



FAFSA STEPS:

Step 1: Get a PIN

- Get a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov
- One parent or guardian should get a PIN as well
- Use it to:
 - Sign the FAFSA
 - Make corrections
 - Access online information

Step 2: Fill out the FAFSA

- Fill out the FAFSA in January of senior year
- Online is fastest, but paper is available if needed.
- FAFSA on the Web – www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Guides students and parents through step by step
 - Lets them know if they have forgotten anything
 - Online help, including live private chat
- College can submit electronically

Four or five weeks after sending in your FAFSA you should receive an award letter from the government showing you what aid you have been awarded. You can cross out any aid you don't want to keep and send the form back in. There are a few different types of awards you may receive from the government:

A **Grant** is money that you will not have to pay back. Many low-income students receive one grant or another from the government. The Pell Grant is the most common government grant.

A **Subsidized Loan** is money you will have to pay back. The loan starts to accrue interest after you graduate from your school.

An **Unsubsidized Loan** is money that you will have to pay back. The loan starts to accrue interest as soon as you receive the money. If possible, you want as few loans as you can have.

You will need your parent or guardian's help filling out this form because it will ask for their income. If you have questions, you should call the financial aid office of the school you are applying to or look on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Some scholarship applications require that you fill out the FAFSA as well. You can fill out the form on-line or request one from the financial aid office of the school you are applying to. Also, you might be able to get the form from your high school guidance counselor.