

## EMAIL SAMPLE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS: 2024-2025 FAFSA NOW OPEN

Hello students and parents/guardians of Class of 2024:

The 2024-2025 FAFSA is now open! Per Indiana's legislation, beginning with the Class of 2024, high school seniors are now required to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or opt out of filing by **April 15th** in order to graduate.

### Why file the FAFSA?

Each year, Hoosiers have access to over **\$400 million** in state financial aid and **billions of dollars** in federal aid. Even if students are unsure of their plans after graduating, filing the FAFSA will give insight into the options available. There is support available for any post-high school track – certificates and certifications, 2-year degrees, and 4-year degrees. The FAFSA is the key to unlocking eligibility for different types of financial aid:

- **Grants:** Money for college you don't have to pay back.
- **Scholarships:** Money for college based on merit, talent, or academic achievement.
- **Work Study:** Opportunities to work on campus to earn money while taking classes.
- **Student Loans:** Money students receive to help pay for college but will have to pay back.

### How to file the FAFSA

The easiest way to file the FAFSA is online at the <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Remember, filing the FAFSA is always **free**. The FAFSA will never require a fee to apply.

Students and parents (of dependent students) or spouses (of independent students) **must create an FSA ID at least three days before filing the FAFSA**. Resources needed to create an FSA ID include:

- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Mailing address
- Personal email address
- A memorable username and password

Information needed to complete the FAFSA:

- FSA ID
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned from 2022
- List of any federal benefits received
- Asset information including bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

## **FAFSA Deadline**

**Indiana's FAFSA priority deadline is April 15, 2024.** While applications can still be submitted after that deadline, financial aid is provided on a first-come, first-served basis after the 15th. It is strongly recommended to file the FAFSA as soon as possible. The earlier the FAFSA is submitted, the quicker colleges can send personalized financial aid packages. This will provide more time to compare options to guide decisions for the future.

## **Need help with the FAFSA?**

- The Indiana Commission for Higher Education's Outreach Coordinators are available to assist students, families, and educators across the state. Find an interactive map and contact the nearest Outreach Coordinator by visiting [www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact).
- The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Access free FAFSA help through INvestEd at [www.investedindiana.org](http://www.investedindiana.org).
- ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame al 317-617-0358 o 317-617-0318.
- Higher education institutions around the state are hosting FAFSA filing events for students and families. To view the upcoming events calendar, visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org).

## **Opt Out Option**

Students who do not wish to file the 2024-2025 FAFSA will be required to submit a FAFSA Waiver Form, and may be opted out by one of the following methods:

- A parent/guardian of the dependent student submits a FAFSA Waiver Form certifying the student understands what the FAFSA is and declines to complete it;
- The student, if the student is an emancipated minor or is at least 18 years old, submits a signed waiver certifying the student understands what the FAFSA is and declines to complete it; or
- The high school principal or counselor of the student waives the requirement after two unsuccessful sufficient attempts to reach the family of the student by April 15.