

# Welcome, Class of 2025!

## Basics of Financial Aid

### and the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Process



**New Mexico  
Educational  
Assistance  
Foundation**

[outreach@nmeaf.org](mailto:outreach@nmeaf.org)



**NMEAF Outreach Presentation**

# Agenda

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- Researching Schools & Careers
- Federal and State Financial Aid?
- Federal Student Aid Identification (**FSA ID**)
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup>)
- Register for NMEAF \$500 FAFSA Scholarships
- FAFSA Face Off Challenge



# Know your interest



## — MY NEXT MOVE



**O\*NET Interest Profiler** o-net ?

**Here's how it works...**

The **O\*NET Interest Profiler** has 60 questions about work activities that some people do on their jobs.

Read each question carefully and decide how you would feel about doing each type of work:

- = Strongly Dislike
- = Dislike
- = Unsure
- = Like
- = Strongly Like

**Back** **Start** **Interests** **Results** **Job Zones** **Careers** **Next**

<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

Interest inventories are questionnaires that ask you to rate your interest in a wide variety of activities.

# Researching Careers



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Get the CareerInfo app for the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH).

Scan with your device



iOS



Android

OCCUPATION    JOB SUMMARY    ENTRY-LEVEL EDUCATION    2022 MEDIAN PAY

<b>Computer Support Specialists</b>	Computer support specialists maintain computer networks and provide technical help to computer users.	<a href="#">See How to Become One</a>	\$59,660
<b>Computer Systems Analysts</b>	Computer systems analysts study an organization's current computer systems and design ways to improve efficiency.	Bachelor's de	
<b>Database Administrators and Architects</b>	Database administrators and architects create or organize systems to store and secure data.	Bachelor's de	
<b>Information Security Analysts</b>	Information security analysts plan and carry out security measures to protect an organization's computer networks and systems.	Bachelor's de	
<b>Network and Computer Systems Administrators</b>	Network and computer systems administrators install, configure, and maintain organizations' computer networks and systems.	Bachelor's de	
<b>Software Developers, Quality Assurance Analysts, and Testers</b>	Software developers design computer applications or programs. Software quality assurance analysts and testers identify problems with applications or programs and report defects.	Bachelor's de	
<b>Web Developers and Digital Designers</b>	Web developers create and maintain websites. Digital designers develop, create, and test website or interface layout, functions, and navigation for usability.	Bachelor's de	

**Computer Systems Analysts** PRINTER FRIENDLY


Summary    What They Do    Work Environment    How to Become One    Pay    Job Outlook    State & Area Data    Similar Occupations    More Info

**Summary**

Quick Facts: Computer Systems Analysts	
<b>2022 Median Pay</b>	\$102,240 per year \$49.15 per hour
<b>Typical Entry-Level Education</b>	Bachelor's degree
<b>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</b>	None
<b>On-the-job Training</b>	None
<b>Number of Jobs, 2022</b>	531,400
<b>Job Outlook, 2022-32</b>	10% (Much faster than average)
<b>Employment Change, 2022-32</b>	51,100

**What Computer Systems Analysts Do**

Computer systems analysts study an organization's current computer systems and design ways to improve efficiency.



**p2c** PATHWAY 2 CAREERS





# Where can I research schools?

## COLLEGE SCORECARD

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



A screenshot of the College Scorecard website. The top navigation bar includes the U.S. Department of Education logo and the text 'College Scorecard'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter college name (optional)' and a 'SEARCH' button. A 'Quick search' section offers 'Near Me' and 'All Colleges' options. The main heading is 'Search and compare colleges', with tabs for 'Colleges' and 'Fields of Study'. Below the search bar, there is a section titled 'SEARCH COLLEGES' with the sub-heading 'Search for colleges using filters'. This section lists three filters: 'Search by location', 'Filter by annual cost', and 'Search by degree type', each with a green checkmark. A green button labeled 'START YOUR SEARCH' is positioned below the filters, with a green arrow pointing to the right. To the right of the search filters, a smaller screenshot shows a grid of search results for various colleges, including 'University of State College', 'State Polytechnic', 'State Institute of Technology', 'City College', and 'City Vocational College'. Each result card displays the college name, location, and average annual cost.

**Where to start** – small school, large school, in-state, out-of-state, cost considerations, close to...

**Types of Schools** – Colleges, Universities, Community Colleges, Trade Schools. (Career Certifications)



# What is Financial Aid

## What is Financial Aid?

Money to help you pay for college, provided through the federal government, state, school, or a private business or organization.



Source: <https://www.mos.com/blog/what-is-financial-aid/>

# Types of Financial Aid

- **Grants & Scholarships** (Gift Aid)

- **Borrowed**  
Direct Loans a.k.a. Student Loans

- **Earned**

- Work-Study



<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/do-you-need-money.pdf>



# State Aid



## NEW MEXICO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

New Mexico's  
most inclusive scholarship for  
degrees and workforce training!



## How do I qualify for the Lottery Scholarship?

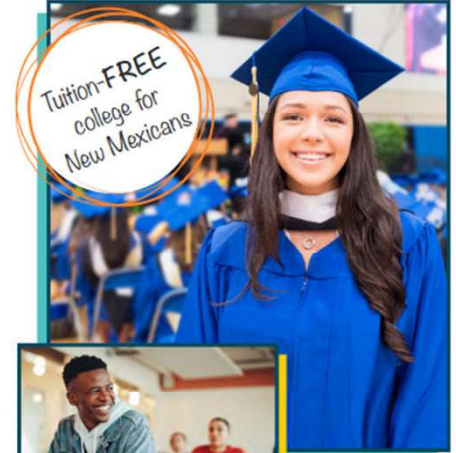
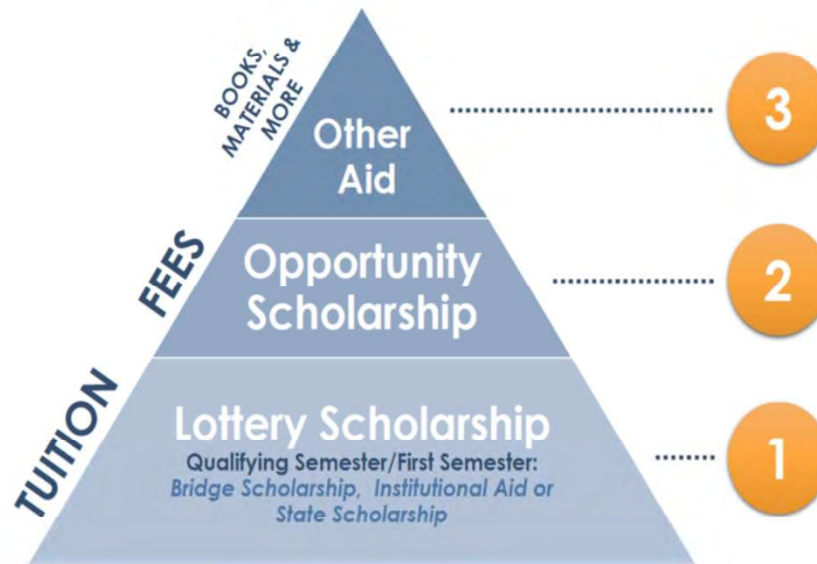
To qualify for the Lottery Scholarship, you will need to:

- Enroll full-time at a New Mexico public college or university within 16 months of high school graduation or completion of a high school equivalency or home school certificate. Full-time means:

- 15 credit hours at a four-year university
- 12 credit hours at a community college

- Achieve and maintain a 2.5 grade point average (GPA).

- Maintain full-time enrollment every fall and spring semesters.



## NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP

The country's first tuition-free  
college scholarship program!

» Est. 1996 «



# State Aid – NM Lottery



Tuition-FREE college for New Mexicans



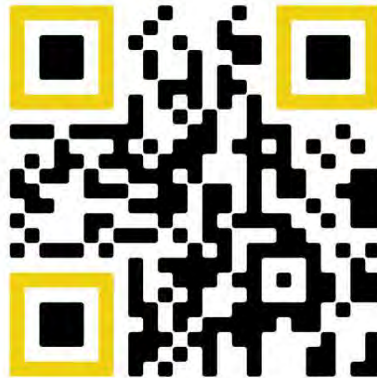

## NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP

The country's first tuition-free college scholarship program!

» Est. 1996 «



ReachHigherNM.com



### SCHOOLS OFFERING THE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP

- Central New Mexico Community College
- Clovis Community College
- Dona Ana Community College
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso
- Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell
- Institute of American Indian Arts
- Lana Community College
- Mesalands Community College
- Navajo Technical University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- New Mexico Junior College
- New Mexico Military Institute
- New Mexico State University
- New Mexico State University-Alamogordo
- New Mexico State University-Grants
- New Mexico Tech
- Northern New Mexico College
- San Juan College
- Santa Fe Community College
- Southeast New Mexico College
- University of New Mexico
- University of New Mexico-Los Alamos
- University of New Mexico-Taos
- University of New Mexico-Gallup
- University of New Mexico-Valecia
- Western New Mexico University

WHERE ARE NEW MEXICO'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES?



Questions? Contact us!  
1 (800) 279-9777  
fh.aid@hed.nm.gov

@nmhighered

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Fostering Student Success From Cradle to Career



ReachHigherNM.com

NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP

The country's first tuition-free college scholarship program!

» Est. 1996 «

“The biggest obstacle for me as a college student has been finances. Paying for college is expensive, and many times, it is state programs like the Lottery Scholarship that are determining factors for New Mexico students to take a step forward and go to college.”

– Evelyn Juarez

Tuition-FREE college for New Mexicans

### AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP?

You are eligible to receive the Lottery Scholarship if:

- You are a New Mexico resident.
- You graduated from a New Mexico public or accredited private high school, completed requirements as a home school student registered with the state, or received a high school equivalency credential (HSE) while living in New Mexico.
- You enroll full time at a New Mexico public college or university within 16 months of graduating from high school. If you enlisted in the military immediately following high school, you are also eligible.
- You establish and maintain a 2.5 GPA beginning your first semester and complete 30 credit hours successfully each regular academic year (for students at four-year colleges) or 24 credit hours successfully each regular academic year (for community college students).
- If you completed an associate degree while enrolled in the Dual Credit Program, you must enroll in a four-year university to complete a bachelor's degree.

Note: Students can make up between 3 and 9 credit hours during the summer semester.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP?

There is no application for the Lottery Scholarship! The financial aid office will apply the scholarship directly to your account if you qualify. You can reach out to the financial aid office directly to verify your eligibility.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COVER?

The Lottery Scholarship can be used to cover up to 100% of tuition at any New Mexico public college or university. If you qualify for federal financial aid, you will still receive those funds, which you can use to pay for other college expenses such as books, course materials, housing, food, transportation, and more.

### WHAT ABOUT MY FIRST SEMESTER OF COLLEGE?

During your qualifying semester, you must take a minimum of 12 credit hours. Ask your financial aid advisor about the Bridge Scholarship and other options to pay for your first semester of college while you establish eligibility for the Lottery Scholarship.

See the full FAQ at ReachHigherNM.com!

Remember to complete your FAFSA at fafsa.gov

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your ticket to federal grants, scholarships, work study, and more. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA to receive the maximum federal and state aid they may qualify for.

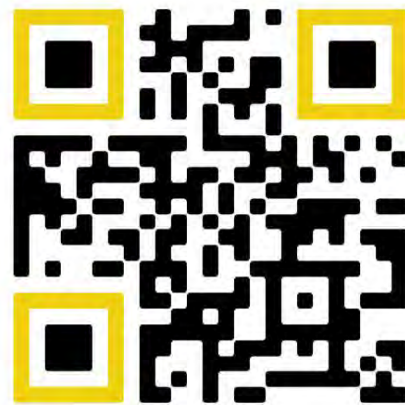


# State Aid - Opportunity



**NEW MEXICO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**

New Mexico's most inclusive scholarship for degrees and workforce training!

**SCHOOLS OFFERING THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**

- Central New Mexico Community College
- Clovis Community College
- Diné College
- Doña Ana Community College
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso
- Institute of American Indian Arts
- Luna Community College
- Mesalands Community College
- Navajo Technical University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- New Mexico Junior College
- New Mexico Military Institute
- New Mexico State University
- New Mexico State University-Alamosordo
- New Mexico State University-Grants
- New Mexico Tech
- Northern New Mexico College
- San Juan College
- Santa Fe Community College
- Southeast New Mexico College
- University of New Mexico
- University of New Mexico-Tulas
- University of New Mexico-Gallup
- University of New Mexico-Valencia
- Western New Mexico University

**“**  
*Because of the Opportunity Scholarship, I am one step closer to becoming a college graduate. Without the scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to complete the semester. This scholarship can help students like me achieve the dream of going to college.*  
**”**

— Ramon Trujillo

Tuition-FREE college for New Mexicans



**WHERE ARE NEW MEXICO'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES?**



Questions? Contact us!  
 1 (800) 279-9777  
[fin.aid@hed.nm.gov](mailto:fin.aid@hed.nm.gov)  
 @nmhighered

**NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
 Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career

**NEW MEXICO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**

New Mexico's most inclusive scholarship for degrees and workforce training!

[ReachHigherNM.com](http://ReachHigherNM.com)



Created by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in 2020, the Opportunity Scholarship is New Mexico's newest tuition-promise program aimed at helping students of all ages pursue college and career training, even if attending part time.

**WHAT DOES THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PAY FOR?**

The Opportunity Scholarship can be used to cover up to 100% of tuition and required fees at any New Mexico public college or university during the fall, spring, or summer semester.

If you qualify for federal financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, you will still receive these funds, which you can use to pay for other college expenses such as books, course materials, housing, food, transportation, and more.

**CAN I RECEIVE OPPORTUNITY IF I LOST THE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP?**

If you have not finished your undergraduate degree, you may be eligible if you enroll in at least 6 credit hours and maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA going forward. In most cases, you will need to wait two years after your last semester receiving the Lottery Scholarship.

**PROGRAM FEATURES**

- Covers up to 100% of tuition and required fees at any public college or university in New Mexico during the fall, spring, or summer semester.
- Students pursuing high-demand training certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees are eligible.
- There is no separate application process! Simply enroll in an eligible college or university.
- Students receiving federal financial aid and most other scholarships can apply those dollars to costs beyond tuition and fees.

**AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP?**

You are eligible to receive the Opportunity Scholarship if:

- You are a New Mexico resident.
- You are a returning student learner or ineligible for the Lottery Scholarship.
- You are enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours at an eligible college or university in New Mexico.
- You maintain a 2.5 GPA starting the first semester you receive the scholarship.
- You have not earned a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

There is no application for the Opportunity Scholarship! The financial aid office will apply the scholarship directly to your account if you qualify. You can reach out to the financial aid office directly to verify your eligibility.

See the full FAQ at [ReachHigherNM.com](http://ReachHigherNM.com)!

Remember to complete your **FAFSA** at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your ticket to federal grants, scholarships, work study, and more. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA to receive the maximum federal and state aid they may qualify for.

# Financial Aid Eligibility

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Different types of Financial Aid have different eligibility requirements

- Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) requires various federal eligibility checks including citizenship.
  - Student Must be US Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen for Federal Funding
    - Citizenship not required for contributors
- NM State Financial Aid is awarded based on residency, you will have to show proof of residency to the Institution you attend
  - Each school/state has its own requirements



# Financial Aid Eligibility

Federal Aid	State Aid
<b>Eligibility:</b> U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens.	<b>Eligibility:</b> Proof of state residency required.
<b>Application:</b> FAFSA required	<b>Application:</b> FAFSA or state-specific application.
<b>Need-Based:</b> Primarily based on financial need.	<b>Need-Based:</b> Can be need- or merit-based (GPA)
<b>Usage:</b> Any eligible institution in the U.S.	<b>Usage:</b> Limited to in-state schools.

# Undocumented Students & Families

<https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/>

## [Data Protections for FAFSA Information - Presidents' Alliance](#)



<https://www.ilrc.org/>

## [Know Your Rights Toolkit | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](#)

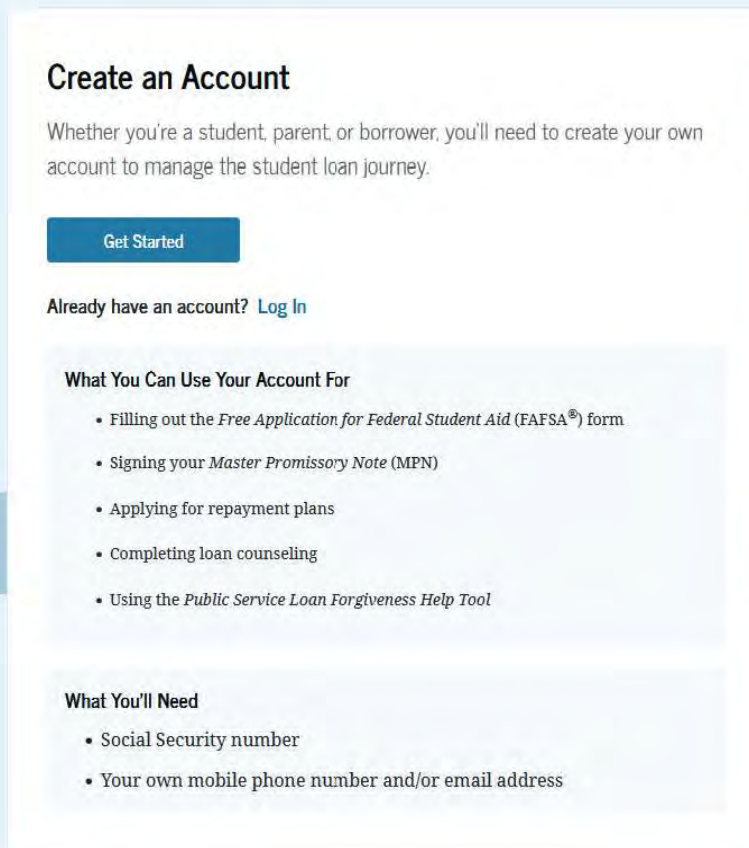
### **NM Senate Bill 582 (SB-582)**

- Immigration status does not affect admission to a Higher Education Institution
- All NM Residents are eligible for state-based aid regardless of immigration status
  - NM Lottery Scholarship, NM Opportunity Scholarship

# Before you Apply for Federal Aid

## Create your Account (FSA ID)

The **Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID** is a **username** and **password** that is required to log in and access all Federal Student Aid websites, including the **FAFSA**.



**Create an Account**

Whether you're a student, parent or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

[Get Started](#)

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

**What You Can Use Your Account For**

- Filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form
- Signing your *Master Promissory Note (MPN)*
- Applying for repayment plans
- Completing loan counseling
- Using the *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Help Tool*

**What You'll Need**

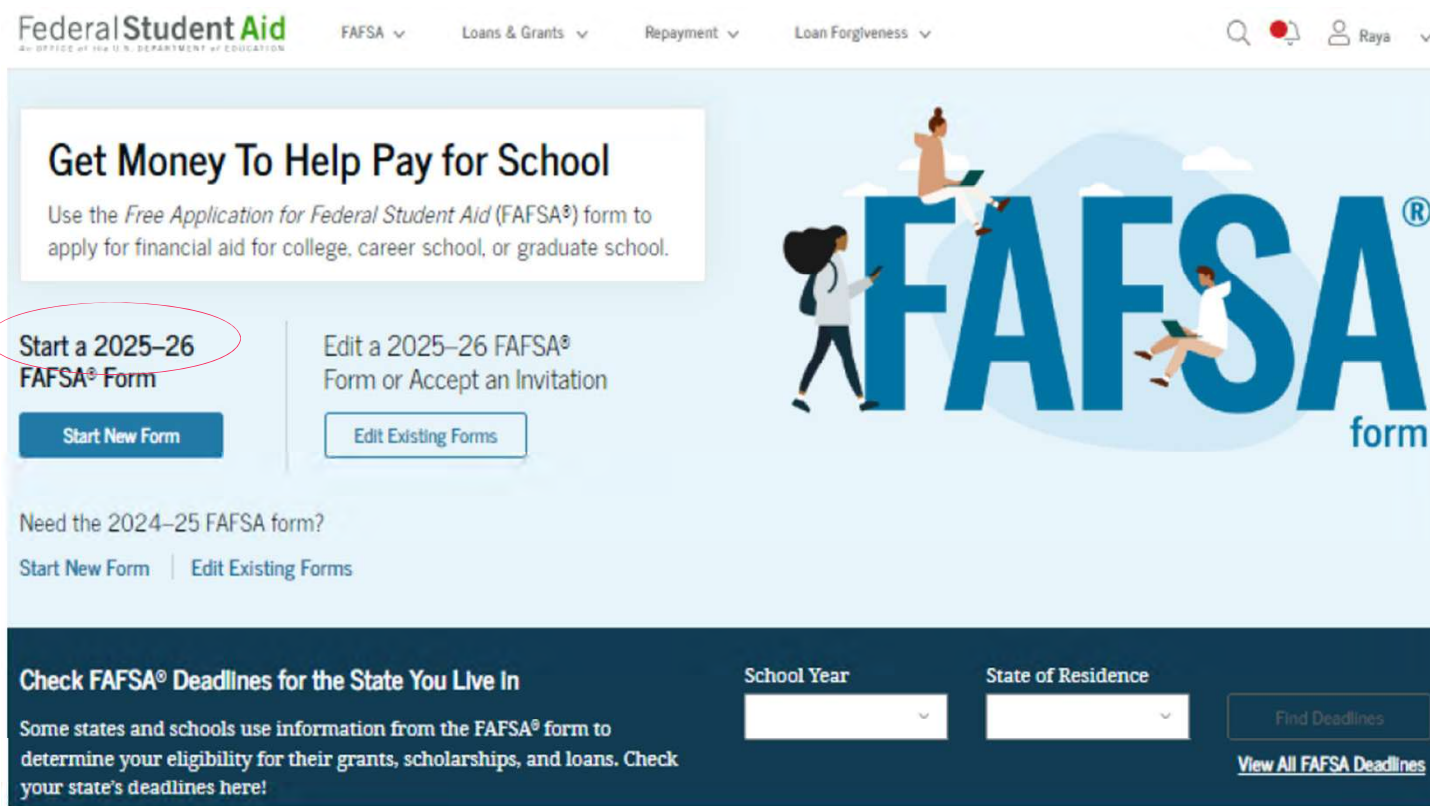
- Social Security number
- Your own mobile phone number and/or email address



<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

# Federal Aid

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo "Federal Student Aid" and the text "OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION". To the right of the logo are dropdown menus for "FAFSA", "Loans & Grants", "Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". Further right are search, notification, and user profile icons, with the name "Raya" visible next to the profile icon.

The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "Get Money To Help Pay for School" and a sub-headline: "Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school." To the right of this text is a large graphic of the word "FAFSA" in blue, with the word "form" in a smaller font below it. The graphic includes illustrations of students: one sitting on top of the 'A', one walking with a backpack, and one sitting on the 'S'.

Below the banner, there are two main buttons: "Start a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form" (circled in red) and "Edit a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form or Accept an Invitation". Below the "Start a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form" button is a "Start New Form" button, which is pointed to by a white arrow from the left. Below the "Edit a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form or Accept an Invitation" button is an "Edit Existing Forms" button.

Below these buttons, there is a section for "Need the 2024–25 FAFSA form?" with links for "Start New Form" and "Edit Existing Forms".

At the bottom, there is a dark blue section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In". It includes a "School Year" dropdown menu, a "State of Residence" dropdown menu, and a "Find Deadlines" button. Below this is a link to "View All FAFSA Deadlines".

<https://studentaid.ed.gov>

Pell Grant Up to \$7,395





# Which contributor (Parent) do I invite?

**Who is My Parent Tool?** - should be used before the FAFSA is started to determine which parent(s) will need to be contributors to the FAFSA -

<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>

## Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's **dependency status**.

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's **FAFSA form**.



To begin using the tool, enter the first name of the student's legal parent(s).

*This helps us provide clear direction on which parent(s) should participate in the student's FAFSA form.*

Who is considered a legal parent?

First Name (Parent 1)

First Name (Parent 2)

The student has only one legal parent.

Continue



# Contributor Information

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form 2025–26 Student Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

### Tell Us About the Student's Parents

On the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

Are the parents married to each other?


Yes  No

Previous Continue

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form 2025–26 Student Raya Tran

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

### Invite Parent(s) to This FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form



#### We Need Information for Your Parent(s) Now

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. This doesn't make them financially responsible for your education. You can invite one or both of your parents to your form now and have them complete their required sections.

Enter information about your parent(s) identified on the prior page, and we'll send an email on your behalf.

If they already have a StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID), the information entered here must exactly match that account.

**IMPORTANT:** If your contributor doesn't have a Social Security number, you may encounter an issue that impacts your ability to add them to your form. If you receive this error, review the guidance and recommended workaround and try again.

*Use the email address that is most likely to reach your contributor. Unlike the other information provided, the email address doesn't need to match the email associated with their StudentAid.gov account.*

# Contributor Information

Social Security Number (SSN)

Hide

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

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Country

To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.



Parent

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month	Day	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Social Security Number (SSN)

Hide

- 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

Send Invite



Parent Spouse or Partner

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month	Day	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Social Security Number (SSN)

Hide

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

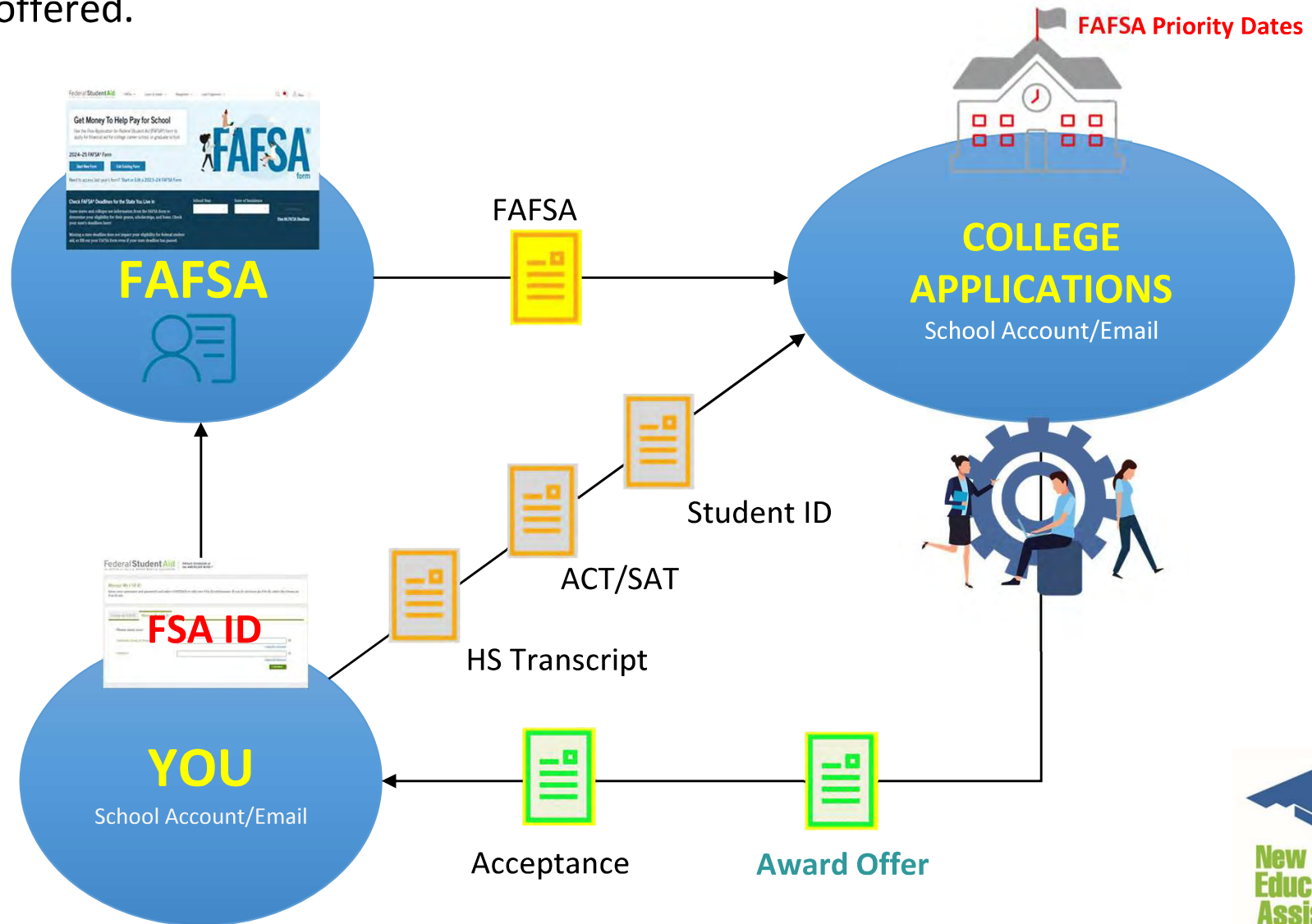
Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Send Invite

# College Applications – Award offers

Financial aid award offers outline the details of the financial aid package you are being offered.





# Researching Scholarships

<https://www.nmeaf.org/plan-pay-for-college/scholarships/>



fastweb



**Tip - Never pay to apply!**  
Eligibility and Deadlines!

Local businesses, banks, **non-profit organizations** & churches, tribal, employers, etc.

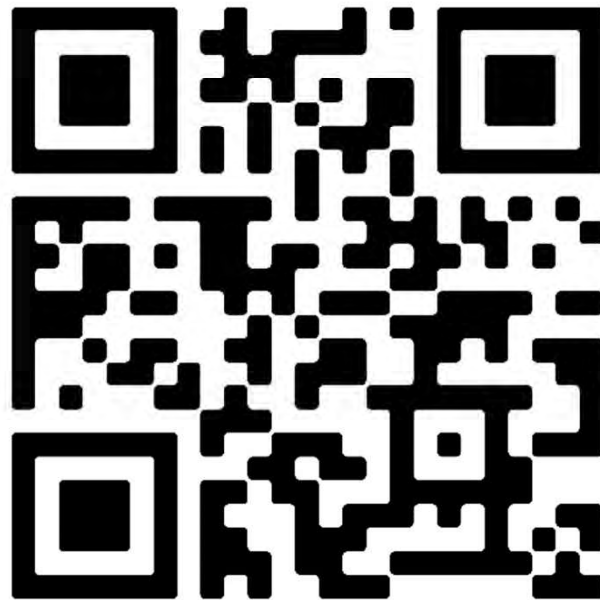


Your **high school counselor** is one of your best resources for scholarships searches.

# \$500 FAFSA Scholarships

## Class of 2025

High school seniors can register to  
win \$500 Scholarships



<https://www.nmeaf.org/FAFSA-Scholarship>

# Class of 2025 - FAFSA Challenge



## FAFSA FACE-OFF CHALLENGE

### PRIZES

First place within each classification:

- 5A- \$5,000
- 4A- \$4,000
- 3A- \$3,000
- 2A- \$2,000
- 1A- \$1,000

**Senior Class decides How to spend the money!**

### Ideas

1. **School Events (prom, graduation, etc.)**
2. **Class Commemoration (mural, bench, etc.)**
3. **Scholarships**

If not illegal and approved by class sponsor, *spend it as your class decides.*

### FAFSA Support

### FAFSA Face-Off



NMEAF is hosting a "FAFSA Face-off" where all NM senior classes can win big money for their chosen activities.

**Starting NOW**, seniors can raise awareness about the FAFSA, Get everyone to complete their FAFSA to increase your chances to win!

The contest ends in March.

### School Grouping and Tracking

Schools will be divided into NMAA Basketball classifications (1A-5A). The top two schools within each category will win money. The second-place prize is half of the first-place prize money. Tracking will be done using the FAFSA Tracker website.





# LOCAL NM HELP



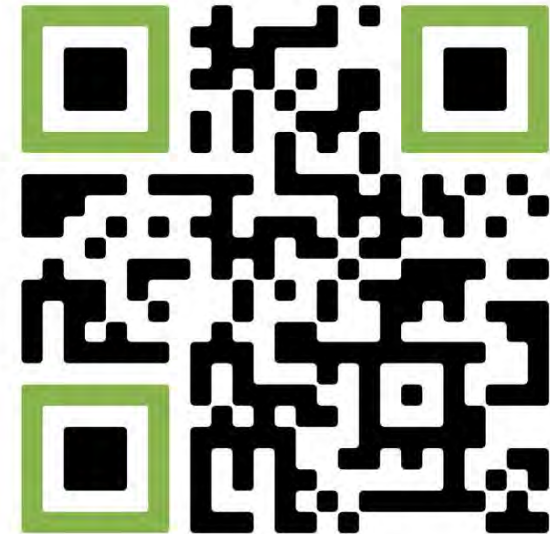
**NEED HELP COMPLETING YOUR FAFSA?**  
Students/ Parents can attend virtual sessions for **FREE HELP** from professionals who know the FAFSA.

**FIND YOUR FUTURE FAFSA**  
AMFAFSA.ORG

2	9	16	QR Code
QR Code	13	20	27
3	10	24	QR Code
3	10	17	24
7	14	21	28

Join our virtual sessions by scanning any above QR Codes or by going to:  
<https://qrco.de/beNHwi>

Register here for a \$500 Scholarship  
<https://qrco.de/bdlVop>



<https://qrco.de/bf9082>

The process is free and easy. Every Monday from 3-6PM, students and/or parents can log in to our virtual help session, Money Mondays. At Money Mondays, we have professionals from the local universities and other volunteers there to help you complete the FAFSA or simply answer questions about continuing your education.

## FAFSA Money Mondays Virtual Workshops



# NMEAF FAFSA BROCHURES



## FAFSA Brochure

Download our FAFSA Guide



FAFSA GUIDE ENGLISH (PDF)

FAFSA GUIDE SPANISH (PDF)





# Questions?



SLIDES

<https://qrco.de/bfNZPY>

Questions by email: [Outreach@nmeaf.org](mailto:Outreach@nmeaf.org)