

Mapping Your Future Q & A from 2018-19 FAFSA Training August 2017 and September 2017

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Question	Answer
Dependency Status	
1. If a student's parent is incarcerated and he or she is temporarily living with other family members, is the student an unaccompanied homeless youth?	To be an unaccompanied homeless youth, a student must meet all three parts of the definition. In this scenario, the student does not appear to be homeless. Please also note that an incarcerated parent can still provide information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
2. If a student lives in foster care but is not a ward of the state, is he or she an unaccompanied homeless youth?	No; a student in foster care is not homeless. A student in foster care at age 13 or older is independent for financial aid purposes.
3. I have a student who is financially self-sufficient but her father claims her on his taxes. Is she an independent student?	No, being financially self-sufficient by itself is not justification for a dependency override.
4. What is a dependency appeal?	A dependency appeal is the process by which a financial aid administrator determines whether or not an otherwise dependent student should be considered independent based on a special documentation. The student submits documentation to support the special circumstance, which often includes a personal statement and information from others familiar with the student's situation.
Financial Information	
5. Under what circumstances must a student report grants and scholarships on the FAFSA?	Students report the amount of grants and scholarships included in their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) as additional financial information on the FAFSA.
6. Which tax year should applicants use to complete the 2018-19 FAFSA?	Applicants should use 2016 tax information to complete the 2018-19 FAFSA.
7. Will all data transferred using the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool be encrypted, or just certain items?	All data transferred using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool will be encrypted.

8. How does an applicant sign the form that everything is true and correct if he or she can't see any of the data transferred from IRS?	If an applicant has concerns about the accuracy of the information transferred using IRS Data Retrieval, he or she should work with the financial aid office to review the data and submit any needed corrections.
9. Under what circumstances will an IRS Request Flag 7 appear on an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).	IRS Request Flag 7 will appear on a student's ISIR if an applicant used IRS Data Retrieval and the IRS is aware that the student or parent of a dependent student filed an amended return.
10. How has the question about taxable grants and scholarships been modified?	The Department of Education (ED) modified the question to clarify that it refers to money reported to the IRS as income.
11. If an applicant's marital status changed after 12/31/2015, can he or she use IRS Data Retrieval?	No; the information transferred through IRS Data Retrieval would be inaccurate.
12. If the IRS Data Field Flag is 2 due to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or pension rollover, is the data transferred through IRS Data Retrieval considered verified?	Yes; the transferred data is considered verified. ED will use the information provided by the applicant in the rollover follow-up questions to calculate the untaxed income from IRAs and pensions.
13. If an applicant filed an amended tax return, will he or she be able to use IRS Data Retrieval?	Yes; the IRS will indicate the applicant filed an amended return (IRS Request Flag 7). The financial aid administrator will need to contact the applicant to determine whether or not corrections are needed.
14. Will data transferred from IRS Data Retrieval be visible on the Student Aid Report (SAR)?	No; the data will not be visible on a student's SAR.
15. Our school has a shelter home in which students are housed and provided for. Student have a part time job. They do not live with parents at all. How is the support of the shelter reported?	The student should report the support on the FAFSA as untaxed income.
16. Does IRS Data Retrieval transfer data from an amended return?	No; IRS Data Retrieval transfers data from the original return. The student's ISIR will be flagged to let the financial aid administrator know to follow up with the applicant to determine what corrections are needed. The applicant will likely have to submit a copy of his or her amended return (1040X).
17. Should parents report the value of their retirement accounts as an asset?	No; the value of retirement accounts is not a reportable asset on the FAFSA. However, contributions made to tax-deferred retirement accounts during 2016 should be reported as untaxed income.

General	
18. Are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students eligible to receive federal student aid?	No; DACA students are not eligible to receive federal student aid.
19. Can a student who signs in with his or her personal information create a FSA ID at the end to sign the FAFSA electronically?	No; there isn't an option to create a FSA ID in the signature section.
20. How do I access the FAFSA demo site?	The website is http://fafsademo.test.ed.gov . The user name is eddemo and the password is fafsatest. The demo site will be available for 2018-19 on September 25, 2017.
21. How does a student log into the FAFSA website?	A student can log into the FAFSA website in one of two ways. If the student has a FSA ID, he or she may sign in with the FSA ID. If a student does not have a FSA ID, he or she can log in using personally-identifiable information and creating a password.
22. What must we do if a student does not provide high school information on the FAFSA?	In this scenario, the ED will likely select the student for verification. The student will have to document his or her high school completion status before receiving federal aid.
23. How does a student who logged into the FAFSA using personal information sign and submit the application?	The student can print out the signature page, sign it, and mail it to the ED. He or she can also save the unsubmitted FAFSA, create a FSA ID, and log back into the FAFSA website to sign the application electronically.
24. Is it true that females will also be required to register with Selective Service starting with the 2018-19 aid year?	No; only individuals assigned male gender at birth are required to register with Selective Service.
25. When will the 2018-19 FAFSA be available?	The 2018-19 FAFSA will be available on October 1, 2017.
26. Can a student or parent create a FSA ID prior to October 1?	Yes.
27. Is legal custody the same as adoption?	No; a legal guardian is not a parent for financial aid purposes.
28. Is there a handout for this training?	The handouts are located at: http://mappingyourfuture.org/downloads/201819FAFSAttraining.pdf and http://mappingyourfuture.org/downloads/IRSRequestDisplayDataFieldFlags.pdf
29. Where can the webinar recording be accessed?	The webinar recording is available at https://mappingyourfuture.org/services/webinararchive.cfm .

<p>30. Is there an easier way (besides mailing in the signature page) to submit a parent signature for students whose parents are undocumented?</p>	<p>The other option is to have a financial aid administrator submit the FAFSA through FAA Access to CPS Online.</p> <p>If a financial aid administrator enters a student's original application through FAA Access to CPS Online, he or she must obtain original or "wet" signatures on the printed signature page/FAFSA summary or on a completed paper FAFSA, and must keep the signed document in the school files even if the student doesn't receive federal student aid or attend the school.</p>
<p>31. When will the FAFSA on the Web (FOTW) Worksheet be available?</p>	<p>It should be available by October 1, 2017.</p>
<p>32. Who should the applicant contact if he or she notices mistakes on the SAR?</p>	<p>The applicant can submit corrections through the FAFSA website. He or she can also work with the financial aid office to submit corrections.</p>
<p>Household Information</p>	
<p>33. Can a grandparent be a member of the household?</p>	<p>Yes; if the parent or independent student is providing more than 50 percent of the grandparent's support and will continue to do so through June 30, 2019.</p>
<p>Parental Information</p>	
<p>34. Can an undocumented parent create a FSA ID?</p>	<p>No; an applicant must have a valid Social Security Number to create a FSA ID.</p>
<p>35. Does ED share parental information with other federal agencies?</p>	<p>No; ED does not share parental information, including information about undocumented parents, with other federal agencies.</p>
<p>36. How should undocumented parents complete the FAFSA?</p>	<p>Undocumented parents should enter zeros in the questions for parent Social Security Number (Questions 61 and 65). If an undocumented parent did not file a tax return, he or she should still report income earned from work.</p>
<p>37. What are the possible outcomes if a dependent student indicates on the FAFSA that he or she cannot provide parental information?</p>	<p>The student's output document will have a Special Circumstances Flag, which will alert the financial aid office to follow up with the student. The financial aid office could determine that a student qualifies for a dependency override or that the student may qualify only for non-need-based aid.</p>
<p>38. What should a student do if one of his or her divorced parents does not want to provide information on the FAFSA?</p>	<p>If the parent who does not want to provide information is the student's parent of record, the student should indicate he or she cannot provide parental information on the FAFSA. See Question 35.</p>

39. Do we need to require undocumented parents to file taxes, if they made income that is within the IRS filing requirements?	Yes; legal immigration status is not a requirement to file federal taxes. Individuals without a Social Security Number should request an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from the IRS to complete their taxes.
40. If a student's parent are divorced, should the parent who claimed the student on his or her taxes provide information on the FAFSA?	Dependency requirements for the IRS are different from the dependency requirement used for federal student aid. The parent with whom the student lived the most during the last 12 months should complete the FAFSA. If the student lived equally with both parents, the parent who provided the most financial support should complete the FAFSA.
41. Is a stepparent a parent for the purpose of completing the FAFSA?	Yes; if the stepparent is married to the student's parent of record, he or she should provide information on the FAFSA.
42. Should undocumented parents complete the FAFSA?	Yes; completing the FAFSA increases the amount and type of aid a student could receive. Please also see Question 34.
43. If a student lives with her mother and the mother's fiancé (not the biological father), does the fiancé have to report his information on the FAFSA?	No; since the mother and fiancé are not married, he is not a parent for FAFSA purposes.
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	
44. What is required for a financial aid administrator to make an unaccompanied homeless youth determination?	A financial aid administrator must determine a student meets all three parts of the definition of an unaccompanied homeless youth. A best practice for doing this is through the use of a documented interview. The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY) has a determination tool to help financial aid administrators with an interview at http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed .
45. Has the definition of youth changed? Are students 24 or older still independent?	The previous definition of youth (a student 21 years of age or younger) has been removed. Unaccompanied homeless students who are 22 and 23 can answer the appropriate question in the Dependency Status section "Yes" instead of having a financial aid administrator make a determination of their status. Students 24 year of age or older during the award year are still independent.