



# SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



Dec. 2019

## The New FAFSA

In its continued efforts to modernize and improve the federal student aid process, the U.S. Dept. of Education announced that it has added new features to the online *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form and myStudentAid mobile app. These enhancements come as the Department launches the 2020–21 FAFSA.

Key changes released include:

- To promote a fully integrated customer experience, the [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) website has been synchronized with the myStudentAid mobile app's myFAFSA component, allowing customers to switch easily between the online FAFSA form and the myStudentAid mobile app, picking up where they left off in the other platforms.
- Students and parents who submit a FAFSA form can view their Student Aid Report (SAR) via the mobile app's myFAFSA feature. The SAR contains the Expected Family Contribution, which is the number that schools use to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid. Students will be able to access the SAR for both the 2020–21 FAFSA cycle that began today, as well as the 2019–20 FAFSA cycle.
- As a result of customer feedback, FSA made changes to the signature process in myFAFSA to make it easier and clearer. The myStudentAid mobile app now also features helpful checklists to guide students and parents through the next steps in the student aid process. Additionally, students and parents can enable push notifications in the app to get important reminders and updates from the Department's office of Federal Student Aid.
- FAFSA users will benefit from the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT), which securely transfers students' and parents' financial information into the FAFSA form, which is now mobile-friendly and will fit the screen size and shape of any device, including desktop or laptop computers, smartphones, and tablets.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance privacy protection, when students, parents, or preparers log in to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) by providing the student's Social Security number (SSN), the SSN will be masked, as it currently is on the myStudentAid mobile app.

By the end of the year, the Department will launch the myFSAPay account, a free option for students at participating schools to receive their credit balance refunds. Through this limited pilot, students:

- will have convenient self-service options;
- can add money other than student aid funds to the account (for example, money from a parent);
- will not be charged fees, including ATM fees.

The account will be accessible via the myStudentAid mobile app's myMoney feature.

Also, in the coming months, a new "digital front door" for students and parents will consolidate multiple customer-facing websites into one platform. The Department will introduce more personalized communications, as well as enhanced financial literacy tools and resources to help students and parents be more informed about their federal student loans.

### Key Dates & Events

**Nov. 25 to Dec. 20, 2019—**  
**Application window for Dance Program in Fall 2020 at McDonough High School. Visit [ccboe.com](https://ccboe.com) for info.**

**Dec. 2 KG SEAC Meeting 6 pm Smoot Library**

**Dec. 14—9-1 pm Winter Fest at JE Richmond Science Center**

**De. 21—Teen Center Kings Dominion Field Trip 2-10:30 pm costs \$23.00**

**Jan. 25, 2020—NDW Snow tubing costs \$33.00.**

**Youth Centers contact: IH 301-743-5456 and Dahlgren 540-653-8009.**

### Did You Know?

...Feb. 15, 2020 the due date for the Purple Heart Scholarships? Visit info and application at <https://www.purpleheart.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2020-Scholarship-Application-Package-10-22-2019.pdf>

...Survey for military families receiving special education services is available at <https://www.wrightslaw.com/blog/your-story-matters-military-special-education-survey/>

...Reading Made Cents is a program that introduce financial concepts to K-5 students and librarians available across VA? The program teaches a multitude of financial literacy and SOL concepts through a selection of books, lesson plans, and articles and activities. Check it out at

*"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn...and change."*  
Anonymous

### The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange

The CBYX scholarship program is a full scholarship exchange program that offers 250 young Americans the opportunity to live with a host family & attend high school in Germany for an academic year. Previous German language experience is not required. Academic merit, as well as motivation, curiosity & flexibility are key components to a competitive application. Students between the ages of 15 to 18.5 with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to apply. The application is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/us/program/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange>. Deadline is 12/3.

