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7 Myths About the 2017-18 FAFSA Debunked (<http://blog.ed.gov/2016/09/7-myths-2017-18-fafsa/>)



You might have heard that the next FAFSA® will be available on October 1, 2016 as opposed to January 1, 2017. Well, it's *not* a myth! If you (or your child) are planning to go to college during the 2017-18 academic year, you'll want to make sure you have your facts straight. Check out the 7 myths about the FAFSA below.

MYTH 1:

I used 2015 tax information last year and didn't get any aid, so it's pointless to fill out the FAFSA again.

FACT: Not pointless! Your aid award could be different this year.

If you filed a 2016–17 FAFSA and received an award letter from your school, don't assume that next year's financial aid award will be the same. We ask you to complete the FAFSA annually because the factors used to calculate your aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated>) could change each year. Things like your year in school, family income, and cost of attendance at your school are just a few factors used to determine your aid. You never know what aid you may get if you don't complete the FAFSA, so don't let last year's award deter you from potential aid you may receive this year. Even if you did not get the Federal Pell Grant (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/pell>) last year, you could still be eligible for other types of aid this year. This includes work-study and low-interest loans. Also, many states, schools, and private scholarships require you to submit the FAFSA to be considered for their aid as well.

MYTH 2:

I have to update my 2017-18 FAFSA with 2016 data after I file taxes.

FACT: Nope! You won't need to update your FAFSA since you will be using your 2015 tax information.

Unlike the FAFSA in the past, you won't have to use estimates or make updates after filing taxes. The 2017–18 FAFSA will ask for 2015 income and tax information which you should already have. Moving forward, the FAFSA will always ask for older tax information (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes>). For instance, the 2018–19 FAFSA will ask for 2016 income and tax info.

MYTH 3:

I can choose which year's tax information I provide on the FAFSA.

FACT: No, you won't be able to choose.

The FAFSA has always asked for one specific tax year to be reported. The 2017–18 FAFSA will ask for 2015 tax information, and that's what you have to provide. You can't choose to provide 2016 information if you feel it'll benefit you in some way. If your income was lower in 2016 than

in 2015, you still need to provide 2015 tax information, and then you can contact the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and let them know your situation has changed. They have the ability to review your situation and consider making adjustments to your FAFSA.

MYTH 4:

I will get an award letter from my school earlier.

FACT: That's really up to the school.

Some schools may send you an award letter earlier, while other schools may stick to the timeline they have used in the past. Remember that your school disburses your aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps#communications>), not FAFSA, and each school has a different schedule. Contact your school for details.

MYTH 5:

I can re-use my 2016-17 FAFSA since my 2015 income and tax information will be the same.

FACT: No, you still need to submit a renewal or a new 2017–18 FAFSA.

But, there's a bonus this year! You will be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to electronically import your 2015 taxes right away. If you're eligible to use the IRS DRT (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out#financial-info>), this will speed up your FAFSA completion process.

MYTH 6:

Doesn't matter to me that the FAFSA is available in October, I still have plenty of time to file.

FACT: States, schools, and the federal government each have their own financial aid deadlines (<http://blog.ed.gov/2016/02/3-types-of-fafsa-deadlines-you-should-pay-attention-to/>).

While the 2017–18 FAFSA deadline for federal aid is June 30, 2018, your state and school probably have earlier deadlines to receive their aid. For some states, their deadline won't be a date, but it'll be "as soon as possible after October 1" which means they have a limited pool of funds that may run out if you wait until the last minute to apply! If you want to maximize your potential aid, you should submit a FAFSA as early as possible after October 1.

MYTH 7:

I can't file my FAFSA in October because I haven't applied to any schools.

FACT: You can still file as long as you list at least one school on your FAFSA.

It's OK to complete your FAFSA before turning in college applications. On the FAFSA, add every school you're considering, even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet. If you're on the fence about a particular school, add it anyway. Doing so will hold your place in line for financial aid in case you end up applying for that school. You can also [add or remove schools](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/correct-update#change-schools) (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/correct-update#change-schools>) to your FAFSA later.

We hope these debunked myths were helpful! If you have more questions, ask us in the comments below or follow us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/FederalStudentAid/) (<http://www.facebook.com/FederalStudentAid/>) and [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/fafsa) (<http://www.twitter.com/fafsa>).

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- [18 Things We Wish We Knew When We Were Starting College](http://blog.ed.gov/2016/08/18-things-starting-college/) (<http://blog.ed.gov/2016/08/18-things-starting-college/>)
- [2 Major FAFSA® Changes You Need to Be Aware Of](http://blog.ed.gov/2016/08/2-major-fafsa-changes-need-aware/) (<http://blog.ed.gov/2016/08/2-major-fafsa-changes-need-aware/>)



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CHANGES TO THE FAFSA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The submission date for the FAFSA, and the financial information needed to complete it, will be changing. Here's what you should know.



SUMMARY

Starting with Academic Year 2017-18, the traditional FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) submission date of January 1 will change to October 1. In addition, families will be able to use tax information from the prior year. The January 1 start date made it difficult for families to get their tax information gathered in time to complete the application. By moving the start date up three months earlier to October 1, students will have more time to fill out this vital information, they'll have tax information at hand, and families will have more time to evaluate the school's financial aid award package.

SCHEDULE

Academic Year	
Fall 2016	Spring 2017
Submit your FAFSA beginning	
January 1, 2016	October 1, 2016
through June 30, 2017	through June 30, 2018
Use your income tax info from	
2015	

(This is the only time you will use a tax return twice if you also filed the FAFSA for academic year 2016/2017.)

WHAT IT MEANS

Students enrolling for academic year 2016/2017 will submit a FAFSA beginning January 1, 2016; families should use their 2015 income tax information.

Students enrolling for academic year 2017/2018 will submit a FAFSA beginning October 1, 2016; families should again use their 2015 income tax information.

Impact: With more time to award financial aid, some schools may choose to adjust their calendar. This could mean changes to the admissions timeline as well as the timing for financial aid award letters and tuition bills. Students should check their colleges of choice to see if any dates or submission deadlines change.

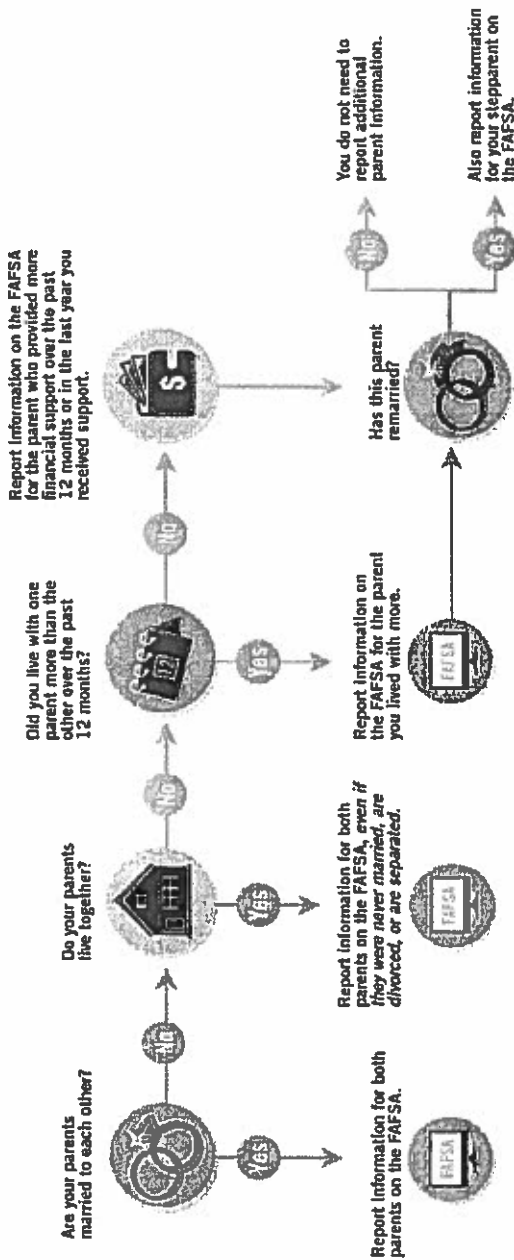
Academic Year	
Fall 2018	Spring 2019
Submit your FAFSA beginning	
October 1, 2017	through June 30, 2019
Use your income tax info from	
2016	

Source: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes>. Sallie Mae, the Sallie Mae Logo and other Sallie Mae names and logos are service marks or registered service marks of Sallie Mae Bank or its subsidiaries. All other names and logos used are the trademarks or service marks of their respective owners. SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Sallie Mae Bank, are not sponsored by or agencies of the United States of America. ©2016 Sallie Mae Bank. All rights reserved. SMSCH MKT 11620 0316

WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*.¹ For reporting purposes, "PARENT" means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).



The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

- Widened Stepparent
- Grandparents
- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Older Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles

If you're not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/afsa/filing-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

If you're not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/afsa/filing-out/dependency

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Get the \$\$\$\$\$ You Need for College!

APPLYING FOR 2017-18 FINANCIAL AID NOW BEGINS OCTOBER 1, 2016

Families will use their 2015 tax information for the 2017-18 FAFSA®

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

The Financial Aid Office of Carl Sandburg College and ISAC Corp is hosting events to assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Staff will be on hand to answer your questions about financial aid and give you personalized, confidential assistance. There is NO COST for this service. It is available to all students attending any college or university.

2016 DATES & LOCATIONS

Choose one

Illini West High School, Carthage, IL

Wednesday, Oct 19

6-8 p.m.

Sandburg Main Campus

2400 Tom Wilson Blvd, Galesburg, Bldg B

Sunday, Nov 6

1-3 p.m.

Additional workshops are available at most local high schools. Check with your school for details.

Please Bring the Following (if available)

- ◆ 2015 Tax Information (W2 forms for parents & student, 1040, 1040A, or 1040 EZ form if completed) if not available, bring the 2014 tax forms.
- ◆ Records of untaxed income, social security benefits, child support received or paid.
- ◆ If you do not have an FSA ID, you can apply at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. The student and (if dependent) one parent will need a FSA ID.

MONEY MONDAYS

If you need additional assistance with the FAFSA®, you may visit the Sandburg's Financial Aid Office in Galesburg on Mondays from 8am.- 6pm Aug—April

Questions: 309.341.5283

STATE MAP FUNDS RUN OUT EARLY.

FILE BY :

Nov 15, 2016



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How to create an FSA ID

The FSA ID — a username and password — has replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN and must be used to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents. If you do not already have an FSA ID, you can create one when logging in to fafsa.gov, the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) at www.nsls.ed.gov, StudentLoans.gov, StudentAid.gov, and Agreement to Serve (ATS) at www.teach-ats.ed.gov.



Step 1

When logging in to one of the websites listed above, click the link to create an FSA ID.

Tip: Important: Only the owner of the FSA ID should create and use the account. Never share your FSA ID.

Step 2

Create a username and password, and enter your e-mail address.

Step 3

Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.

Step 4

If you have a Federal Student Aid PIN, you will be able to enter it and link it to your FSA ID. You can still create an FSA ID if you have forgotten or do not have a PIN.

Step 5

Review your information, and read and accept the terms and conditions.

Step 6

Confirm your e-mail address using the secure code, which will be sent to the e-mail address you entered when you created your FSA ID. Once you verify your e-mail address, you can use it instead of your username to log in to the websites.

You can use your FSA ID to sign a FAFSA right away. Once the Social Security Administration verifies your information in one to three days, or if you have linked your PIN to your FSA ID, you will be able to use your FSA ID to access the websites listed above. For help, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid.



Sign up for important updates from Mr. Bredemeier.

Get information for Galesburg High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

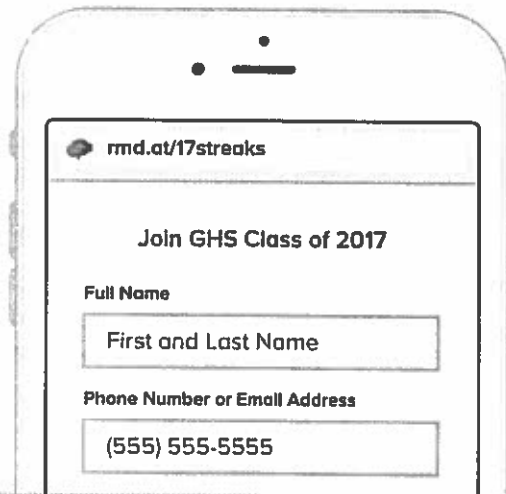
Pick a way to receive messages for GHS Class of 2017:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/17streaks

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

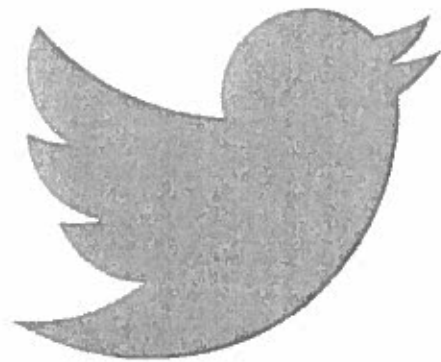
Text the message @17streaks to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @17streaks to (224) 900-2649.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/17streaks on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

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