



## 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.**

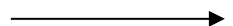
## How to Create Your FSA ID

**\*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](https://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

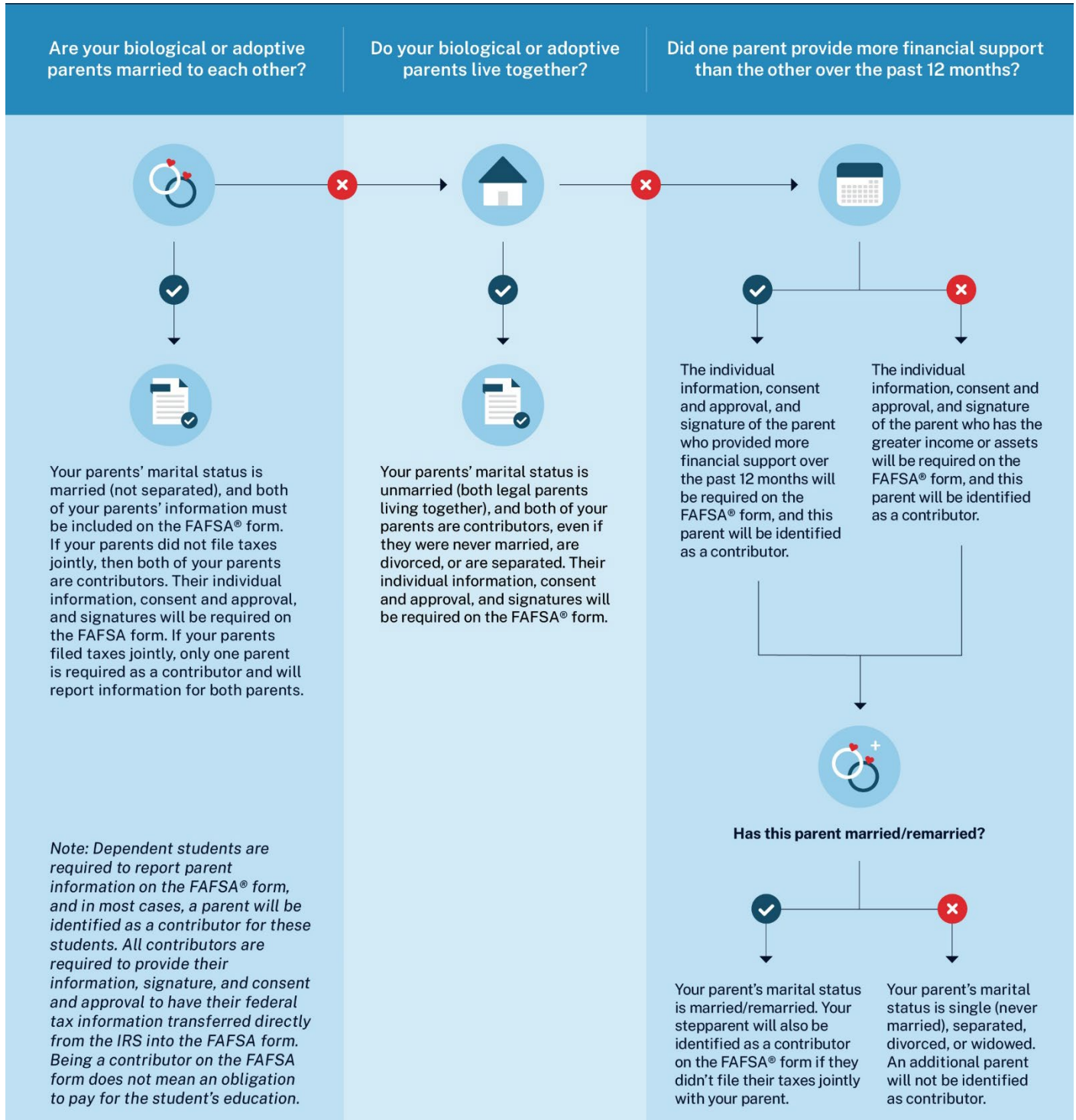


# Congratulations! You have successfully created your FSA ID.

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](https://vsac.org/events).