

# How do I complete my FAFSA/CASFA?



(Class of 2023)

- 1) **FAFSA and CASFA** are **applications you complete** during your senior year to see if you are eligible for money from the government to pay for 4-year college, trade school, community college, etc.
- 2) **They will be open on October 1st** - you can't start your FAFSA or CASFA until this date.
- 3) CASFA is for **DACA & Undocumented students, Non-Citizen students and International students** who are interested in applying for **financial aid from the State of Colorado** and **institutional aid from colleges** in Colorado.
- 4) Students who can complete the FAFSA **should not** complete the CASFA. **You only complete ONE APPLICATION.**
- 5) In order to complete your FAFSA or CASFA, you will want to **gather together information** about yourself and your family. This is the information that you will need:
  - **Student Social Security Number (for the FAFSA)**
    - Make sure you use the correct SSN and your name as listed on your ID or Birth Certificate
    - If you do not have a social security number, you should complete the CASFA to apply for state and institutional aid
  - **A copy of the 2021 Income Taxes (usually 1040) and W-2 Forms for parents/guardians and student**
    - If your family does not file taxes, have an estimate of how much money the family gets per year and you will need to prove this estimate later on.
    - If your family files taxes in another country, have an estimate in dollars of how much they earn for the year and prove this estimate later on.
  - **Amount of money in checking, savings and cash for you and your parent/guardian** (as of today, after bills have been paid for the month)
  - **Value of businesses or farms owned by you or your parent/guardian**
  - **If parents/guardians are married, date of marriage or remarriage**
  - **If parents are divorced, date of divorce**
  - **Parents' birth dates**
  - **Number of years family has lived in Colorado**
  - **List up to 10 colleges or universities that interest you**

6) **If completing the FAFSA**, you should **create a FSA ID** (this is how you log into the FAFSA website). Go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) - it's VERY EASY! And while you are there, help your parents to create a FSA ID as well (this will be very helpful when you both need to "sign" the FAFSA). Go to **FAFSA.gov to complete your FAFSA!** You will be completing a FAFSA for the 2022-23 School Year (which is your first year of college).

7) **If completing the CASFA**, go to [cdhe.colorado.gov/colorado-application-for-state-financial-aid](https://cdhe.colorado.gov/colorado-application-for-state-financial-aid) to **complete your CASFA!** You will be completing a CASFA for the 2022-23 School Year (which is your first year of college).

8) When you finish your application, **don't forget to:**

- ★ **Sign your FAFSA/CASFA** - you can sign it electronically or you can print a signature page to be mailed (both you AND your parents need to complete this step). The Future Center can mail your signature page for you. We highly recommend that you sign electronically if possible.
- ★ **Submit your FAFSA/CASFA** - after you sign, you **must** click the button to **SUBMIT** the FAFSA/CASFA (this is a common mistake!)

9) We highly recommend you **complete your FAFSA/CASFA by Winter Break!** (But you can certainly complete it afterwards! However, it is first-come/first-serve for financial aid)

**Feel like you are stuck?** Contact the Future Center - we are here to help you!



Located in the Westminster High School Library  
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[futurecenter@westminsterpublicschools.org](mailto:futurecenter@westminsterpublicschools.org)  
[www.WestminsterPublicSchools.org/FutureCenter](http://www.WestminsterPublicSchools.org/FutureCenter)