2024 - 2025 Financial Aid High School Presentation

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The Mission

The Higher Education Student Assistance Authority is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue their education beyond high school.

What We Will Discuss Tonight

- What is financial aid?
- How is eligibility determined?
- What is the Student Aid Index (SAI)?
- Types and sources of financial aid
- Financial aid packaging; comparing offers
- Special circumstances
- Consumer Issues
- Overview of the FAFSA and Profile Form
- Major changes in the federal aid process for 2024-2025

What Is Financial Aid?

- Generally speaking, financial aid includes all funds made available to students that do not come from their family.
- Sources are the federal and state governments, the colleges themselves and private sources
- It comes in the form of grants, scholarships, loans and student employment

What Forms are Required and When?

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- College Board Profile Form
- Verification Documents/Tax Documents
- Non-custodial parent information
- Know your school's requirements and deadlines

Student Aid Index (SAI)

- SAI is an number will be used by colleges to determine a student's financial aid eligibility.
- Derived from a formula that assesses contributions from the parents and the student
- The Federal SAI determines eligibility for federal programs.
- Some colleges use an institutional calculation, called Expected Family Contribution (EFC), to determine eligibility for institutional funds.
- EFC Calculator: Available on the College Board Web Site:

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator

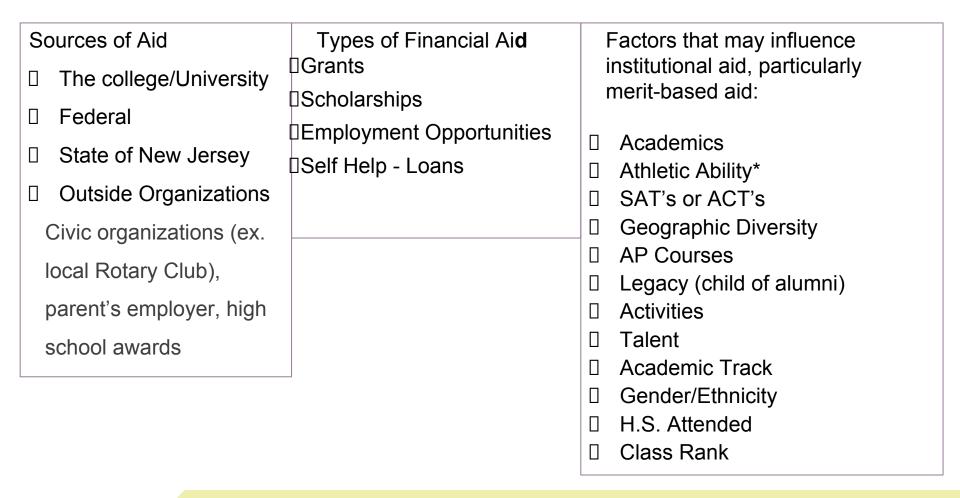
How Is Eligibility Determined?

- Cost of Attendance (COA) direct and indirect costs
- Adjustments for special circumstances study abroad, disability costs
- Federal vs. Institutional calculations; differences in assessment
- Need= COA SAI

Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies, equipment, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses
- Loan fees
- Study abroad costs
- Dependent care expenses
- Expenses related to a disability
- Expenses for cooperative education program

Sources & Types of Aid



Grants

- Gift aid; does not have to be repaid
- Most often awarded on the basis of need

Scholarships

- A form of "gift aid," does not have to be paid back
- Awarded on the basis of academic, artistic, athletics or other merit attribute

Loans

- Must be repaid
- Federal loans
- Privately financed loans
- Terms vary significantly by program
- Borrow wisely
- Is it a good investment?

Student Employment

- Offered by colleges using federal or institutional funds
- Part time
- Paid via a paycheck
- Not generally applied to the college bill

Federal Aid Program 2023-2024

- Federal programs provide by a wide margin the largest portion of assistance
- Awarded primarily on the basis of need
- Students must apply each year
- Federal Pell Grant up to \$7,395 (EFC cut-off 6,656)
- Federal Stafford Loan
- Federal PLUS Loan
- Campus-Based Programs: SEOG and Federal Work-Study

Federal Stafford Loans

Interest rate for Federal Stafford Loans for undergraduate students for the 2023-20243 academic year is 5.5% fixed plus a 1.057% origination fee

Grade Level	Dependent Undergraduate Student	Independent Undergraduate Student
Freshman	\$5,500 (max \$3,500 subsidized)	\$9,500 (max \$3,500 subsidized)
Sophomore	\$6,500 (max \$4,500 subsidized)	\$10,500 (max \$4,500 subsidized)
Juniors, Seniors and Beyond	\$7,500 (max \$5,500 subsidized)	\$12,500 (max \$5,500 subsidized)
Cumulative Limit	\$31,000 (max \$23,000 subsidized)	\$57,500 (max \$23,000 subsidized)

Net Price Calculator

- All institutions must have a net price calculator posted on their websites.
- Students will be able to estimate the individual net price per institution.
- Based on full-time, first degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students.

New Jersey State Grants 2023-24 Academic Year

Award Type	Award Amounts
Full-Time TAG	\$1,280 - \$14,404
Part-Time TAG (community college only)	\$320-\$1,097
EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)	Up to \$3,050 includes college success support
NJ STARS (top 15% of high school class junior or senior year)	Tuition Only - community college only
NJ STARS II	Up to \$2,500 per year – any NJ 4 year college
Governor's Urban Scholarship (GUS)	Up to \$1,000
NJ-GIVS (women and minorities)	Up to \$2,000 building trades only
Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)!	After all other grant/scholarship aid- tuition and most fees – FREE for AGI \$65,000 or less, \$65,001 to 80,000 is 50% reduced tuition & fees, and \$80,001 to \$100,000 is 33% reduced tuition and fees
Garden State Guarantee (GSG)	After all other grant/scholarship aid- tuition and most fees – FREE for AGI \$65,000 or less, \$65,001 to 80,000 is not to exceed \$7,500 tuition & fees, and \$80,001 to \$100,000 is not to exceed \$10,000 tuition and fees
Summer TAG 2023-24 & 2024-25	Must be enrolled at least half–time and received at least one TAG payment in the prior academic year Students can have up to 4 payments of summer TAG.



State Grants & Scholarship Requirements

Students must have a complete Application for TAG (Tuition Aid Grant) and all other programs by:

- Filing a FAFSA or New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application
- Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen or NJ Dreamer
- Must be New Jersey Resident & attend a New Jersey Institution
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Demonstrate Financial Need
- Must be full time at an approved degree program
- Meet all state deadlines for application and document submission
- Part-Time TAG for County Colleges full-time enrollment exception of being enrolled for 6-11 credits

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarships

TAG (Tuition Aid Grant)

- File FAFSA or New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application
- Demonstrate Financial Need
- Be a U.S. citizen, eligible non-citizen or NJ Dreamer
- Must be New Jersey Resident & attend a New Jersey Institution
- Must be full time at an approved degree program
- Meet all state deadlines
- Part-Time TAG for County Colleges
 - Meet all TAG requirements
 - With the exception of being enrolled for 6-11 credits

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarships

Summer TAG (Tuition Aid Grant)

- Received TAG in the prior Fall or Spring semester
- Award range dependent upon enrollment status
 - Full-time, Three Quarter-time, or Half-time

EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)

Award ranges from \$200 - \$3,050 annually depending on type of institution

Must demonstrate educational and economically disadvantaged background

Complete all required EOF tasks

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarship

Governor's Urban Scholarship

- Rank within the top 5% of their class at the end of junior year
 - Attain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the junior year
 - Reside in a designated community
 - Have a New Jersey Eligibility Index below 10,500

Asbury Park City	Burlington City	Bridgeton	Camden City	East Orange City	Elizabeth	Garfield	Gloucester City	Harrison	Hoboken
Irvington Township	Jersey City	Keansburg	Lakewood	Long Branch	Millville City	Neptune Township	Newark City	New Brunswick City	Orange
Passaic City	Paterson City	Pemberton Township	Perth Amboy	Phillipsburg	Plainfield City	Pleasantville	Roselle Borough	Salem City	Trenton City
Union City	Vineland City	West New York							

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarship

NJ STARS

- NJ residents who rank in the top 15% of their class at either the end of junior or senior year
- Students must attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the start of the third semester at the county college to remain an NJ STAR

<u>NJ STARS II</u>

- Received NJSTARS funding and have a family taxable income of less than \$250,000
- Must earn an associates degree and graduate with a 3.25 GPA or higher
- May receive up to \$2,500 annually for a public or private 4-year NJ college or university
- Must take at least 12 college credits or 6 credits with a qualified doctors note

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarships

Governor's Industry Vocation Scholarship for Women & Minorities (NJ - GIVS)

- Up to \$2,000 per year for the cost of enrollment at one of New Jersey's 18 County Colleges, Technical / Vocational Schools, some Proprietary Schools
- Benefits women and minorities pursuing certificate or degree programs in construction – related fields
- Must be NJ resident and have AGI < \$60,000
- Complete separate application online. Found in the students NJFAMS account, Apply for Scholarships
- Some of the programs eligible for the scholarship include
 - Construction Supervision
 - Solar Energy Technology
 - Architectural Engineering Technology

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarships

Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)

Pays for all or part of the cost of Tuition and Approved fees

Must take a minimum of six credits per semester Must make satisfactory academic progress

Tier One	AGI - \$0 - \$65,000 for maximum award
Tier Two	AGI - \$65,001 – 80,000 for 50% of the maximum award
Tier Three	AGI - \$80,001 - \$100,000 for 33% of the maximum award

Types of Aid State Grants & Scholarships Garden State Guarantee

New Jersey State Colleges and Universities

Must make Satisfactory Academic Progress

Available for students in their third and fourth year of enrollment

Tier One	AGI - \$0 - \$65,000 for maximum award
Tier Two	AGI - \$65.001 – 80,000 will pay a discounted price of no more than \$7,500
Tier Three	AGI - \$80,001 - \$100,000 will pay a discounted price of no more than \$10,000

3 + 1 Degree Completion Programs

- Student enrolls in a bona fide 3 + 1 major/degree program
- Student completes the first two years at the community college and earns an Associate Degree
- Pays community college tuition and fees for the associate degree and the third year of their program
- Attends and pays the four-year institution tuition and fees in the final year
- Meet all other eligibility criteria for TAG, NJSTARS, CCOG

Self Help Loans to Cover the Gap

Borrow up to cost of attendance

2023 - 2024 - NJCLASS Supplemental Loan Program

10 Year Fixed Rate NJCLASS LOAN, starting at 5.49%
 15 Year Fixed Rate NJCLASS LOAN is 5.69%
 20 Year Fixed Rate NJCLASS LOAN is 7.49%

No Loan Fees for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

- Federal PLUS Program 8.05% with a 4.228% origination fee Origination fee, Parent is the borrower
- Private Educational Loans terms and underwriting vary significantly

2024 – 2025 Rates and fees are subject to change

Other Resources

- Outside Scholarships
- Campus Administered Payment Plans
- Campus Employment
- Specialized Campus Opportunities
- Residential Advisors
- Student Ambassadors/Tour Guides
- ✓ Internships/CO-OP'S

Other Resources Private Scholarship Search

- High school guidance office
- Institution/college web sites
- Local library resources
- Local businesses, civic organizations and churches
- Parent's employer(s)
- www.hesaa.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.mappingyourfuture.org



Financial Aid Packaging

- Entitlement/formula driven awards
 - Pell Grants
 - Tuition Aid Grants (TAG)
- Federal Stafford Loan
- Other Federal aid: SEOG and Federal Work-Study
- Institutional aid

Financial Aid Packaging

- Institutionally funded grants and scholarships
- Need-based or merit-based?
- Renewability?
- Changes in future years
- Differential/Preferential aid packaging
- Need gaps
- Schools meeting full need far and few between
- What is your bottom line?
- Difficult decisions

Appeals

- Can you make an appeal? Absolutely!
- If it is an appeal based on need, be prepared to make your case that you have unmet need
- If it is based on academic merit, be sure you have a case to make that the student is deserving at that institution
- Set the right tone; do not try to "negotiate"
- Disclosing offers from other schools. Is it a good idea?
- Success of appeal will be based on the school and timing

Other Considerations

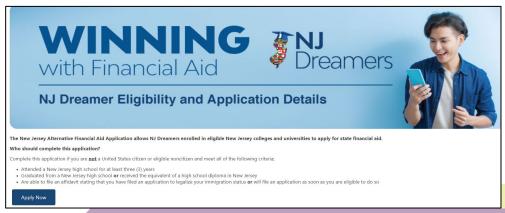
- Treatment of outside scholarships
- Scholarship scams
- Consultants: good or bad idea?
- Treatment of assets

Applications to Access Aid

studentaid.gov Available December 2023



HESAA.org
Available December 2023



student.collegeboard.org/profile
Available October 1, 2023



Application: CSS Profile

- Approximately 400 Colleges and Organizations use the CSS profile to determine how they will award institutional funds
- Available 10/1 each year and collects more comprehensive income, asset, and household information than the FAFSA
- Uses prior prior year income (2022 for 2024-2025)

Register - Complete Application – Make payment – Submit No payment for income under \$100,000 All others, \$25 for first application and \$16 for each additional

CSS Profile

Website to apply for profile

https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/

Website to apply for Noncustodial Profile:

https://www.proprofs.com/training/course/?title=202223-completing-the -css-profile-for-noncustodial-parent 610a90e612320

> Customer Support 844-202-0524 Live Chat Available

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- 2024-2025 "A Better" FAFSA is available December 2023
- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate the student's Student Aid Index (SAI)
- File the FAFSA electronically via FAFSA on the Web at www.studentaid.gov
 - FAFSA Uses prior-prior year income information (2022)
- All "contributors" on the application must provide consent to the IRS to obtain Federal Tax Information (FTI) to populate income & tax information with actual prior - prior year tax information
 - All prior-prior year tax information (2022) is already filed, allowing immediate retrieval.

FAFSA Simplification

- Form will have half as many questions from recent forms
- Significant changes from the current form and process
 - Requires students and parents to authorize transfer of information from the IRS to be eligible for federal aid
 - ☐ Family size will be based on IRS data, number of exemptions
 - In cases where parents are divorced or separated, parent of record is now the parent providing primary support of the student in the previous twelve months
 - □ No longer factors in multiple children in college
 - Now requires assets for small businesses and farms to be reported
 - ☐ Fewer forms of non-taxable income are now factored, only those from tax return
 - New treatment of 529 plans, only plans in the student's name to be reported as a parental asset
 - ☐ Allows student to file under a Provisional Independent status

2024-2025 Federal Student Aid ID

Used to provide consent to obtain Federal Tax Information, sign the FAFSA.

Student and all information contributors must create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at www.studentaid.gov by clicking on 'create account

Student Identifies who the information contributor(s) are and invites them to contribute to the FAFSA. Each contributor must have an FSA ID and password.

Parental Contributors include: Biological Parent, Stepparent, and Adoptive Parent

- One parent if parents filed jointly
- Parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months
- If married or unmarried/living together but did not file taxes jointly, then both contributors will need an FSA ID

All contributors must be verified by individual email when creating the FSA ID

2024-2025 Federal Student Aid ID for Undocumented contributors

Information Contributors with an ITIN number must use the ITIN number to create their FSA ID and will have to verify identity.

Information Contributors who do not have a SSN will register with all zeros and will have to verify identity through a knowledge based verification process.

All contributors must be verified by individual email when creating the FSA ID

Information Contributors who cannot verify identity must contact FSA to submit documentation and if still cannot verify identify must complete a paper FAFSA

Federal Tax Information (FTI)

- The IRS will request consent to retrieve your Federal Tax Information (FTI) into the FAFSA
- The FTI will be available beginning December 2023 to support the Better FAFSA
- If married or unmarried/living together but did not file taxes jointly, then both will need to log in to provide consent to retrieve federal tax information

Federal Tax Information Consent

Information Contributors will be instructed to provide Federal Tax Information from their 2022 tax return to be used to determine the students eligibility for federal student aid

Provide Consent or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

Summary

Your consent is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

- → Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.
- → FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

General Highlighted Eligibility Requirements for FAFSA

- The student must have a valid Social Security Number
- Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible program of study
- Must be pursuing a degree, certificate, or other recognized credential
- Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
 - New Jersey students who are not citizens or eligible non-citizens should complete the NJDREAMER application

Key Components of the FAFSA

- Student Contributor Section
 - Full Name and address
 - Social Security Number or ITIN Number
 - Date of Birth
 - Mobile phone number (optional)
 - Email address
 - College/Career plans
- Student Consent and Assets
 - FTI
- Student Status: Personal Circumstances
 - Dependent or Independent Determination

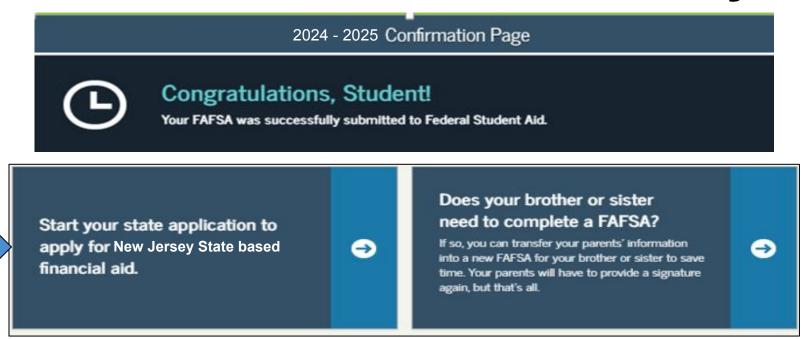
Student Special Circumstances Student Unusual Circumstances

- Parent(s) Contributor Section(s)
 - Social Security Number
 - Last Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Email address

Key Components of the FAFSA (cont.)

- Family Size
 - FTI will import this data
- Parent(s) Income and Assets
 - FTI will import income data
 - Income earned from work
- Federal Means Tested Benefits
 - Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, Free or Reduced Price School Lunch, TANF, WIC, EITC, QHP
 - Can list up to 20 colleges

FAFSA Submission Summary



This link redirects filers to view instructions regarding the NJFAMS Student Portal. Applicants are instructed to log into "NJFAMS.HESAA.org" to create a user ID and password. In 3-5 business days, students can their check awards and eligibility status and complete any outstanding items on their "To Do" list (There is no State Application only a To-Do-List).

Please note, all notifications will be sent to the student email address listed on the FAFSA.

Federal & State Verification

- SCHOOL is responsible for verifying information for federal aid except for special circumstances
- HESAA is responsible for verifying information for State aid
- Schools may send request for information by mail or e-mail
- Always check your school account and NJFAMS account for required tasks
- Be sure to meet verification deadlines

New Jersey Dreamers



Apply Now for Fall 2024 & Spring 2025





Create a login for the NJ Financial Aid Management System (NJFAMS)



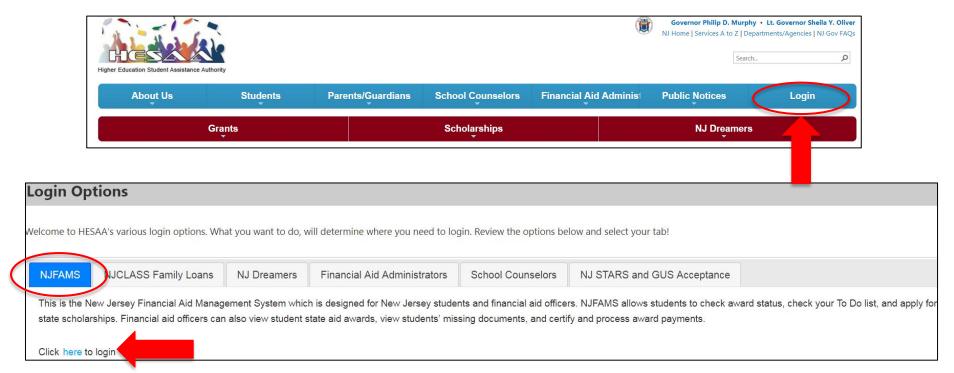
Access your NJFAMS Account



Select "Apply Online for New Jersey Financial Aid (Dreamer Students Only)"

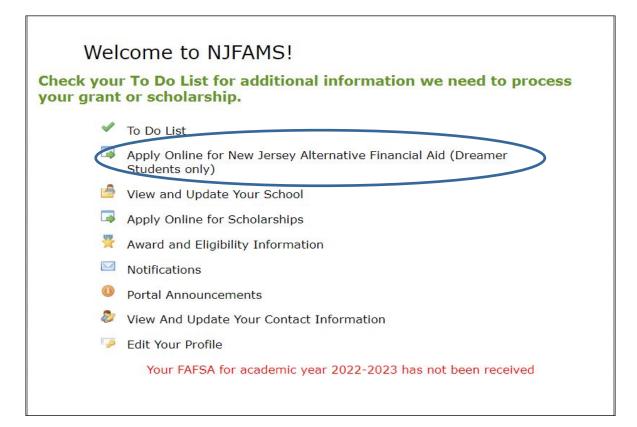
- All students must go to https://njfams.hesaa.org
- Register for your account by creating a User ID and Password
- Log in to complete the application by established deadlines.

NJFAMS



- All students must go to "NJGRANTS.org"
- Establish an NJFAMS Account by creating a User ID and Password

NJFAMS



Your FAFSA for academic year 2024-2025 has been received Your FAFSA for academic year 2023-2024 has not been received

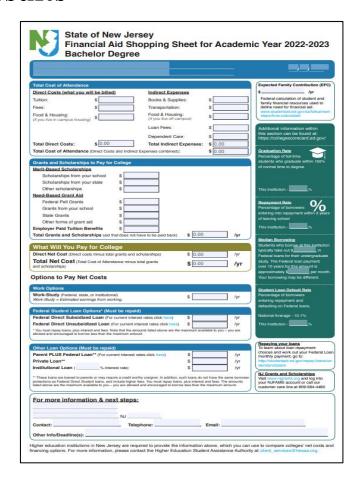
The Cycle of Financial Aid

Oct - March	Complete FAFSA application ("December" 2024-25 Only), college search, college application process, and CSS Profile
February - May	Schools send award letters
June - July	School sends Fall Semester bill
August	Bills are due

NJ Shopping Sheet or Federal College Financing Plan – the Financial Aid Results

- Help families with transparency
- Separates the Cost of Attendance listing the direct and indirect costs
- Awards Grants & Scholarships (free no repayment required)
- Student Final Costs box
- College coordinated work study
- Federal Student Loans
- If necessary alternate loans

Award letter must replicate the Shopping Sheet



Where Do I Go From Here?

- Obtain and review admission, financial aid materials and deadlines from each school to which you are applying
- Meet all application deadlines
 - CSS Profile if applicable
 - Complete the FAFSA and any other application materials required by the school or your state agency - NJ State deadlines are:
 - TAG Renewal Students April 15, 2024 preceding the academic year for which aid is requested
 - All Other Applicants September 15, 2024 for Fall and Spring term awards; February 15, 2025 for Spring awards only

NJBEST College Savings Plan

- NJBEST is the only 529 Savings Plan to award a scholarship ranging from \$1,000-\$3,000 Matching Grant up to \$750 for new accounts
- Tax deduction for 2022 taxes, up to \$10,000
- Must attend a New Jersey Institution
- Funds can be applied for any undergraduate year
- A qualified withdrawal must be taken
- Funding for NJBEST scholarships comes from HESAA
- Earnings on the NJBEST Plan are tax free when used to pay for the qualified higher education expenses of an NJBEST beneficiary
- Limit how much can be contributed annually

Apply for State Aid Workshops & Webinars

Live Webinars



The 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) opened December 2023.

Most colleges and universities provide FAFSA® Completion Workshops to assist families with completing the FAFSA® application. For FAFSA® Virtual Workshops dates please check your local high school or college. You are also invited to join one of HESAA's virtual events.

Please join us for a virtual FAFSA Completion Workshop.

Check back for schedule events starting in September 2023.

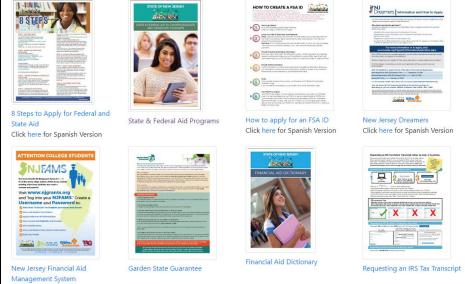
Link to monitor: https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/FAFSA.aspx

Pre-recorded Webinars

Steps on how to apply for federal and state aid	View/Download YouTube Video
Steps on how to apply for the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application	YouTube Video (English) YouTube Video (Spanish)

Publications







HESAA Services

- Customer Care Center <u>CustomerCare@hesaa.org</u>
- Customer Care Line

609-584-4480

Monday – Thursday 8:30 - 8 and Friday 8:30 - 5:00

Web Sites

www.hesaa.org

www.njgrants.org

www.njclass.org

https://njfams.hesaa.org

www.hesaa.org/pages/financialaidhub

- NJBEST.org
- MappingYourFuture.org

Follow-Up Questions

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QUESTIONS?



Thank you