

School Counseling Department News Weeks of December 12 and December 19

IMPORTANT FAFSA INFORMATION

Many of you are aware about the change in completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). Students and parents were able to complete their FAFSA beginning October 1, 2016, much earlier than in the past. Several million students already have their FAFSA filed for the fall of 2017.

From the Federal Website: Starting with the 2017–18 FAFSA, the application is available earlier and requests prior-prior-year income information.

- The 2017–18 FAFSA became available for applicants to fill out beginning on Oct. 1, 2016. This is three months earlier than the traditional FAFSA launch date of Jan. 1.
- The October launch date will continue in subsequent years.

The 2017–2018 FAFSA requests **2015** tax returns. Traditionally, the FAFSA has requested information from the tax return due near the beginning of the application cycle. For instance, the 2016–2017 FAFSA requires 2015 tax information, which some applicants did not have available in time for school or state deadlines that fell early in 2016. Subsequent FAFSAs will request data from tax returns that should already have been filed (prior-prior-year), simplifying the process for applicants.

Click below to see how your high school seniors are doing in completing their FAFSA and get the word out! Students with questions should reach out to the Financial Aid Office at their college of choice. Many colleges and universities have made their deadlines much earlier to comply with this national initiative so the normal deadlines you are used to, may no longer be valid.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>

<https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/announcement-detail.jsp?id=2017-18-fafsa-changes>

IMPORTANT COLLEGE DEADLINE INFORMATION

Seniors with a **January 1, application deadline**: due to the upcoming holiday break, the Counseling Office is asking that you please aim to have your applications completed and submitted by **Monday, December 21**. The School Counseling Office is closed for the entire break. Please see your school counselor for more information.

****Students are reminded to check their school email regularly for important updates and information from the School Counseling Office!****