

How To Get FINANCIAL AID from the FEDERAL GOV'T and YOUR COLLEGE

If you do just one thing to get financial aid, it should be to apply for federal aid. This is the start of the biggest source of financial aid, and you must apply for it to become eligible for other sources of aid, even for non-need aid.

You should apply for this federal aid as soon as possible (after January 1). College-direct aid is generally first-come first-serve, and the deadlines can be as early as February (THEY ARE CALLED PRIORITY DEADLINES). Do NOT wait for all the needed 2009 tax records, SAT scores, or college acceptances. It is best to estimate your income from the previous year and update these numbers later.

Your family will need to file a “needs” analysis: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. You will later receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), indicating your *Expected Family Contribution*. Your *Financial Need* is calculated as the *Cost of Attendance* minus the *Expected Family Contribution*. Awards from Individual colleges are made on this basis.

The *Kecoughtan Parent Financial Aid Night* is in January. A college financial aid director will present a program and answer questions on the FAFSA and on financial awards.

Step 1: Get a financial aid PIN now at www.pin.ed.gov.

This PIN allows you to sign the electronic FAFSA online, have the results processed faster and correct or update financial information later. The PIN will be emailed or mailed. **YOU AND YOUR PARENT BOTH NEED A SEPARATE PIN.**

Step 2: Come to the the Financial Aid Night in January.

Step 3: Fill out the FAFSA ASAP after Jan. 1. Note the Financial Aid Priority Deadline for your school.

Online FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov — faster and more error resistant!

Go online and print a Pre-Application Worksheet. This helps you gather the information you need and questions are numbered to follow the online FAFSA. The paper FAFSA is numbered differently.

On or after January 1, go online with your PIN and enter your information. Press the save button often while entering data. Follow the directions carefully.

On the form, “parent(s)” refers to the parent you have lived with more this year and their spouse. You cannot receive financial aid unless your parents provide the information and sign the form. Keep in mind that aid is based on ability to pay, not willingness to pay. If your parents do not have W-2's or other information yet, make estimates as needed from the previous year. These can be updated afterward with the PIN, but you can never change the date of original submission.

Call **1-800-4-FED-AID** for help with your FAFSA.

Enter Federal School Codes for any school you may attend. See the back.

Paper FAFSA: This form is available by calling 1-800-433-3243. Kecoughtan no longer receives the paper FAFSA.

Step 4: Send for & fill out the college-specific financial aid application.

You may need to also apply for financial aid separately for each college you attend. While all require the FAFSA, typically they also have another college-specific aid application. Watch for deadlines.

Step 5: Receive admission & financial award letters from colleges.

Mrs. Thompson • KHS Financial Aid Counselor