

# What is FAFSA?

## Lesson Plan

### Lesson Objective:

- The learner will demonstrate an understanding of what the FAFSA is and why it is an important form to complete.

### Materials:

- Computers and internet access to <https://studentaid.ed.gov>
- What is FAFSA? worksheet

### Introduction:

- The teacher will discuss the importance of financial aid planning by discussing the following points:
  - In order to receive financial aid, you need to apply for it using the FAFSA.
  - Learning key facts about the FAFSA will ensure that you apply correctly and in a timely fashion.

### Instruction:

- Have the students log onto the U.S. Department of Education FAFSA website <https://studentaid.ed.gov>.
  - Direct students to click on the “ABOUT US” tab at the top of the page and read through the information.
  - Give students a few minutes to explore and navigate through other parts of the website.
- Distribute the What is FAFSA? worksheet.
- Students partner up to complete the What is FAFSA? worksheet using information from the website.
- Teacher and students review the answers to the worksheet.

### Closure:

- Students will write a reflective journal entry to the following question: “How can I ensure that my parents and I do not miss out on any possible financial aid opportunities for which I am eligible?”
- The teacher will solicit volunteers to share journal entries.

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## Worksheet

**Directions:** Using information from the website <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about>, answer the following questions.

1. For what does FAFSA stand for?
2. Who is the largest provider of student financial aid in the nation?
3. How much money does the federal government spend on grants, loans, and work study funds each year to pay for college or career school?
4. How many students per year benefit from federal student aid?
5. List **3** ways in which Federal Student Aid ensures that students and their families can benefit from various programs.

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## Worksheet

**Directions:** Using information from the website <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about>, answer the following questions.

6. For what does FAFSA stand for?

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid**

7. Who is the largest provider of student financial aid in the nation?

**U.S. Department of Education**

8. How much money does the federal government spend on grants, loans, and work study funds each year to pay for college or career school?

**\$150 billion per year**

9. How many students per year benefit from federal student aid?

**13 million**

10. List **3** ways in which Federal Student Aid ensures that students and their families can benefit from various programs.

- **informing students and families about the availability of the federal student aid programs and the process for applying for and receiving aid from those programs**
- **developing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and processing approximately 22 million FAFSA submissions each year**
- **accurately disbursing, reconciling, and accounting for all federal student aid funds that are delivered to students each year through more than 6,200 colleges and career schools**
- **managing the outstanding federal student loan portfolio and securing repayment from federal student loan borrowers**

- **offering free assistance to students, parents, and borrowers throughout the entire financial aid process;**
- **providing oversight and monitoring of all program participants—schools, financial entities, and students— to ensure compliance with the laws, regulations, and policies governing the federal student aid programs.**