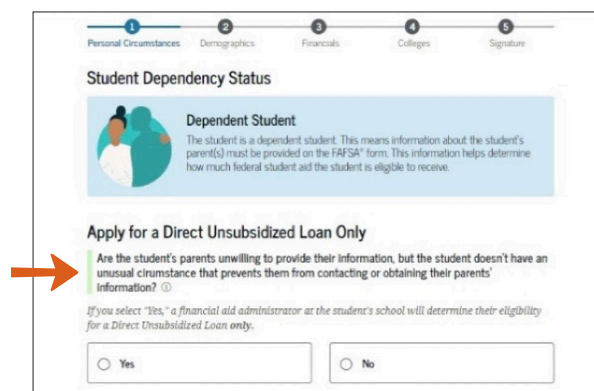


## If you haven't created an account (called the FSA ID) at StudentAid.gov yet:

- ▶ We recommend waiting to file the FAFSA until the FSA ID has been matched with the Social Security Administration (SSA). This will happen automatically but will take three (3) business days. Watch your email for confirmation of the SSA match, then you can start the FAFSA. There may be exceptions when it makes sense to start the FAFSA without a matched FSA ID. If you aren't able to wait until the match occurs, reach out to us to discuss options.
- ▶ If you are unable to create an account because you cannot move beyond the contact information page, back up and remove the mailing address. You will receive a warning message, but most people are able to continue and create their FSA ID. Some people have also had to remove their mobile phone number as well. Contact information can be added after the FSA ID has been created by going to "Settings."

## Once your FSA ID has matched with the Social Security Administration:

- ▶ You can start the FAFSA at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). The FAFSA is roles-based. When the student logs in, they will only see questions that pertain to themselves. If the student is dependent, they will need to invite their parent by providing the parent's email address and the exact legal name, date of birth, and Social Security number the parent used when they created their FSA ID.
- ▶ Either student or parent can start the FAFSA. If both student and parent are in attendance, we recommend the student start the FAFSA.
- ▶ Students and parents will need to provide "consent and approval" to allow the IRS to share their information with Federal Student Aid and their college(s). Consent is provided by clicking the "approve" box at the bottom of the page. If the student or parent clicks "decline," the student will be ineligible for aid. Once approval is given, tax information will transfer automatically into the FAFSA, though it will not be visible.
- ▶ Read the FAFSA questions **carefully**.
  - In some instances, people are incorrectly clicking that they want to apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan *Only*. **This would only be for students whose parents refuse to provide information on the FAFSA. To be considered for all types of aid, answer "No."**
  - When asked about receiving benefits in 2022 or 2023 from any federal programs, **you should only check "Free or Reduced Price School Lunch" if a family member was eligible based on your income.** (Federal Student Aid reversed its guidance on this question on Jan. 5, 2024.)



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**Student Dependency Status**

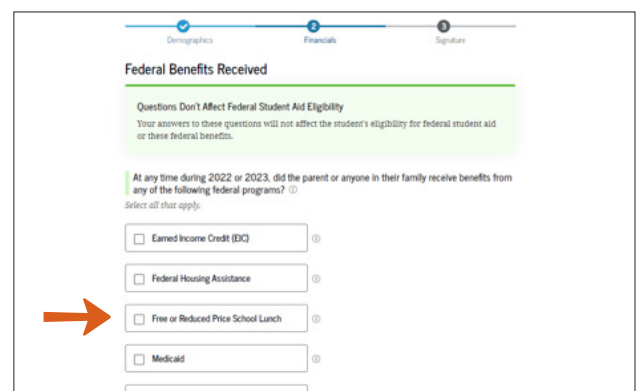
**Dependent Student**  
The student is a dependent student. This means information about the student's parent(s) must be provided on the FAFSA form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive.

**Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only**

Are the student's parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn't have an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting or obtaining their parents' information? ⓘ

If you select "Yes," a financial aid administrator at the student's school will determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only.

Yes  No



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**Federal Benefits Received**

Questions Don't Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility  
Your answers to these questions will not affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid or these federal benefits.

At any time during 2022 or 2023, did the parent or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs? ⓘ  
Select all that apply.

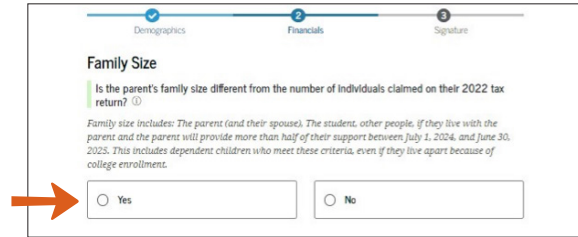
Earned Income Credit (EIC) ⓘ

Federal Housing Assistance ⓘ

Free or Reduced Price School Lunch ⓘ

Medicaid ⓘ

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) ⓘ



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**Family Size**

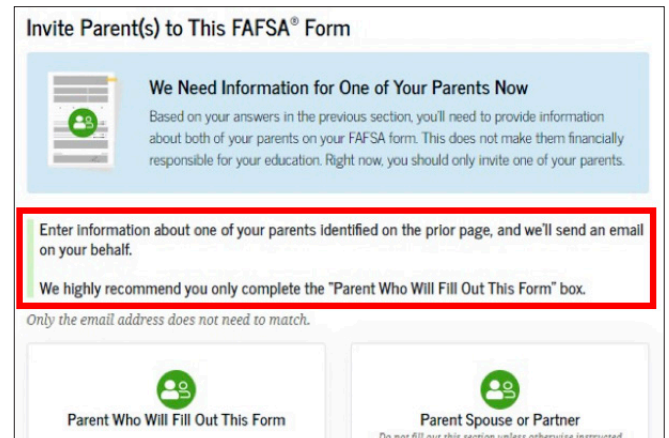
Is the parent's family size different from the number of individuals claimed on their 2022 tax return? ⓘ

*Family size includes: The parent (and their spouse), the student, other people, if they live with the parent and the parent will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. This includes dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment.*

Yes  No

- ▶ When asked about family size, **be sure to click on “yes” to double check that the number of people in your household is accurate.** If the family size is wrong, update with the correct number of family members based on the definition provided.

- ▶ If a dependent student is completing the “Invite Parents to This FAFSA Form” page, the student should provide information for **only one parent**. The information provided should be for the parent who has an FSA ID and who will be completing the form. Information for the other parent, if required, will be requested later in the FAFSA.



**Invite Parent(s) to This FAFSA® Form**

**We Need Information for One of Your Parents Now**

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. This does not make them financially responsible for your education. Right now, you should only invite one of your parents.

Enter information about one of your parents identified on the prior page, and we'll send an email on your behalf.

**We highly recommend you only complete the "Parent Who Will Fill Out This Form" box.**

*Only the email address does not need to match.*

Parent Who Will Fill Out This Form

Parent Spouse or Partner

*Do not fill out this section unless otherwise instructed.*

## Overview of what to expect next:

- ▶ Colleges started receiving FAFSAs in **March 2024**.
- ▶ Student corrections and updates to the FAFSA became available in **April 2024**.
- ▶ Students will be notified via email of their **Student Aid Index or SAI** (formerly EFC) and Pell Grant eligibility once the FAFSA has been submitted. Only the student receives an email, not the parent.
- ▶ Students can view their **FAFSA Submission Summary or FSS** (formerly the Student Aid Report or SAR) one to three days after the initial FAFSA or a correction has been submitted.
- ▶ Due to these processing delays, official financial aid offers are also delayed. Most schools started sending financial aid offers in late April or early May.

For the latest news on FAFSA updates, join our Facebook group:

**Paying for College for ME**

Stay on track with timely FAFSA tips delivered direct to your phone or inbox:

**[FAMemaine.com/join](https://www.famemaine.com/join)**