



Providence Public Schools Department

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION



FREE RESOURCES

collegeplanningcenter.org

The College Planning Center offers free assistance in completing financial aid forms including FAFSA, CSS Profile, and the Alternative Financial Aid Form. You can schedule a free one-on-one appointment for assistance at collegeplanningcenter.org.

aidapplication@riopc.edu

The Alternative Financial Aid Form is currently available in a paper version. You can request an application from the Office of Postsecondary Commissioner by emailing aidapplication@riopc.edu.

studentaid.gov

The Federal Student Aid site is managed by The Department of Education providing all of the latest updates regarding federal student aid, federal loans, and loan repayment. This site is also where you can create your FSA ID. This is your electronic signature for all forms regarding federal aid. Both student and at least one parent will need unique FSA IDs.

In accordance with [The College and Career Success for All Students Act S3015](#), Providence Public Schools are required to provide notice to both students, parents, and/or guardians with information regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Rhode Island Alternative Financial Aid Form.

What is FAFSA?



FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid that is required to be used by all higher education schools in awarding federal student aid.

Why is it important to file FAFSA?

Money for college starts with FAFSA. FAFSA can help students to qualify for grants, scholarships, work-study, and federal student loans. If you are interested in participating in the Rhode Island Promise program providing free tuition to attend the Community College of Rhode Island, the FAFSA is required.

FAFSA Help & Instructions

For free FAFSA completion assistance or online step-by-step instructions, visit collegeplanningcenter.org

What is the Rhode Island Alternative Financial Aid Application?



The RI Alternative Financial Aid Application allows eligible students who do not qualify to complete a FAFSA to apply for aid.

This application is exclusively for undergraduate students applying to CCRI, RIC and/or URI who cannot apply for federal student financial aid (FAFSA). This application is for state and institutional aid in Rhode Island.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID & DEFINITIONS

FAFSA
provides aid
eligibility for:

Financial Aid

Helps you pay for college and is provided through the federal government, state, school, or a private business or organization.



Gift Aid: is money that does not have to be repaid.

Grants

Grants are typically awarded based on financial need. Federally funded grants include Pell, FSEOG & TEACH Grants. Grants can also be awarded by your state and college or university.

Merit Aid

Merit aid (Tuition Discount) is awarded from the education institution for academic achievements and other talents.

Scholarships

Scholarships help pay for college and reduce borrowing needs. Funding for scholarships can be found in many places: Colleges, High Schools, Places of Worship, Community Organizations, Not for Profit and For Profit Organizations. Finding scholarships require a broad search. Applying for scholarships should be free. Be careful of scams that may ask for money to find scholarships.



Self-Help Aid: adopts a self-investment philosophy.

Work Study

Is the opportunity to earn at least minimum wage. This is not money for the total cost of tuition, but the opportunity to work to help cover additional out-of-pocket expenses.

Loans

Federal Student Loans are considered a form of financial aid. If grant aid and federal loans do not cover the cost of education, then private loans could be considered.