# High School Counselor Update

2021-22 Federal Application Processing System

Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

FSA ID Serves As:

- Password to access private information on FSA's systems
  - FAFSA
  - Studentloans.gov – counseling, MPN, PLUS application
  - National Student Loan Database System (NSLDS)

- FSA ID is issued in "real-time"

- Electronic signature/access:
  - FAFSA on the Web
  - Renewal on the Web
  - Corrections on the Web
  - myStudentAid Mobile App
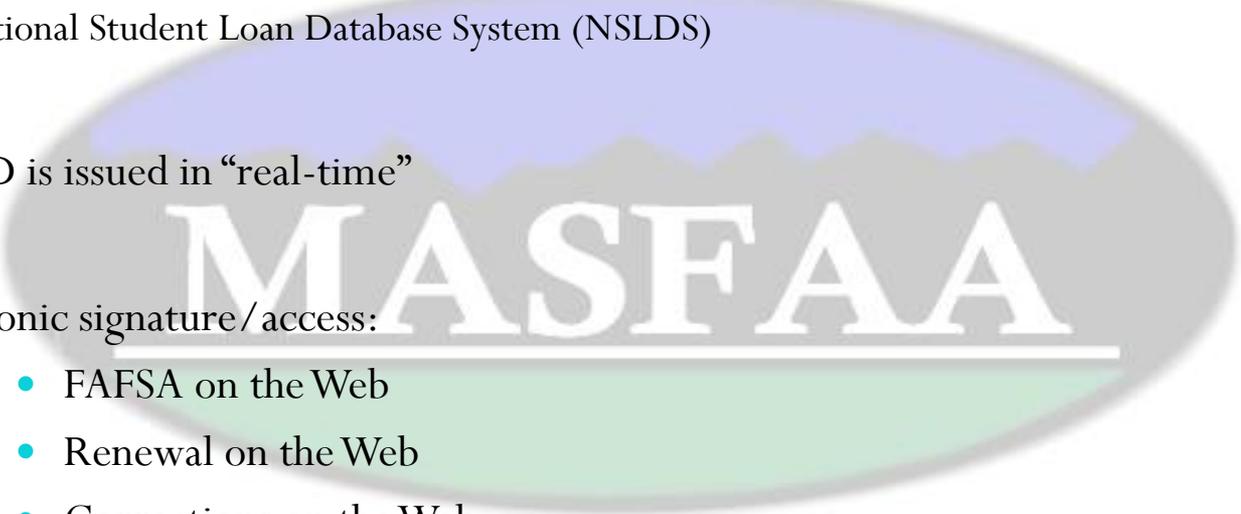
FAFSA on the Web Demonstration Site for Counselors:

Available NOW

fafsademo.test.ed.gov

User ID: eddemo

Password: fafsatest

Use the Demonstration Site to Simulate:

- Entering FAFSA on the Web
- Submitting corrections
- Checking status of application

Provided by the Financial Aid Professionals at Carroll College and Helena College

FAFSA Form Enhancements

- FAFSA home and help pages migrated to StudentAid.gov.

- Standalone Signature Process developed for FAFSA.gov desktop and mobile device.

- Student's SSN masked at log in.

- Signature process updated from a swipe signature to a checkbox at the end of the terms and condition.

- Push notifications now enabled.

myStudentAid Mobile App Changes/Enhancements

Federal Student Aid is releasing a new version of the myStudentAid mobile app, which will remain available through the Apple App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). The updated app will provide the following functionality:

- FAFSA® Form – Complete the FAFSA form safely and securely from your mobile device.
- Dashboard – Access various types of popular tasks and a personalized page to help you determine what actions to take.
- Settings – Edit/manage your account, using your username and password (FSA ID).
- Aid Summary – View your federal student loan and grant history.
- Notification Center – View and manage notifications regarding your student aid.

FAFSA Form Changes

- The elimination of IRS Forms 1040A and 1040EZ required FSA to develop a reasonable proxy for automatic zero (AZ) and simplified needs test (SNT) EFC calculations.

  - When users choose to populate their mobile or FAFSA on the Web application via the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), the DRT will now automatically answer the question about whether or not they filed a Schedule 1. The answer will be based on all current exceptions for filing a Schedule 1. The transferred data for the Schedule 1 fields will be handled the same as other data transferred using the IRS DRT.

  - For those who do not use the IRS DRT, the help topics connected to the "Student Filed Schedule 1?" and "Parent Filed Schedule 1?" questions have been updated to include all current exceptions for filing a Schedule 1. "Capital Gains" has been removed as an exception, and "Virtual Currency" has been added. These help text updates are in effect for the 2021-2022 cycle.

Reminder of Recent "Major" Changes in Federal Student Aid

- Deferment for Cancer Treatment

- Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act

- No longer able to use the 4506-T to have tax transcript sent directly to a third party

- Updated tax transcript redacts sensitive personal identifying information of the tax filer

10/23/2020

FAFSA Reminders

- FSA ID

- Parent needs to have a verified ID before they attempt IRS Data Retrieval tool.

- Need to have a separate email from their student.

- Parent Income (Divorced/Separated or Never Married)

- Student needs to use parent information, for the parent that they reside with 51% or more. This is regardless of who is claiming them on their taxes.

- IRS Data Retrieval Tool (approximately 50% of students use it)

- 2021-2022 FAFSA will be using 2019 Federal Tax information

Update: Loan Interest Rate Change

For new Direct Loans first disbursed on or after July 1st, 2020 and before July 1st, 2021.

Loan Type	Borrower Type	Fixed Interest Rate
Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Undergraduate	2.75%
Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Graduate or Professional	4.30%
Direct PLUS Loans	Parents and Graduate or Professional Students	5.30%

Provided by the Montana Association of Financial Aid Administrators

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Top 10 financial aid tips to tell students

- 10- Start searching and applying for scholarships early and throughout college career; not just first year
- 9- If your family is experiencing financial hardships (even during the academic year) contact the financial aid office
- 8- Some federal/institutional aid is limited so apply early; as soon after October 1 as possible
- 7- Student loans are a form of financial aid
- 6- File a FAFSA every year attending college
- 5- When comparing financial aid packages look at loans vs. gift aid/ renewable vs. non-renewable
- 4- Contact the financial aid office if you are thinking of adding or dropping a class
- 3- Make sure you know the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy of the institution attending
- 2- Must accept aid offer, satisfy all required paperwork and make arrangements with the business office prior to any aid being disbursed
- 1- $0 EFC does not mean a student will pay $0

Provided by the Montana Association of Financial Aid Administrators

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Questions

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Thank you!

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