DETERMINING THE PARENT FOR THE 2027-28 FAFSA

To help you determine which parent or parents to invite to contribute information to your FAFSA, review the chart below. You may also want to use the Parent Wizard at StudentAid.gov.



MY PARENTS ARE MARRIED AND FILE TAXES JOINTLY

Students, whose parents are married and file their taxes jointly, will report information about both parents but will only need to invite one parent to contribute to the FAFSA. That parent will need to create a StudentAid.gov account to complete the FAFSA.

MY PARENTS ARE MARRIED AND FILE TAXES SEPARATELY

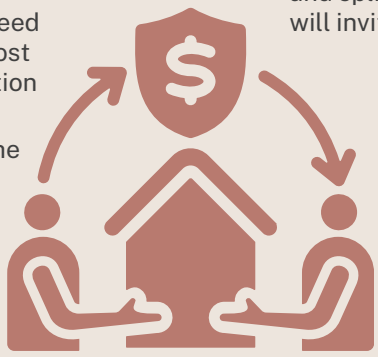


Students, whose parents are married and file their taxes separately, will need to invite both parents to contribute to the FAFSA. Both parents will need to create a StudentAid.gov account to contribute information to the student's FAFSA.

MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED OR SEPARATED
MY PARENTS HAVE NEVER MARRIED AND DON'T LIVE TOGETHER

Students, whose parents are divorced or separated or whose parents never married and don't live together, need to invite the parent that provides the most financial support to contribute information to their FAFSA.

That parent, which may or may not be the custodial parent, will need to create a StudentAid.gov account to contribute information to the student's FAFSA.



If the student's parents have joint custody and split expenses evenly, then the student will invite the parent with the most income.

Sometimes, even in cases of joint custody, one parent may be covering more expenses, such as transportation or insurance. Students and parents should look at expenses carefully to determine which parent to invite to the FAFSA.

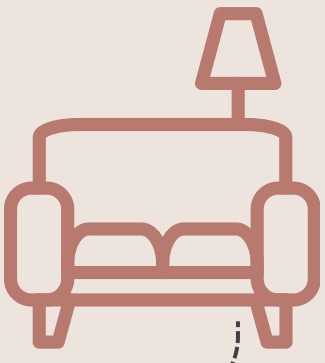
MY PARENT IS REMARRIED



If the parent providing the most support to the student is remarried, the student will report information about both the parent and step-parent.

If the parent and step-parent file joint taxes, only the biological parent will need a StudentAid.gov account. If the parent and step-parent file taxes separately, both will need to create a StudentAid.gov account.

MY PARENTS ARE NOT MARRIED BUT LIVE TOGETHER



The student will invite both parents to contribute to the FAFSA. The parents will each need their own StudentAid.gov account.

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