

■ College Ready: FAFSA Parent Checklist 2025–2026

Here's your quick-reference guide to stay organized and ahead of upcoming FAFSA changes for the 2025–2026 school year.

■ Key Dates

- FAFSA form available nationwide by December 1, 2025.
- Federal deadline: June 30, 2026.
- Check your state and college websites for priority deadlines — many are earlier!

■ Major FAFSA Changes

- Simplified form with fewer, clearer questions.
- New phased rollout for reliability and improved tech features.
- Easier tax data transfer using 2023 income.
- Updated rules for family businesses and small farms.

■ Parent Action Steps

- Create or update your FSA ID for both parent and student.
- Gather 2023 tax return, W-2s, and bank/investment statements.
- Note your college and state financial aid deadlines.
- Discuss special financial circumstances (job loss, medical expenses, etc.) with your student.
- Decide who will fill out each FAFSA section.
- Set your own family deadline — aim to file by February or March 2026.

■ Tip

The earlier you file, the better your chances for institutional and state aid. Organization now saves stress later!

Visit www.college-ready.blog for more college planning tools and guides.