

## Help Your Students Get Ready to File the 2025-2026 FAFSA

**September 11, 2024** 

PRESENTED BY

Mila Tappan Manager of College Access and Outreach





## **Getting Ready to File the 2025-2026 FAFSA**

- ✓ Federal Student Aid Accounts (FSA IDs)
  - Create an FSA ID
  - Confirm Who Needs One
  - Steps for Parents without an SSN
- ✓ Building a List of Schools
- ✓ Resources to Help Understand the Process and Encourage Important Conversations
- ✓ FAFSA Completion for Students with Challenging Circumstances
- ✓ Ways FAME Can Help!







## **Getting and Staying Connected**

- Please keep us updated regarding staffing changes.
  - If you didn't receive an invite directly from us, please reach out to me at <u>mtappan@famemaine.com</u> so we can add you to our mailing list.
- We'll be sharing resources at the end but the easiest way for students and parents to say up to date is to join our email and/or text list at <u>FAMEmaine.com/join</u>.



## Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

- First step in the FAFSA filing process.
- Accounts are created at StudentAid.gov.
- When an account is created, individuals set up a username and password (referred to as an FSA ID).
- An FSA ID is required to access the FAFSA and all Federal Student Aid processes and serves as legal signature.



## **Creating a Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)**

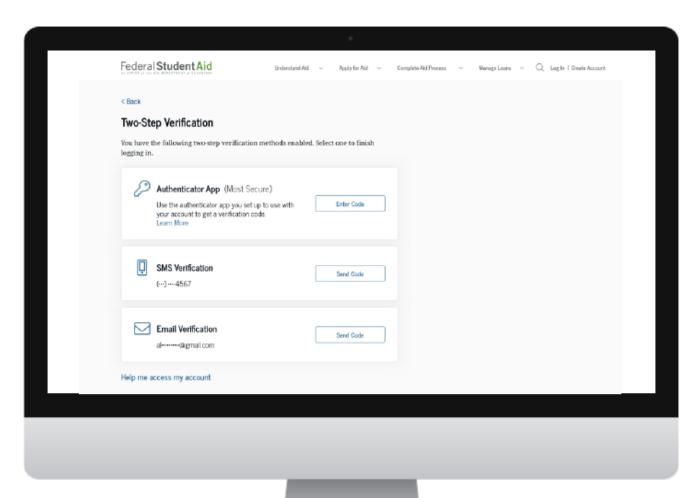
- When creating an account, individuals provide identifying information including their Social Security number (SSN).
  - Name, date of birth, and SSN are matched against Social Security Administration data to verify the individual's identity.
- Individuals need a unique email address that can be accessed when creating the account as it must be verified.
  - Students **should not** use their high school email address. Instead, recommend they **create a new email address**.
- Ideally, individuals will provide their mobile phone number.
- Individuals will need to select and answer four challenge questions.



# FSA ID Creation – Two-Step Verification

Two-Step Verification is required to complete the FSA ID creation process through one of the following:

- One time password generated from authenticator app
- SMS (text) sent to a verified mobile phone
- Email sent to a verified email address

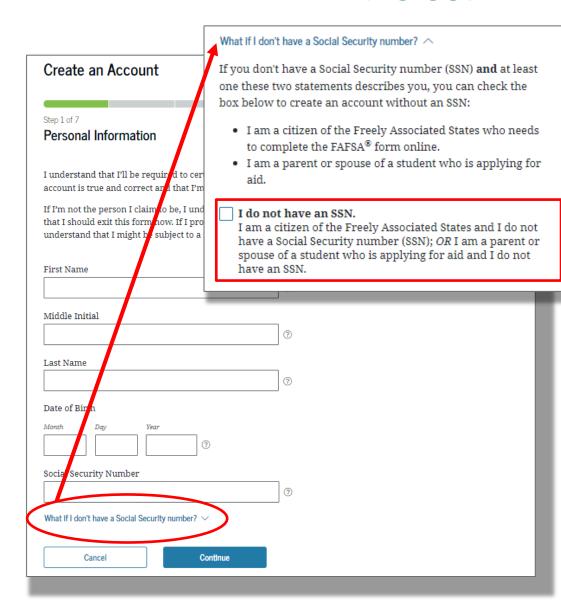




## FSA ID Creation – No SSN

## New last year!

- Parents without an SSN can now create an account.
- Process is similar for those without an SSN except there is an extra step at the end to verify their identity.
  - If enough information on file with TransUnion, four knowledge-based questions will be asked.
     If answered correctly, identify is verified.
  - If there isn't enough information on file with TransUnion or if the questions aren't answered correctly, individuals will have to provide additional documentation via email.







### Who Needs an FSA ID?

- Every contributor must have their own FSA ID.
- A contributor is anyone providing information on the FAFSA who is required to provide consent by clicking approval (which allows IRS to disclose their federal tax information (FTI), and the DoE to use their FTI and redisclose their FTI to schools and organizations).
- The student is always a contributor.
- Other possible contributors include the parent, the parent's spouse, and student's spouse.



## **Determining Parent Contributors**

## **Determining Parent Contributors**

If parents are married and filed a 2023 joint tax return, information for both parents will be required but only one parent will need an FSA ID.



• If parents are married and filed 2023 taxes separately, or if parents live together but aren't married, information for both parents will be required and both parents will need their own FSA ID.





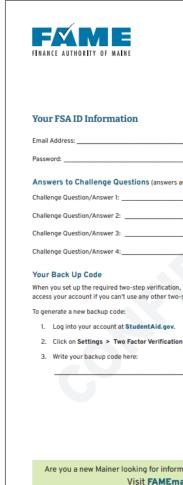
## **Determining Parent Contributors**

- If parents are divorced, separated, or never married and don't live in the same household, the parent who provides the most financial support will be required to provide information on the FAFSA and will need an FSA ID.
- If that parent is remarried on the day the FAFSA is filed, information for their spouse will also be required and their spouse will need their own FSA ID unless they filed a 2023 joint tax return.



- FSA IDs should be created at least several days prior to filing the FAFSA.
- If FSA ID has not been "matched" individuals will have to manually enter all tax related information.

## When Should FSA IDs Be Created?



#### How to Create a Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

for those without a Social Security number

### FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

#### Parent FSA ID Tracking Sheet

Write your backup code here:

Parent Information	
Email Address:	FAME
Mobile Phone Number:	FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
Username:	Student Information
Password:	Email Address:
Challenge Questions and Answers (NOTE: Answers are case	Mobile Phone Number:
Challenge Question/Answer 1:	Username:
Challenge Question/Answer 2:	Password:
Challenge Question/Answer 3:	Challenge Questions and Answers (NOTE: Answers are ca
Challenge Question/Answer 4:	Challenge Question/Answer 1:
When you set up the required two-step verification, you will be access your account if you can't use any other two-step verification.	Chancing Gacatony Analici 2.
generate a new backup code, log into your account at <b>Studen</b> Generate a New Back Up Code.	
Write your backup code here:	Challenge Question/Answer 4:

For tips and step-by-step inst

Please see other side for impor

PO Box 949 5 Community Drive Augusta ME 04332-0949 207-623-3

creating your FSA ID

For tips and step-by-step instructions on creating your FSA ID, scan here:



Student FSA ID Tracking Sheet

Please see other side for important Contributor information.

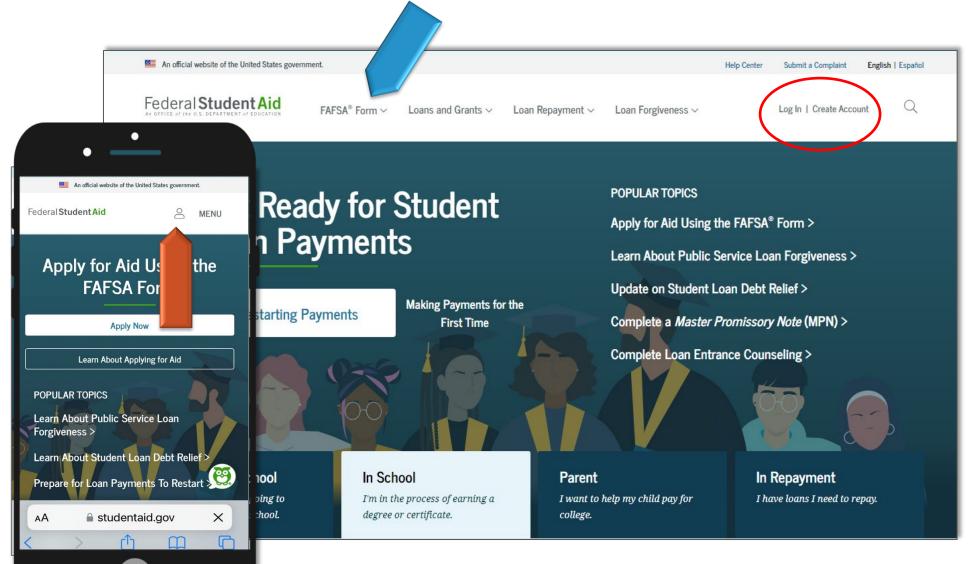
PO Box 949. 5 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04332-0949 207-623-3263 or 1-800-228-3734 Fax: 207-623-0095 - TTY: 207-626-2717

When you set up the required two-step verification, you will be assigned a backup code. Your backup code lets you access your account if you can't use any other two-step verification method. A backup code can only be used once. To

Please see other side for important Contributor information.



## StudentAid.gov







### Schools to List on the FAFSA

- Students need to list at least one school on the FAFSA.
- Students should list all schools they are considering.
- Encourage student/families to use net price calculators (available on each school's website) but watch for signs that the calculators haven't been updated recently.
- Student can use the Big Future website to investigate and search for schools based on affordability.
  - Schools vary tremendously in the amount of aid offered and "percent of need" they can meet.



## **Step 1: Get Ready**

	Affordability	×	
	Financial Need Met		✓ Pay for College ✓
	The higher the percent met by a college, the less you need to pay.		Tay for conlege V
College Search	65% or more	$\bigcirc$	♥ 0
	75% or more	$\bigcirc$	
Majors Location	90% or more	$\bigcirc$	ıs
Reach, Match, Safety	100%		
	No Preference	$\bigcirc$	
	Application Fees		
♦ ♦ Get match	Application fee waivers offered		latch me
THE COLUMNICATION OF	Free to apply  Some colleges don't require an application fee.		
	Clear All Show Colle	eges	

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search



## FAME's **Path to Affording Higher Education** handout.

FAMEmaine.com/affordingeducation/pay-forschool/resources-tools/

## Please Share....

## The Path to Affording HIGHER EDUCATION

The key to affording higher education is to start planning early. The longer families have to s and starting early also gives families more time to get "financially fit." Early planning can also understand the importance of good grades and the role of scholarships. Follow the path to so better plan ahead to afford higher education!



See the reverse side for some conversation starters to help families have a productive di



#### **CONVERSATION STARTERS**

### Savings, Direct Payments, and Tuition Payment Plans

- Are you (the parents or family members) saving for higher education? If so, how much will be available when your student graduates from high school?
- Are you (the student) saving for higher education? What are the savings expectations when you receive birthday or holiday gifts or money from work?
- Do you (the parents or family members) plan to use tuition payment plans to help pay for higher education? If so, how much per month can you afford? Is there a strategy to make more money available? Is it possible to pay down debt or other obligations to free up money in the future?
- Considering all sources, how much can you (parents or family members) contribute per year?
- Considering all sources, how much can you (the student) contribute per year?

#### Scholarships

- Are you (the student) applying for scholarships? What is the expectation related to the number of applications?
- Do your grades open up the possibility of meritbased scholarships?

#### Borrowing

- How do you feel about borrowing? No borrowing?
  Limit borrowing to only Federal Direct Loans
  (\$5,500 for the first year)? Will you consider
  additional borrowing (which will have a credit
  component)? Are parents or family members willing
  to co-sign a private loan?
- How much total debt is acceptable (for all years of education)?
- Who will be responsible for repaying the debt?

#### Pathway

- ☐ Is there agreement that you (the student) can apply to any school, including those that appear to be a financial reach? What happens if you get accepted but it is not affordable?
- Are you (the student) open to considering multiple pathways (i.e., community college for a year or two, starting at a more affordable school with a plan to transfer, or attending school locally and living at home)?

Have questions? FAME has resources and knowledgeable teams who can help. Reach out!

WEB

FAMEmaine.com NextGenforME.com SOCIAL

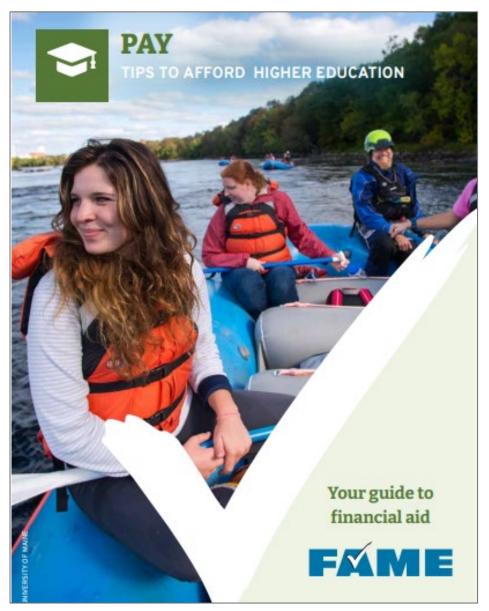
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@FAME.Maine
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## **FAMEmaine.com/publications**

## Please Share...



#### **SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS** TRACKING SHEET:

	School Name:	School Nan	
Admission Application Deadline			
Priority FAFSA Deadline	Date Submitted:	Date Submitted:	
Deadine	Date Submitted:	Date Submitted:	
Other Application Requirements (CSS Profile, etc.)			
Follow-up	Date Submitted:	Date Submitted:	
Requirements (If selected, complete verification requirements; if borrowing, complete loan-related documents.)			
	Date Submitted:	Date Submitted:	
Check your college email regularly!			



#### SENIOR YEAR PLANNING CHECKLIST

#### **PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1**

- Create your FSA ID at StudentAid.gov.
- Research admission and financial aid deadlines/requirements and develop a checklist.
- Begin college essays.
- Attend college fairs or open houses.
- Research scholarship opportunities using free online searches.

#### FALL

- Attend a FAME FAFSA Help Session.
- Sign up for FAME's e-newsletters, texts, tips and more at FAMEmaine.com/join.
- Submit your FAFSA at FAFSA.gov.
- Keep copies of all documents and forms pertaining to admission and financial aid.
- Ask teachers, coaches, or school counselors for letters of recommendation.
- Begin submitting your college admission applications.
- Continue researching scholarship opportunities.
- If required, submit the CSS Profile.

#### LATE FALL/WINTER

- After you file your FAFSA, review your Student Aid Report (SAR) and make any necessary corrections.
- Confirm that financial aid offices received your FAFSA information.
- Submit any required documents to the financial aid office.

- Begin completing scholarship applications.
- Look for your financial aid notifications to begin arriving in the mail or by email.
- Respond quickly to all requests for information.
- Once accepted for admission, check your college-assigned email address frequently. Your college may be sending important notifications to this new email address.

#### LATE WINTER/SPRING

- To be eligible for a Maine State Grant, submit your FAFSA by the May 1 deadline.
   Confirm that financial aid offices have received
- all necessary paperwork.
- Continue completing scholarship applications.
- Compare financial aid offers.
- Notify all colleges of your plans to attend (or not attend). Many colleges require an admission deposit and typically have a deadline of May 1.
- Line up your summer job to begin earning money for college expenses.

#### SUMMER

- If you have been awarded private scholarships, send copies of all notifications to your chosen school's financial aid office.
- Attend college orientation.
- Look for your fall semester tuition bill, and reduce expenses where you can.
- Make arrangements to pay your balance.





#### Get Ready to File the 2025-2026 FAFSA

The 2025-2026 FAFSA will be available by December 1, 2024. Get prepared by gathering the necessary information.

#### What you need to file the 2025-2026 FAFSA

#### CREATE YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT AID ACCOUNT NOW!

- When you create your account, you'll set up your FSA ID. Your FSA ID is the username and password you'll use to access all Federal Student Aid websites, including StudentAid.gov (where you'll file your FAFSA). It takes about 10 minutes to create an account and set up an FSA ID. Your FSA ID must be matched with the Social Security Administration before you can use it to access the FAFSA (which typically takes 3-5 days). If you're a dependent student, your parent(s) will need to create their own account and set up an FSA ID so they can access and sign their section of the FAFSA.
- To create an account and set up an FSA ID, go to StudentAid.gov and click on "Create Account." Get tips, stepby-step instructions, and keep track of your FSA ID information using FAME's Student FSA ID Tracking Sheet.
   Your parent(s) can keep track of their FSA ID information with the Parent FSA ID Tracking Sheet.

#### If you are a dependent student, you will need the following information for both you and your parent(s):

- □ F\$AID
- □ Social Security number, legal name, date of birth, and email address
- 2023 federal income tax returns (including all applicable schedules)
- Current bank statements

#### If you aren't a U.S. citizen, you'll also need...

 Your U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Form I-151 or I-551C) or Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) with an eligible status

See reverse to learn more about parent information on the FAFSA.

#### Assets on the FAFSA

Many students and parents aren't required to report assets. If anyone in your family receives any federal means tested benefits (TANF, SNAP, Free and Reduced Lunch, WIC, MaineCare, etc.) or if your family earns less than \$60,000 (depending on the tax schedules filed) you and your parents will not be required to provide any asset information. If you are, be sure you only include assets that have to be reported.

#### REPORTABLE ASSETS ON THE FAFSA:

- Cash, checking and savings
   Real estate (other than home
- you live in)

  Financial assets, such as stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, mutual funds and

money market accounts

- □ UGMA/UTMA accounts
  □ Coverdell and 529 plans
- (List as a parent asset and only include the amount where the student on the FAFSA is the beneficiary.)
- □ Virtual currency (i.e. Bitcoin)

#### NON-REPORTABLE ASSETS:

- The home you live in
- Retirement plans
- Life insurance policies
- Personal possessions, such as cars and boats

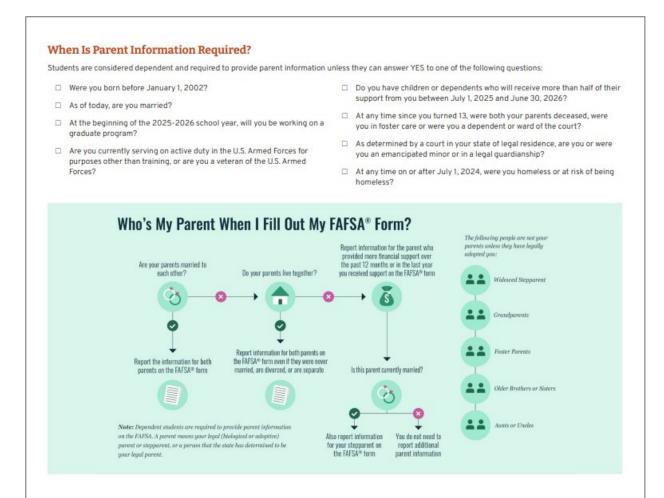
#### HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAFSA?

Get help from FAME. Explore our online FAFSA help at FAMEmaine.com/FAFSA

PO Box 949, 5 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04332-0949 207-623-3263 or 1-800-228-3734 Fax: 207-623-0095 - TTY: 207-626-2717

## Please Share...

# FAME's Get Ready to File the 2025-2026 FAFSA handout - FAMEmaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/resources-tools/





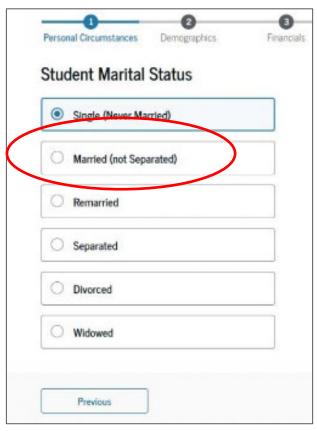
# FAFSA Completion for Students with Challenging Circumstances

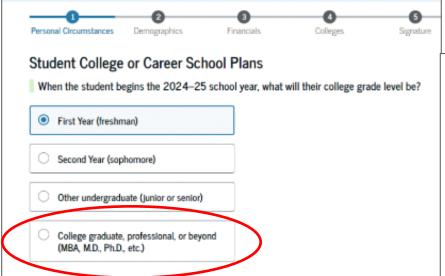
If a student can answer "Yes" to any of these questions they are considered **Independent** and no parent information is required on the FAFSA.

Were you born before January 1, 2002?			
As of today, are you married?			
At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school y graduate program?	ear, w	ill you be working on a	
Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. purposes other than training, or are you a veteran			
Forces?		,	lependents who will receive more than half of their n July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026?
			ned 13, were both your parents deceased, were you a dependent or ward of the court?
		•	in your state of legal residence, are you or were or or in a legal guardianship?
		At any time on or after June homeless?	uly 1, 2024, were you homeless or at risk of being



## **Dependency Status Determination**



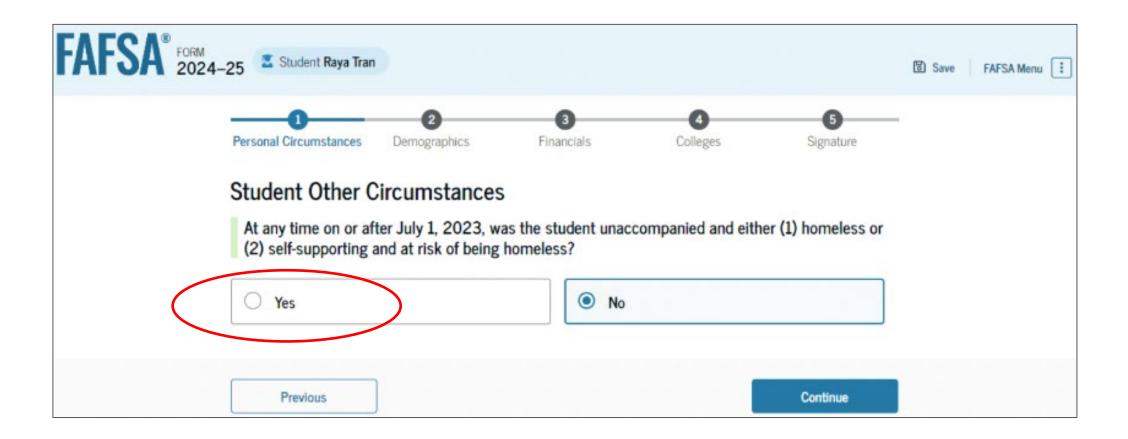


Answering yes to **any** of the highlighted questions in red results in the student being automatically considered independent!

rsonal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Signature	
tudent Personal Circumstances lect all that apply.	_
The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.	(i)
The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.	(1)
The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.	<b>(i)</b>
At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).	7
At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.	<u>(i)</u>
At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.	①
The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.	1
The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.	1
None of these apply.	



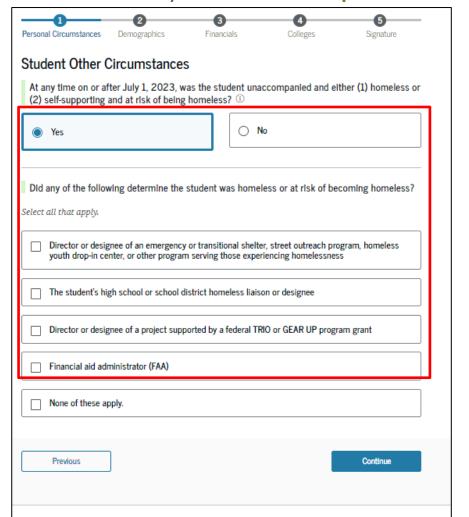
## Dependency Status Determination – Homeless or At Risk of Being Homeless





## If Yes.....Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

If the answer is **yes** and it **can be documented** by one of the following, the student is automatically considered **independent**.



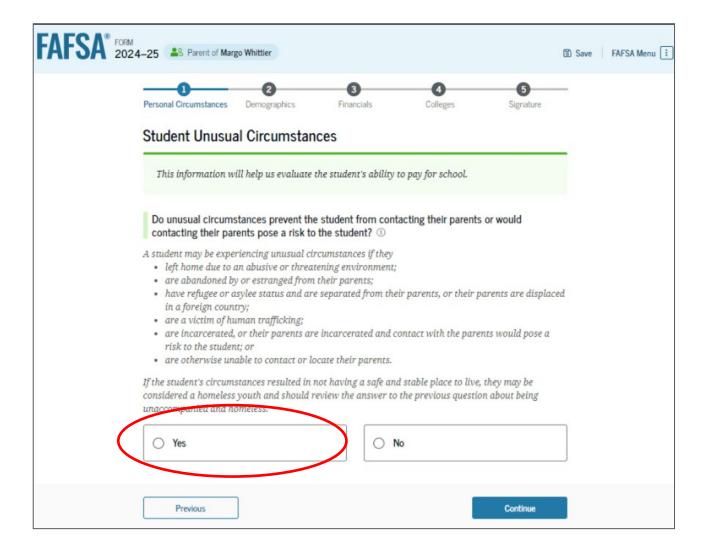
If student meets the criteria but none of the following can document, the student is considered "Provisionally independent" and must follow up with their financial aid office.

FAFSA® FORM 2024-	–25 🏜 Parent	Save F	AFSA Menu			
	Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Signature					
	Student Other Circumstances					
	At any time on or after July 1, 2023, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?					
	Yes     No					
	Did any of the following determine the student was homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?  Select all that apply.					
	Director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving those experiencing homelessness					
	The student's high school or school district homeless liaison or designee					
	Director or designee of a project supported by a federal TRIO or GEAR UP program grant					
	r mancial aid administrator (FAA)					
	None of these apply.					
	Previous Continue					

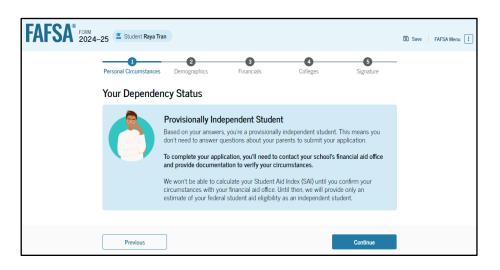


## Student with Unusual Circumstances

One more pathway for student with unusual circumstances



If a student has unusual circumstances and answers **yes**, the students will be considered "Provisionally independent" and need to follow up with their financial aid office.







## Additional FAME Get Ready Resources for Students and Families

- Financial Aid Information Sessions
  - In-Person and Virtual Events <u>FAMEmaine.com/Events</u>
- FAME's Texting and/or Email Lists
  - To join go to: <u>FAMEmaine.com/Join</u>
  - Members of the class of 2025 (or their parent/guardian) will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 Future Fund scholarship!
- FAME's Parent/Caregiver FB Group Paying for College for ME
- One-on-One Financial Aid Coaching
  - To schedule an appointment, go to: **FAMEmaine.com/Contact**



## **Wednesday Webinars - Up Next**

## **October's Wednesday Webinar**

### **Maine Scholarship Connections**

Wednesday October 9, 2024 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Scholarship opportunities for Maine students are expanding yearly, and this year is no different! In this session, we'll talk all things scholarships. We'll focus on how Maine students can find scholarships, and we'll share resources FAME has created to make it easier to track these opportunities. We'll also be joined by Maine scholarship superstars, Jackie Shannon from the Maine Community Foundation and Julie Bourgoin from the Worthington Scholarship Foundation. This session is sure to build excitement, so please join us to learn more about connecting your students with these great opportunities for the 24-25 academic year.

To register go to: <a href="#">FAMEmaine.com/events</a>



## Questions?



Thank you for joining us today! Find more FREE resources and information at FAMEmaine.com/education

### Follow us:







**Contact:** Education@FAMEmaine.com

**PH:** 207-623-3263 or 800-228-3734

**TTY:** 207-626-2717