Financial Aid How-To

Completing the FAFSA, TASFA and opting out

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What is Financial Aid?

- Financial aid is any money that helps your student pay for college, trade school or certification programs
  - Scholarships and grants: your student doesn't have to pay it back
  - Loans: your student has to pay it back
- How does your student get financial aid?
  - Apply for campus scholarships
    - Available through college campus portal login
  - Apply for non-campus scholarships
    - Listed in SchooLinks, Studentscholarships.org, etc.
  - Complete the FAFSA or TASFA

Financial Aid Graduation Requirement

- All Texas graduates have to show completion of the FAFSA or TASFA in order to receive a diploma
    - Students seeking military service or workforce options should opt out
- Students need to submit proof for verification in SchooLinks by Monday, February 3
    - More info to come on a later slide
- US citizens fill out the FAFSA
- Non-US citizens (but who are going to a Texas school and have lived here for more than three years) fill out the TASFA

Everything is an acronym…

- FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- TASFA: Texas Application for State Financial Aid

Which one do I fill out? FAFSA

- You and your student will fill out the **FAFSA** if you answer YES to any of the following questions. Is your student a:
  - U.S. citizen?
  - U.S. National?
  - A permanent U.S. resident with an I-551 or I-151 visa?
  - A conditional permanent U.S. resident with an I-94 visa?
  - An eligible noncitizen with Arrival/Departure Record (I-94 visa)?
  - An eligible noncitizen with T non-immigrant status (T-visa)?
  - An eligible noncitizen whose parent holds a T-1 non-immigrant status?

Which one do I fill out? TASFA

- Your student will fill out the **TASFA** if you answer NO to any of the questions on the previous slide but YES if your student:
    - Have resided in Texas for 12 months prior to the enrollment in a higher education institution; AND
    - Have or will graduate from a Texas High School or obtain a GED in Texas; AND
    - Have lived in Texas for 36 months prior to high school graduation

Your FAFSA: Create Your FSA ID

- **Step 1: Create your FSA ID**

- Both the student and parents/guardians should each have an FSA ID
  - If parents file taxes jointly, just one FSA ID is needed
  - If parents file separately, they both need one

- Go to studentaid.gov to create yours
  - Students will need their social security number to create theirs
  - Parents without a SS# can still complete the FAFSA
  - If parents already have an FSA ID from an older child, they do not have to create a new one

- It will take about three days for the account to be approved by the US Department of Education

Step 1

Your FAFSA: Filling it Out

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- **Step 2: Students and parents both complete their sections of the FAFSA**
- Students will follow the prompts and fill out as much as they can
  - This includes personal information and which school(s) they will be applying to (trade schools, colleges and universities)
  - Students will invite their parent to add their information; they will need their parent's name, DOB, SSN and email address used to create their own FSA ID
- Parents will fill in their financial information from their 2023 tax return using their own FSA ID
  - Student invitation will be in My Activity (profile)
  - None of your financial information will be seen by RPHS or FBISD

Step 2

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Your FAFSA: Verifying Information

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- **Step 3: Verifying your status**

- After both parties have submitted, students need to log in daily to ensure that there is no missing information, such as a signature

- Once the FAFSA application is approved, students will receive an email

- It will contain the completion date, Data Release Number and Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI)
  - The SAI is a formula that helps colleges determine student financial aid amounts, ranging from -1500 to 999999

Step3

FAFSA® FORM 2025–26   👤 Student ▮▮▮▮▮   ↪ Exit | FAFSA Menu ⋮

Congratulations,
The FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

🎓 ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

Completion Date
12/03/2024

Data Release Number
▮▮▮▮▮

Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI)
▮▮▮▮▮

*The estimated SAI is **subject to change** based on final processing of your FAFSA form. The SAI is **not** a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college or career school. Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility.*

Based on the eligibility criteria, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to $740.00. You may also be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants; scholarships; and/or work-study programs.

This is what students will upload into SchooLinks

Ridge Point High School

Your TAFSA: Create your Account

- **Step 1:** Create your TASFA account
    - For the online version, create one account for the student, one for the parent. The online version is only available in English
    - You should immediately be able to begin completing the form without a waiting period, unlike the FAFSA

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website

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Step 1

Ridge Point High School

Your TAFSA: Complete the Form

- **Step 2: Complete the form**
- Like the FAFSA, both parties need to complete the online form
  - If you use the paper form, you just need one
  - The Spanish and English paper versions are available on the TASFA website (QR code on previous slide)
- You will list which school(s) you want your information sent to
- Once you submit, your information will go to your schools
  - Verify receipt with your school's financial aid office
- You will take a screen shot of your confirmation email and upload that to SchooLinks
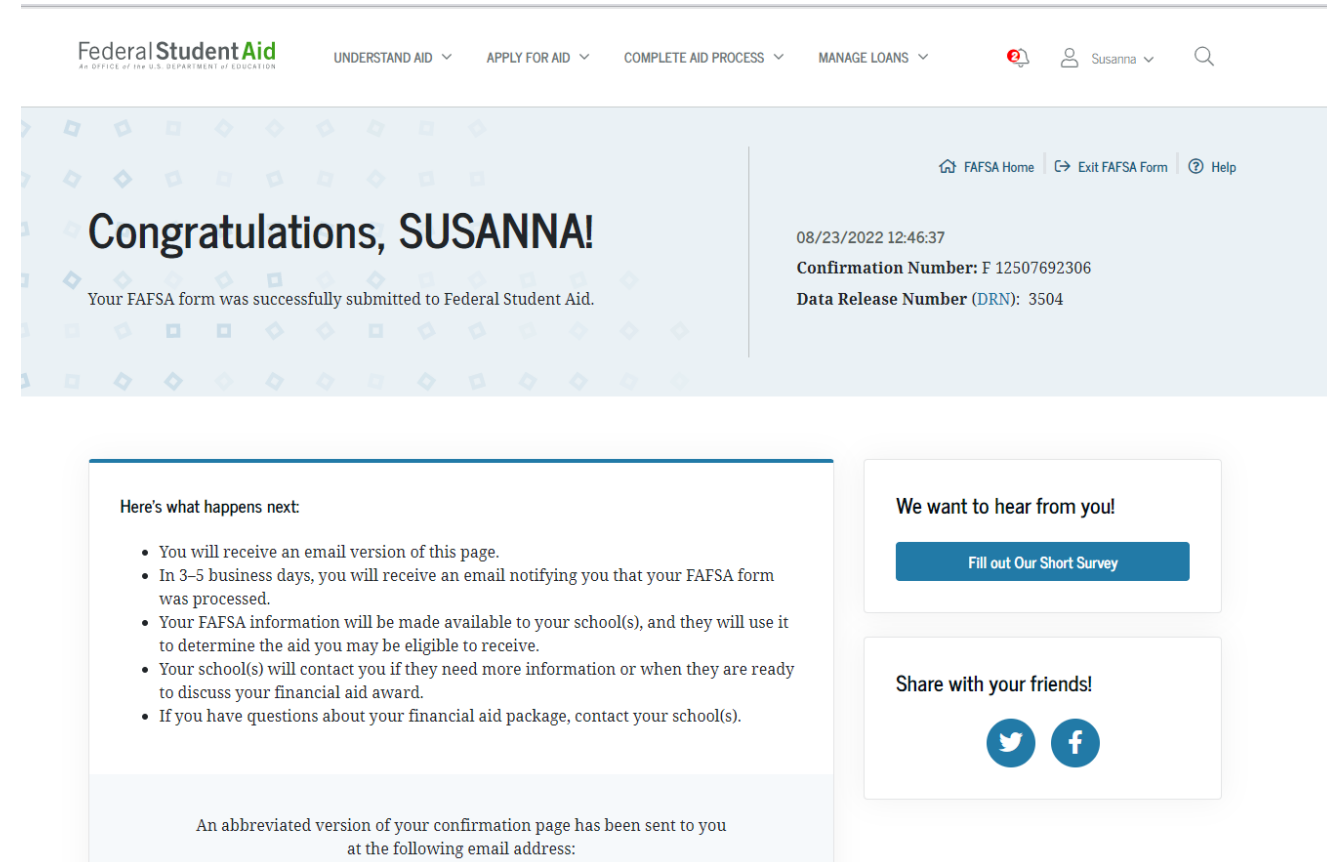
RPHS CCR

Step 2

Opting Out of Financial Aid Forms

- **Step 1: Log in to SchooLinks**

- Go to Finances/College Finances/Update FAFSA Status

- Click on Won't File

- Download the FAFSA Waiver, sign it and re-upload it in the same spot

- Students can also get a hard copy from Mrs. J in K145 or download from my website
  - If students are 18, they can complete the form themselves

Step 1

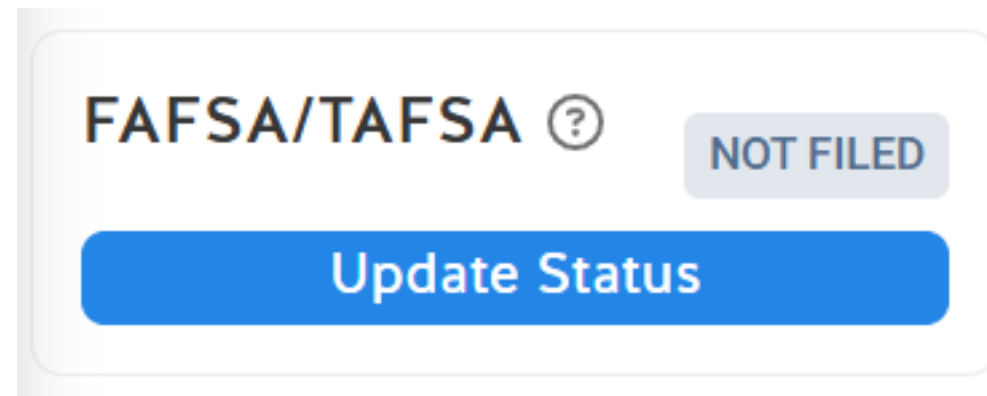# Satisfying the Graduation Requirement

- FAFSA: Students should check their email or studentaid.org account for a screen similar to this one
- TASFA: Students should check their email for a confirmation message and take a screen shot

Satisfying the Graduation Requirement

- Students should go to SchooLinks (1Link/Clever)

- Go to Colleges/College Applications

- Click on the blue Update Status in the FAFSA/TASFA section

- Follow the prompts and upload your verification

FAFSA/TAFSA ⑦   NOT FILED

Update Status

DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Still Have Questions?

- That's OK!

- How do you get them answered?
    - Review my website – there's a lot of financial aid info there
    - Send your student to visit me in the CCR Center
    - Email me, call me or send me a carrier pigeon ☺

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Scan here for the website!