

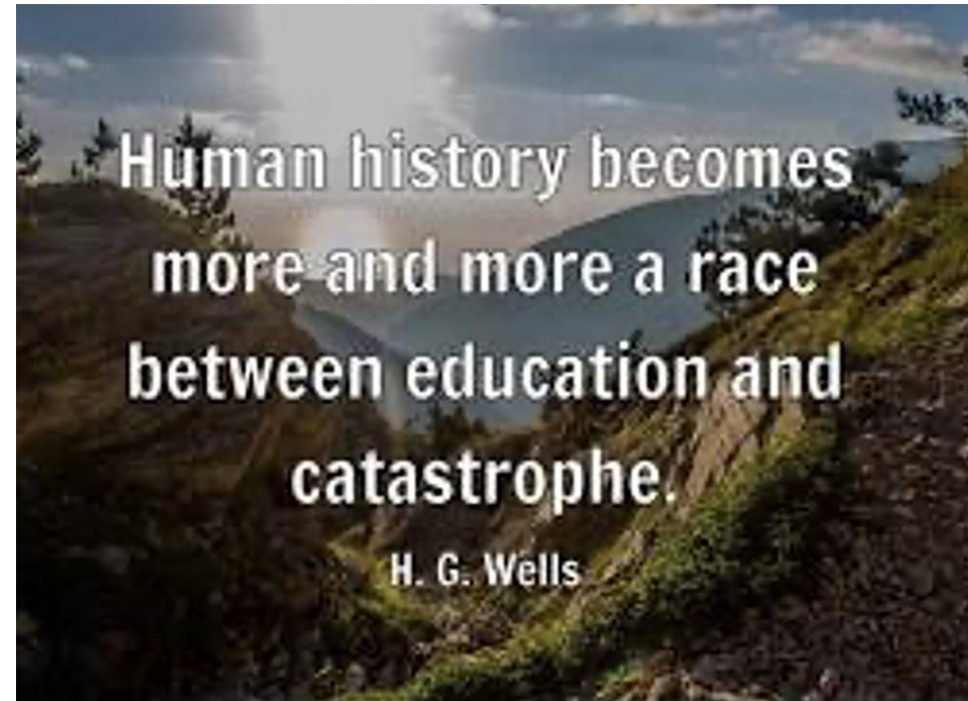


**2026-27**

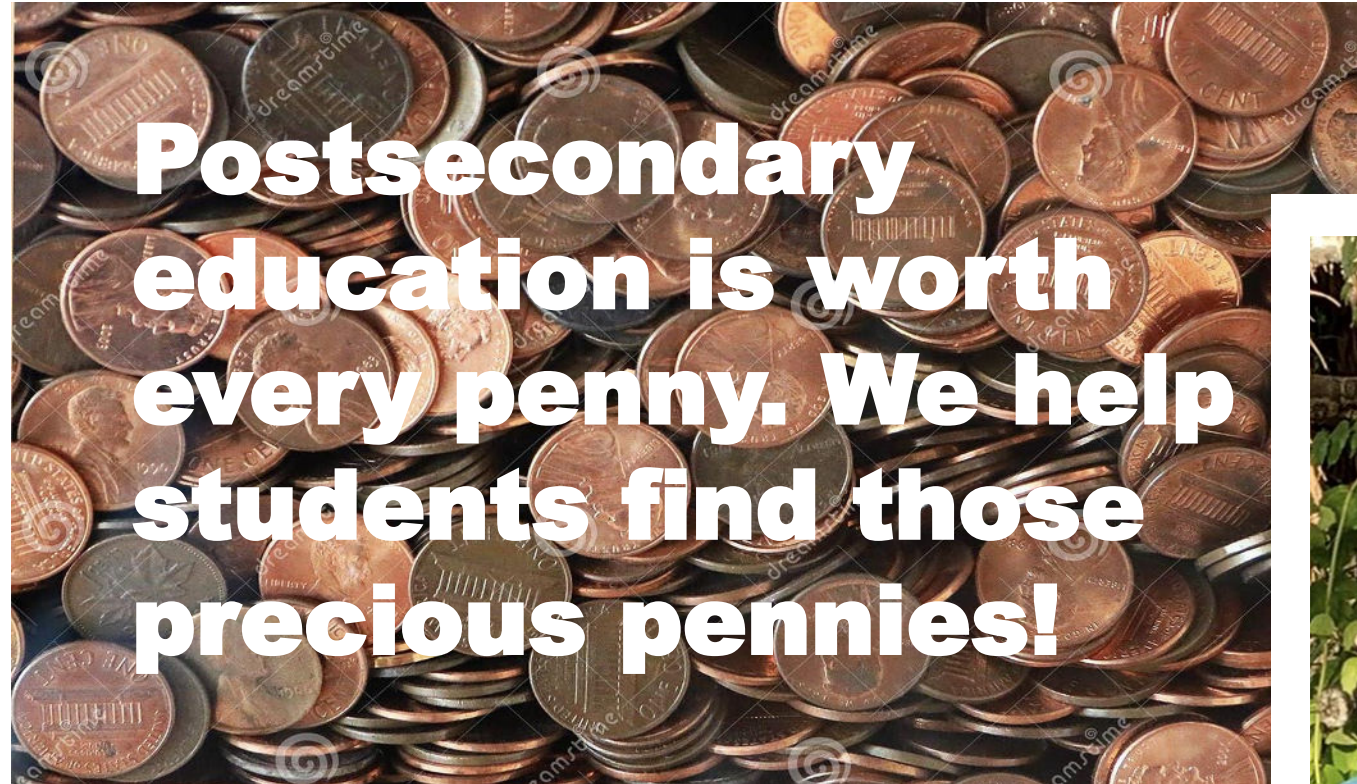
**FAFSA Updates**

**What You Need to Know**

## H.G. Wells Imagined the Shape of Things to Come



## **Diana Mateer's FAFSA Affirmation...**





# The FSA ID **AKA** studentaid.gov account

The FSA ID is now known as a studentaid.gov account

The Studentaid.gov account will undergo SSN validation in real time:

- Validation of SSN through SSA no longer takes 1-3 days
- Presentation of TransUnion questions for users without SSNS in some cases –OR–
- FSA ID is valid if users are not presented with TransUnion identity match questions



# FSA Landing Page

The screenshot shows the FAFSA landing page with a navigation bar at the top containing 'Federal Student Aid', 'FAFSA® Form', 'Grants and Loans', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. The main heading is 'Get Money To Help Pay for School'. Below this, there are three primary actions: 'Start a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form', 'Edit a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form', and 'Accept an Invitation for a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form'. A large 'FAFSA form' logo is also present. A section for 'Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In' includes dropdowns for 'School Year' and 'State of Residence', and a 'Find Deadlines' button. At the bottom, three informational cards are displayed: 'Who should complete the FAFSA® form?', 'How long will it take?' (30 minutes), and 'What do I need?' (Verified account username and password (FSA ID)).

## 2026-27 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

### Start a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form

[Start New Form](#)

### Edit a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form

[Edit Existing Forms](#)

### Accept an Invitation for a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form

[Accept an Invitation](#)

Need the 2025-26 FAFSA Form?



# Student Personal Circumstances

**Student personal  
circumstances remain  
unchanged**

**Pay extra attention to whether a student is considered:**

- In legal guardianship as of FAFSA completion date if student is a minor OR was in legal guardianship when they turned 18 (age of majority in AZ)
- Homeless or at risk of being homeless youth must be **UNACCOMPANIED BY PARENTS**; documentation of this status is often required by Financial Aid Office.

## **A student is independent if they:**

Will be 24 by January 1st  
of award year

*Are married*

Are working on a  
master's or doctorate

Serve in the U.S. armed  
forces or are a veteran

Since age 13 - had no living  
parent, were in foster care, or  
were a ward of the court

Are an emancipated  
minor

Have a court-ordered  
legal guardian

*Have children or dependents  
who live with them and receive  
more than half their support  
from them*

Are an unaccompanied  
youth who is homeless

# Contributors

## **MAJOR** changes to contributor invitation process




- Contributor(s) must have FSA IDs to enter their section of the form
- One parent contributor invited by student by entering contributor's email address
- Contributor(s) enter code sent by email to enter their FAFSA section
- Any valid email will work even if it is the student's address



# Big Move #1: A New Contributor Flow

Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Current State ☹️

 Parent

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth  
Month  Day  Year

Social Security Number (SSN)

My parent doesn't have an SSN. Checking this box when your parent does have an SSN may delay processing of your FAFSA form.

Email Address

Confirm Email Address




## Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

*As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent. We may ask them to invite their spouse or partner.*

[Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?](#)

 Parent

### Invite a Parent Contributor


Email

## Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

*As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.*


[Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?](#)


 Parent

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### Invite a Parent Contributor

Email








## Parent Contributor


Once your parent accepts the invitation, they can complete the parent section of this FAFSA form.

*You can check the status of contributor invitations from the "My Activity" page.*


 Parent

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**dianamateer@gmail.com**



Other ways to send the invite ^

**Copy and Send the Invite Link** 

[www.fafsa.gov/invite/7BR4U7T](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite/7BR4U7T)



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You can also have them go to [www.fafsa.gov/invite](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite) and enter code:

**7BR4U7T**





# Contributor Invite Process



Progress bar: 1 Student Section (checked), 2 Parent Section (active)

## Pending Submission

Check with your contributor

Parent Contributor

### Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA form can't be submitted until your contributor(s) fill out their section of the form and sign it. Keep track of contributors for your FAFSA form and make sure it is submitted after all sections are complete.

Contributor	Role	Invite Code	Status
alcina.tran@email.com	Parent	j7xt2y4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invite Sent

[Manage Invitations](#)





## Contributors

**Student invites **ONE** parent in the student section**

- If married parents filed a joint tax return in 2024, invited parent only needs to report birthdate of their spouse
- If invited parent filed taxes separately from current spouse or other parent, the invited parent will be prompted to invite spouse/partner as a contributor

# Family (Household) Size

- Family size will automatically populate with parent(s), student, and any dependent listed on federal tax return
  - If dependents on tax return do not accurately reflect family size, student/parent will be given opportunity to update # of family members
  - Family members definition mirrors IRS “qualifying child or relative” definition
  - Unborn children cannot be counted in family size
- # in college no longer counts although ? Is still asked (for college consideration of adjustments based on # in college)
- A married person other than parent(s) cannot be a dependent if they file a joint tax return with someone else even if they live in student’s household
- Student who is independent ONLY because they are married revert to dependent status if they are separated (or divorced)





## **Income**

**Parents without SSNs still must enter income information manually because IRS DDX does not recognize ITINs**

Consent to transfer IRS data remains critical component of application filing; if tax return is not found, user must manually enter financial information



## **Assets**


**Small business/family  
farm/commercial  
fishery net worth are no  
longer considered  
assets**

Whether a parent must enter asset  
information remains unchanged

# FAFSA Submission Status

## Pending Submission


Check with your contributor

 Parent Contributor

### Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA® form can't be submitted until your contributor(s) fill out their section of the form and sign it. The last contributor to sign will be able to submit the form for processing.

Contributor

 alcina.tran@email.com


Role Parent

Invite Code

Status  Invite Sent



## Congratulations,

the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

  
**Raya Tran**

Completion Date  
8/15/2025

### What Happens Next

-  **Email Sent**  
Confirm that the student received an email version of this page.
-  **The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form**



# Pell Update



SAI > Double max Pell = no Pell : will be in place for October 1st launch

Current MAX Pell: **\$7,395**

**Let's Do the Math:**

**$\$7,395 \times 2 = \$14,790$**

**Example: Linda McMahon**

**Student has an SAI of 15,000  
NOT Eligible for PELL**

**Example: Brett Hart**

**Student has an SAI of \$13,500  
Eligible for PELL**

**Example: John Cena**

**Student has an SAI of \$14,000  
Eligible for PELL**



## **Resources**

**The 2026/27 FAFSA Prototype is now available at:**

<https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/announcement-detail.jsp?id=fafsa-prototype>

**The 2026/27 FAFSA Preview Presentation is available at:**

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/application-processing/2025-08-14/2026-27-fafsa-preview-presentation>

**College Ready AZ**

<https://collegereadyaz.com/fafsa/>



# Q&A Session



## **Contact Information**

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### **Julie Sainz**

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Arizona Board of Regents

[Julie.Sainz@azregents.edu](mailto:Julie.Sainz@azregents.edu)



**Thank You!**