

# Financial Aid Requirement

New Requirement for High School Graduation  
Begins with Current 12th Graders



# WHAT IS THE NEW REQUIREMENT?



Click the logo to read more.

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0256, beginning with students enrolled in 12th grade during the 2021-2022 school year, each student must do one of the following in order to graduate:

- Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA); or
- Submit a signed opt-out form.



# Beginning with the Class of 2022

As part of Texas House Bill 3, all 12th grade students graduating in the 2021-2022 school year are required to complete the FAFSA, TASFA or Opt-Out Form in order to be eligible to graduate.

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

## State Financial Aid (TASFA)

If you're a foreign student or non-US citizen residing in Texas, you may still be eligible to be classified as a Texas resident for tuition purposes. If so, you may also be eligible to receive state financial aid.



# Types of Financial Aid

Grants

Scholarships

Work-Study Jobs

Federal Loans

[Click HERE to read more about ALL types of Financial Aid](#)

## **You are applying for state, school, and federal funding.**

There is no income cut-off to qualify; many factors (such as family size and year in school) are considered to determine aid packages. Don't make assumptions about what you'll get; try it and find out!

Add up to 10 schools on the application. Each school offers varying award packages to those who qualify.

### **Grant opportunities.**

Many students with financial needs may be eligible to receive grants. Most types of grants, unlike loans, are sources of free money that generally do not have to be repaid.

### **Scholarship consideration.**

Some schools won't even consider you for the scholarship (including academic) until you have submitted a FAFSA form. Scholarships are gifts. They don't need to be repaid. There are thousands of them, offered by schools, employers, individuals, private companies, nonprofits, communities, religious groups, and professional and social organizations.

### **Work-Study opportunities.**

The Federal Work-Study Program allows you to earn money to pay for school by working part-time.

### **Low interest student loans.**

Although loans should be considered as a last resort, submitting a FAFSA may qualify the student/parent for low-interest federal loans.

When you receive a student loan, you are borrowing money to attend a college or career school. You must repay the loan as well as interest that accrues. It is important to understand your repayment options so you can successfully repay your loan.

# COMPLETING THE FAFSA INVOLVES COMPLETING TAX RETURNS

To complete the FAFSA this school year, parents will use their 2020 tax returns.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool electronically transfers federal tax return information to the FAFSA form. Click [HERE](#) to see how this option can help when it comes to completing the FAFSA.



# WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO GET READY FOR THE FAFSA?

## KNOW YOUR AID DEADLINES

To begin planning, visit <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/fafsa-deadlines>.

Be mindful of each important deadline:

- Federal Deadlines
- College Deadlines
- State Deadlines

## COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

The FAFSA and TASFA becomes available on **October 1st**. Complete the application by the earliest deadline.

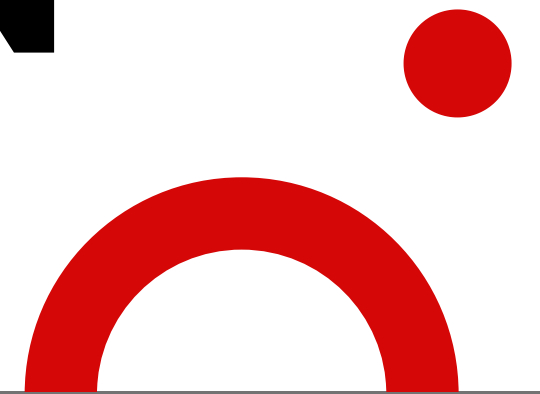
If eligible, financial aid is awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## USE YOUR RESOURCES

Texas OnCourse has several resources and information to help get you started.

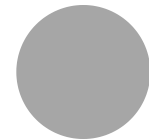
Also, talk to our high school counselor about campus workshops and events.

**FINANCIAL AID IS ONLY ONE  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
GRADUATION, BUT IT IS AN  
IMPORTANT ONE.**



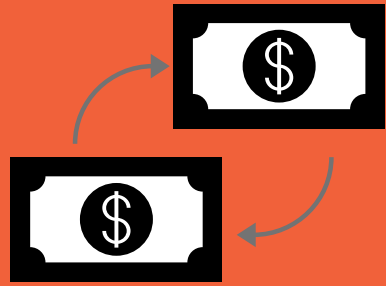
Talk to your high school counselor about ALL of your high school requirements for graduation.





# Free Resources

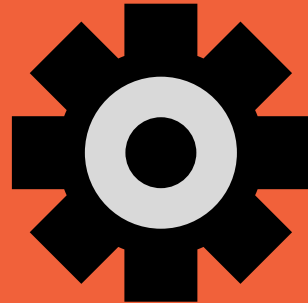
Here are a few resources to explore. Contact your high school counselor for more information on how to ensure that you meet this graduation requirement!



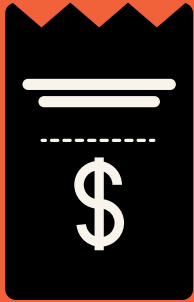
**Texas On Course**



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**Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators**



**College for All Texas**



**Unique Financial Circumstances**



**Creating an FSA ID**