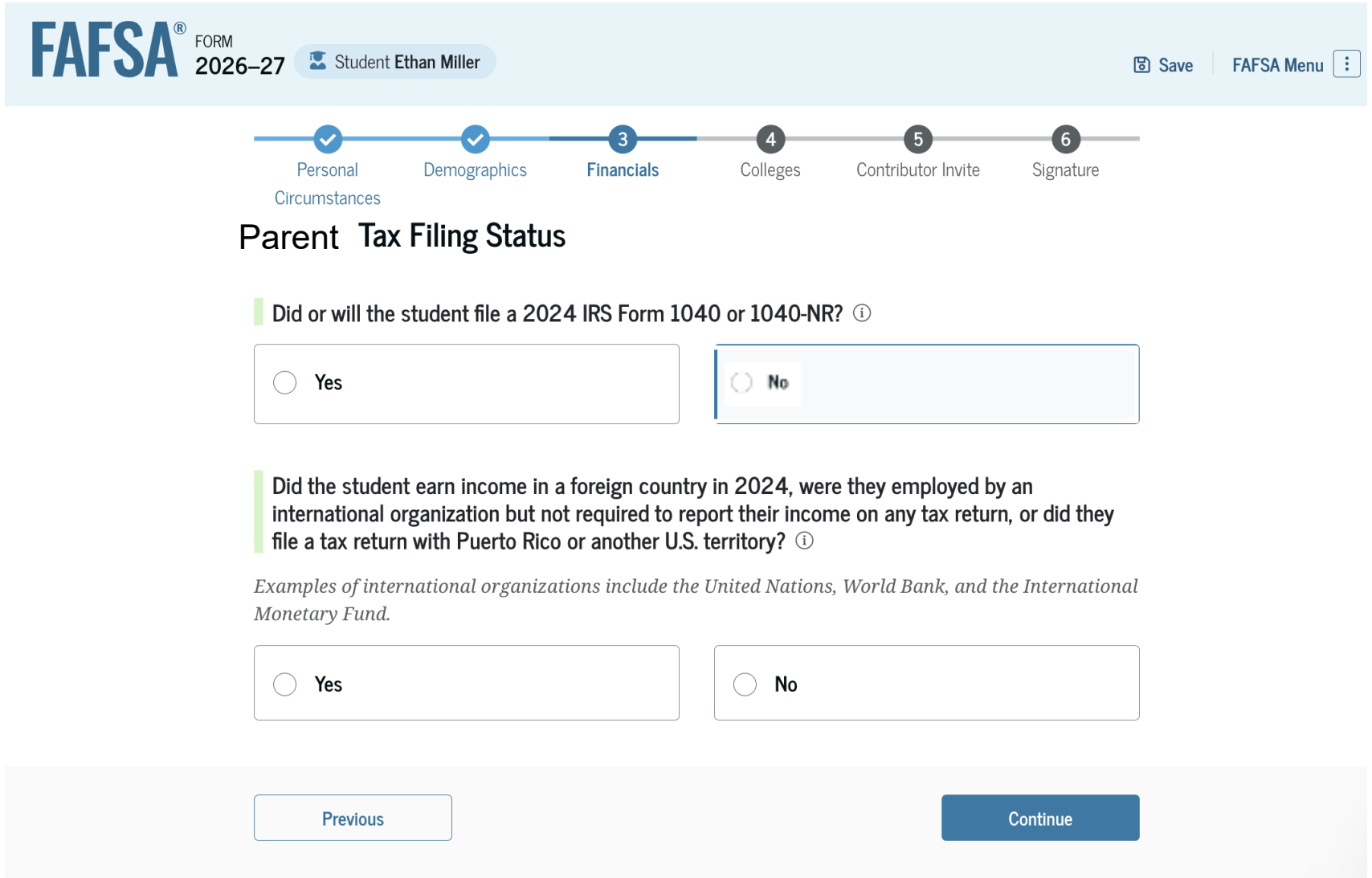
Section 2: Parent Finances



This page asks the parent how many people in the family will be in college between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. The parent enters a response into the entry field.

Section 2: Parent Financials

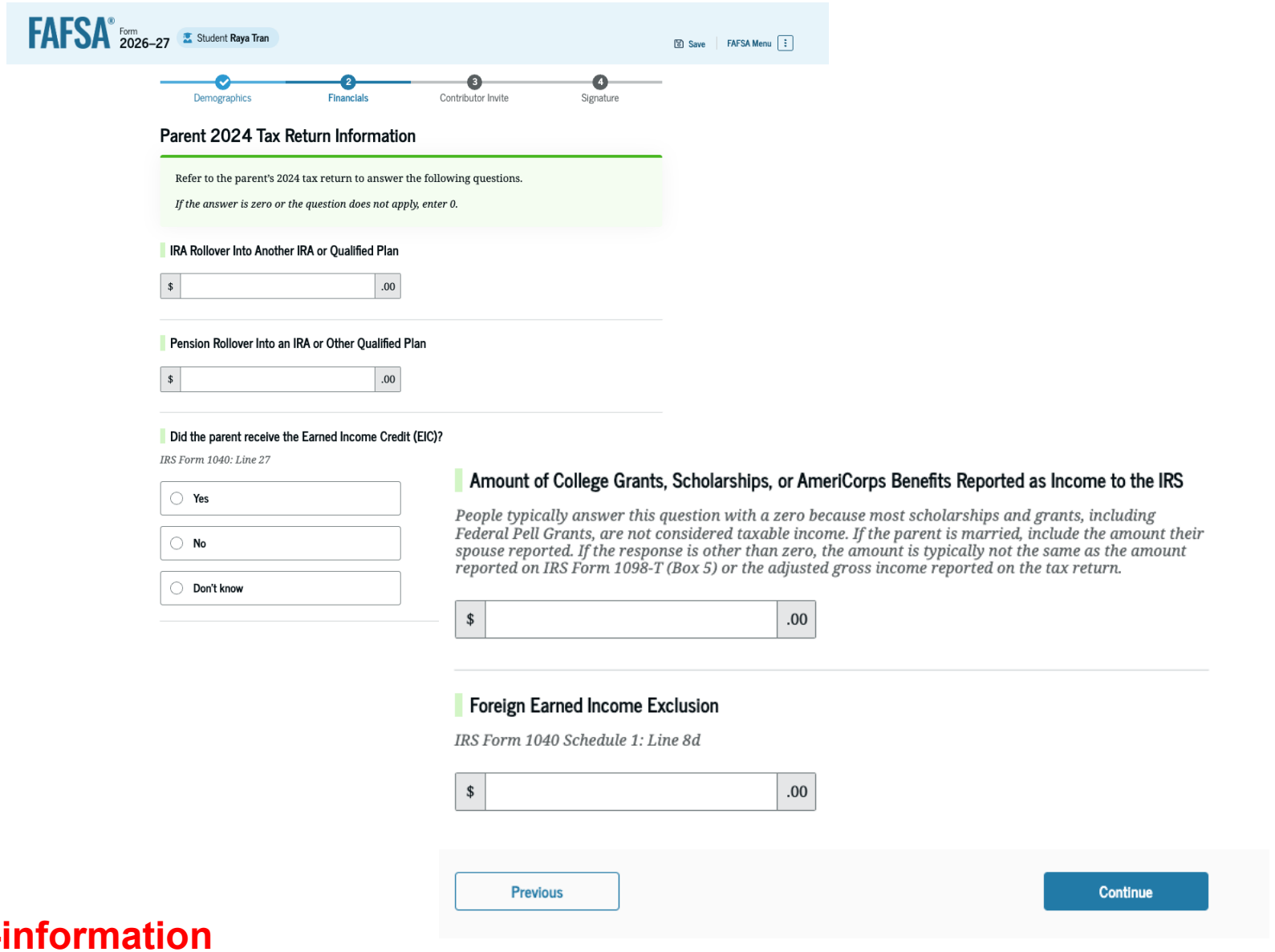
This page asks the parent about their tax filing status.



Section 2: Parent Finances

The parent is asked questions about their 2024 tax return. The parent enters a response in each entry field.

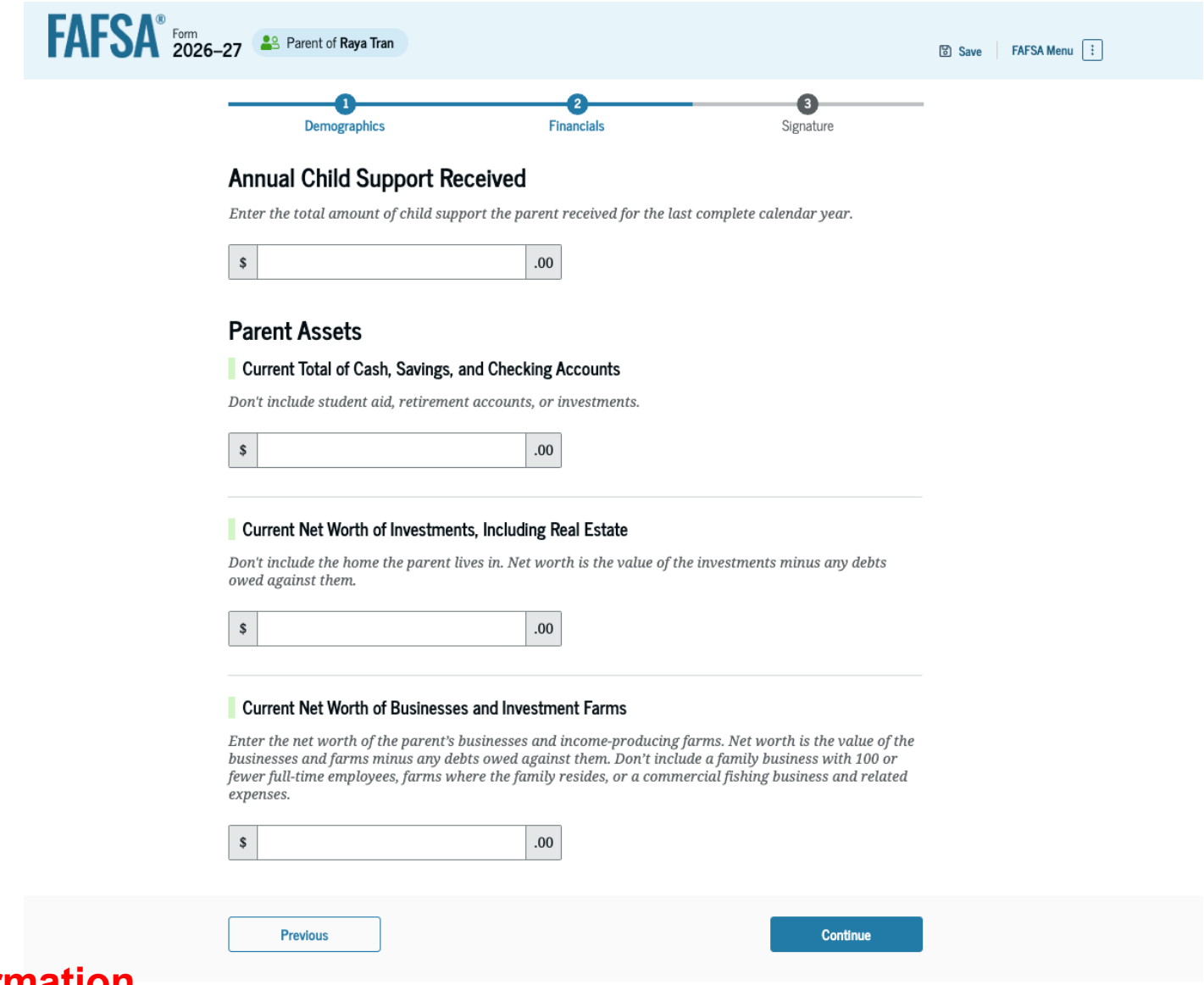
Qualified retirement plan accounts, such as a 401(k), Roth 401(k), IRA, Roth IRA, pension. qualified annuity, SEP, SIMPLE or Keogh plan, ARE NOT reported as assets on the FAFSA



https://studentaid.gov/2627/help/find-tax-information

Section 2: Parent Finances

The parent is asked about their assets. The parent enters a response in each entry field.

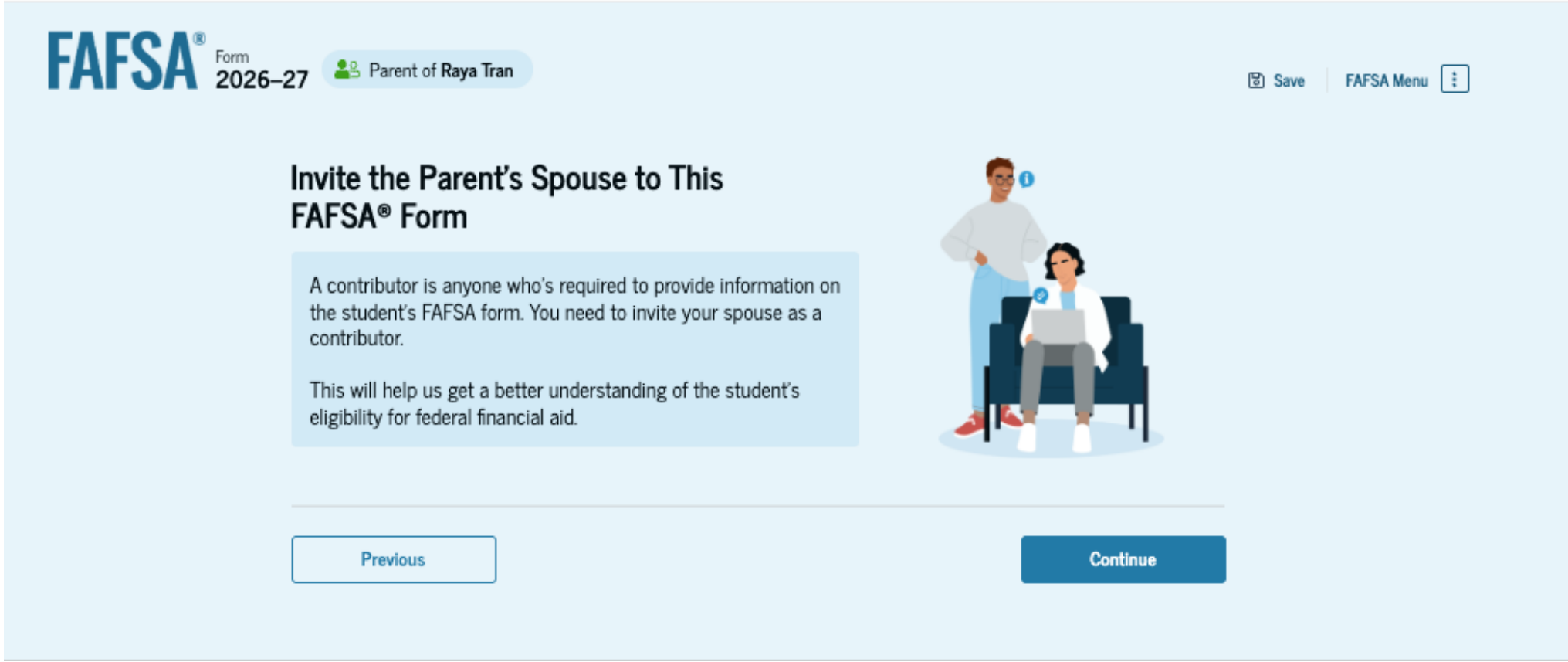


https://studentaid.gov/2627/help/find-tax-information

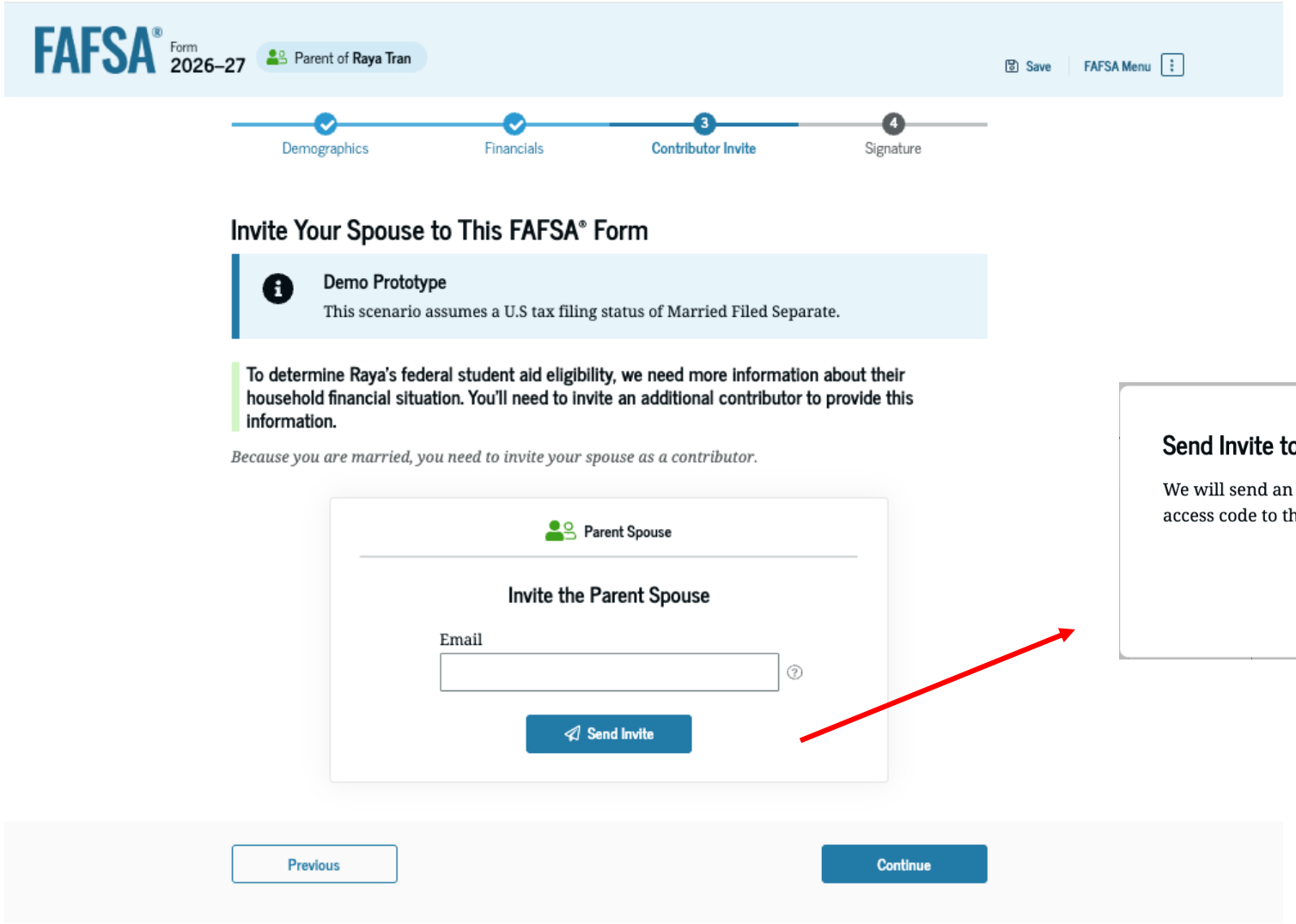
Section 3: Contributor Invite
Invite the Parent's Spouse to this FAFSA Form

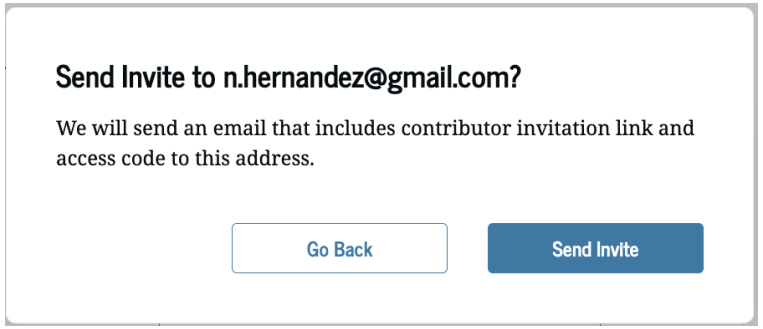
Parent will invite their spouse:

- Married filed separate
- Remarried and filed separate

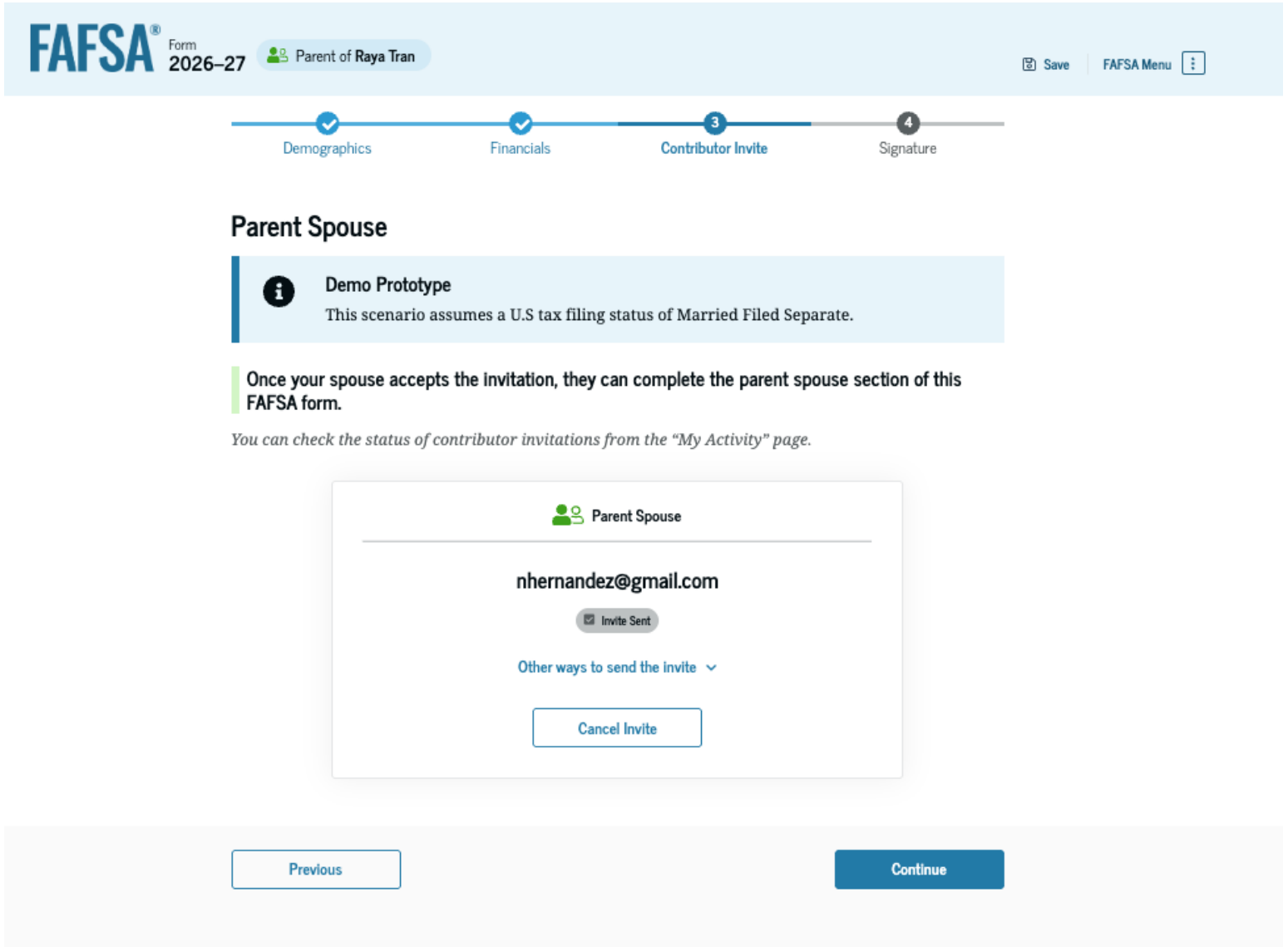


Section 3: Invite Spouse to this FAFSA Form

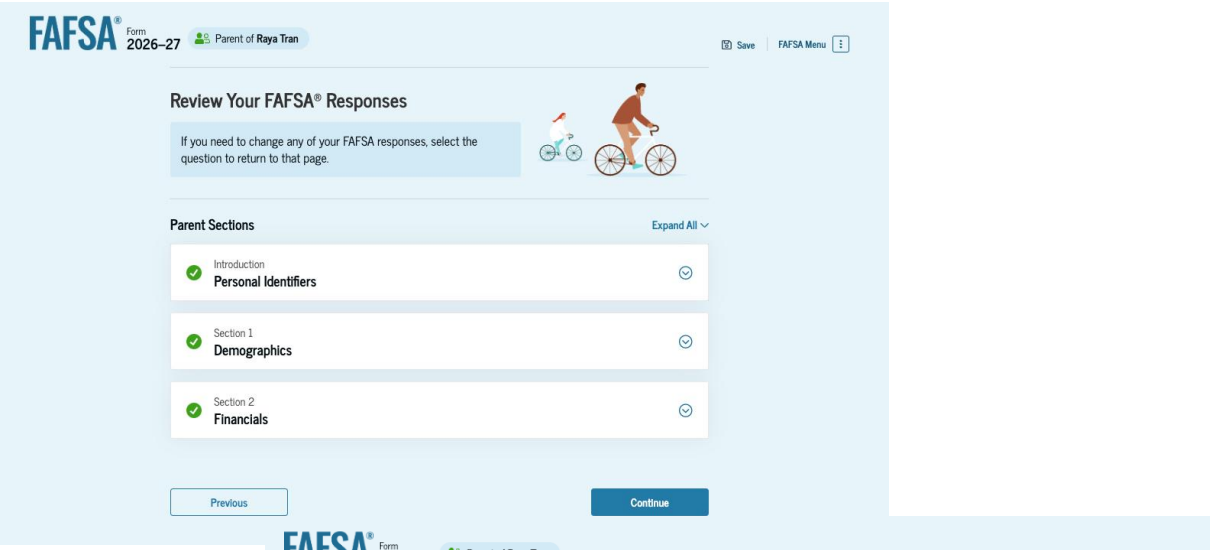


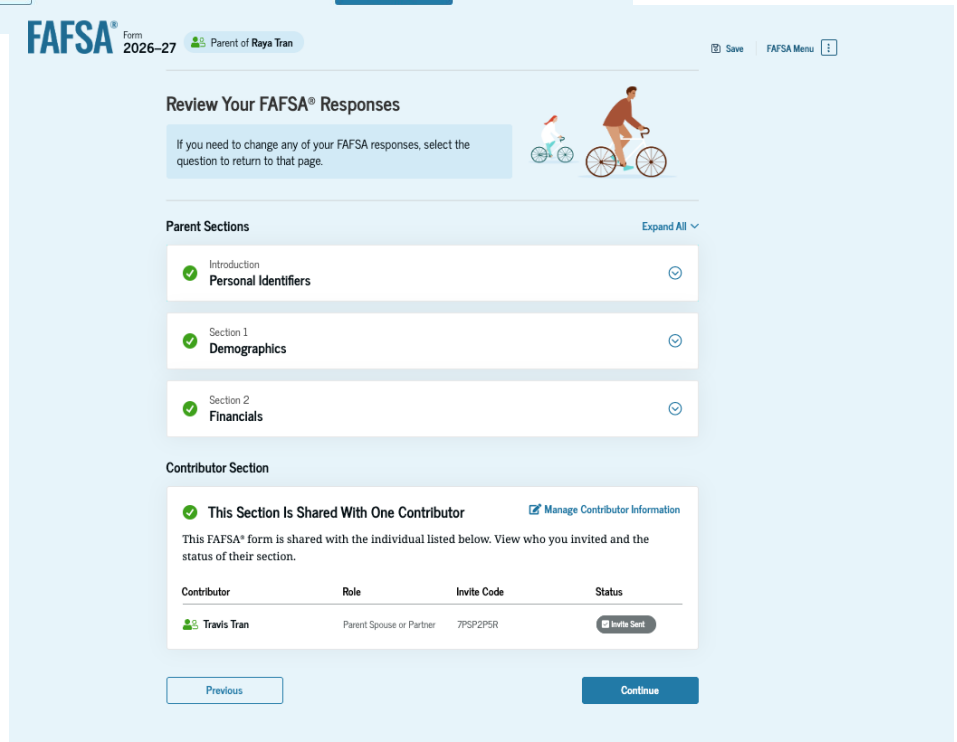


Section 3: Invite Spouse to this FAFSA Form



Take a Moment To Review Before Signing





The review page displays the responses that the parent has provided in the FAFSA® form. The parent can only view responses within the parent section of the student's FAFSA form. The parent can view all their responses by selecting "Expand All" or expand each section individually. To edit a response, the parent can select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page.

- Review Each Section
- Make Corrections if needed by clicking on the arrow
- Make sure contributor invitation is sent if needed

Parents: Sign and Complete Your Section

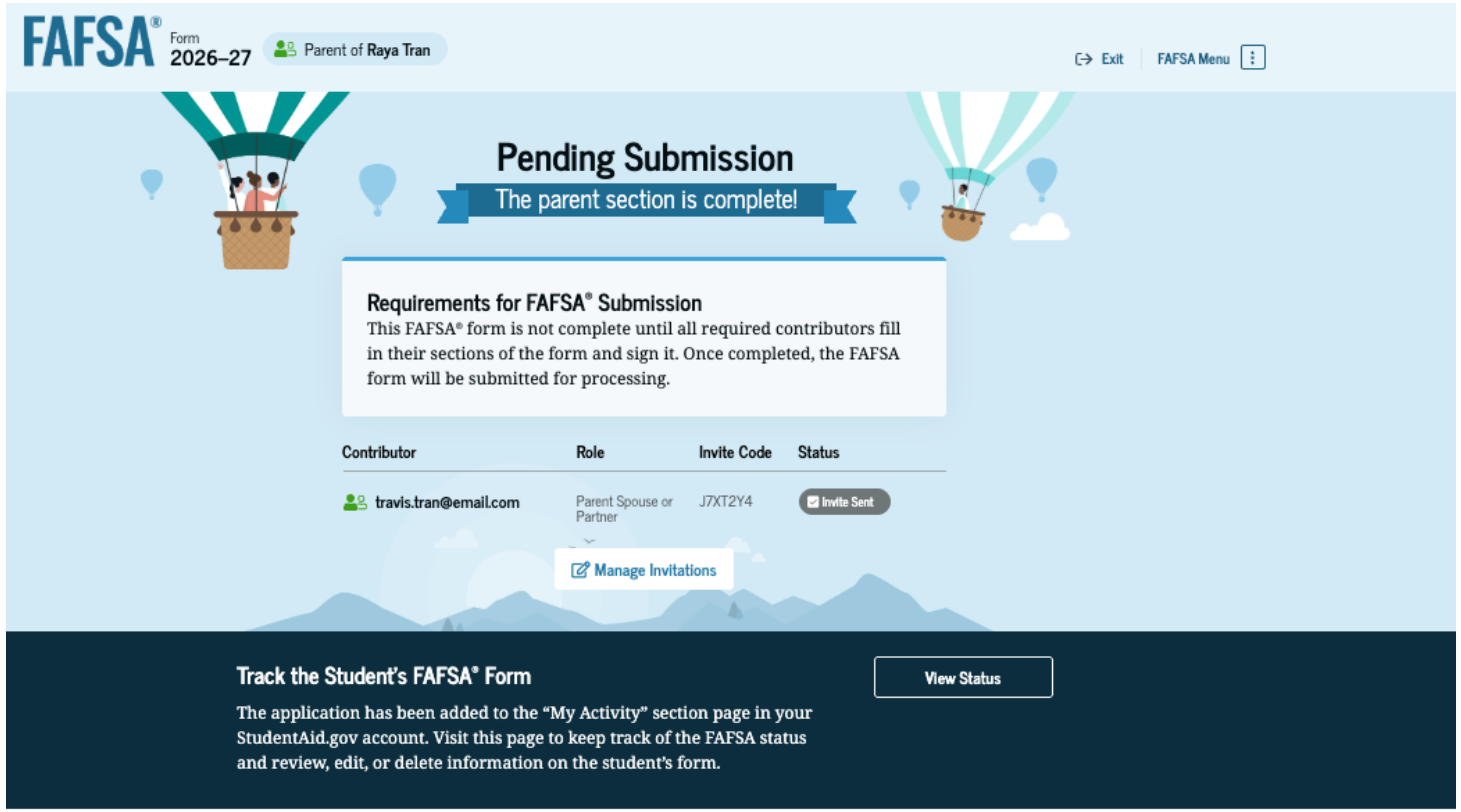
On this page, the parent acknowledges the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and signs their section. Since all required sections are complete, the parent can both sign and submit the student's FAFSA form.

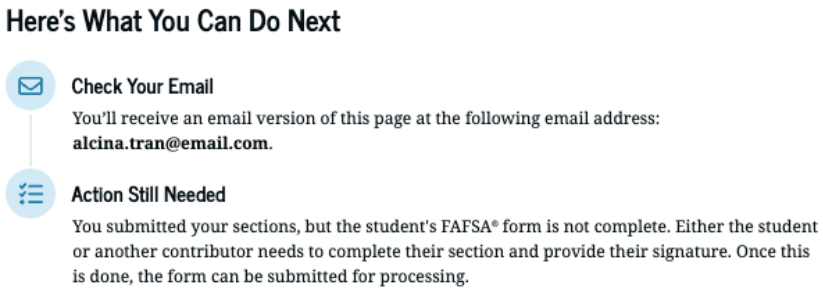
Agree to the terms and conditions and sign your FAFSA



Additional Contributors

IF you invited a Partner or Spouse, They will need to complete their Contributor Section before the FAFSA is Completed!



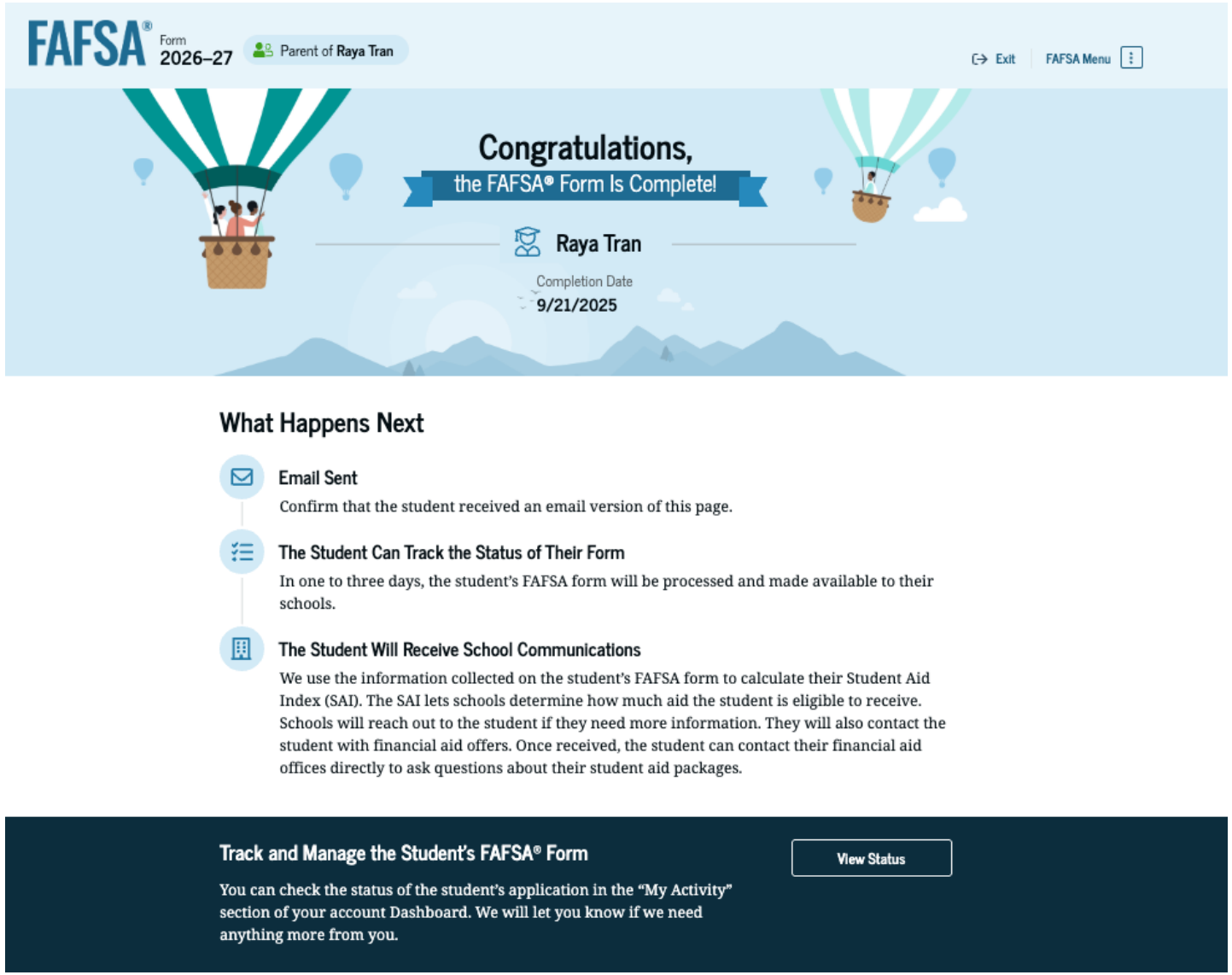


Congratulations! FAFSA is Complete!

Upon submitting the student's FAFSA® form, the parent is presented an abbreviated confirmation page. This page displays information about tracking the student's FAFSA form and next steps. The student will receive an email with the full, detailed confirmation. **With the student and parent sections completed and signed, the FAFSA form is now considered complete and submitted for processing.**

You will get email confirmation of submission

You will get email notifying that FAFSA is being processed

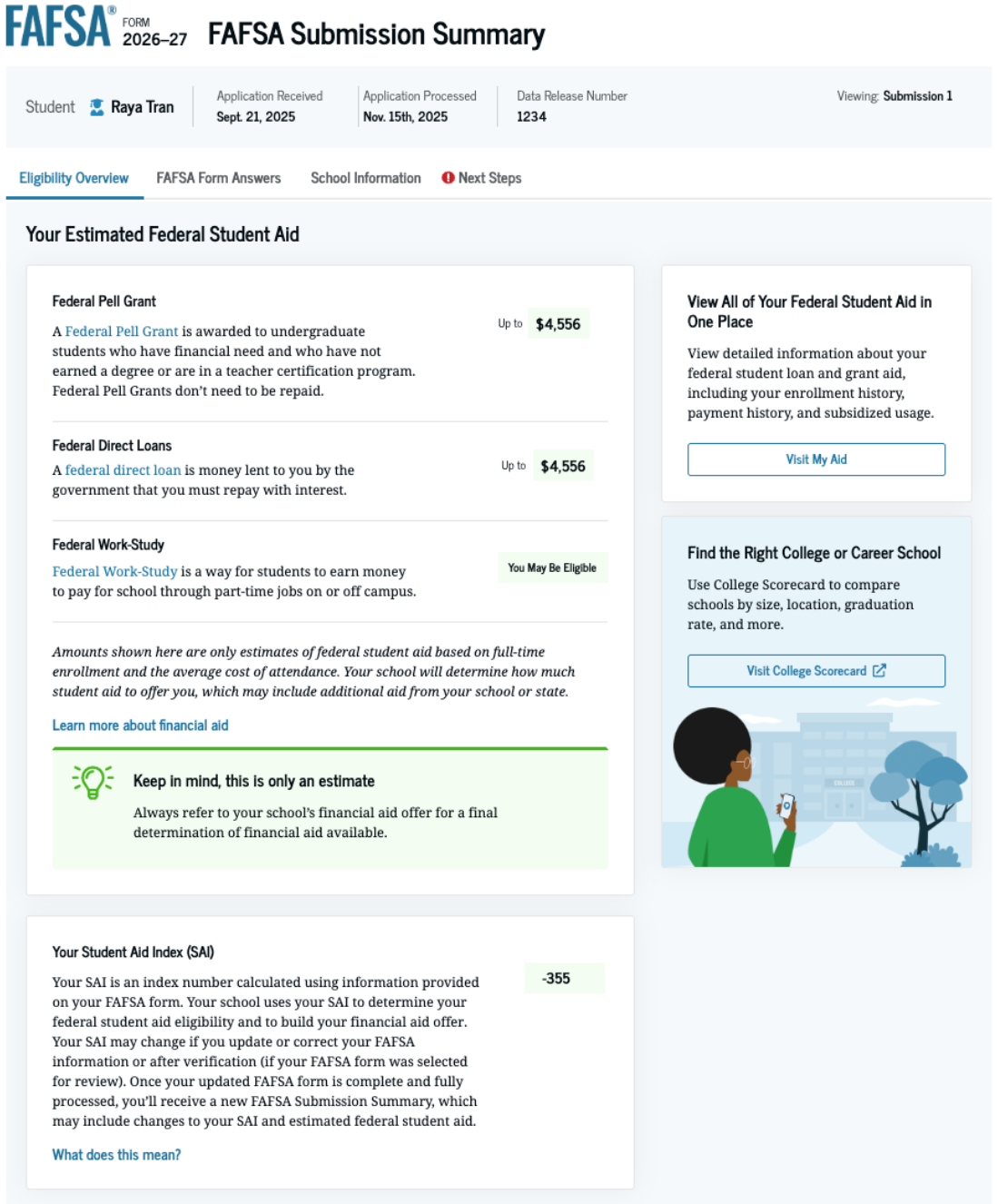


FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

The student receives a FAFSA Submission Summary for their processed FAFSA® form and any subsequent corrections that they submit.

The FAFSA Submission Summary is broken into four tabs:

- “Eligibility Overview”
- “FAFSA Form Answers”
- “School Information”
- “Next Steps”



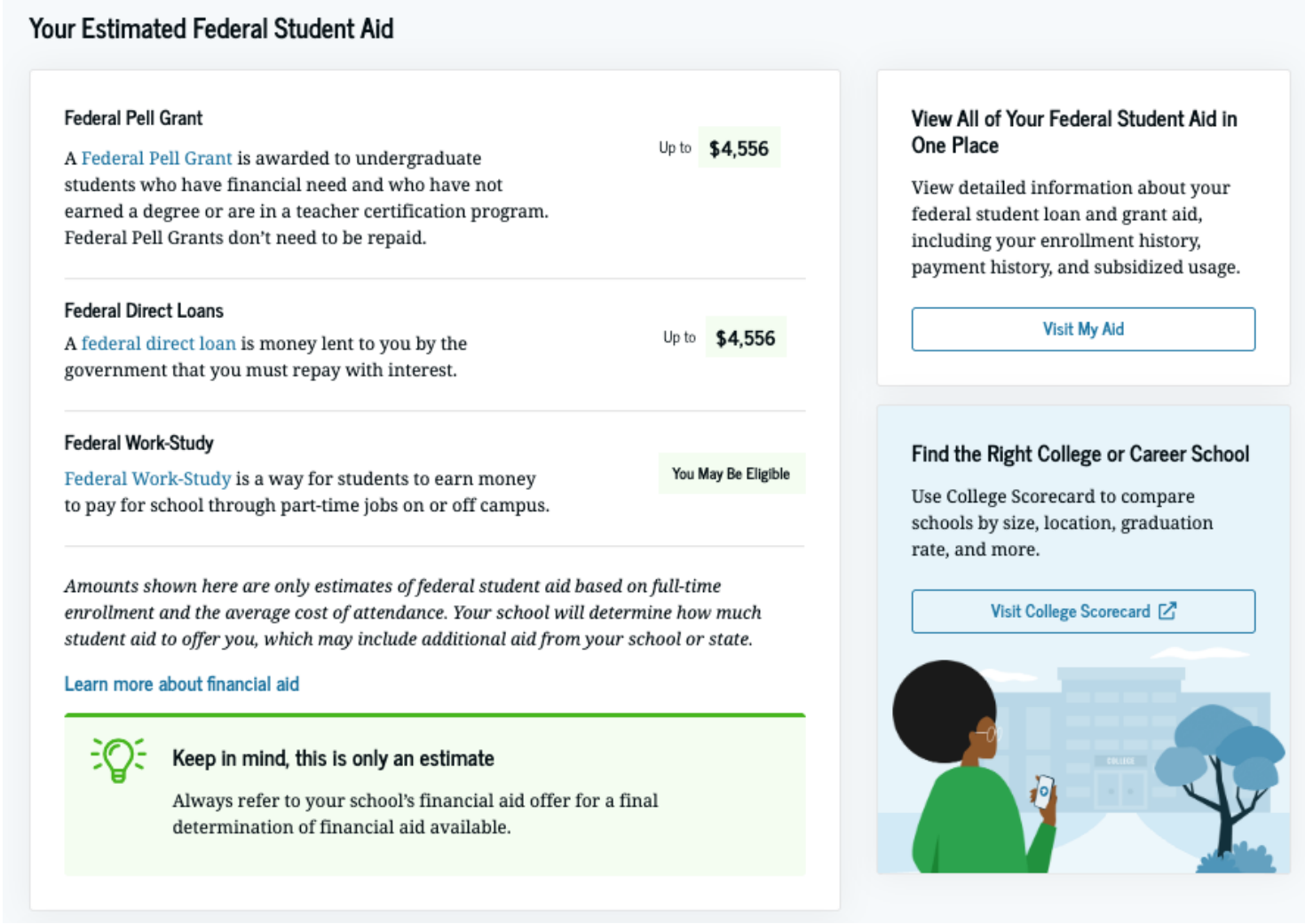
FAFSA Submission Summary: FSS



At the top, the student will see when their form was received and processed. They also have the option to print their FAFSA Submission Summary to keep for their records.

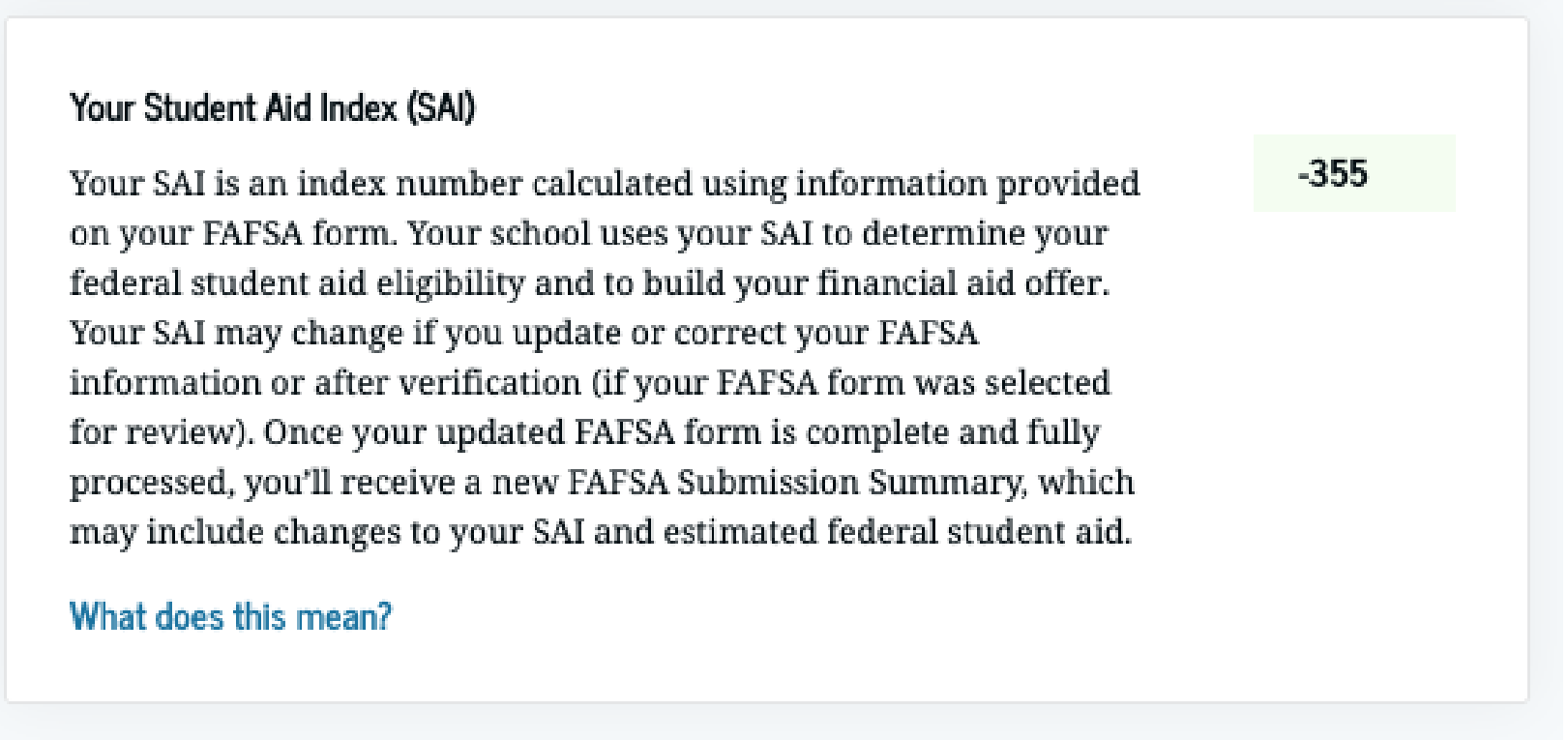
FAFSA Submission Summary: Eligibility Overview

On the "Eligibility Overview" tab, the student sees information about what federal student aid they may be eligible for, such as a Federal Pell Grant and Federal Direct Loans. Any amounts of financial aid that display on this tab are estimates and are not guaranteed. Final determination of the student's financial aid eligibility is provided by their school's financial aid office



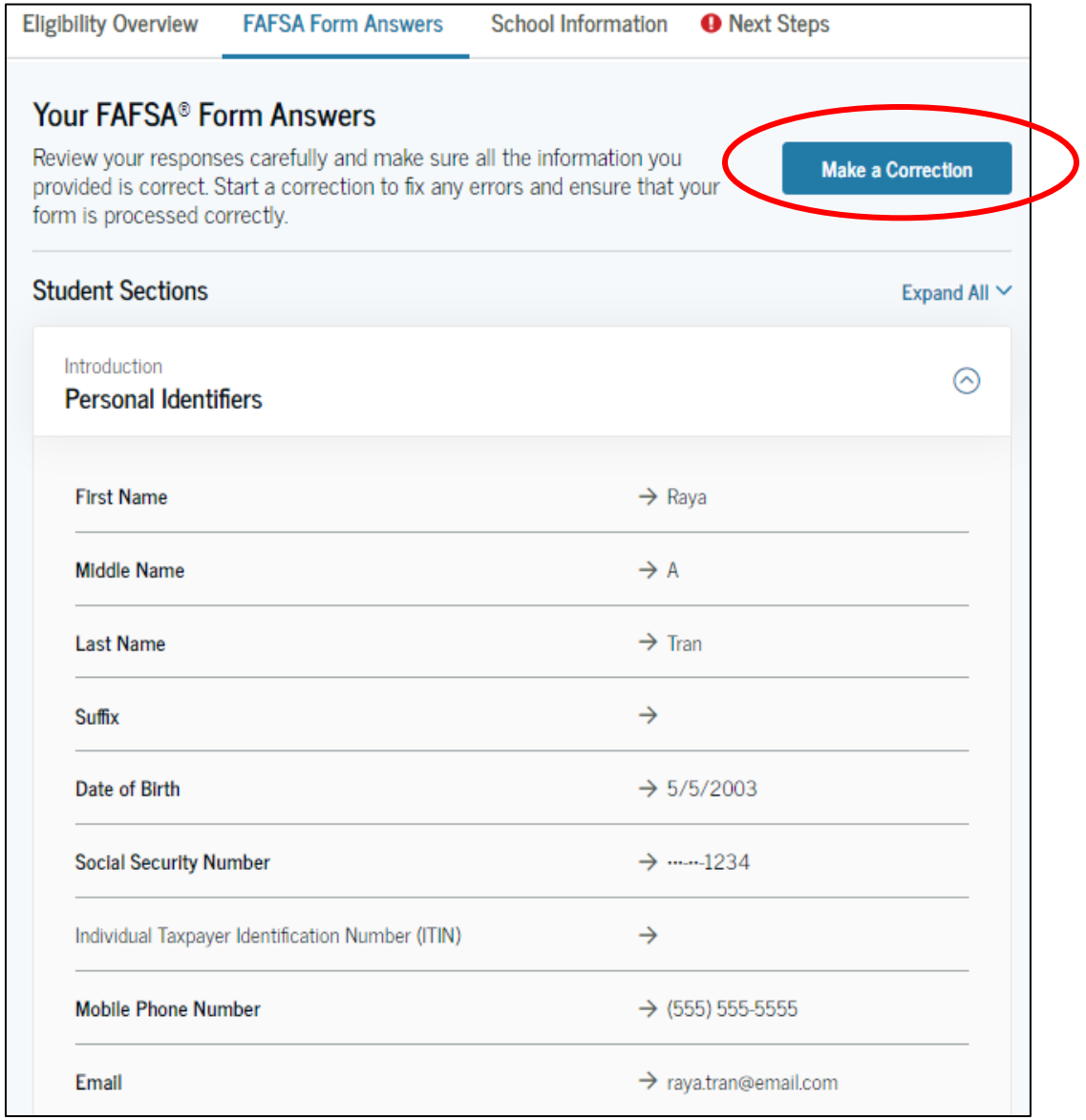
FAFSA Submission Summary: SAI

They are also able to view their Student Aid Index in the " Eligibility Overview" tab. Final determination of the student's financial aid eligibility is provided by their school's financial aid office.



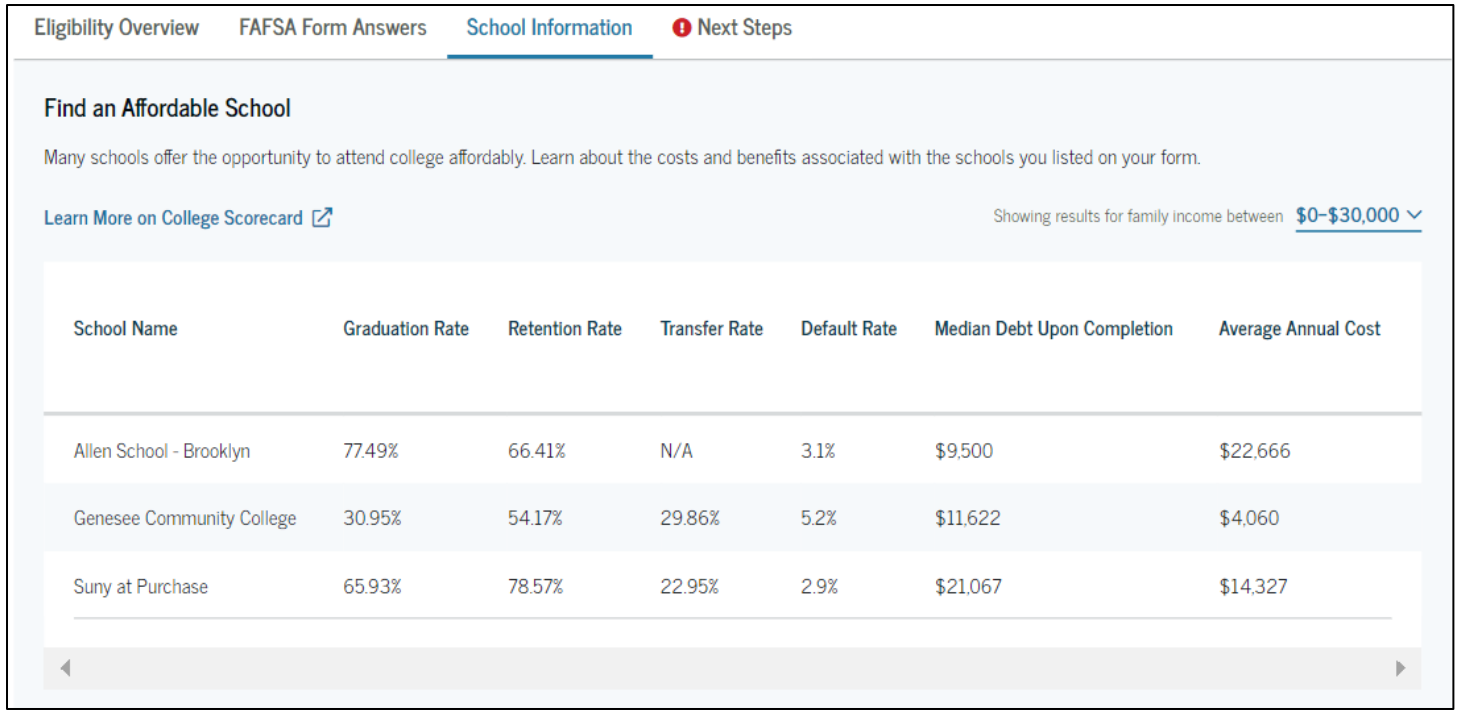
FAFSA Submission Summary: FAFSA Form Answers

On the "FAFSA Form Answers" tab, the student sees the answers that they provided on their FAFSA® form. If any of the provided answers are incorrect, the student can choose make a correction.



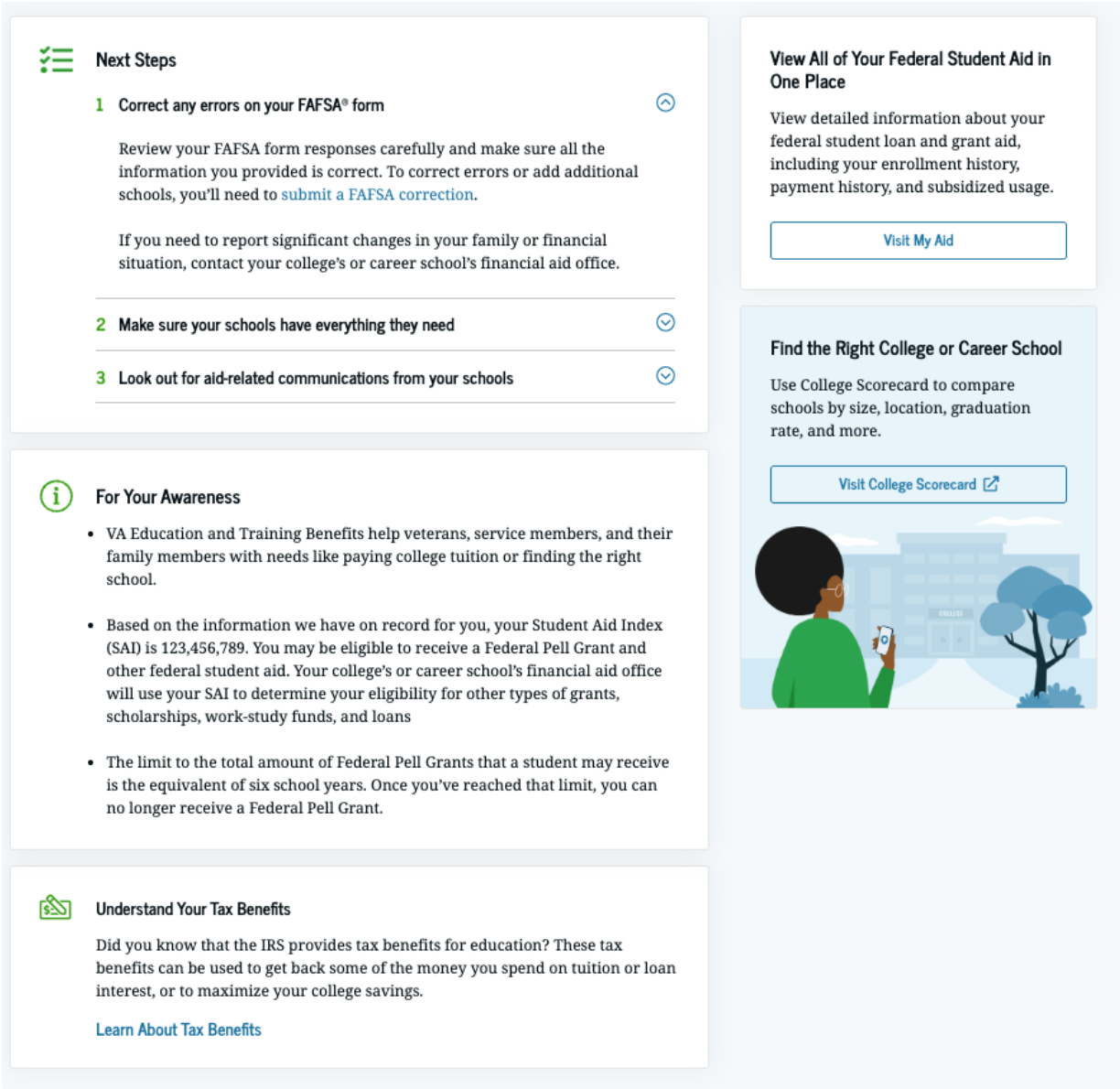
FAFSA Submission Summary: School Information

On the "School Information" tab, the student sees information about the college(s) and/or career school(s) that they selected to send their FAFSA® information. The student can compare the graduation rate, retention rate, transfer rate, default rate, median debt upon completion, and average annual cost of their selected schools.



FAFSA Submission Summary: Next Steps

On the "Next Steps" tab, the student sees comments that pertain to their FAFSA® form. Some comments may require the student to make a correction or send additional documentation to their school. Other comments may be informational and do not require any further action from the student.



What Happens Next?

- Students and the colleges the student listed receive FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) from federal processor
- Students who complete FAFSA and whose school districts have uploaded their Cal Grant GPA will receive a California Aid Report (CAR)
- Students and families review FSS and CAR for important information and accuracy of data
- Colleges match admission records with FAFSA and other required financial aid forms to determine aid eligibility
- Colleges provide notices of financial aid eligibility to admitted students who have completed all required financial aid forms
- Always contact the college or university you plan to attend for important deadlines and additional information

Was the FAFSA successfully submitted?



Draft: Your section of the FAFSA form is incomplete.



In Progress: You provided your consent, approval, and signature to your section of the FAFSA form, but the FAFSA form has not been submitted yet.



In Review: Your FAFSA form was submitted but hasn't been processed yet.



Action Required: You are missing your consent and approval or signature the FAFSA form was processed, but a correction is required.



Processed: Your application was processed successfully. No further action i

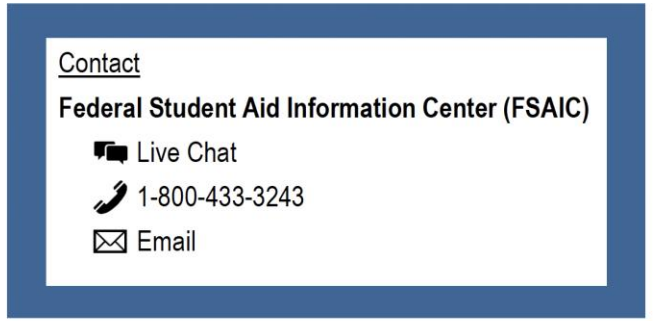


Closed: Your FAFSA form was never submitted and can no longer be submitted because the federal FAFSA deadline passed.

Need Help?

Federal Student Aid Assistance

- Answers to common questions about the FAFSA process
  studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help
- Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC)
  1-800-433-3243
  studentaid.gov/help-center/contact
- Tips on the FSA ID
  studentaidpolicy.com/FSA-ID-Tip-Sheet.pdf
- FSA Financial Aid Toolkit
  financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

About a week after a student has completed their financial aid application, they should create their **WebGrants for Students** account by going to mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov



- Manage Cal Grant Award
- Manage Middle Class Scholarship Award
- Confirm High School Graduation
- Confirm College of Attendance

The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS)

Free Money for College from the State of California, ScholarShare Investment Board

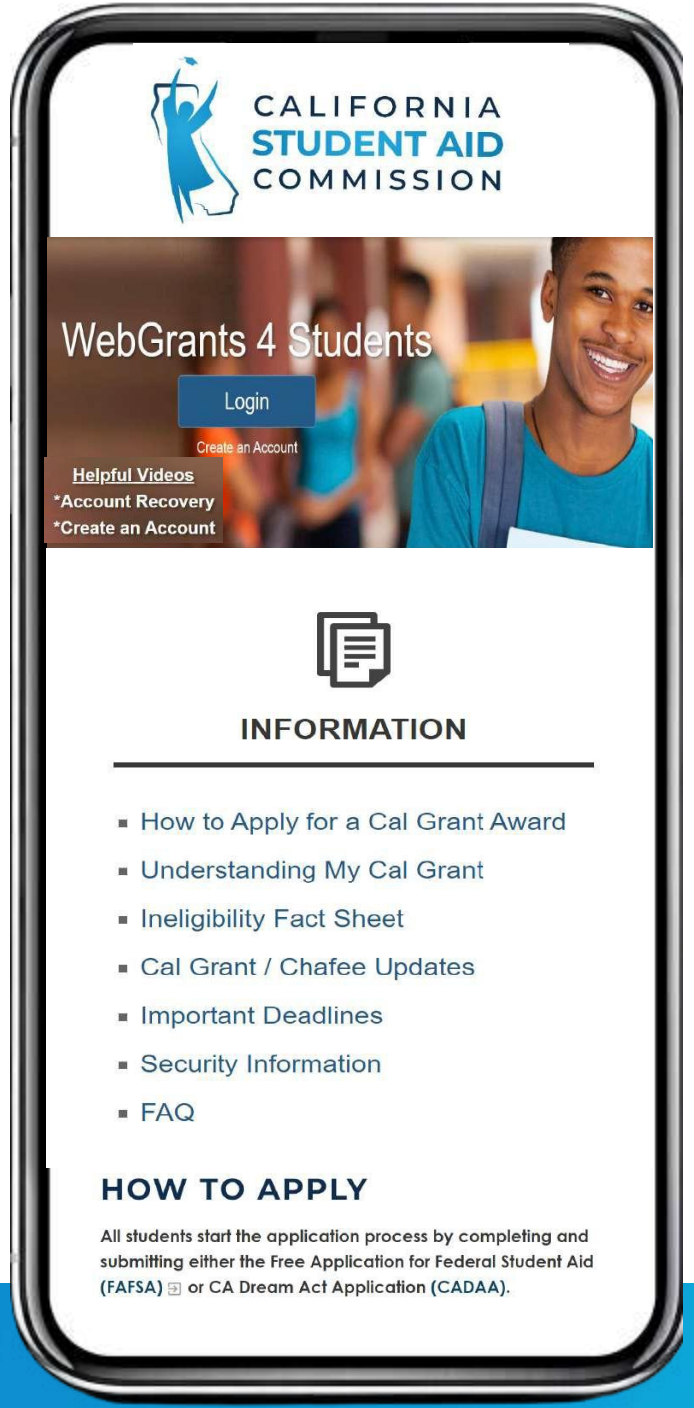
Account Status	Your CalKIDS Account	Contact CalKIDS
Claimed	Log In	Click Here

NEW

The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS)

Free Money for College from the State of California, ScholarShare Investment Board

Account Status	Contact CalKIDS
Unclaimed Claim Here	Click Here







Contact Us!

Student Support Unit
888-224-7268
studentsupport@csac.ca.gov

School Support Unit
888- 294-0153
schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov

Training Unit
training@csac.ca.gov

WebGrants Access
webgrantsaccess@csac.ca.gov

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Commonly Asked FAFSA Questions…

What if the Parents Won't Complete the FAFSA?

Parent information is required for dependent students **even if** the:

Student

- Is financially self-sufficient
- Isn't claimed on the parents' federal income tax returns
- Does not live with the parents

Parents

- Refuse to complete FAFSA
- Live in another country
- Are foreign citizens
- Are undocumented

What if the Parents Won't Complete the FAFSA? [cont'd]

- If parent information is not provided, the most financial aid that the student can get is unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans unless the college financial aid administrator performs a dependency override

- Dependency overrides are rare and generally involve an involuntary dissolution of the family relationship, such as:
  - Both parents incarcerated or institutionalized
  - An abusive home environment
  - Abandonment
  - Parent whereabouts unknown
  - Death of the custodial parent

Which Year's Information is Reported?

Assets

Reported as of the date the FAFSA is filed

Income

Based on the second previous tax year (the prior-prior year)

- Example: The 2026-27 FAFSA is based on income and tax information from 2024
  - Cannot substitute 2025 income and tax information for 2024 income and tax information
  - If family finances have changed, they can file an appeal with the college financial aid office

Determining Family Size

- FAFSA will calculate family size based on dependency status, marital status, and federal tax information received from the IRS
- For Dependent Students, the family size will include:
  - Student
  - Student's parent(s)
  - Dependents from applicable federal income tax return(s)
- For Independent Students, the family size will include:
  - Student
  - Student's spouse, if married
  - Dependents from applicable federal income tax return(s)

Reportable Income

Taxable Income

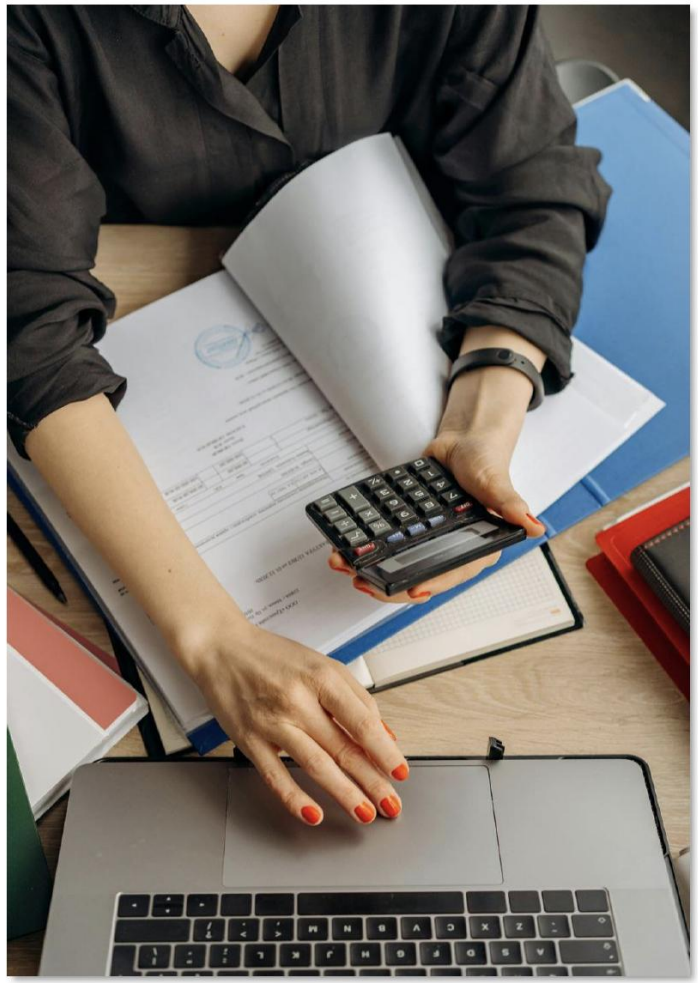
Information imported through the IRS Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX)

- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- Income earned from work
- Taxes paid
- Education credits
- Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C

Untaxed Income

- Tax-exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions (excluding rollovers)
- IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh, other qualified retirement accounts
- Foreign earned income of U.S. citizens and permanent residents if exempt from taxation

Reportable Assets



- Current values:
  - Cash, savings and checking accounts
  - Net worth of investments, including real estate
    - Value of student's 529 account reported as parental asset
  - Net worth of businesses and investment farms
- Annual child support received in the most recent completed calendar year
- Not all students and parents will be required to report assets

How to Appeal for More Financial Aid

Appeal for more financial aid if the family's financial circumstances have changed (including mid-year) or differ from the typical family

Special circumstances include documented:

- Changes to family income, assets, etc.
- Recent unemployment
- Dislocated worker
- High unreimbursed medical/dental expenses
- High dependent care expenses
- Housing change due to homelessness
- One-time events (e.g., a bonus) that do not reflect ability to pay

After submitting the FAFSA, discuss special circumstances with each college's financial aid office

2026-27 California Dream Act Application

For undocumented students and students from mixed status families (MSF)



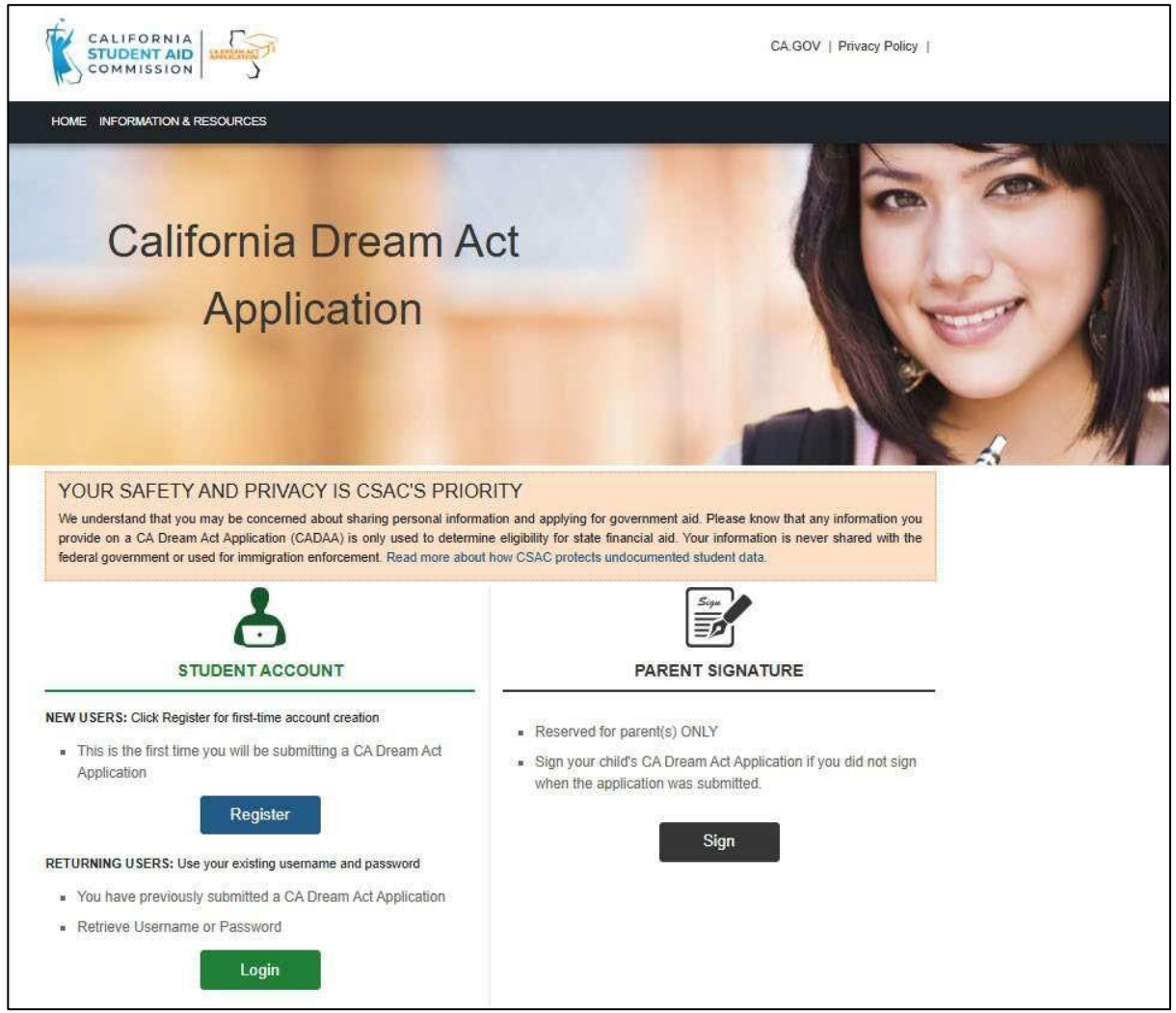
California Dream Act Application Information is Private and Secure



The CA Dream Act Application

- **CADAA is an alternative application to the FAFSA administered by CSAC**
- **CADAA is for undocumented students who have gone to K-12 school in California for at least 3 years**
- **CADAA is also for students who are from mixed- status families who do not want to complete FAFSA or are having trouble completing FAFSA**
- **CADAA is an application for state aid and institutional aid, not federal aid like Pell Grant, work study, or federal student loans**
- **CADAA deadlines are the same as FAFSA – March 2, 2026, or September 2, 2026, for community college**

California Dream Act Application (CADAA)



- First time applicants will click “Register” to create an account
- Returning students can login
- If parent did not sign when student submitted the CADAA, they can click “Sign” to locate their student’s application and sign it



AB 540 + SB 68 Eligibility Requirements

AB 540 Affidavit now included with CADAA

Eligible students may be charged in-state tuition and fees instead of the supplemental tuition charged to nonresidents (Students will still be legally considered non-residents)

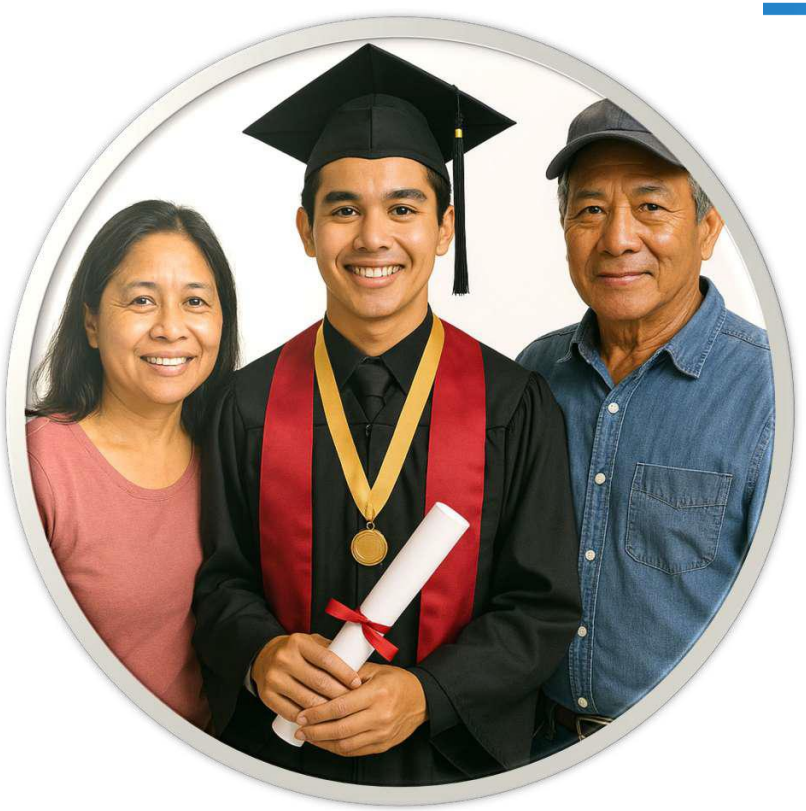
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1. 3 years high school credits and 3 years total attendance at an elementary, middle, or high school in CA OR 3 years total attendance (or equivalent) at a high school, adult school, or community college in CA

2. Graduation from a California high school (or attainment of the equivalent such as AA from CA community college)

3. Student must adjust their immigration status as soon as they are eligible.

CADAA for Mixed Status Families



CADAA for Mixed Status Families

www.csac.ca.gov/cadaa-msf

Starting with the 2024-25 CADAA, students from mixed status families can complete a CADAA.

Any of the following students can complete the CADAA:

- Undocumented students
- DACA recipients (valid or expired)
- Students with a U-Visa
- Students with Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens whose parent(s) or spouse are undocumented (Mixed Status Families)

What is a mixed status family? You are a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen

AND

Your parent(s) or spouse (FAFSA contributors) do not have a Social Security number (SSN)

CADAA for Mixed Status Families FAQs

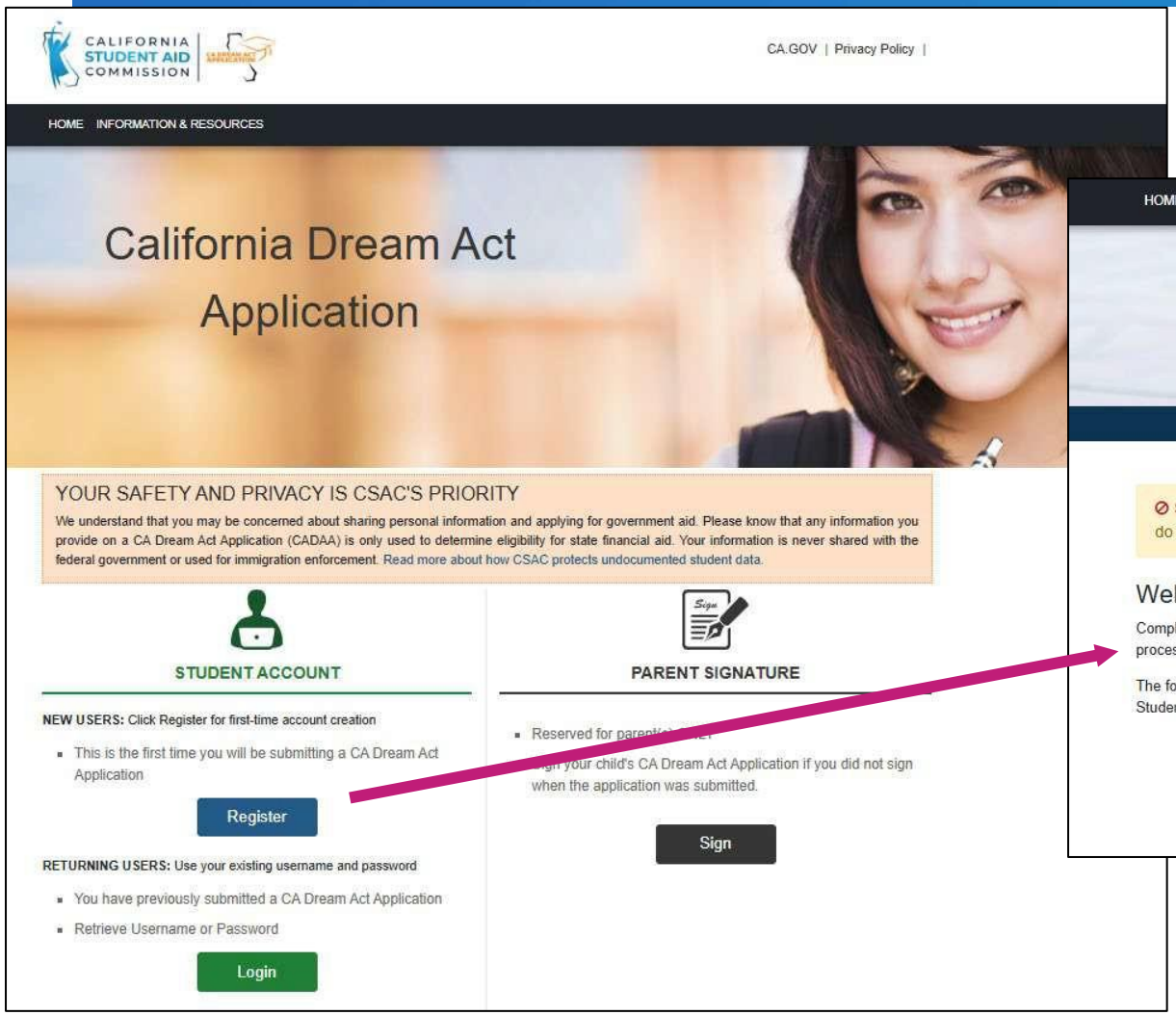
What are the advantages of completing CADAA?
CADAA is an application created and maintained by CSAC. Information will only be shared with the colleges the student adds to their CADAA and is not shared with the federal government.

What if I choose to complete the FAFSA process as a member of a mixed-status family?
If you need your parent or spouse to contribute to your FAFSA, they will need to create a StudentAid.gov account and indicate they do not have a Social Security Number.

Can I complete the FAFSA at a later date?
Yes, you can complete a FAFSA even if you have already completed the CADAA. After the FAFSA is processed, you can be considered for federal financial aid.

What if I have already completed a FAFSA?
If you have already completed a FAFSA, you cannot complete a CADAA for the same academic year.

CADAA Account Registration



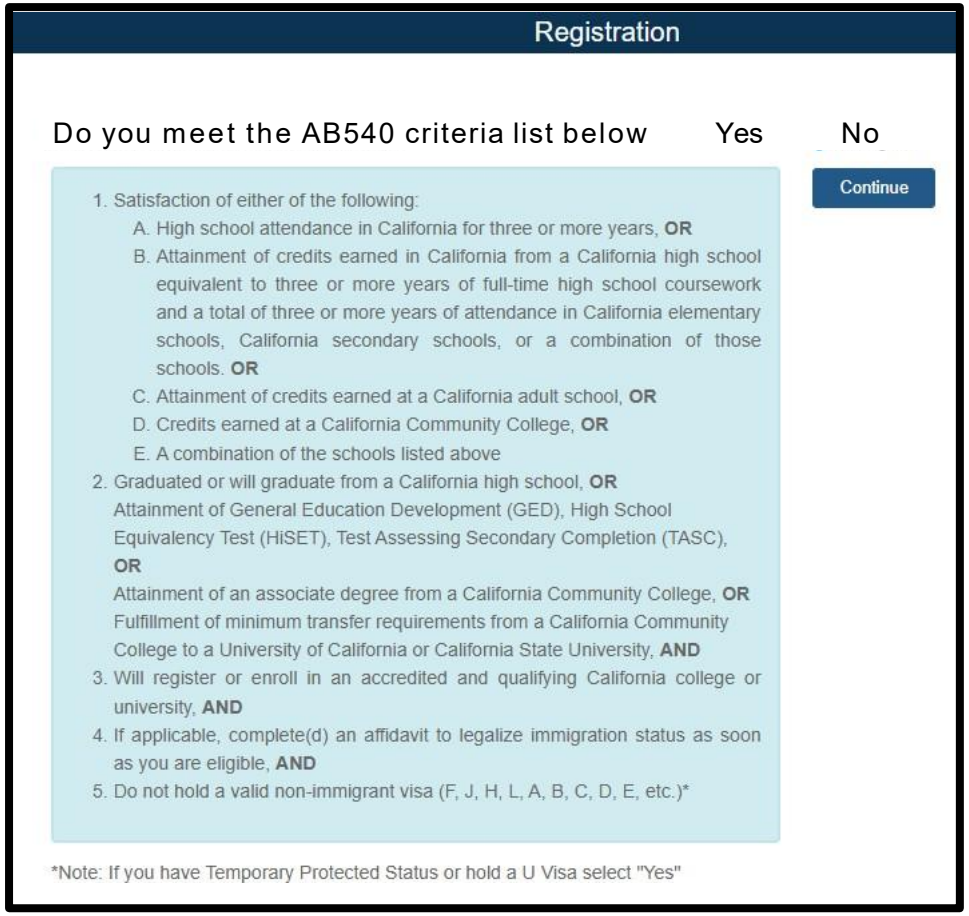


Registration Pathway for Traditional CADAA

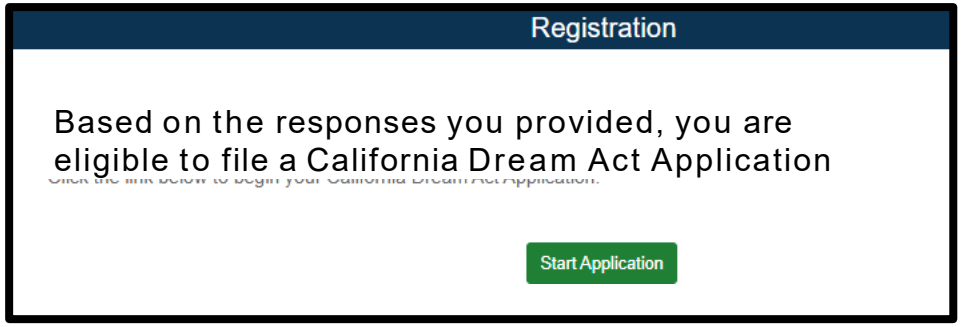
1



2



3

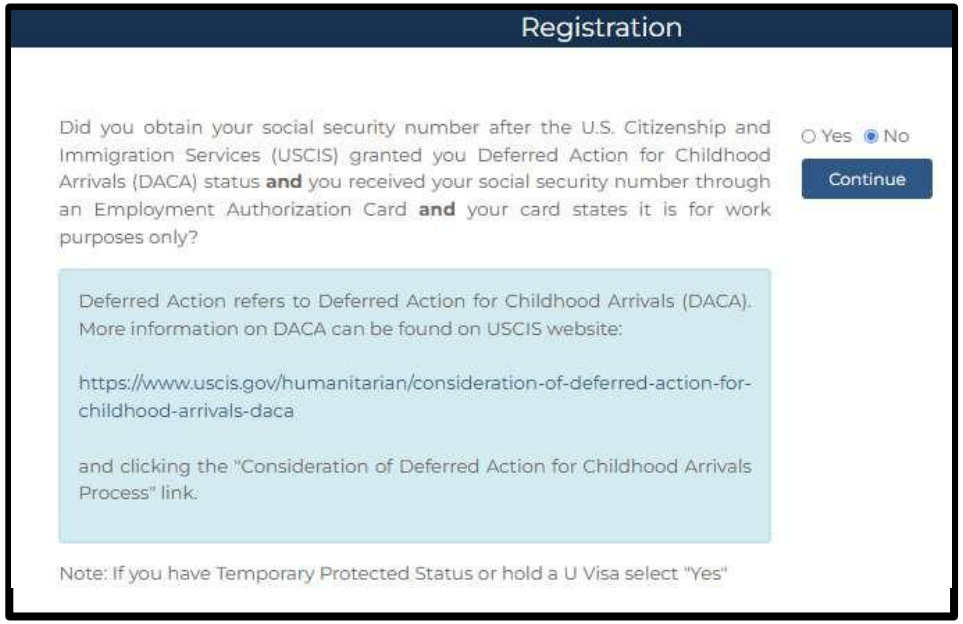


Registration Pathway for MSF

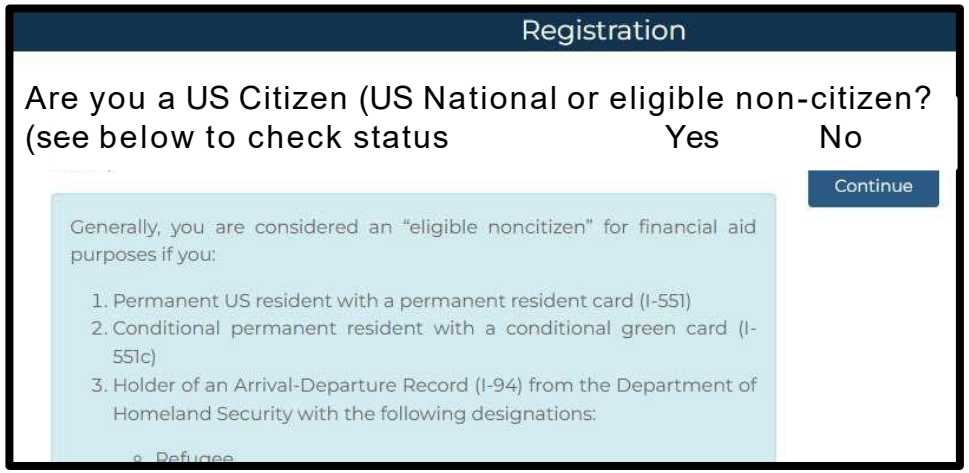
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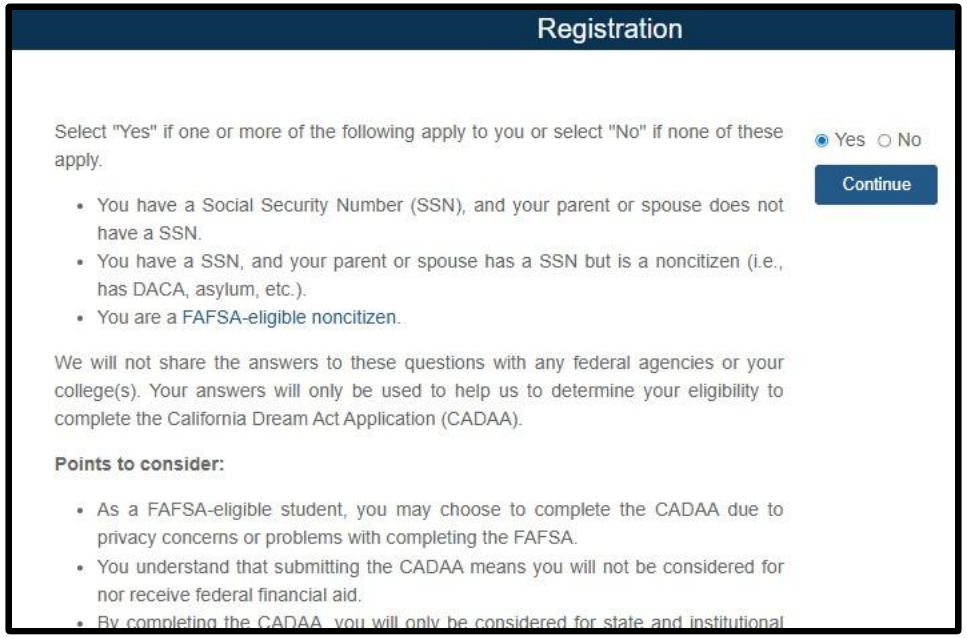
2



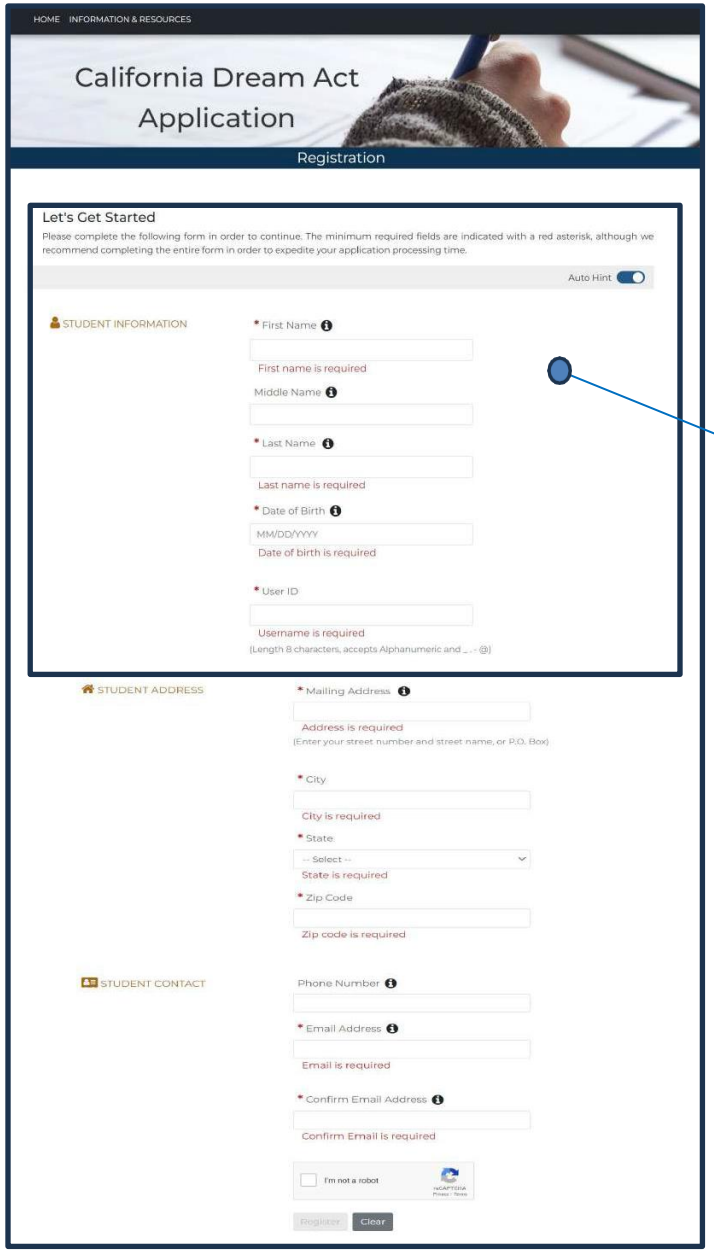
3

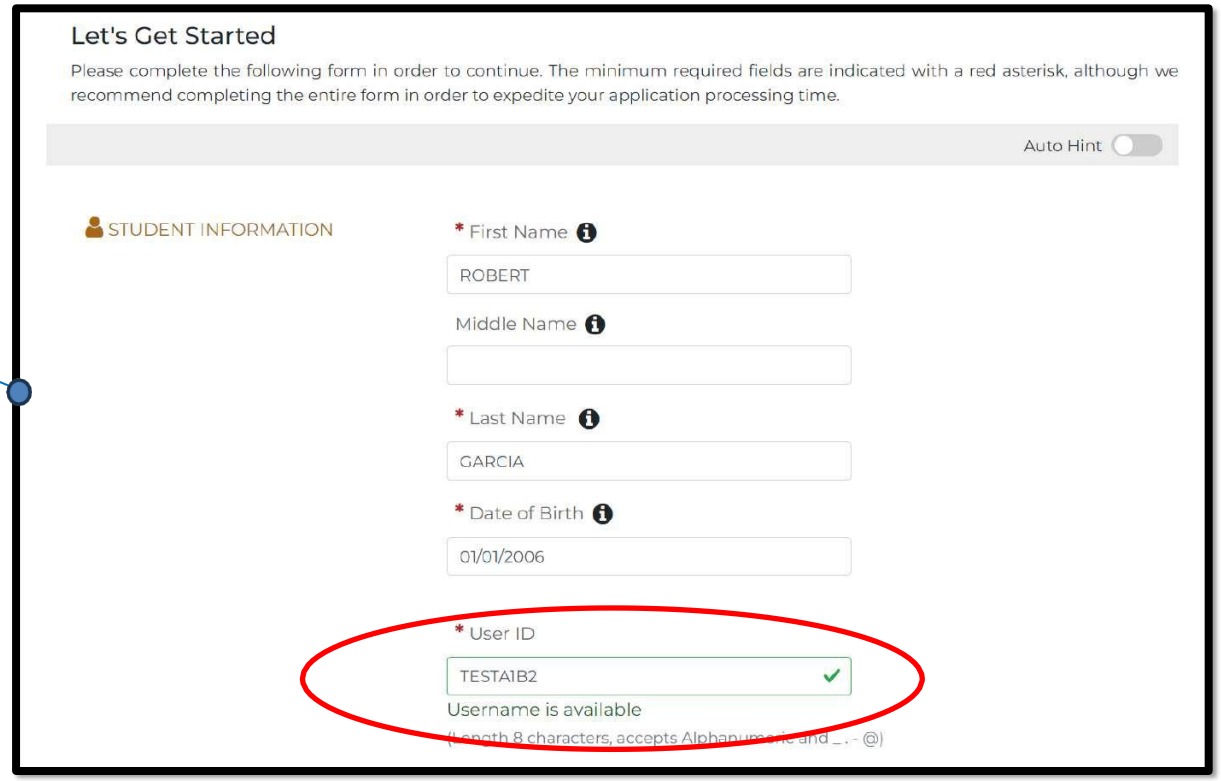


4



Completing Registration

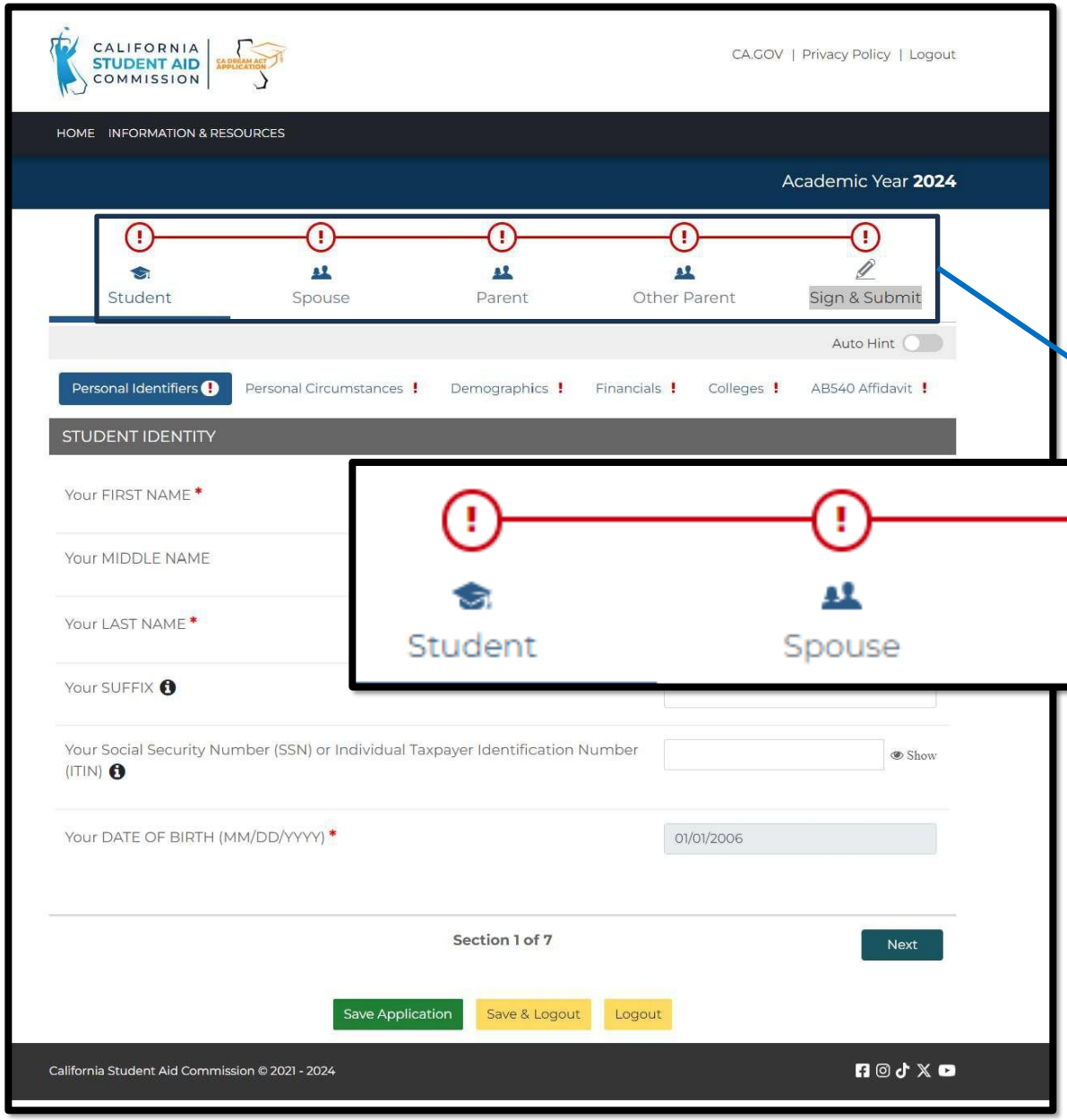


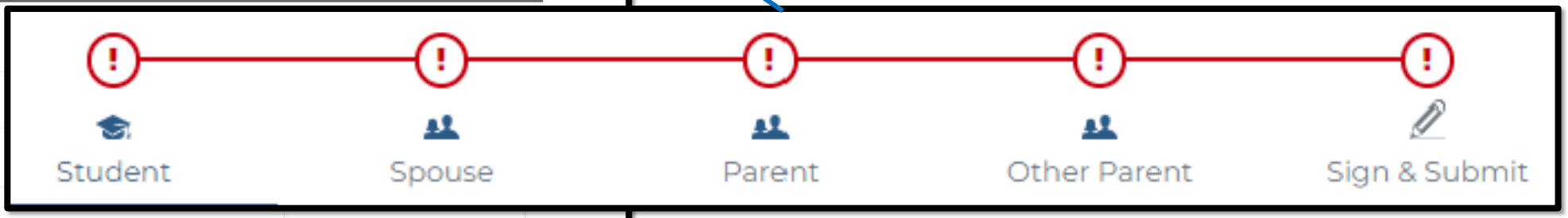


- Students should provide their proper, legal name as found on their birth certificate
- If the last name(s) exceed the space provided (35-character max), students should just put as many letters as possible in that space
- The User ID will be confirmed as available by displaying a green checkmark next to the provided name
- CADAA for MSF students have an additional SSN field

Completing the Application

There are five sections to the CADAA, including the signature page. Not all sections will be completed, depending on the student's circumstances.

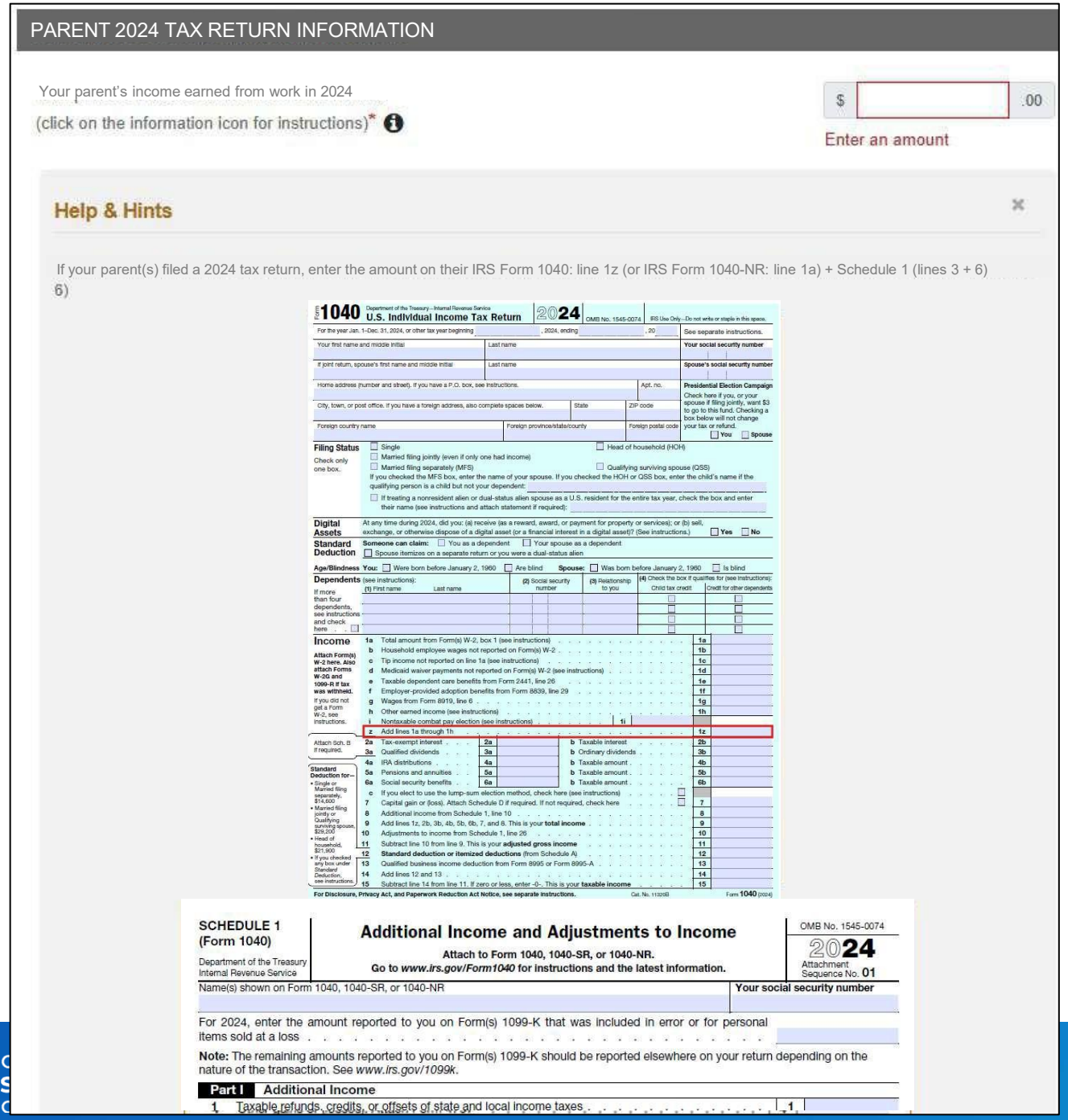




A red exclamation point indicates there is an error in the section or that it is incomplete.

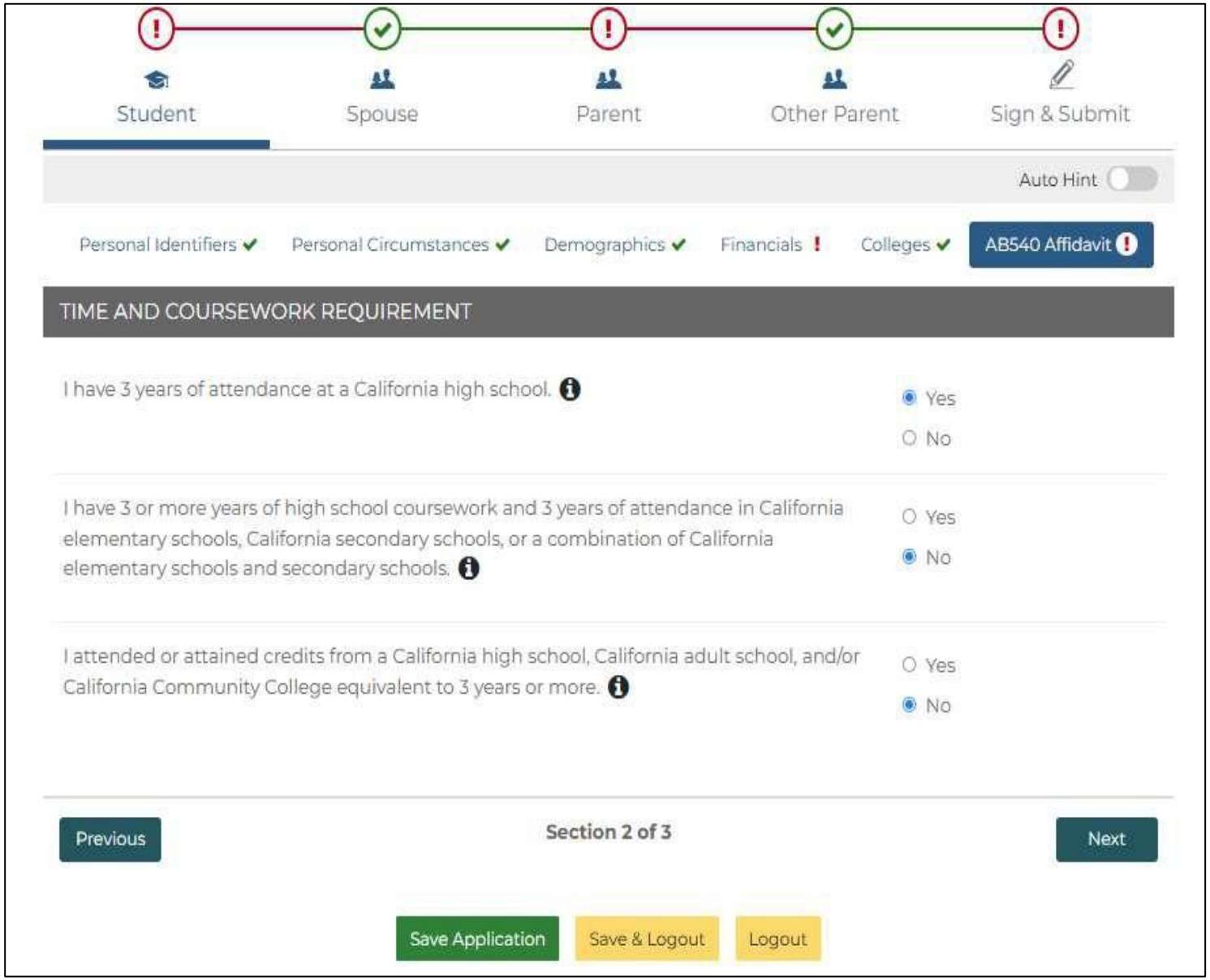
When a section is complete or not needed, it will switch to a green checkmark.

Tax Return Screenshots



- Help & Hints in the financial sections now include screenshots of the tax return to highlight where to find the requested amounts
- Students can click on the image to open it in a new tab and zoom in
- Please be aware that the application can time out if there is no activity after a minute or two, so please save application after each section

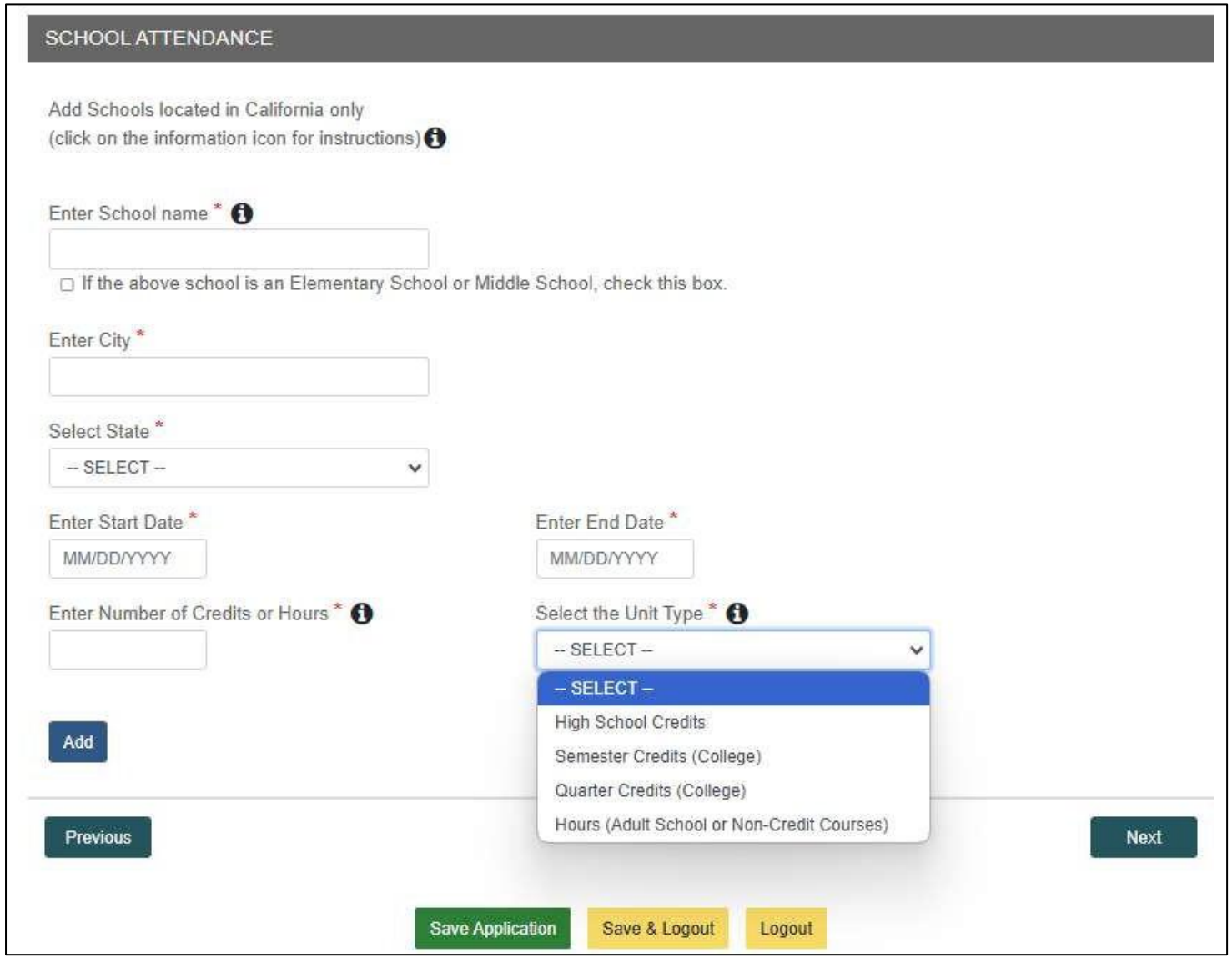
AB 540 Affidavit



IMPORTANT:
Colleges have different AB 540 practices. Some schools accept the affidavit as student self- certification, while other campuses will verify the coursework and attendance in CA schools.

Coursework may be combined between California high schools, adult schools, and community colleges.

Attendance may be combined across CA elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, adult schools, COE courses, and community colleges.

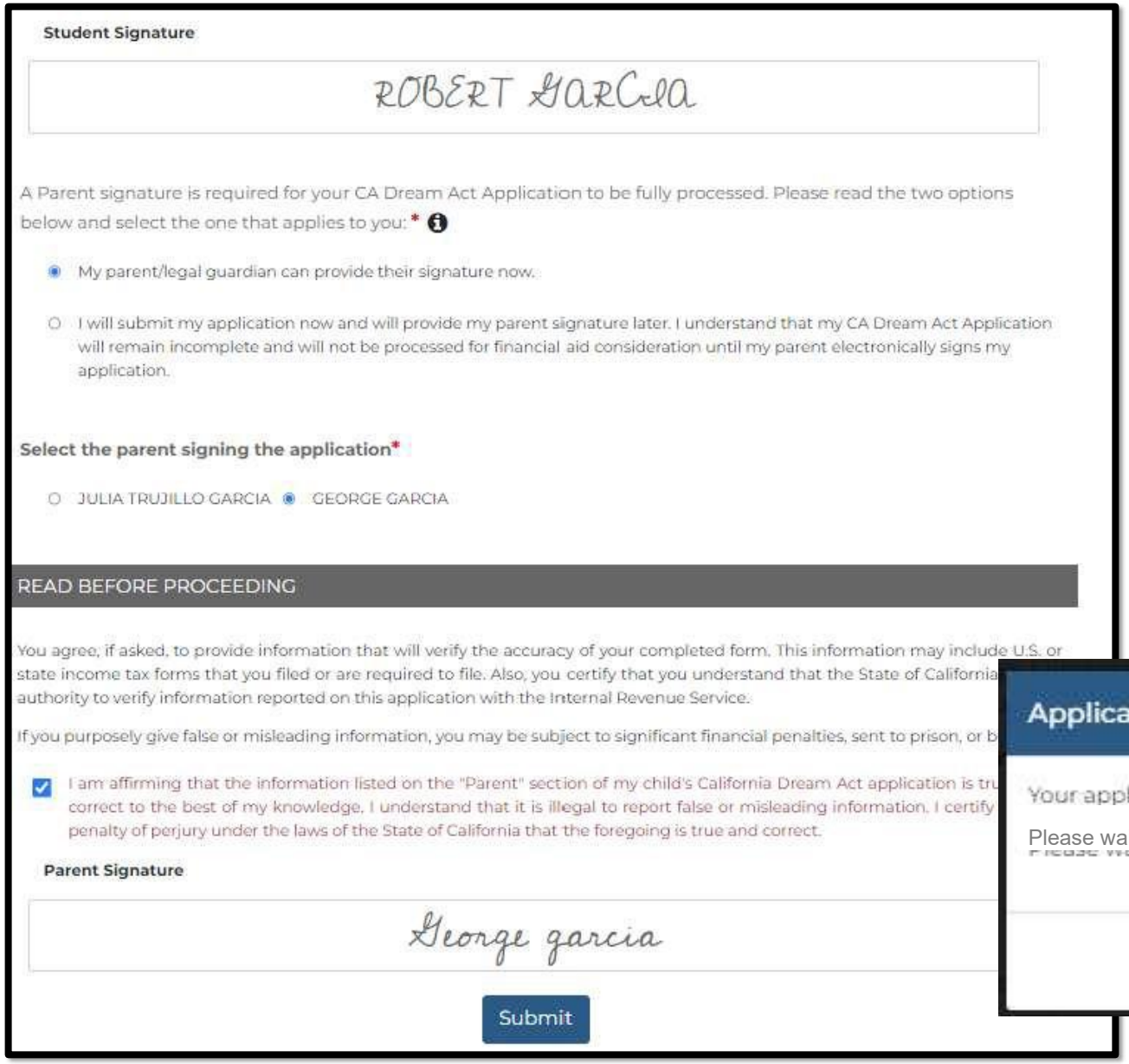


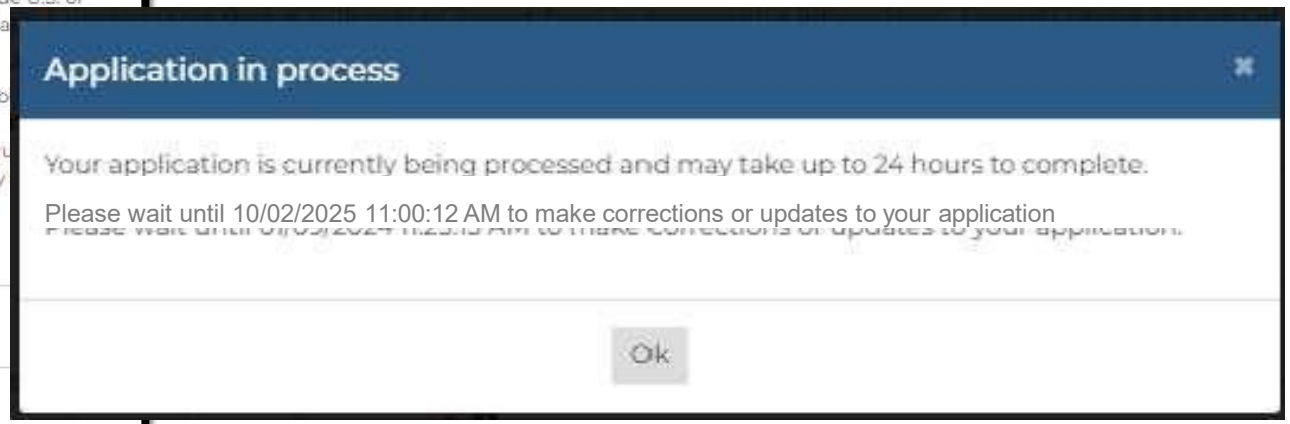
AB 540 Affidavit

- Determine how many credits your students earn at your school per year and for 4 years of attendance
- Student should combine all years of attendance at one school into one entry on the affidavit
  - Ex: Start Date 8/15/2021 End Date 6/15/2024
- Don't forget to click "Add"

Signatures

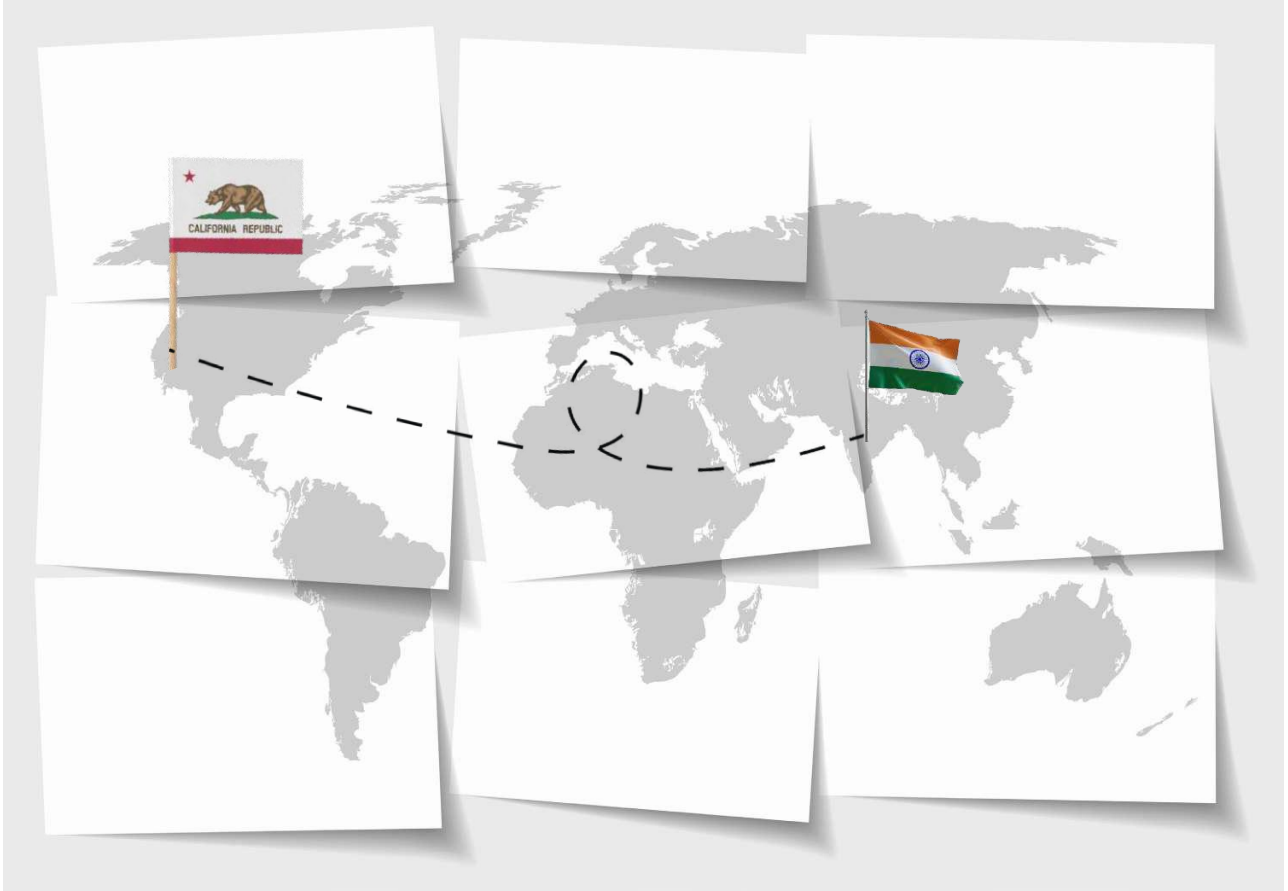
- Student and parent can sign the CADAA electronically.
- If the parent is not available to sign immediately, they can sign later using the parent signature section on the home page.
- Once signed and successfully submitted, students should see a pop-up confirming the application is being processed.





What if a Student's Parent(s) Live in Another Country?

- Even if the parents live in another country, they are required to provide their income and assets
- Convert amount to US Dollars
- If there is no contact with the parents, students should indicate they have an unusual circumstance and contact their college's financial aid office **as soon as possible**
- The college financial aid office will evaluate the situation and inform the student if they can override the need for parent information



Dream Act Service Incentive Grant

- CA Dream Act Application Students
- Cal Grant B recipients or Cal Grant A recipients who are Cal Grant B eligible
- Community or Volunteer Service
- Up to $4,500 per year for 300 hours of community service/per academic year
- On and Off Campus Opportunities
- 1,667 total awards - 926 accepted students for 2024-25
- Interested students can answer Yes on the CADAA question



Making Money After Graduation

Work authorization IS required for employment, but **NOT for independent contracting or starting a business.**

Independent contractors or business owners may use an ITIN or EIN to **legally earn a living** in the U.S., as long as they pay taxes.

ITIN can be used to **open bank accounts and establish credit.**

SB 1159 allows undocumented individuals to **apply for professional state licenses** with an ITIN instead of an SSN in California.

Professional Services:

- Real estate
- Photography
- Landscaping
- Medical
- Accounting

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

Cash for College Workshops

