

# FAFSA Cheat Sheet

## Quick Facts & Tips for Parents

- FAFSA Opens: October 1st each year
- Info Needed: Social Security Numbers, tax returns, W-2s, bank statements
- Use Prior-Year Taxes: For 2025–26 FAFSA, use 2023 tax information
- List All Schools: List up to 20 colleges — order doesn't matter
- ■ Act Fast: Some aid is first-come, first-served
- Update Annually: You must renew FAFSA every year
- Apply Online: [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) or use the myStudentAid mobile app
- Dependency: Most high school seniors are considered dependent students
- ■ Errors to Avoid: Misspelled names, wrong SSNs, forgetting to sign & submit
- Need Help?: Contact FAFSA at 1-800-4-FED-AID or visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)