

Mapping Your Future

Q & A from 2022-23 FAFSA Training

September 2021

Mapping Your Future offers this Q & A document for information purposes only and as a public service. Every situation is different and the statutes are complex. If you are uncertain about your rights and responsibilities, contact Mapping Your Future at feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or contact the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-4-FEDAID. The answers included in this document are not official guidance, but constructed to the best of the ability of the presenter and the Mapping Your Future staff.

Question	Answer
After the FAFSA	
1. What is the DRN?	The DRN is the Data Release Number, which appears on the Student Aid Report (SAR). If a student would like a college not listed on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive his or her information, the college can retrieve the data via FAA Access to CPS Online using the DRN.
2. Is there any way to eliminate the “Congrats student the FAFSA has been submitted successfully” message if there are issues?	FAFSA on the Web (FOTW) messaging is determined by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Our understanding of this message is it confirms only that the applicant submitted the application. Additional processing is needed, such as database matches, to fully determine if there are issues which need to be resolved.
3. If a student receives a financial aid offer from a college and neither accepts or declines the awards, what happens?	It depends on the college. Some schools have deadlines for students to accept or decline financial aid, and could cancel awards if students don’t respond. Cancellation of awards is more likely to occur with institutional funds. Students should contact the financial aid office regarding deadlines to accept or decline aid offers.
Dependency Information	
4. If a student lives with a grandparent who doesn’t have legal custody, whose income is used on the FAFSA?	At least one of the student’s biological or legal parents needs to provide information on the FAFSA. If the student is not in contact with his or her parents, he or she should contact the financial aid office about the possibility of a dependency appeal.
5. What address should a student receiving services under the McKinney-Vento Act use on the FAFSA?	A student who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless may use his or her college’s address on the FAFSA.

Question	Answer
6. If a student can't provide parent information, can he or she submit the FAFSA?	Yes; FOTW allows dependent students to indicate they cannot provide parental information. A Special Circumstance Flag will appear on the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) so the financial aid office can follow up with a student regarding his or her situation.
Financial Information	
7. If applicants use IRS Data Retrieval, will they be automatically returned to the FAFSA?	Yes; applicants who choose to transfer their tax information to the FAFSA will be returned to FOTW once the data is transferred.
General	
8. A couple of my students have had issues before submitting the FAFSA because the application indicates there are errors. What should they do?	If FOTW indicates there are errors on the application, students should review the information they entered and correct any mistakes. The help text provided in each section will help in the review.
9. What is the user name and password for the FAFSA demo site?	The FAFSA demo site is available at http://fafsademo.test.ed.gov . The user name is eddemo and the password is fafsatest.
10. How can students and families access a recording of Mapping Your Future's webinar on completing the FAFSA?	Students and families can access the recording at https://mappingyourfuture.org/services/webinar/archive.cfm .
11. What is the address of Missouri's website for students?	The website is https://journeytocollege.mo.gov/ .
12. Where can high school counselors find good resources for their FAFSA completion efforts?	High school counselors and others should contact their state education agency about available FAFSA completion resources. A list of each state's agencies can be found at https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html . Resources are also available at https://studentaid.gov/resources and https://studentaid.gov/articles/category/fafsa-tips/ .
13. Are there Spanish resources in Florida?	Not at this time. You can contact Pete Hernandez with questions at pedro.hernandez@fldoe.org or (850) 245-1821.
Student Information	
14. If a student indicates on the FAFSA he is not registered with Selective Service, will he be prompted to register?	If the student is eligible to register, FOTW will give him the option to forward his information to the Selective Service Administration to register.
15. Do colleges need to verify Selective Service registration for the 2022-23 award year?	No; male students are no longer required to register with Selective Service to be eligible to receive federal financial aid.