



Saint Paul's School

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Dear Parents,

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2024-2025 is now available online. While some of you have experienced completing this financial aid document, many of you will be doing so for the first time. To further accommodate your needs and to answer some of your questions, I have gathered the following information to help you better understand the purpose of the FAFSA and to help you maximize your son's opportunities for financial aid. If, however, you need further assistance, do not hesitate to call or email me. I can be reached at (985) 892-3200 x1947 or reneep@stpauls.com.

What is the FAFSA?

- The FAFSA asks for your family's financial aid information to determine your son's eligibility for financial aid. The document will determine your eligibility for grants (typically Pell Grants), student loans, and Federal Work-Study. **This document also serves as your son's application for TOPS funding.** Visit www.finaid.org OR www.studentaid.gov for an in-depth look at your child's financial aid options.

What information will I need when I am ready to complete the FAFSA?

- [FAFSA TIPS](#)
- FSA ID—this will serve as your electronic signature (FSA—one for parent and one for student) [Create FSA ID](#) (You will need to do this first, to begin completing your portion of the FAFSA)
- Social security number (parent and student)
- 2022 tax return
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farm

What if I just want to apply for TOPS? Do I need to complete the FAFSA?

- No. While I strongly encourage you to apply for other financial aid opportunities, you only need to complete the **TOPS application (available on-line only)** if your family will not qualify for federal grant aid. To make that determination, use the **Finaid's Financial Estimator Calculator** available on the web at www.finaid.org/calculators
- The TOPS on-line application can be found at the following website:
 - [TOPS online application 2024](#)

When is the deadline for completing the FAFSA for TOPS?

- Saint Paul's STRONGLY recommends completing the FAFSA by February/March of your son's senior year if he is planning to attend college during the 2024-2025 academic year.
- **YOU NEED TO VERIFY THE AID DEADLINE FOR THE INSTITUTION YOUR SON PLANS TO ATTEND. THE SCHOOL DEADLINE MAY BE MUCH EARLIER THAN THE DEADLINE FOR TOPS!**

****Please note: If your son has not yet met the ACT/SAT requirement for TOPS, he must do so by the April ACT or March SAT test date of his senior year. If an initial qualifying ACT score is earned on the June or July test date or an initial qualifying SAT score earned on May or June test date, it will be accepted, but your son will be penalized one semester (two quarters) of eligibility. Special tests taken before August 1 for students with disabilities will be accepted!****

Can I complete the document on the web?

- YES. You may complete the [FAFSA](#) online
- Benefits include:
 - Faster processing
 - Fewer errors
 - Immediate SAI (estimated Student Aid Index) estimate
 - Ability to save and complete application at later date
 - Online confirmation page
 - Availability of the Financial Aid Direct Data Exchange (formerly the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)

Signing and Submitting the FAFSA

- Acknowledge the terms and conditions of the form and electronically sign your section.
- Your FAFSA form won't be considered complete until both student and parent provide their information on the FAFSA form, give their consent/approval to transfer federal tax information into the form, and provide their signatures.
- After you and your parent sign and submit the FAFSA form, the form will be considered complete and will be submitted for processing.
- After submitting your FAFSA, a confirmation page will display the completion date, data release number, and next steps.
 - Your estimated **Student Aid Index (SAI)** (a number used by college and career/trade schools to determine your eligibility for federal student aid), estimated Federal Pell Grant eligibility, and information about other federal student aid for which you may be eligible.
 - This confirmation page is emailed automatically to you for your records.

Note: The Student Aid Index on the confirmation page is only an estimate.

The official Student Aid Index will appear on the [FAFSA Submission Summary](#).

What if I have questions, need to make corrections, or need to speak to a representative?

- If you need answers or to make corrections to your FAFSA, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center between 8:00AM—10:00PM (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday and Saturday 11:00AM—5:00PM (ET). The number is (800) 4FED-AID (800-433-3243). Help is also available online at [FAFSA HELP](#)
- If you need to speak to someone regarding TOPS, please call (800) 259-5626 x1012 or visit [LOSFA HELP](#)

If you have questions regarding any of this information, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Remember that I am here to help you.

Sincerely,

Renée Miller

Renée Miller, M.Ed., NCC, NCSC

School Counselor and College Advisor

Counseling Department Chair

****This information will also be available on the Saint Paul's website under counseling. Click on the FAFSA link.**