

This year there will be a special opportunity to learn more the FAFSA and the new guidelines. Please plan to attend on Oct. 13 from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Media Center.

FAFSA

F-Free

A-Application

F-Federal

S-Student

A-Aid

Most colleges and many private universities require the **FAFSA** to be completed before a student will be considered for their grants and/or scholarships. The following are changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA:

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA[®] earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

A 2017-2018 FAFSA must be submitted no earlier than **Oct. 1 2016** and no later than **March 1, 2017** to be considered for state funds. We strongly recommend that you SUBMIT your application on line on as close to possible to Oct. 1 2016 in order to be first in line for funds. For the first time ever you can use your previous year's taxes (tax year 2015) there will be a worksheet on line beginning Sept. 20, 2016 that will allow you to have all of your information gathered to enable you to submit on Oct. 1, 2016.

Here are some step-by-step resources are available to help you file the FAFSA. These resources were created for the 2016-2017 FASFA but are still valid because only the filing but the procedure for filing did not change. Because you will file based on 2015 taxes the worksheet contains the correct questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fSeHK4ceGs> Video walk-through of the FASFA

http://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/educators-2016/FAFSA_Step_by_Step_2016.pdf

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/2016-17-fafsa-worksheet.pdf>

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Please be aware you should only use the official FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your application. Other sites look alarmingly similar but will charge you to complete your FASFA.