Financial Aid for New Jersey High School Students and Families



2025-2026 Academic Year

The Mission

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue their education beyond high school. Financial Aid Application Graduation Requirement:

FAFSA, or if applicable NJ Alternative App for NJ DREAMERS or an Approved Waiver New Jersey high school graduation requirement for students in the graduating classes of 2025,2026 and 2027:

- Builds awareness of financial aid resources for New Jersey students to pursue a postsecondary education
- Determines eligibility for both federal and state financial aid
- Empowers students to make informed decisions about the college selection process
- Emphasizes that a college degree is both accessible and affordable for many NJ residents

Goals of Financial Aid Office Primary goal is to assist students in paying for college and is achieved by:

- Evaluating family's ability to pay for educational costs
- Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner
- Providing a balance of grants/scholarships and other funds from the family's own resources, such as savings or wages from school-sponsored student employment.
- Implementing federal and state regulations for their college/university

Sources & Types of Aid

Sources of Aid	Types of Financial Aid	Factors that may influence institutional aid, particularly merit-
The College/University (school-funded aid)	≻Grants	based aid
 Federal 	► Scholarships	 Academics Athletic Ability
State of New Jersey	Paying for College with	> SAT or ACT
Private Scholarships	Student/Family Resource	 Geographic Diversity AP Courses
Civic organizations (ex.	≻Loans	Legacy (child of alumni)
local Rotary Club), parent's	► School-sponsored student	 Activities Talent (extracurricular or
employer, high school awards	employment	academic)
	≻Savings	 Gender/Ethnicity H.S. Attended Class Rank

Net Price Calculator

- •All institutions must have a net price calculator posted on their websites.
- Students will be able to estimate the individual net price per institution.
- Based on full-time, first degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students.

Types of Aid -Federal

Grants Federal Student Aid for Award Year 2024-25

- Pell \$7,395 (max award)
- SEOG \$4,000 (max award)
- TEACH \$3,772 (max award)

. * 2025-26 award amounts subject to change

New Jersey State Grants 2024-25 Academic Year

(2025-2026 award amounts to be determined July 2025)

Award Amounts	Award Type
\$1,280 - \$14,404	Full-Time TAG
\$320-\$1,097	Part-Time TAG (community college only)
Up to \$3,050 includes college success support	EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)
Tuition Only - community college only	NJ STARS (top 15.0% of high school class junior or senior year)
Up to \$2,500 peryear — any NJ 4-year college	NJ STARS II
Up to \$1,000	Governor's Urban Scholarship (for top 5.0% of high school junior year)
Up to \$2,000 - building trades only	NJ-GIVS (women and minorities)
Up to full tuition and approved feesAGI between \$0 and \$100,000	Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)
Up to full tuition and approved feesAGI between \$0 and \$100,000	Garden State Guarantee (GSG)
*2025-2026 a ward amounts subject to change	

2024-2025 Award Amounts

State Grants & Scholarship Requirements Students must have a complete Application for TAG (Tuition Aid Grant) and all other state programs. Students must:

- File a FAFSA or New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application
- Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen or qualify as an NJ Dreamer
- Be a New Jersey resident and attend a New Jersey institution
- Be enrolled full-time* in an approved degree program
- Demonstrate financial need
- Meet all state deadlines for application and document submission

*Part-Time TAG, CCOG, and EOF awards are available for county college students enrolled in 6-11 credits per semester.

EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)

- Award ranges from \$200 \$3,050 annually depending on institution
- EOF is a campus-based and award amounts vary
- Must demonstrate educational and economically disadvantaged background
- Complete all required EOF tasks with campus EOF Office

Governor's Urban Scholarship

- Rank within the top 5.0% of their class at the end of junior year
- Attain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the junior year
- Reside in a designated municipality
- Qualify for a TAG award

Asbury Park City	Burlington City	Bridgeton	Camden City	East Orange City	Elizabeth	Garfield	Gloucester City	Harrison	Hoboken
Irvington Township	Jersey City	Keansburg	Lakewood	Long Branch	Millville City	Neptune Township	Newark City	New Brunswick City	Orange
Passaic City	Paterson City	Pemberton Township	Perth Amboy	Phillipsburg	Plainfield City	Pleasantville	Roselle Borough	Salem City	Trenton City
Union City	Vineland City	West New York							

NJ STARS

- NJ residents who rank in the top 15.0% of their class at either the end of junior or senior year of high school
- Students must attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the start of the third semester at the county college to remain eligible for NJ STARS

NJ STARS II

- Received NJ STARS funding and have a family taxable income of less than \$250,000
- Must earn an associate degree and graduate with a 3.25 GPA or higher
- May receive up to \$2,500 annually for a public or private 4-year NJ college or university

<u>Governor's Industry Vocation Scholarship for Women &</u> <u>Minorities</u>

NJ-GIVS

- Up to \$2,000 per year for the cost of enrollment at one of New Jersey's 18 county colleges, technical /vocational schools, some proprietary schools
- Benefits women and minorities pursuing certificate or degree programs in construction-related fields
- Must be NJ resident and have an AGI < \$60,000
- <u>Complete separate application online. Found in the student's</u> <u>NJFAMS account, Apply for Scholarships</u>
- Some of the programs eligible for the scholarship include
 - Construction Supervision
 - Solar Energy Technology
 - Architectural Engineering Technology

I PROMISED

myself I'd graduate debt-free...

that's a promise I can now **afford**.

> New Jersey College Promise

I promise I can now afford.

Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)

Pays for all or part of the cost of Tuition and Approved fees at a NJ county college

- Must take a minimum of six credits per semester
- Must make satisfactory academic progress

Tier I	AGI \$0 - \$65,000 for maximum award: Tuition & Approved Fees
Tier II	AGI \$65,001 – 80,000 for one half of the maximum award at that county college
Tier III	AGI \$80,001 - \$100,000 for one-third of the maximum award at that county college

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships



Garden State Guarantee

Pays for all or part of the cost of tuition and approved fees at a NJ state college

- New Jersey State Colleges and Universities
- Must make Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Available for students in their third and fourth year of enrollment at a public 4-year institution

Tier I	AGI \$0 - \$65,000 for maximum award: Tuition & Approved Fees	
Tier II	AGI \$65,001 – 80,000 pay a net price of no more than \$7,500 in tuition and approved fees	
Tier III	AGI \$80,001 - \$100,000 pay a net price of no more than \$10,000 in tuition and approved fees	

Types of Aid: State Grants & Scholarships 3 + 1 Degree Completion Programs

- Student enrolls in a bonafide 3 + 1 major/degree program
- Student completes the first two years at the community college and earns an associate degree
- Pays community college tuition and fees for the associate degree <u>and</u> the third year of their bachelor's degree program
- Attends and pays the four-year institution's tuition and fees in the final year of their bachelor's degree
- Must have a complete TAG record to be potentially eligible for TAG, NJSTARS, and/or CCOG



Loans & Financing Shortfall Solutions • Monthly Payment Plans – offered by the college

- Federal Direct Loan Program (1st year dependent student)
 - Subsidized Loan \$3,500 need based
 - Unsubsidized Loan \$2,000 additional

 2024 - 2025 - Federal Undergraduate Direct Loan interest rates are 6.53%, plus a 1.057% origination fee

2025 – 2026 federal rates and fees are subject to change

Other Loan Options to Cover the Gap Borrow up to cost of attendance less other aid

Terms	No Administrative Fee	Federal Parent PLUS Rate ³ /APR - Origination Fee 4.228%
10 - Year ²	5.99% APR	9.08% / 10.102% APR
15 - Year ²	6.99% APR	9.08% / 10.009% APR
20 - Year ²	7.99% APR	9.08% / 9.785% APR

10 - Year ²	Immediate repayment of principal and interest while in school
15 - Year ²	Interest only payments while in school
20 - Year ²	Full deferment while enrolled in school at least half time

2025 – 2026 interest rates will be determined in June 2025

Applications to Access Aid

studentaid.gov FAFSA Available by December 1, 2024

student.collegeboard.org/profile CSS Profile Available October 1, 2024





HESAA.org NJ Dreamer Available by October 1, 2024



NJ Dreamers may be eligible for state financial aid with the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application



Application: CSS Profile

- Approximately 400 colleges and organizations use the CSS profile to determine how they will award institutional (school-funded) aid
- Available 10/1 each year and collects more comprehensive income, asset, and household information than the FAFSA
- Uses prior-prior year income (2023 for 2025-2026)
- Mostly used by independent (private) colleges and universities

Register – Complete Application – Make payment – Submit No application fee for income under \$100,000
All others, \$25 for first application and \$16 for each additional CSS Profile

Website to apply for profile <u>https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/</u>

Website to apply for Noncustodial Profile: <u>https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/profile-for-parents</u>

Participating CSS Institutions: https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx



Customer Support - 844-202-0524 | Live Chat Available

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- The 2025-2026 FAFSA is available by December 1, 2024
- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate the student's Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI determines eligibility for federal student aid
- File the FAFSA electronically via FAFSA on the Web at <u>www.studentaid.gov</u>
 - FAFSA uses prior-prior year income information (2023 for award year 2025-26)
 - All contributors on the application (student and parent(s)) must provide consent to the IRS to obtain Federal Tax Information (FTI) to populate income and tax information with actual prior-prior year tax information
 - All prior-prior year tax information (2023) is already filed, allowing immediate retrieval.

2025-2026 Federal Student Aid ID

Used to provide consent to obtain Federal Tax Information and digitally sign the FAFSA

Student and all Information Contributors must create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at <u>www.studentaid.gov</u> by clicking on "create account"

Student identifies who the Information Contributor(s) are and invites them to contribute to the FAFSA. Each contributor must have their own separate FSA ID and password.

Information Contributors include: Biological Parent, Stepparent, and Adoptive Parent

Who Needs an FSA ID?

- If there are two parents who filed taxes jointly, only one parent
- If the parents are divorced/separated, the parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months
- If married or unmarried/living together but did not file taxes jointly, then each parent will need an FSA ID

2025-2026 Federal Student Aid ID for Undocumented Contributors

- Information Contributors who do not have an SSN will register with their name, date of birth, permanent address, email address and will have to verify identity through a knowledge-based verification process
- All contributors must be verified by individual email when creating the FSA ID
- Information Contributors who cannot verify identity will be able to complete the process of creating their FSA ID account and complete the FAFSA
- FSA will send a case number with information to submit documentation to verify identity via email

Federal Tax Information (FTI) • The IRS will request consent to retrieve your Federal Tax Information (FTI) into the FAFSA

• If parents are married or unmarried/living together, but did not file taxes jointly, then both will need to login to provide consent to retrieve federal tax information Federal Tax Information Consent Information Contributors will be instructed to provide Federal Tax Information from their 2023 tax return to be used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid for Award Year 2025-26

Provide Consent or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

Summary

Your consent is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA[®] form. If you don't provide consent, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

- Get your 2023 tax return information for the 2025-26 form.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Key Eligibility Requirements for FAFSA

- The student must have a valid Social Security Number
- Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible program of study
- Must be pursuing a degree, certificate, or other recognized postsecondary credential
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- New Jersey students who are undocumented and meet the NJ Dreamer qualifications should complete the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application for state-funded financial aid

Key Components of the FAFSA

- Student Contributor Section
 - \checkmark Full Name and address
 - ✓ Social Security Number or ITIN Number
 - ✓ Date of Birth
 - ✓ Mobile phone number (optional)
 - ✓ Email address
 - ✓ College/Career plans 20 Colleges
- Student Consent and Assets
 ✓ FTI (Federal Tax Information)
- Student Status: Personal Circumstances
 ✓ Dependent or Independent Determination
 ✓ Student Special Circumstances
 ✓ Student Unusual Circumstances
 - ✓ Social Security Number

- Parent Contributor Section
- ✓ Last Name
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Email address
- ✓ Family size FTI
- ✓ Income and Assets
- ✓ Federal Means-tested benefits
 - ✓ Medicaid, SSI, SNAP,
 - ✓ Free or Reduced Lunch
 - ✓ TANF, WIC, WITC QHP
- Business and Farm will be considered as assets in the calculation of the SAI
- Child Support received is an asset

FAFSA Submission Summary

All Information Contributors will receive an individual FAFSA Submission Summary

< Back				Print This Page
FAFSA DEM 2024-25	FAFSA Subr	mission Sumr	nary	
Student 🙎 Raya Tran	Application Received Sept. 10, 2024	Application Processed Sept. 12, 2024	Data Release Number ⑦ 2572	Viewing Submission 1 ③
Eligibility Overview FAFSA	Form Answers Scho	ol Information 0 Next S	iteps	

Applicants are instructed to log into "NJFAMS.HESAA.org" to create a user ID and password. In 3-5 business days, students can their check awards and eligibility status and complete any outstanding items on their "To Do" list (There is no separate State Application, only a To-Do List in the state's NJFAMS system).

Please note, all notifications will be sent to the student email address listed on the FAFSA.

Federal & State Verification

- School is responsible for verifying information for federal aid except for special circumstances
- HESAA is responsible for verifying information for State aid
- Schools may send request for information by mail or e-mail
- Always check your school account and NJFAMS account for required tasks
- Be sure to meet verification deadlines

New Jersey Dreamers

NJ Dreamers

If you qualify as an NJ Dreamer, you can apply for state aid to be used here in New Jersey. The eligibility details and the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application are a click away and HESAA remains available to help you apply!

Get Started Here

 Certain students with undocumented immigration status who attended at least 3 years and graduated from a NJ high school and meet other requirements may be eligible for State aid

- Application is part of NJFAMS, at https://njfams.hesaa.org
- Register for your account by creating a User ID and Password
- Login to complete the application by established deadlines
- Must meet all other need and/or merit-based eligibility criteria for State student aid

New Jersey Financial Aid Management System -NJFAMS

н	ligher Education Student Assistance Authority				۲	Governor Philip NJ Home Services A	D. Murphy • Lt. (A to Z Department Search		
	About Us	Students	Parents/Guardians S	chool Counselors F	inancial Aid Adminis	Public Notices		Login	
	Grant	ts		Scholarships		NJ Dre	eamers		
ogin Op		at you want to do, w	vill determine where you need to	login. Review the options	below and select your tab!				
NJFAMS	JCLASS Family Loans	NJ Dreamers	Financial Aid Administrators	School Counselors	NJ STARS and GUS	S Acceptance			
his is the N		•	h is designed for New Jersey stu state aid awards, view students' n				rd status, che	ck your To Do	list, and ap

- All students must go to "NJGRANTS.org"
- Establish an NJFAMS Account by creating a User ID and Password
- Track the status of your State-funded student aid and respond to required tasks on the To-Do List

NJFAMS – Menu

Welcome to NJFAMS!

Check your To Do List for additional information we need to process your grant or scholarship.

To Do List

 \checkmark

- Apply Online for New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid (Dreamer Students only)
- 🚔 View and Update Your School
- Apply Online for Scholarships
- 😤 Award and Eligibility Information
- Notifications
- Portal Announcements
- View And Update Your Contact Information
- Edit Your Profile

Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
- Food and housing
- Books and supplies, equipment, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses
- Medical Insurance
- Federal Loan Fees
- Study abroad costs
- Dependent care expenses
- Expenses related to a disability
- Expenses for cooperative education program

What Is The Student Aid Index (SAI)? • SAI is determined by a federal formula that calculates federal Pell grant eligibility and is used to determine further financial need using the information you supplied on the FAFSA

• SAI and Financial Need are guidelines used by schools to determine student aid offers

Federal Pell Grants -Sample SAI for Smith vs Jones Family The Smith family lives in New Jersey Married parents filing jointly Family size of 4 2023 adjusted gross income = \$94,002 Assets = \$0 Student income / assets = \$50 / \$213

> SAI = 8,667 \$o federal Pell grant eligibility

The Jones family lives in New Jersey Married parents filing jointly Family size of 6 2023 adjusted gross income = \$94,002 Assets = \$0 Student income / assets = \$50 / \$213

> SAI = 3,764 \$3,631 federal Pell grant eligibility

SAI Calculator: https://www.collegemoneymethod.com/2024-25-student-aid-index-sai-calculator/

Financial Need for Smith Family

College	Community	State College or	Private College or
	College	University	University
COA	\$8,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
SAI	8,667	8,667	8,667
Other Financial Aid	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unmet Financial Need	\$0	\$20,333	\$50,333

The Cycle of Financial Aid

December - March	Complete FAFSA application (Available December 1 st for 2025-26), college search, college application process, and CSS Profile
February - May	Schools send financial aid offers
June - July	Schools send Fall semester bills
August	Bills are due

Where Do I Go From Here? Obtain and review admission, financial aid materials and deadlines from each school to which you are applying

Meet all application deadlines

- CSS Profile if applicable
- Complete the FAFSA and any other application materials required by the school or your state agency
- NJ State deadlines for high school Class of 2025:

September 15, 2025 for Fall '25 and Spring '26 semesters and February 15, 2026 for Spring '26 ONLY awards

April 15, 2026 to renew your financial aid for Academic Year 2026-27

Note: After 1st year, students must renew ANNUALLY by April 15th e.g., April 15, 2026 for sophomore year, if the student received a State TAG award in the current year)

The College Financing Plan New Jersey Shopping Sheet

- Help families with net cost transparency
- Separates the Cost of Attendance
 listing the direct and indirect costs
- Grants and Scholarships (no repayment required, "free money")
- Student Net Costs in center box
- College coordinated work-study employment
- Federal Student Loans
- If necessary, alternate loans

Aid Offer must replicate the Shopping Sheet

Financial Aid Shopping Sheet for Acade Bachelor's Degree	mic Year 2024-2025
Total Cost of Attendance	Student Aid Index (SAI)
Direct Costs (what you will be billed) Indirect Expenses	/yr
Tuttion: \$ Books & Supplies: \$ Fees: \$ Transportation: \$ Food & Housing: (if you live of campus) \$ \$	Federal formula-based index number that helps your school determine how moch financial support you may need. https://studentaid.gov/help-center/ arewers/article/what-ie-sal
Loan Fees: \$ Dependent Care: \$ Total Direct Costs: \$ 0.00	Additional information within this section can be found at: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/
Total Cost of Attendance (Direct Costs and Indirect Expenses combined): \$0.00	Graduation Rate
Grants and Scholarships to Pay for College Merit-Based Scholarships Scholarships from your school \$	Percentage of full-time students who graduate within 150% of normal time to degree
Scholarships from your state \$ Other scholarships \$ Need-Based Grant Aid	This Institution%
Federal Pell Grants \$ Grants from your school \$ State Grants S Other forms of grant aid \$ Employer Paid Tuition Benefits \$ Total Grants and Scholarships (aid that does not have to be paid back) \$ 0.00 /yr	Bepayment.Bate Percentage of borrowers entering into repayment within 3 years of leaving school This Institution%
	Median Borrowing
What Will You Pay for College Direct Net Cost (Direct costs minus total grants and scholarships) Total Net Cost (Total Cost of Attendance minus total grants and scholarships) \$ 0.00 And scholarships) Options to Pay Net Costs	Students who borrow at this institution bypically take out s Federal loans for their undergraduate study. The Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately s your month. Your borrowing may be different.
Work Options	Student Loan Default Rate
Work-Study (Federal, state, or institutional) \$ /yr Work-Study = Estimated earnings from working. \$ /yr	Percentage of borrowers entering repayment and defaulting on Federal loans.
Federal Student Loan Options* (Must be repaid)	National Average - 10.1%
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (For current interest rates click here) \$ //yT	
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (For current interest rates click here) \$ /yr ' You must repay loans, plus interest and fees. Note that the amounts listed above are the maximum available to you – you are allowed and encouraged to borrow lies than the maximum amount.	This Institution%
The acceptance or declination of one or more loan offers shall not impact a student's eligibility for any other grants or scholarships detailed in the student's financial aid award letter.	Repaying your loans
Other Loan Options (Must be repaid) Parent PLUS Federal Loan** (For current interest rates click here) \$ /yr Private Loan** \$ /yr	To learn about loan repayment choices and work out your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to: https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/ repayment
Institutional Loan (% interest rate) S J/r "These loans are loaned to parents or may require a credit worthy cosigner. In addition, such loans do not have the same borre protections as Federal Direct Budent loans, and include higher fees. You must repay loans, plus retrest and fees. The amounts itsed above are the maximum available to you – you are allowed and errorulaged to berrow ites fant have maximum amount.	NJ Grants and Scholarships Visit www.nigranls.org and leg into your NJFAMS account or call our customer care line at 609-584-4480

Other Resources

- Outside Scholarships
- Campus-Administered Payment Plans
- Campus Employment (including schoolsponsored "work-study" jobs)
- Specialized Campus Opportunities
 - \checkmark Residential Advisors
 - ✓ Student Ambassadors
 - ✓ Student Tour Guides
 - ✓ Internships/Co-ops

Private Scholarship Search Institution/college websites

- Local library resources
- Local businesses, civic organizations and churches ✓ Check with your High School guidance office
- Parent's employer(s)
- •www.hesaa.org
- •www.fastweb.com
- •www.collegeboard.org
- •www.mappingyourfuture.org



NJBEST 529 College Savings Plan



- HESAA awards a one-time scholarship ranging from \$2,000 - \$6,000 to NJBEST beneficiaries who enroll in a New Jersey institution after making contributions to an account for at least 4 years
- NJBEST offers a matching grant up to \$750 for new accounts
- State tax deduction for up to \$10,000 in annual contributions to an account

To Learn More: https://www.hesaa.org/pages/NJBESTHome.aspx

Apply for State Aid Workshops & Webinars

 Fafsa
 Need help completing the 2024-2025 FAFSA??

 Join us online as we walk you through the revised
 Join us online as we walk you through the revised

 Webinar Dates
 Webinar Dates

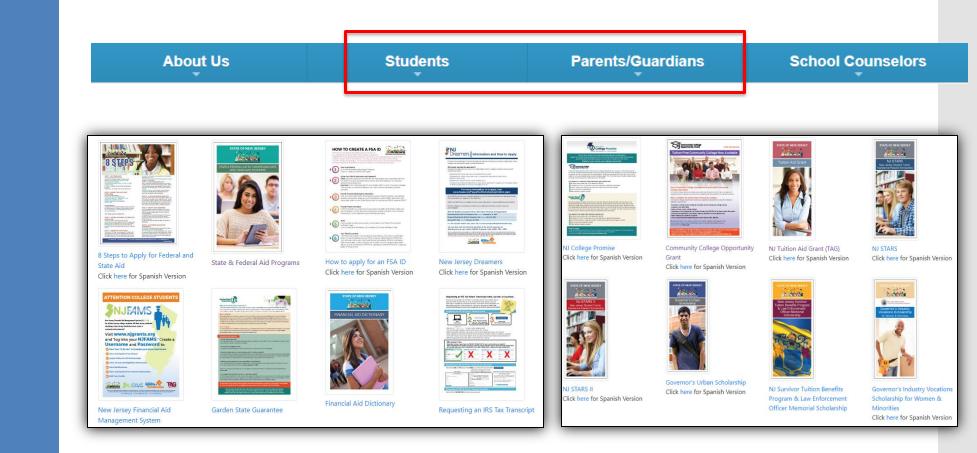
The 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®]) opens by December 2024.

Most colleges and universities provide FAFSA[®] Completion Workshops to assist families with completing the FAFSA[®] application. For FAFSA[®] Virtual Workshops dates please check your local high school or college. You are also invited to join one of HESAA's virtual events.

Pre-recorded Webinars

Steps on how to apply for federal and state aid	View/Download YouTube Video
Steps on how to apply for the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application	YouTube Video (English) YouTube Video (Spanish)

Publications



HESAA Services

• Customer Care Center CustomerCare@hesaa.org 609-584-4480 Monday – Thursday: 8:30 – 8 and Friday: 8:30 – 5:00 Online Resources www.hesaa.org www.njgrants.org www.njclass.org https://njfams.hesaa.org www.hesaa.org/pages/financialaidhub

QUESTIONS?



HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Thank you