Instructions for completing the FAFSA

FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is the application used by colleges to determine eligibility for need based aid programs.

FSA ID ➤ FAFSA ➤ FAFSA sent to listed colleges ➤ Verification ➤ Award letter from college

1. First step – create an FSA ID. Go to www.fsaid.ed.gov. Both student and 1 parent will need to create a unique FSA ID. Student FSA ID will be used to log in to the FAFSA while the parent FSA ID will be used to link to the IRS for tax information and to sign the FAFSA.
2. Note there are instances when a student is considered FAFSA independent and in that case will not need a parent FSA ID or any parent information on the FAFSA. For more information, go to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/2021/help/need-parent-info.
3. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete and submit the FAFSA. (Note: if student does not have a social security number, go to www.readysetgrad.org to determine if you should submit WASFA instead).
4. In the FAFSA, it is extremely important to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to transfer 2019 tax information into the FAFSA form. Use this tool if at all possible. If you do not, you will be required to submit 1040 tax forms, W2s, and other documentation to each college financial aid office.
5. After you successfully submit your FAFSA, you will see your Expected Family contribution (EFC). This number is the amount the federal government believes you should be responsible to contribute to next year's college costs.
6. You may be selected for verification which is a sort of audit system. If you are selected, you will be notified by the college financial aid office. Comply with all verification requests.
7. In early Spring, your student will receive an award letter from each college listed on FAFSA showing what forms of financial aid that school is able to offer. This could include:
   a. Grants
   b. Scholarships
   c. Tuition waivers
   d. Work study
   e. Loans (student and parent)

After submitting FAFSA, all questions and inquiries should be directed to the college financial aid offices.

Questions?
Dawn Hilsendeger
College and Career Coordinator
Ferris High School
354-6085

dawnh@spokaneschools.org