# 2026-2027 FAFSA Guide
## Complete this worksheet and bring it with you to the workshop!
### The FAFSA is split into two parts: the Student section and the Parent (Contributor) section

## Students, before starting the FAFSA:

Create your FSA ID account: Visit **studentaid.gov** to create your account.

You will need to create your FSAI ID account to access the FAFSA application.

## Starting the FAFSA

Confirm your personal information:

- Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Email Address (non-school), Mobile Phone Number, and Permanent Mailing Address.

Select your State of Legal Residence: California

Date the student became a legal resident of California: Your birthdate, if you haven't moved outside of California. If you did, put the date you came back to California.

Giving consent to have your federal tax information transferred directly into your FAFSA from the IRS. *By not giving consent, you will be ineligible for Federal Student Aid*

## Student Section (Part 1):

The student will complete each portion of the student section, which includes:

- Personal Circumstances
  - The Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only Question: Select **No** to provide parent information.
- Demographics
- Financials
- Colleges (can list up to 20 schools)
- Signature

Tell Us About Your Parents

The student is asked if their parents are married. If the student selects "Yes," the student is required to invite their parents to their FAFSA form to complete the required parent sections. **Students will not be able to move forward in the FAFSA without inviting at least one parent.**

The Student Invites Parents to the FAFSA form

The student is asked to enter personal information about their parents to send them an invite to their FAFSA form. If parents are currently married and filed taxes together, **ONLY ONE** parent is required to provide parent information. *If parents do not have a Social Security number, click the box to indicate that the parent does not have a Social Security number.*

When entering parent information: If a parent already has an FSA ID account, the information being entered to invite the parent needs to match exactly what was entered when the parent was creating their FSA ID account. *If the parent does not have access to their FSA ID account, the parent will need to recover their information by using the "Forgot My Username" and "Forgot My Password" options on the FAFSA website.* If the parent no longer has the phone or email when they first created their FSA ID account, or does not successfully answer the security questions, they will need to call the FAFSA hotline to have a representative retrieve their account. A parent cannot create a new account, as their social security number is already connected to the account they have already created.

Parent 1 Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Parent 1 Birthdate: _____

Parent 1 email address: _____

Parent 2 Social Security Number: _____-_____-_____

Parent 2 Birthdate: _____

Parent 2 email address: _____

## Student Review Page and Student Signature

The review page displays the responses that the student has provided in the FAFSA form. For the student to sign their portion of the FAFSA form, the student acknowledges the terms and conditions of the FAFSA form. After agreeing and signing, the student is able to submit their section of the FAFSA form. Since parent information has not been provided, the FAFSA form is not considered complete.

# Parent (Contributor) Section Part 2:

Parents will receive an email notification notifying them that their student has invited them to contribute to their student's FAFSA form. The parent will need to log in to their FSA ID account to accept their student's invitation.

Parents contributing to their student's FAFSA are required to have an FSA ID account. If the parent doesn't have an FSA ID, they can select "Create an Account." Parents without an SSN will also need to create an FSA ID to contribute to their student's FAFSA.

## The Dashboard

After successfully logging in, the parent is taken to their dashboard. If the invitation was sent successfully from the student, there should be a blue banner at the top of the webpage stating "Pending Invitation." The parent will accept the invite and start the process of the parent section of their student's FAFSA.

## Portions of the Parent (Contributor) section will include:

- Parent Identity Information
- Provide Consent and Approval
  - Giving consent to have your federal tax information transferred directly into the FAFSA from the IRS. *By not giving consent, your student will be ineligible for Federal Student Aid*
- Parent Demographics
- Parent Finances
  - If parents' identity has been verified, the FAFSA form will not ask about your tax return information. Some parents will need to enter 2024 tax information due to their identity not being verified.
- Review, Sign, and Submit

*Use information from the 2024 income tax return. If parents are remarried, include the stepparent's information. If parents are divorced, separated, or never married and don't live together, you only use one parent's information. Use the one with whom you are either with more than half time or who provides more than half of the support. If it's 50/50 for everything, choose one parent whose info you will provide.