



What is an FSA ID?

The **Federal Student Aid ID** is a unique username and password you create and use to log into your Federal Student Aid's account to fill out the FAFSA form, and more.

The **FAFSA** stands for **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. This form is always FREE to complete. Colleges and universities use the FAFSA information to determine what gift aid (grants and scholarships) a student is eligible for. If a student does not fill out the FAFSA, they will not be offered any federal financial aid and may experience delays with institutional aid. **Both the student and parent(s) will need to create a unique FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, this is the first step.**

How to Create Your FSA ID

***To allow time for your FSA ID to be verified, you must create it one week prior to filling out the FAFSA.**

1. Start by going to studentaid.gov.
2. From the homepage, click **"Create Account"**.
3. On the next screen click **"Get Started"**.
4. Type in your **full legal name, date of birth, and social security number***, then click "Continue".
 - a. *No social security number? No problem! FSA will offer you an alternative way to verify your identity.
5. On the next page, create your **unique username, password**, and enter your **PERSONAL* email**.
 - a. *It is especially important for students to use a **personal email**, NOT school email address, as this form will need to be accessed in years to come.
6. On the following page, enter your **home address and cell phone number**, then click "Continue".
7. On the Communications Preferences Page, select if you prefer **email or postal mail** notifications – *email is recommended*.
8. On the next page, set your **challenge questions and answers**, then click "Continue".
9. On the two-step verification page, verify your **email and cell phone number** by clicking "Verify" and enter the unique code that will be sent to you. Click "Continue".
10. On the next page, a backup code will appear. Please save this for security if you ever get locked out of your account. Then, click "Continue".



Scan to Start

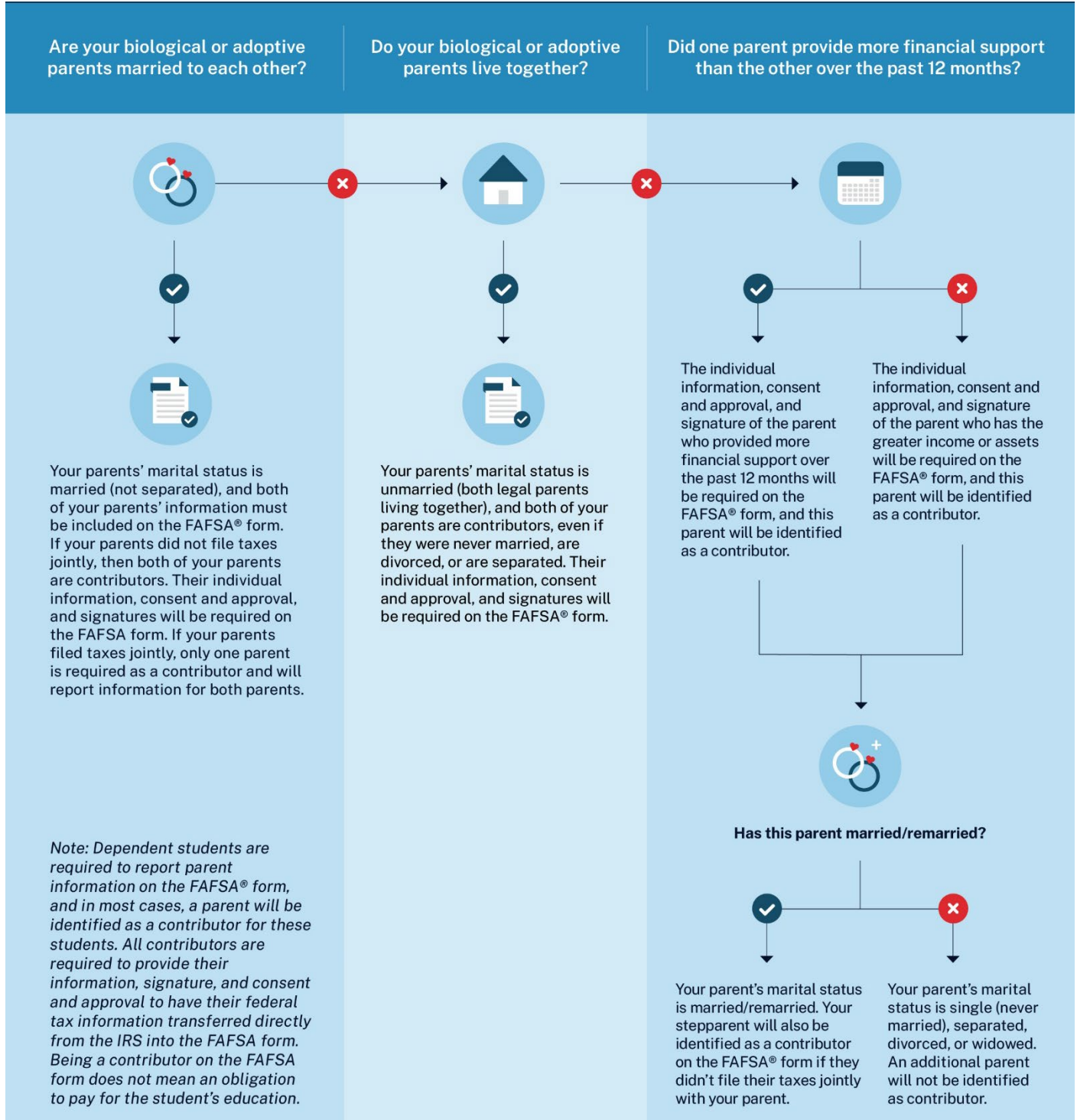


Congratulations! You have successfully created your FSA ID.

A confirmation message will be sent to your email shortly.

Make sure to repeat these steps for BOTH, the student and parent(s).

To determine who needs to create an FSA ID in your scenario, refer to the chart below:



Source: FSA, Effective September 2023

Explore events and opportunities for one-on-one assistance at vsac.org/events.