THEC | TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Paying for College

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Federal Aid

Federal Student Aid provides more than $120 billion in financial aid to help pay for college or career school each year.

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

26-27 Available October 1, 2025
Apply at Studentaid.gov

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2026-27 FAFSA

1. Available October 1, 2025 at **studentaid.gov**
2. State priority deadline is April 1, 2026

Information needed:

- ▪ 2024 income/tax info
- ▪ Asset information
- ▪ Email address (student & parent)
- ▪ Social security number
- ▪ FSAID (both parents if not filing married filing jointly)

3. Federal Information helpline- 1800.433.3243

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FAFSA parent(s)

- **Biological parent**
- **Stepparent**
  - *If married to biological parent*
- **Adoptive parent**
  - *Unless student was in foster care at age 13+*

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Who is **NOT** a FAFSA parent*?

- **Grandparent**
- **Aunt/Uncle**
- **Brother/Sister**
- **Legal Guardian**
- **Relative whom claimed the student for tax purposes**

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*Unless they have adopted the student

"Minor" Circumstances

Since age 13 – were an orphan, were in foster care, or were a ward of the court?

Emancipated minor?
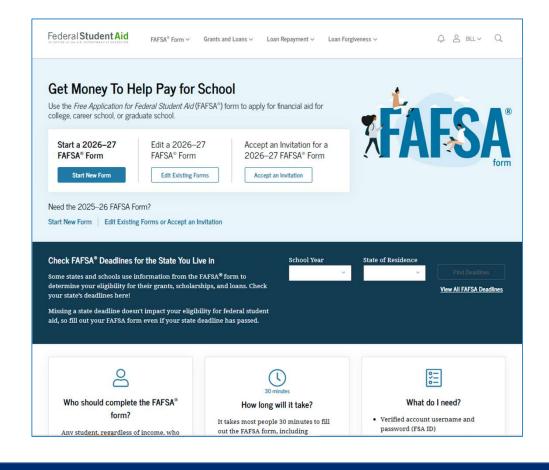
Have court-ordered legal guardian*?

*****If court papers read **custody** instead of **guardianship**, student will answer **no** and contact their college for guidance (e.g. *unusual circumstance*).

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Dependent Student: FAFSA® Landing Page

This is the main FAFSA® landing page. On this page, students are directed to "Start New Form," "Edit Existing Forms," or "Accept an Invitation." For this section of the presentation, the student is beginning a new application.
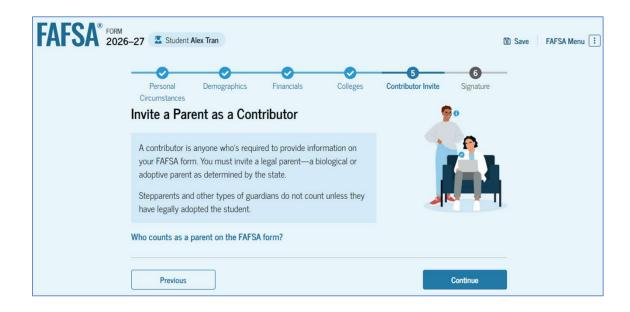
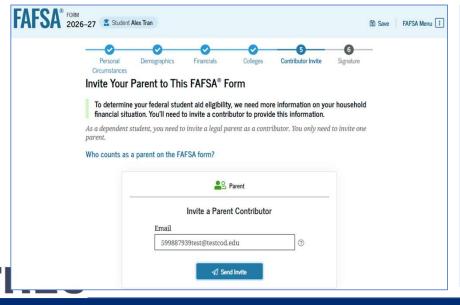# Introduction: Dependent Student Invites Contributor

This is the first page in the "Invite a Parent as a Contributor" section, which is ==the last student section to require information.== It provides an overview of the section.
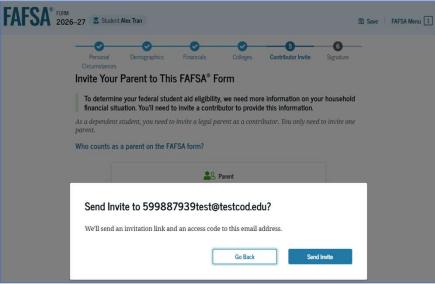
Dependent Student: Invite Contributor (Continued 1 of 2)

The student is asked to <mark>enter their parent's email address</mark> to invite the parent to the FAFSA® form. After entering the email address, the student selects "Send Invite." A pop-up window appears, and the student confirms their parent's email address by selecting "Send Invite."
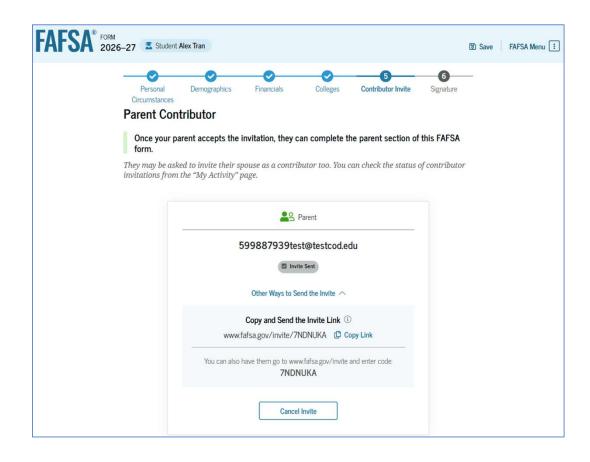
Dependent Student: Invite Contributor (Continued 2 of 2)

This page confirms the student's parent will receive an email inviting them to the student's FAFSA® form. <mark>The parent can access the form by accepting the invitation in the email.</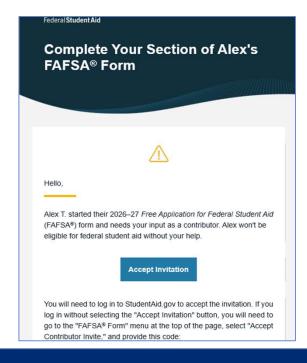mark> On this page, <mark>the student is also provided an invitation link and invitation code</mark> that can be shared directly with the parent.

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Dependent Student: Parent Email

This is NOT a view within StudentAid.gov or the FAFSA® form. This view demonstrates a parent opening the FAFSA invitation from their email. The parent selects "Accept Invitation" and is taken to StudentAid.gov.

Dependent Student: Parent Log-in

The parent is taken from their email to the "Log In" page to enter their credentials. To access the FAFSA® form, all users are required to have a StudentAid.gov account username and password. If the parent doesn't have a username and password, they can select "Create an Account."

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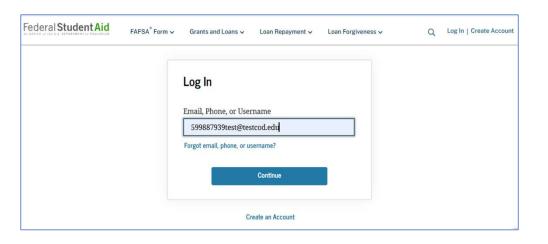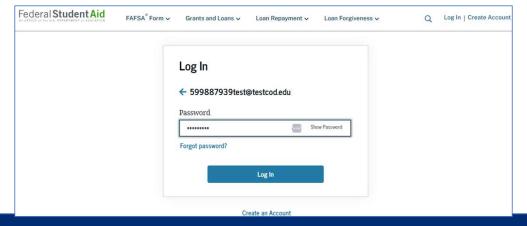# Dependent Student: Parent Accepts Invitation

After logging in, the parent is taken to the "Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation" page. ==The invitation code from the parent's email automatically fills in the text box if the parent used the link from the email.==

← FAFSA Home Page

Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

s5df1w9

Submit

Need to accept an invitation for a different year?

Go to My Activity where you can find any existing invitations for an earlier year FAFSA form.

Don't have an invitation code?

Speak with the person who invited you to the form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your invitation code.

Dependent Student: Parent Accepts Invitation (Continued)

When the parent selects "Submit," a pop-up window appears, confirming the student's name and reminding the parent that their personal information is needed to fill out the student's FAFSA® form. The parent selects "Accept" to agree to sharing their information and enters the FAFSA form.

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Dependent Student: Parent Confirmation

Upon submitting the student's FAFSA®
form, the parent is presented an
abbreviated confirmation page. This page
displays information about tracking the
student's FAFSA form and next steps. The
student will receive an email with the full
detailed confirmation. With the student
and parent sections completed and
signed, the FAFSA form is now considered
complete and submitted for processing.

TN 4-yr Public/Private

TSAA	HOPE Scholarship	Aspire HOPE Supplement	GAMS HOPE Supplement
0 – 3500 SAI *April 1*	21 ACT/SAT or 3.0 GPA	Parents AGI ≤$36,000	29 ACT/SAT & 3.75 GPA
$1,000/$2,000 per semester	$2,250/$2,850 per semester	+$750 per semester	+$500 per semester

Need
Merit

Student Aid Index (SAI) will replace EFC with the 2024-25 FAFSA year and thereafter

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TN Community College

TSAA	HOPE Scholarship	Aspire HOPE Supplement	GAMS HOPE Supplement
0 – 3500 SAI April 1	21 ACT/SAT or 3.0 GPA	Parents AGI ≤$36,000	29 ACT/SAT & 3.75 GPA
$1,000 per semester	$1,600 per semester	+$250 per semester	+$500 per semester

■ Need
■ Merit

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TCAT

TSAA

- 0 – 3500 SAI
  April 1

- $667 per trimester

Wilder-Naifeh*

- Certificate/Diploma TCAT

- $667 per trimester

*If a student is HOPE eligible upon graduation, enrolls at a TCAT initially after high school **and** completes a **diploma program**, student may still receive HOPE by enrolling at a 2- or 4-year college within 3 years of diploma completion.

*Student Aid Index (SAI) will replace EFC with the 2024-25 FAFSA

Need
Merit

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State Aid Programs

- **TN Promise-** last dollar scholarship applied to tuition, after federal and state aid -for programs of study up to an Associates Degree at eligible institutions.

- **TN Hope-** automatic merit -based award, use begins when student enrolls at an eligible institution. Awarded for 5 years.

- **GAMS**- automatic merit -based award supplement to TN Hope, use begins when student enrolls at an eligible institution. Awarded for 5 years based on continued eligibility.

- **TSAA**- automatic need -based award.

HOPE Renewal

- **Student <u>MUST</u> maintain continuous enrollment**
  - ▫ Fall, spring, fall, spring
- **Student <u>MUST</u> maintain enrollment status within a semester**
  - ▫ If you begin a semester full-time (e.g. 12+ hours), you must finish semester full-time
  - ▫ **<u>Never drop a course without speaking with your financial aid</u>**
- **HOPE ends <u>after</u> 5 years or attainment of an *advanced degree***

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Resources on CollegeforTn.org

Career Exploration

College Exploration

TN Financial Aid by school type

FAFSA help

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Leveraging data from the TN Promise application, ACT records, the Electronic Transcript Exchange, and existing FAST accounts, roughly two thirds of high school seniors (approx. 40,000) will receive a Direct Admissions letter in the mail from Governor Lee in November.

TN DIRECT ADMISSIONS PILOT PROJECT TIMELINE

DIRECT ADMISSION LETTER SENT
High school seniors receive letters listing:
- Colleges where they have been accepted.
- State financial aid for which they qualify.
- A QR code linking to the Direct Admissions student portal.

STUDENTS CLAIM THEIR SPOT
Students scan the QR code on their letter and select their college of choice.

STUDENTS' INFORMATION SENT TO COLLEGES
THEC submits the students' information to the selected institution as their completed application.

COLLEGES SEND OFFICIAL ADMISSION MESSAGES
Institutions confirm admission and welcome students.

COLLEGES FOLLOW UP WITH NEXT STEPS
Colleges provide guidance on FAFSA completion, submitting required documents, enrollment and orientation details.

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STEVEN'S COLLEGE CHOICES

TECHNICAL/COMMUNITY COLLEGES

TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
PULASKI, TN | TUITION-FREE WITH TN PROMISE

COLUMBIA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLUMBIA, TN | TUITION-FREE WITH TN PROMISE

FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
CLARKSVILLE, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $10,000

BETHEL UNIVERSITY
MCKENZIE, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

BRYAN COLLEGE
DAYTON, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY
MEMPHIS, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $5,000

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY
LEBANON, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
JOHNSON CITY, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $8,000

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY
HENDERSON, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

KING UNIVERSITY
BRISTOL, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $4,000

LANE COLLEGE
JACKSON, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $10,000

LEMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE
MEMPHIS, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $5,000

TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
ATHENS, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY
GREENEVILLE, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $6,000

UNION UNIVERSITY
JACKSON, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
MEMPHIS, TN | HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
CHATTANOOGA, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $8,000

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN
MARTIN, TN | ADDITIONAL FRESHMAN MERIT AWARD UP TO $5,000

Respectfully,

Bill Lee
Governor

TNDIRECT ADMISSIONS

YOU'RE IN!

Not only have you been admitted to 17 colleges and universtities in Tennessee, you have also earned scholarships! Below you will find information about your **college admissions and financial aid.**

STEVEN'S FINANCIAL AID

Congratulations, Steven! **You have earned a scholarship.** Based on the information you provided in the TN Promise Application, you are already eligible for:

» TN PROMISE
TN Promise is a last-dollar scholarship covering **all of your tuition and mandatory fees** while you to pursue an associate degree or certificate at any Tennessee College of Applied Technology, community college, or eligible four-year institution.

» TN HOPE SCHOLARSHIP
The HOPE scholarship will provide up to $20,000 to cover tuition, fees, and other expenses over the course of your studies toward an associate or bachelor's degree, including up to $4,500 in your freshman year at a four-year institution or $3,200 at a TCAT or community college.

» INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
Check out your personalized list of colleges below for additional financial aid already available to you!

STEVEN'S COLLEGE CHOICES

The colleges on the next page have already admitted you through TN Direct Admissions! Keep in mind, you have been accepted to the college itself, not individual majors or programs which may have additional eligibility requirements. **Talk it over with a parent or guardian.** Research the schools listed and what skills and abilities could be gained from the programs they offer. **Which choice makes the most sense for your future?** When you're ready to claim your spot, scan the QR code. Visit CollegeforTN.org for more information.

READY TO CLAIM YOUR SPOT?

Once you have reviewed your personalized list of colleges and preliminary financial aid information on the next page, simply scan the QR code to **save your seat** at the college of your choice! Your college will follow up with you for next steps.

SCAN HERE TO SAVE YOUR SEAT

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YOU are college ready!
& Tennessee's colleges & TCATs are ready for YOU!

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TN DIRECT ADMISSIONS

TN DIRECT ADMISSIONS

TN Direct Admissions Website –

www.collegefortn.org/direct-admissions/

- or scan the QR code on the left

Have questions about Direct Admissions?
Email us at **direct.admissions@tn.gov**

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