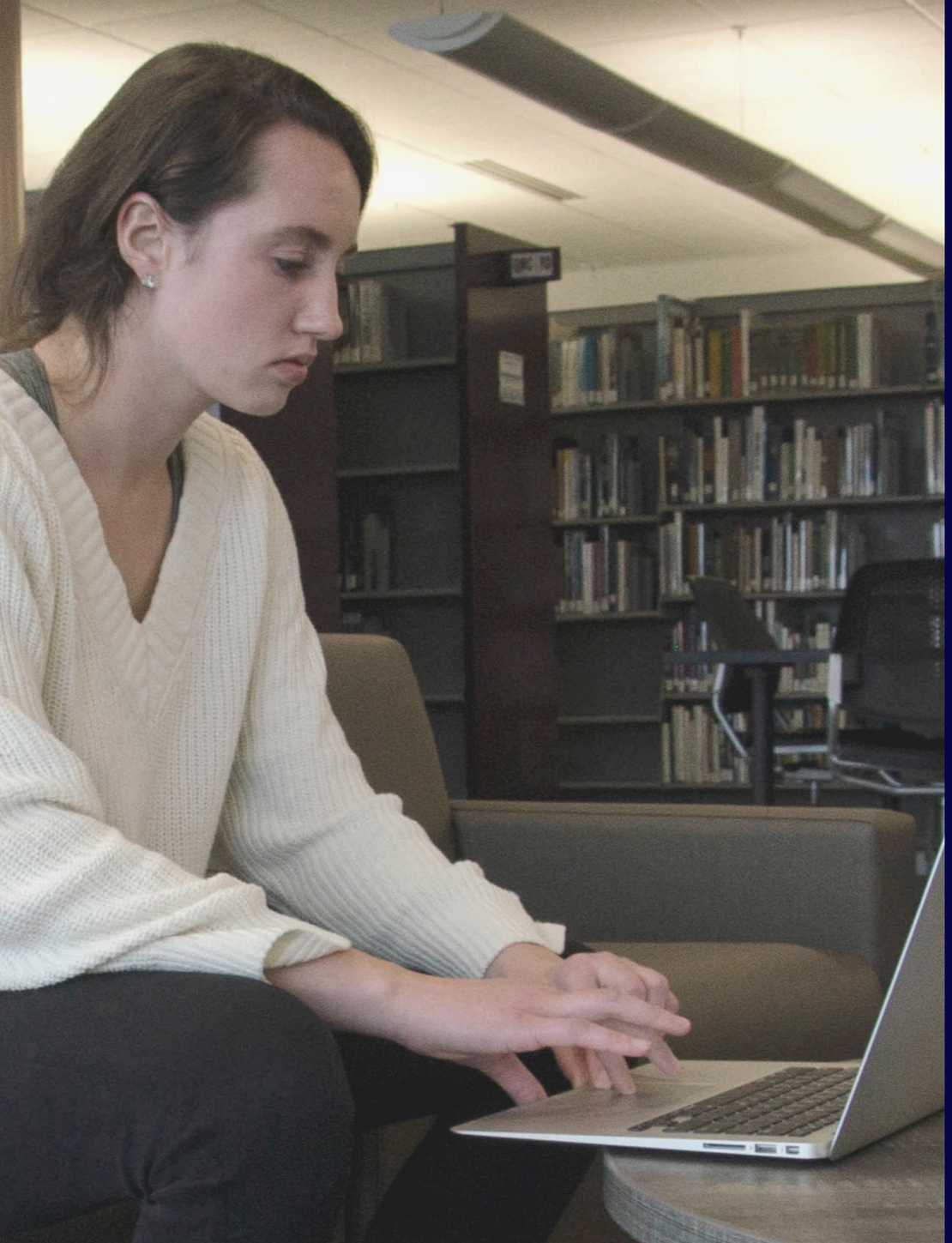


SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

FINANCIAL AID, VETERAN SERVICES & STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

AGENDA

1. WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?
2. THE FSA ID
3. FILING THE FAFSA
4. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
5. QUESTIONS

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

MONEY TO COVER EDUCATIONAL COSTS:

- TUITION
- FEES
- BOOKS
- HOUSING & FOOD
- OTHER LIVING EXPENSES

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

1

GRANTS

2

LOANS

3

SCHOLAR-SHIPS

4

WORK STUDY

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

PELL GRANT, DIRECT SUBSIDIZED, UNSUBSIDIZED & PARENT PLUS LOANS, FEDERAL WORK STUDY. AVAILABLE TO ALL US CITIZENS AND ELIGIBLE NON-CITIZENS WHO FILE A FAFSA

STATE STUDENT AID

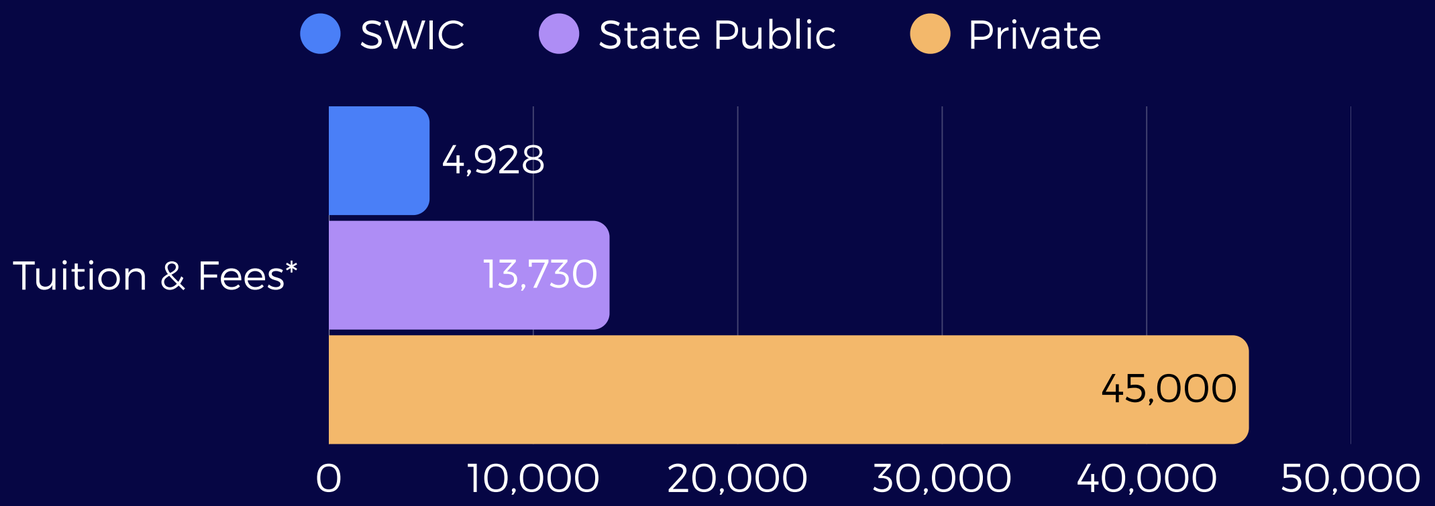
MAP GRANT AND OTHER FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ILLINOIS RESIDENTS. VISIT ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION AT ISAC.ORG FOR MORE INFO

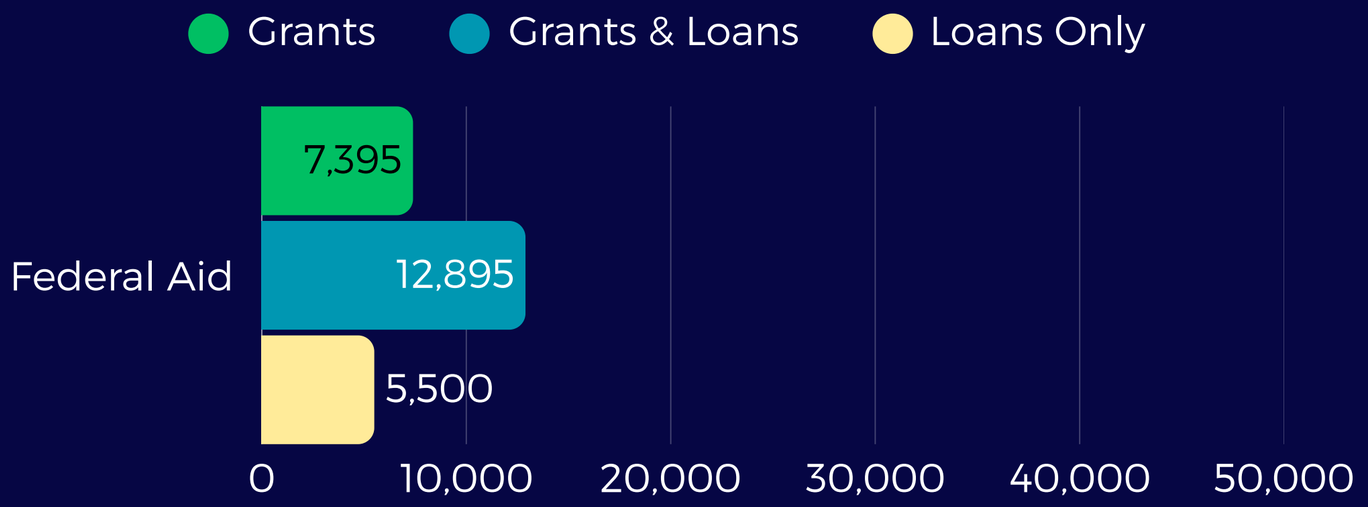
INSTITUTIONAL AID

FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM THE COLLEGE TO FINANCE THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE; USUALLY SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO MERIT OR SPECIAL INTEREST

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WITH FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCH AS LOCAL OR CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIPS





*Note: Actual costs will vary by student and institution. Housing and meals adds approximately $11,000 to 15,000 to university costs.

HOW DO I APPLY?

FILE YOUR FAFSA

COMPLETE INSTITUTIONAL APPS

SEEK PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

GETTING STARTED WITH FAFSA

TIMELINE FOR FILING FAFSA

CREATE FSA ID

STUDENT & PARENT CAN GET AN FSA ID AT STUDENTAID.GOV ON A PERSONAL DEVICE

GATHER FINANCIAL INFO

TAX RETURNS, RECORDS OF CHILD SUPPORT, BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS, WORTH OF INVESTMENTS

2027-2028 FAFSA WILL USE INCOME DATA FROM 2025

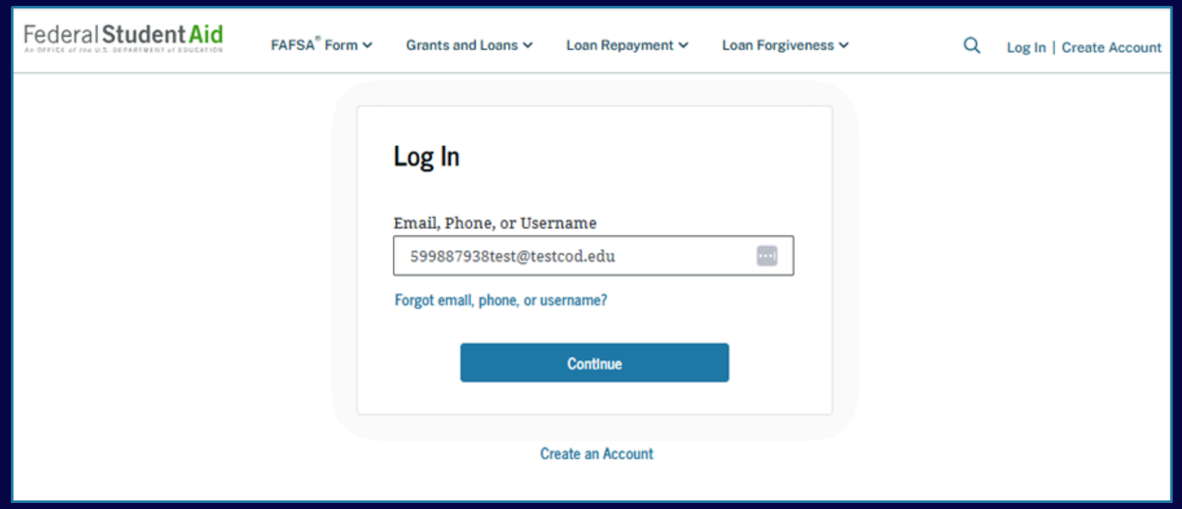
COMPLETE FAFSA

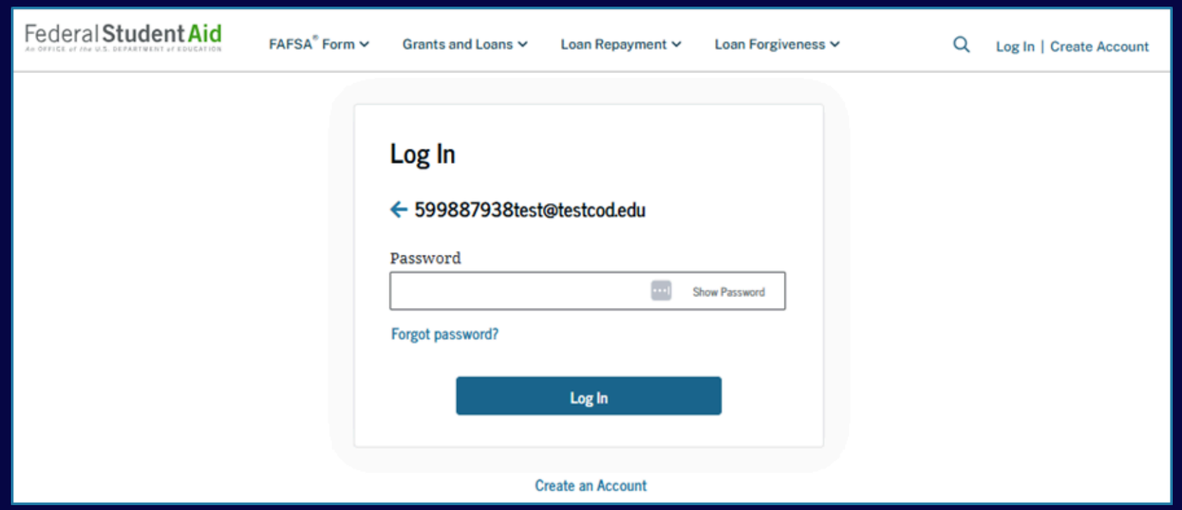
APPLICATION OPENS OCTOBER 1ST

2027-2028 FAFSA WILL OPEN OCTOBER 1, 2026!

RECEIVE FAFSA SUBMISSIONS SUMMARY

CONFIRMATION PAGE WILL PROVIDE SAI WITH GRANT & LOAN ELIGIBILITY





STUDENTAID.GOV

- CREATE FSA ID
- COMPLETE THE FAFSA
- MAKE FAFSA CORRECTIONS
- COMPLETE LOAN ENTRANCE COUNSELING
- SIGN MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE
- CHECK STATUS OF LOANS & LOAN BALANCES

CREATING AN FSA ID

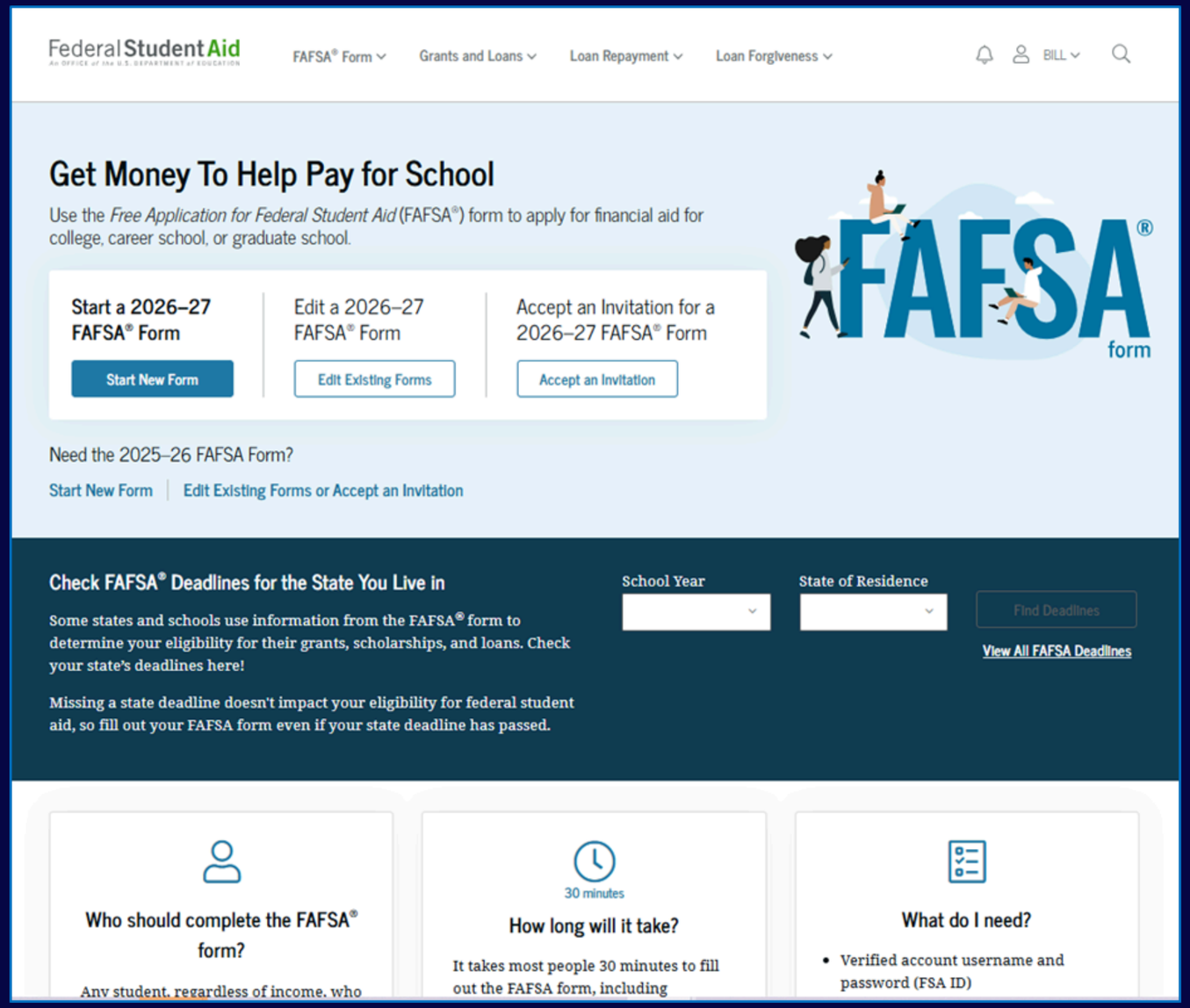
WHO NEEDS ONE?

- STUDENT
- FAFSA CONTRIBUTORS

WHAT YOU NEED:

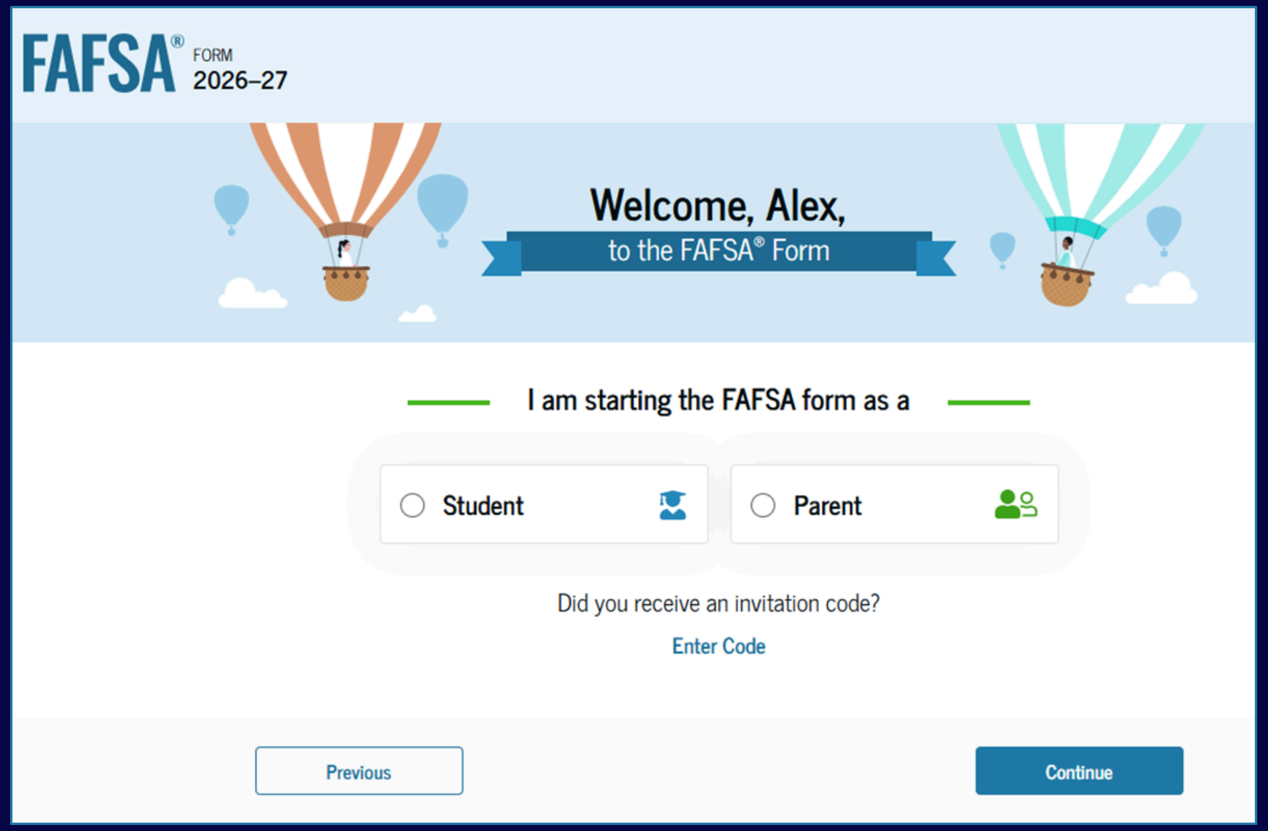
- PERSONAL/MOBILE DEVICE
- PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS
- MEMORABLE USERNAME
- SECURE PASSWORD
- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER*
- DATE OF BIRTH
- FULL LEGAL NAME
- MAILING ADDRESS
- PHONE NUMBER
- CHALLENGE QUESTIONS
- IDENTITY VERIFICATION

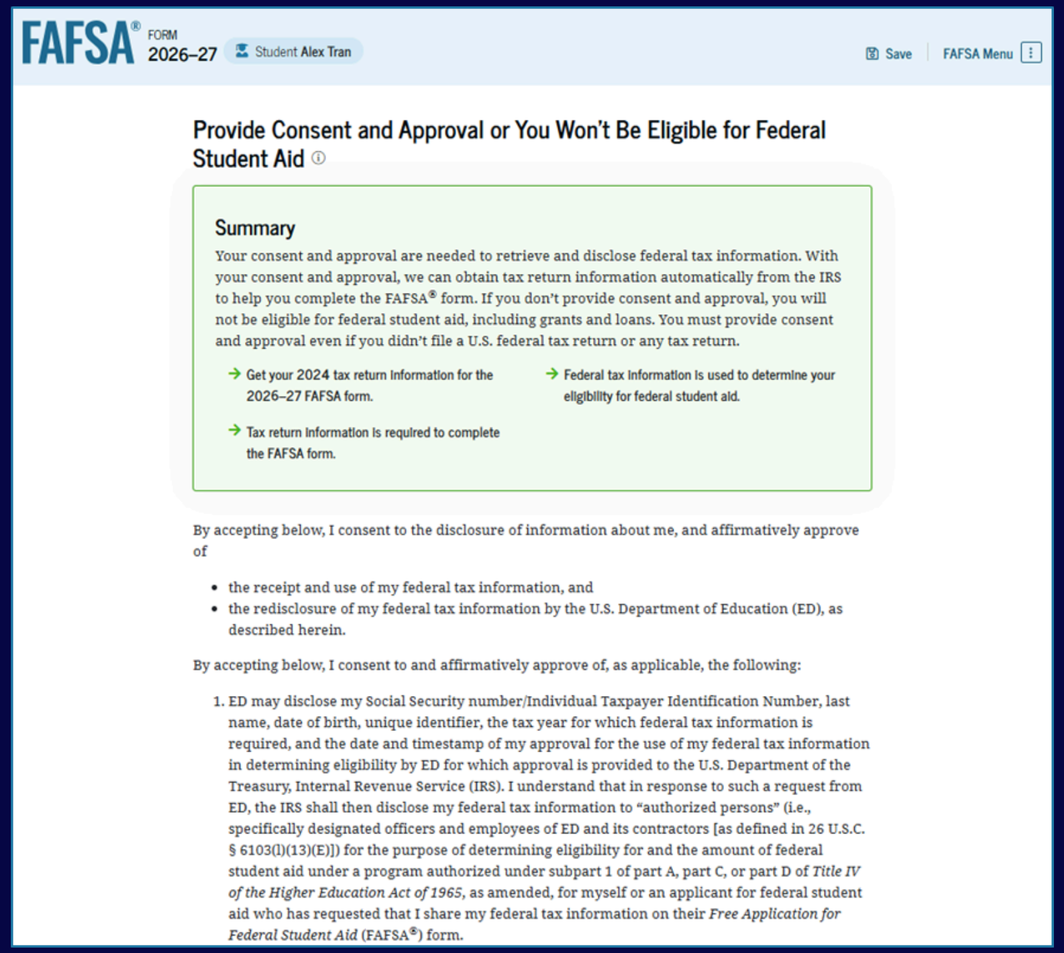
*EFFECTIVE 2024-2025, CONTRIBUTORS WITHOUT AN SSN CAN GET AN FSA ID



WHEN YOU ARE READY TO START...

START WITH STUDENT PORTION...

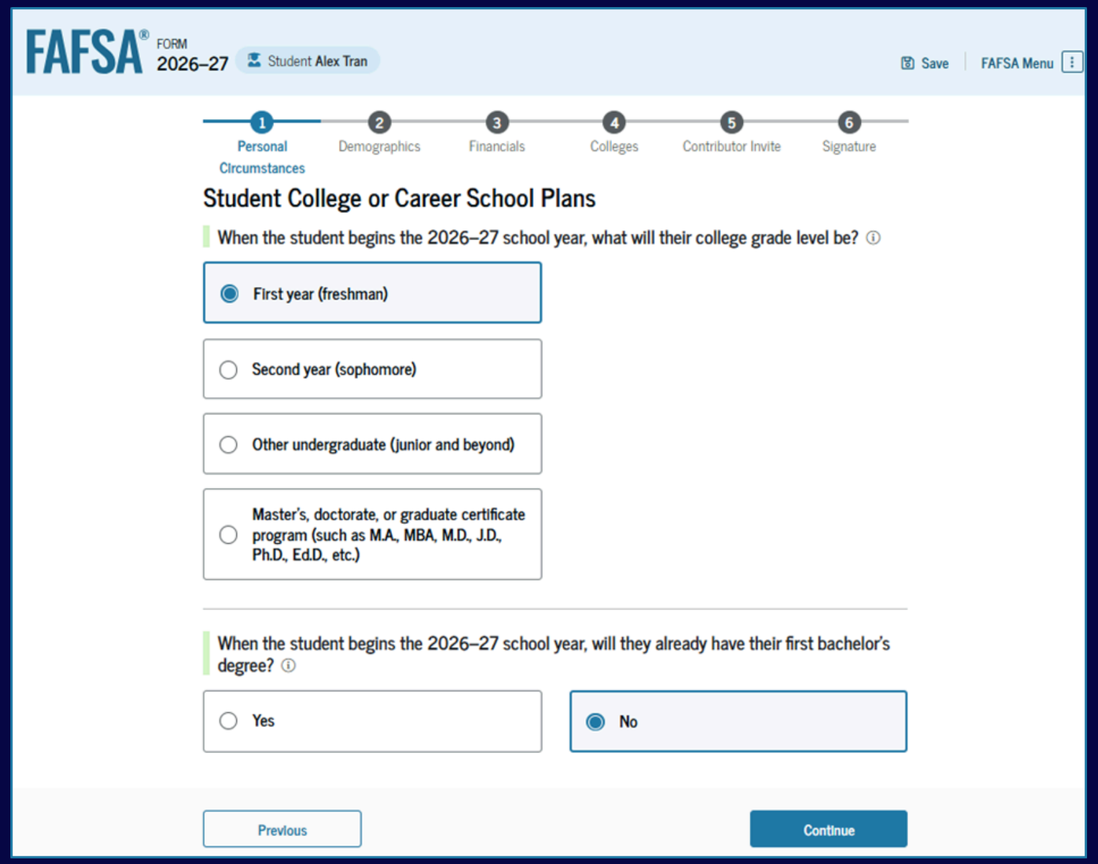




IRS CONSENT

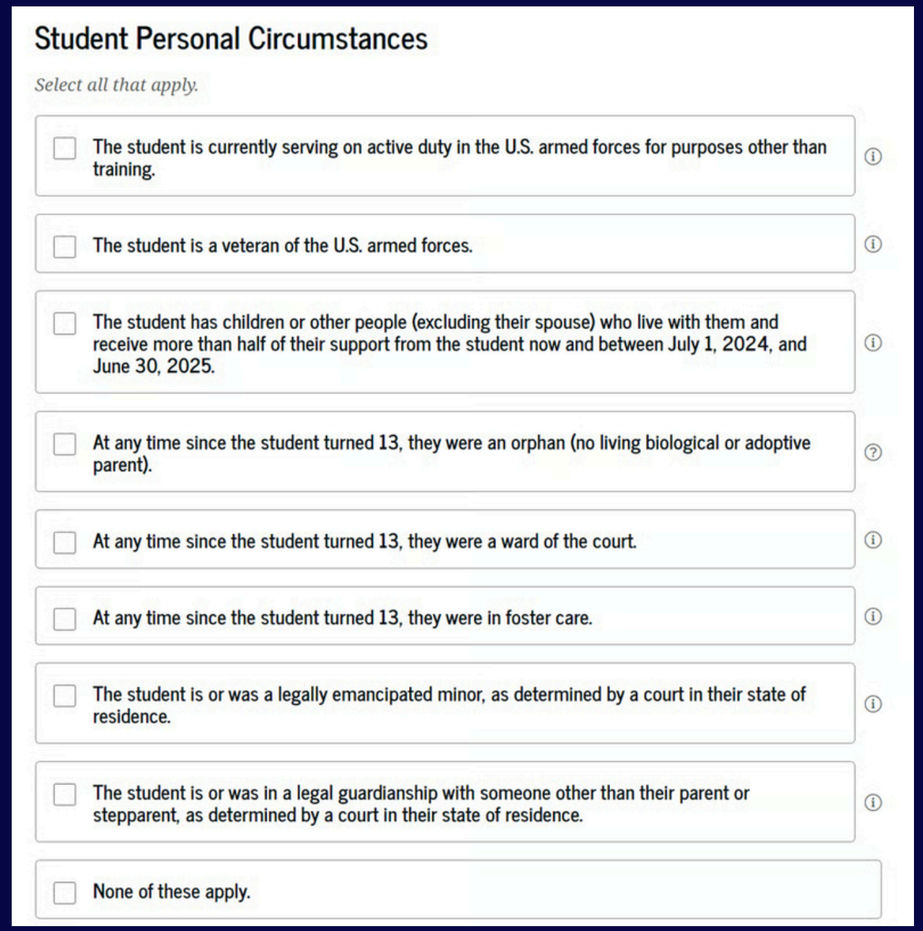
BY PROVIDING CONSENT, THE STUDENT'S FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION IS TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY INTO THE FAFSA FORM FROM THE IRS TO HELP COMPLETE THE STUDENT FINANCIALS SECTION.

IRS CONSENT IS REQUIRED TO BE TITLE IV ELIGIBLE



PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

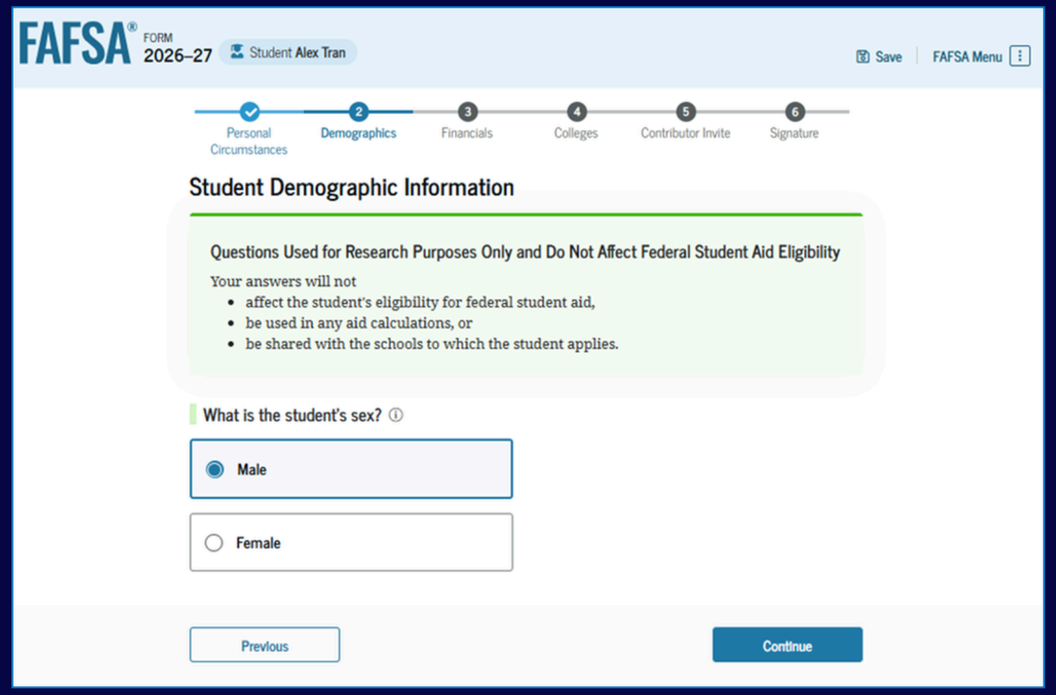
- MARITAL STATUS
- COLLEGE OR CAREER SCHOOL PLANS
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION STATUS
- FIRST GENERATION



PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

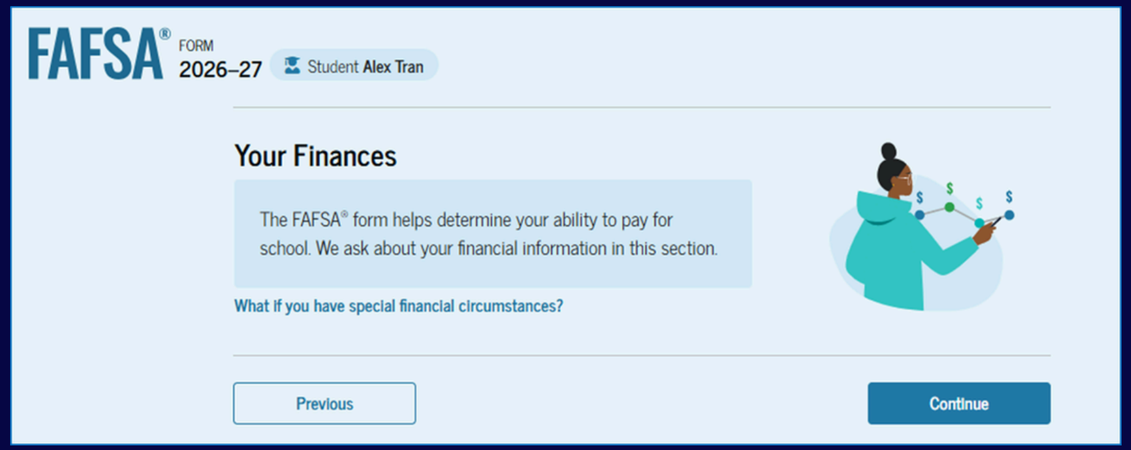
- DEPENDENCY QUESTIONS
  - ACTIVE DUTY/ VETERAN
  - CHILDREN/DEPENDENTS
  - ORPHAN/WARD OF THE COURT/ FOSTER CARE
  - EMANCIPATED MINOR/ LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

- PROVISIONAL INDEPENDENT
  - HOMELESS AND UNACCOMPANIED
  - UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES



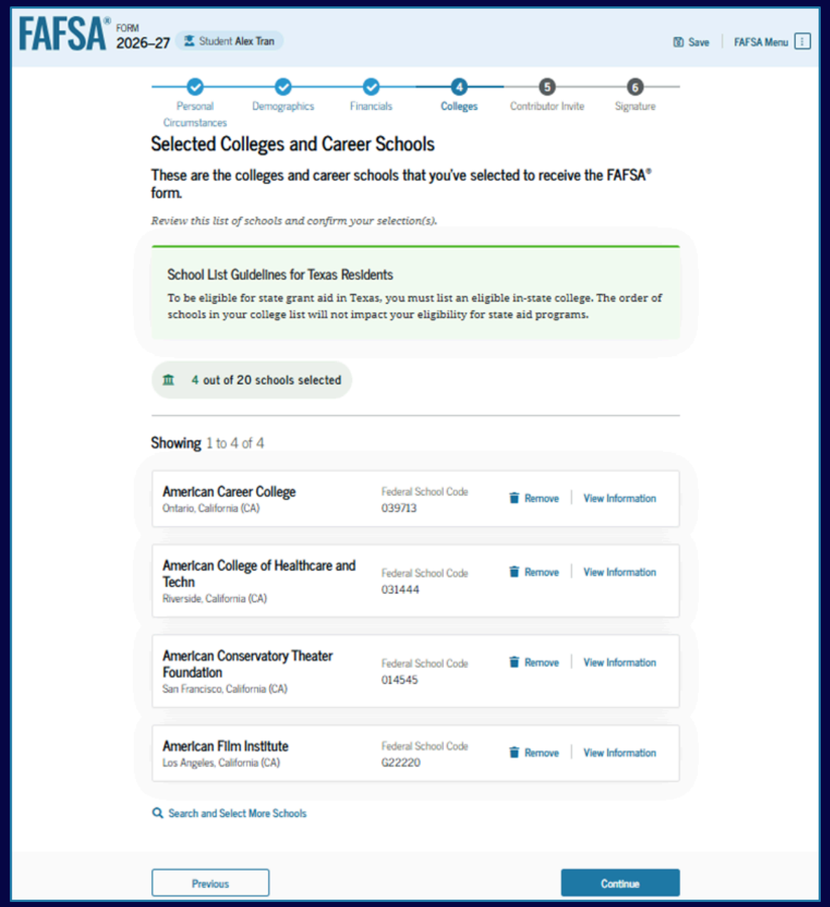
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC

- GENDER
- RACE AND ETHNICITY
- CITIZENSHIP STATUS
- PARENT EDUCATION STATUS
- PARENT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY
- HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION



STUDENT FINANCIALS

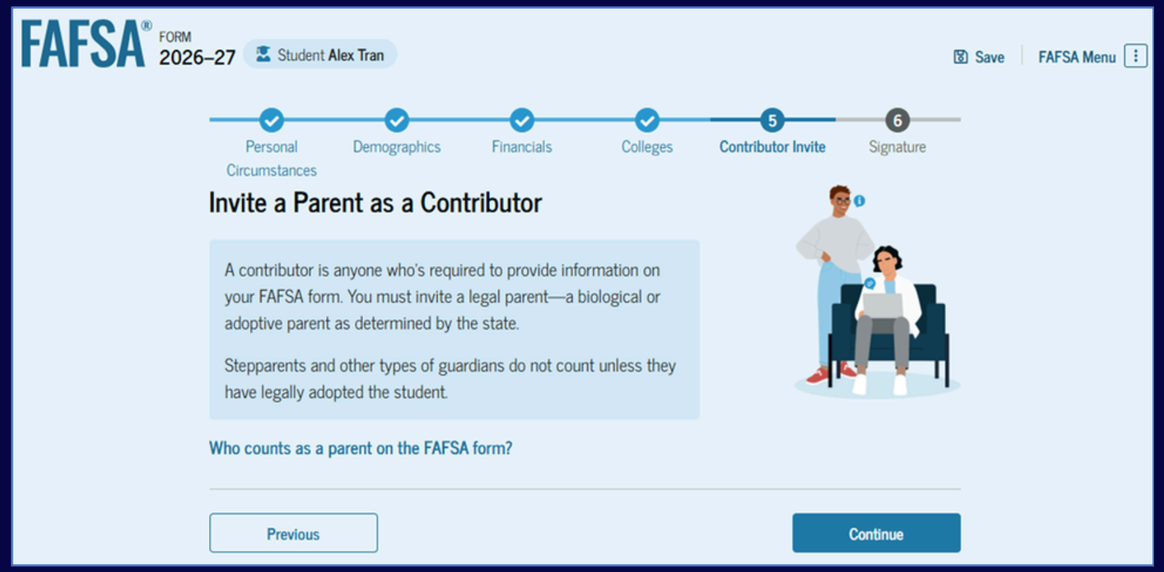
- 2025 IRS INFORMATION
- NON-TAXED INCOME
- TOTAL OF CASH, SAVINGS & CHECKING
- NET WORTH OF INVESTMENTS



SCHOOL SELECTION

THE STUDENT IS ASKED TO SEARCH FOR THE COLLEGES AND/OR CAREER SCHOOLS THEY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THEIR FAFSA INFORMATION.

STUDENTS MAY SELECT UP TO 20 SCHOOLS



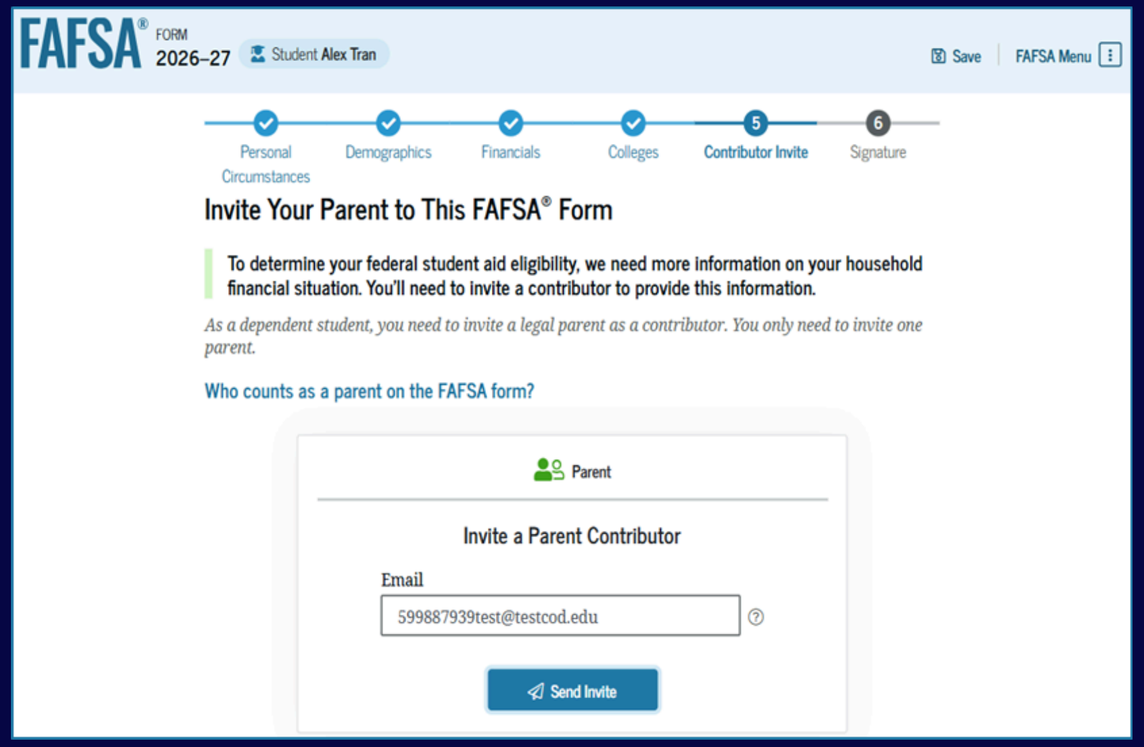
PARENT CONTRIBUTORS

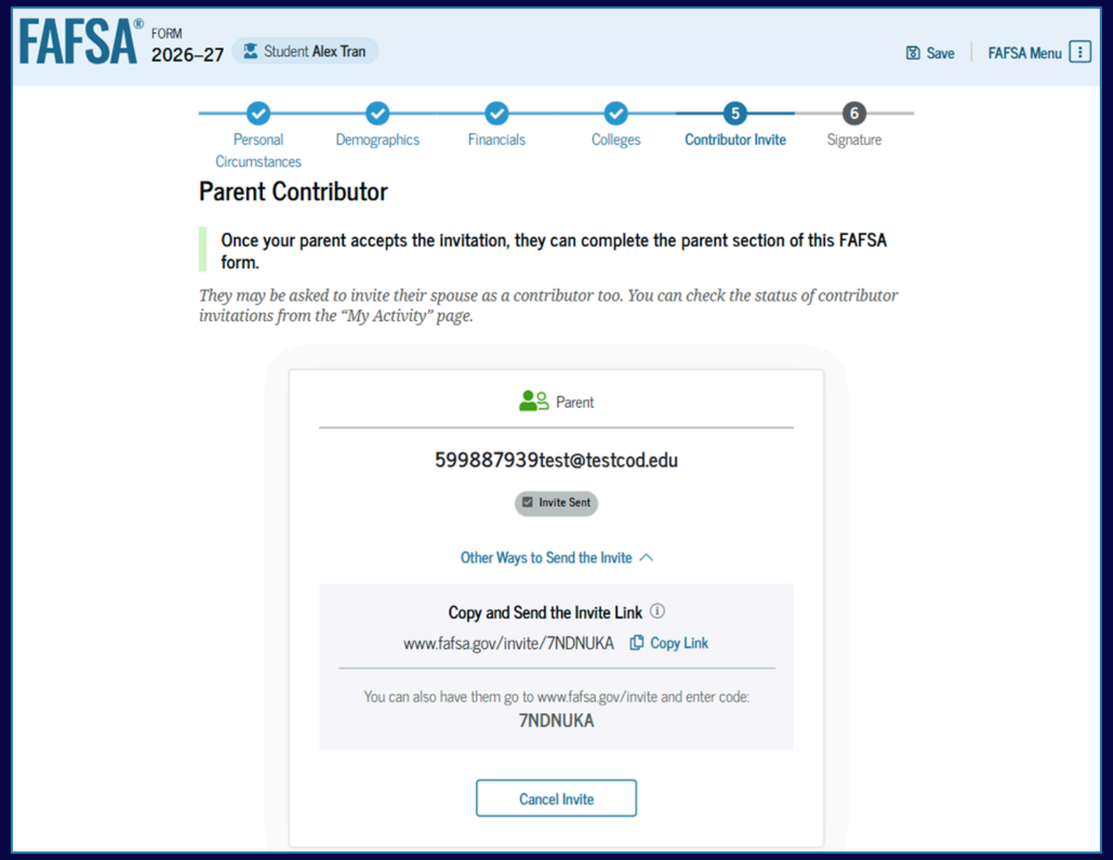
WHO COUNTS AS A PARENT HELPS DETERMINE WHICH PARENT(S) NEEDS TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE FAFSA

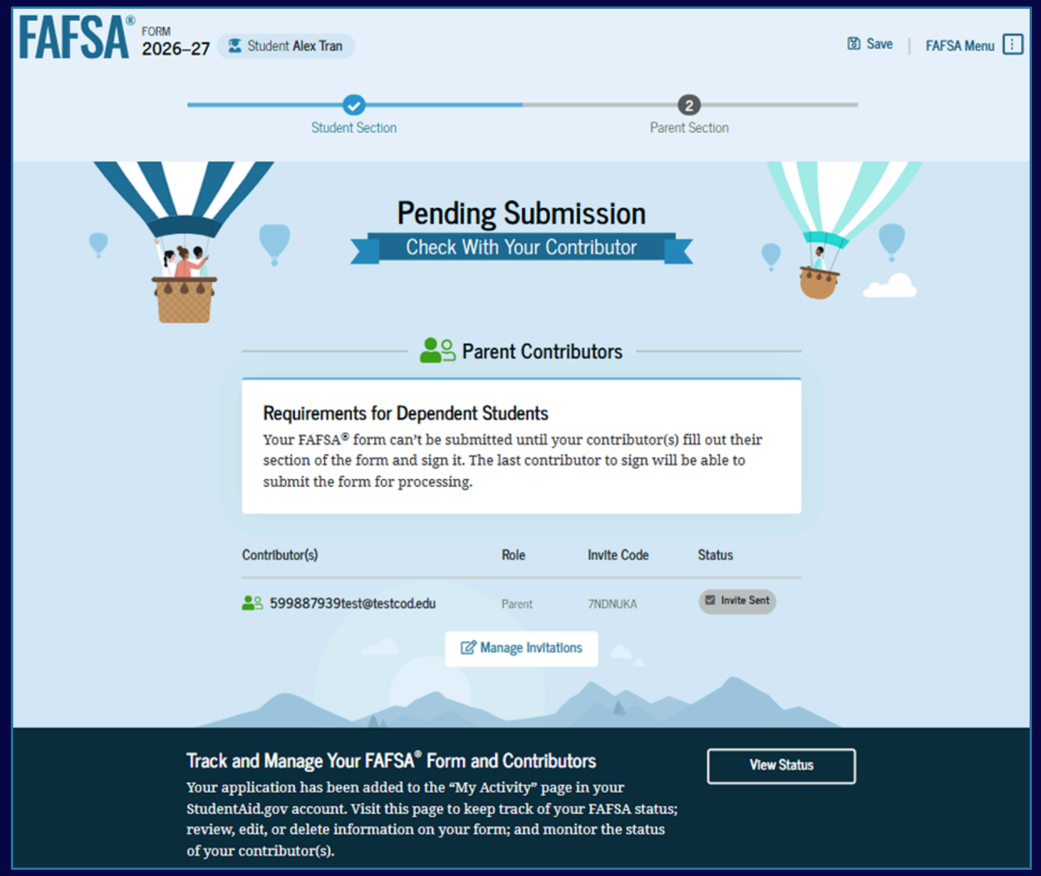
WHEN PARENTS ARE NOT MARRIED OR LIVING TOGETHER

- PARENT WHO PROVIDES MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
  - LIVING EXPENSES
  - CHILD SUPPORT
- PARENT WITH GREATER INCOME AND ASSETS

INVITES TO CONTRIBUTOR

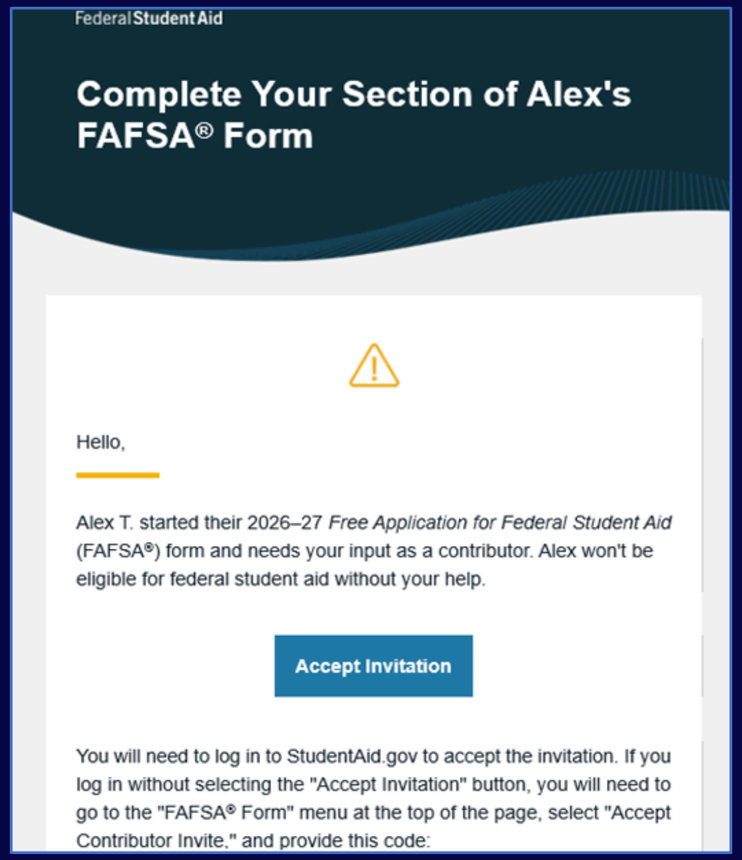






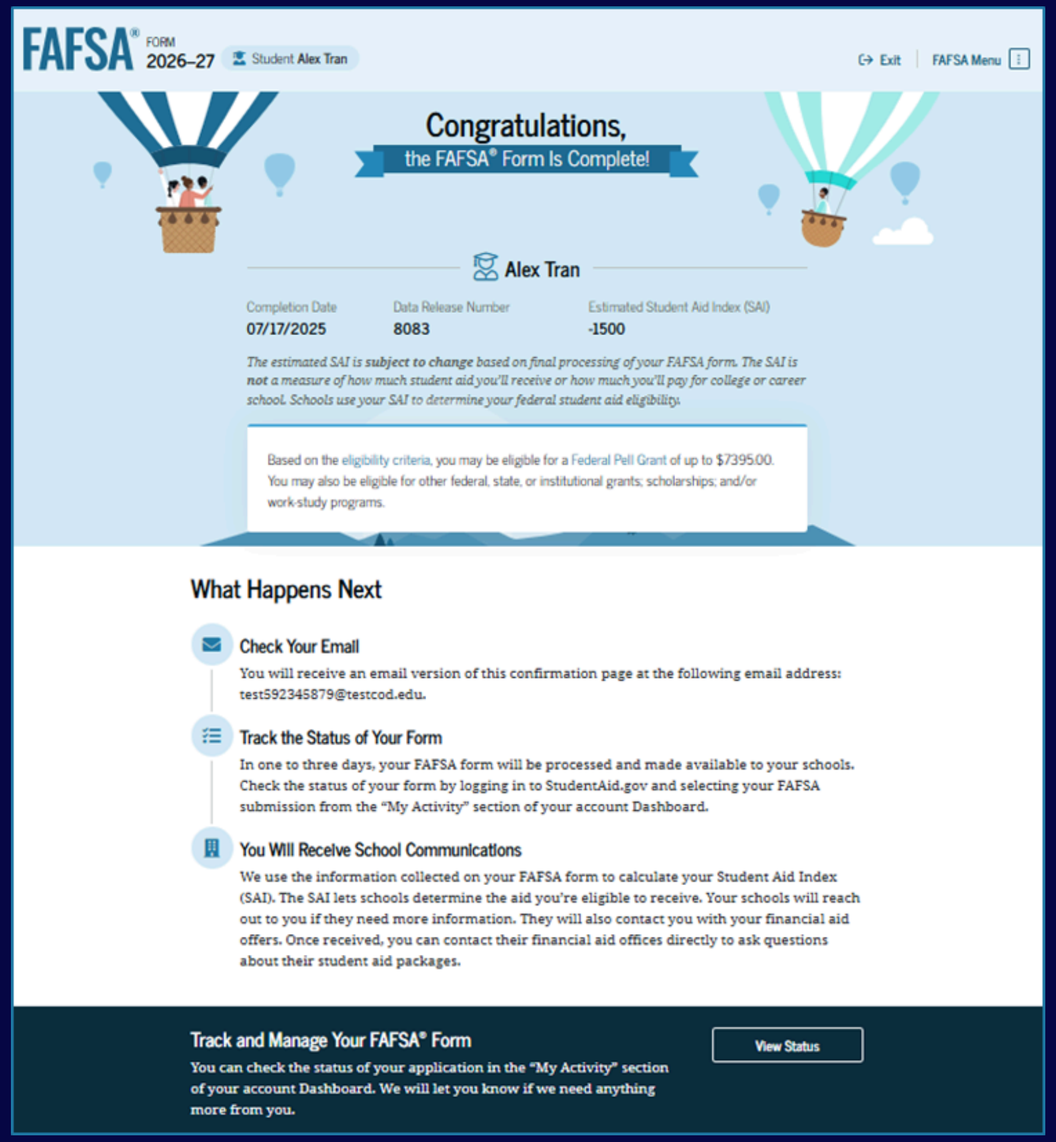
SIGN & SUBMIT

- REVIEW THE FAFSA SUMMARY
- STUDENT SIGN WITH FSA ID
- SEE STATUS OF CONTRIBUTORS
- RECEIVE CONFIRMATION FOR SAI AND ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY ONCE ALL COMPLETE



CONTRIBUTOR PORTION

- ONBOARDING
- IDENTITY INFORMATION
- IRS CONSENT
- DEMOGRAPHICS
  - MARITAL STATUS
  - STATE OF LEGAL RESIDENCE
- FINANCIALS
  - NON-TAXED BENEFITS RECEIVED
  - TAX FILING STATUS
  - FAMILY SIZE
  - NUMBER IN COLLEGE
  - CHILD SUPPORT
  - OTHER PARENT INFO



CONFIRMATION

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY SUBMITTING, FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY AND EMAIL WILL INCLUDE:

- STUDENT AID INDEX
- PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY: BASED ON TAX FILING STATUS, AGI, FAMILY SIZE, POVERTY LEVEL
- LOAN ELIGIBILITY: SUB LOAN AND UNSUB MAXIMUM AMOUNTS

WHAT IS AN SAI?

- NEED ANALYSIS FORMULA ESTABLISHES THE **STUDENT AID INDEX** USING THE INFORMATION REPORTED ON THE FAFSA
- SAI HELPS DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR MOST FEDERAL AND STATE ASSISTANCE
- SHOWN ON FAFSA CONFIRMATION PAGE AND FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY

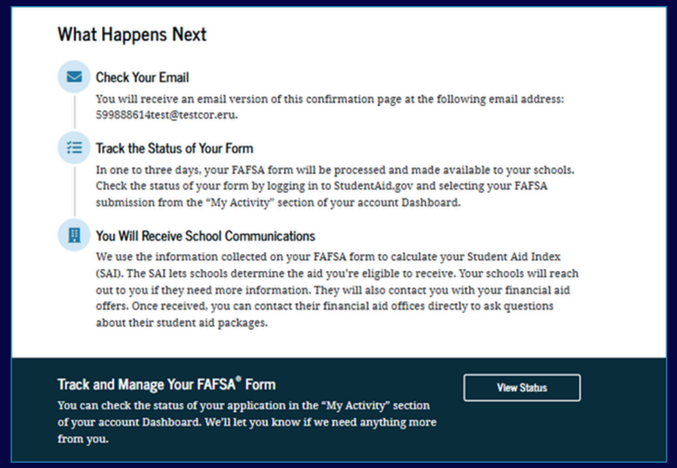
“

PRO TIPS TO AVOID FRUSTRATION:

- MAINTAIN GOOD TAX RECORDS
- START EARLY
- HAVE EVERYTHING READY
- WORK TOGETHER
- WRITE DOWN PASSWORDS
- KEEP PASSWORDS FOR NEXT YEAR
- USE YOUR RESOURCES

”

TIMELINE FOR WHAT COMES NEXT



WATCH YOUR INBOX

SCHOOLS RECEIVE DATA IN 3-5 DAYS FROM SUBMISSION AND WILL EMAIL OR MAIL WITH NEXT STEPS

SET-UP STUDENT EMAIL!

PROVIDE FOLLOW UP

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO FINALIZE AWARD PACKAGE

APPLY FOR OTHER AID

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS OR WORK STUDY BY DEADLINE

REVIEW & ACCEPT AID

MOST AID PACKAGES HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED TO BE DISBURSED

WHERE CAN I GET HELP WITH MY FAFSA?

- HIGH SCHOOL FAFSA NIGHTS
- ISAC REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE VISITS
- SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE, BELLEVILLE CAMPUS
  - FINANCIAL AID, VETERAN SERVICES & STUDENT EMPLOYMENT- INFORMATION SCIENCE BUILDING, ROOM 1035. OPEN MONDAY - THURSDAY, 8 AM TO 5 PM AND FRIDAY, 8 AM TO 4 PM.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- STUDENTAID.GOV
- SWIC.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID
- ISAC.ORG
- BIGFUTURE.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG
- CSSPROFILE.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG
- SCHOLARSHIPS.COM
- FASTWEB.COM

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
FINANCIAL AID, VETERAN SERVICES & STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
EMAIL: FIN_AID@SWIC.EDU
PHONE: (618) 235-2700, EXT. 5288