

## Complete the FAFSA - Script

For the 2026-27 FAFSA

Slide	Educator Script
Complete the FAFSA	Let's talk about the FAFSA and why you need to complete it.
FAFSA: HS Graduation Requirement	<p>In Nebraska, the FAFSA is a graduation requirement for all public high school seniors, unless you actively opt out.</p> <p>But there are good reasons to complete the FAFSA. It is your application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid.</p> <p>You don't want to leave money on the table, and applying for financial aid keeps all your options open after high school.</p>
Complete the 2026-27 FAFSA	<p>Go to <b>StudentAid.gov</b> to apply for financial aid.</p> <p>The 2026–27 FAFSA will use 2024 tax information. You will also report some asset and untaxed income.</p> <p>Renew the FAFSA every year you attend college. It always opens on October 1.</p>
Independent Student Criteria	Some high school seniors may be independent based on this criteria. These questions will be asked on the FAFSA.
Which parent completes the FAFSA?	This slide will help determine which parent will complete the FAFSA and in turn provide their income and asset information.
Assets	When completing the FAFSA, report the value of any assets as of the day the form is filed. Here is a list of assets that must be included.
Exclude These Assets	You will not report the value of your parent's primary home or their retirement plans. They are not included in the FAFSA calculation.
Business	Exclude the value of your business if you own 50% or more, have less than 100 employees, or actively participate in the operation of the business.
Farm	<p>If your family owns a farm, <b>exclude</b> the value if you live on and operate the farm, and it's your main source of income.</p> <p><b>Include</b> the value if your family receives rent for</p>

	farmland, or if you're a member of a partnership and do not actively work on the farm.
StudentAid.gov	Let's dig into the FAFSA.  Go to <b>StudentAid.gov</b> and select "Start a 2026-27 FAFSA Form."

Student Identity Info	This is the first page of the student section. If any of the information needs to be updated, go to the account settings at <b>StudentAid.gov</b> .
State of Residence	Use the drop-down box to find your state of residence, then indicate the month and year when you became a resident.
IRS Consent	This page explains how federal income tax information is transferred directly from the IRS to your FAFSA. You will need to provide consent and approval.
IRS Import	This page shows that your federal income tax information is directly transferred from the IRS.
Marital Status	Indicate your marital status on this page. Select single (never married).
College Plans	Select your college grade level for the 2026-27 school year. Answer first year (freshman) and "no," you do not have a bachelor's degree.
Personal Circumstances	Review this list and indicate if any of the personal circumstances apply. Most will answer "none of these apply."  Indicate if you are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Most students will select "none of these apply. "
Unusual Circumstances	You will be asked if unusual circumstances prevent you from contacting your parents. Most student select "no."
Dependency Status	You will want to answer no to this question to be fully eligible for all forms of aid. This question should only be answered yes in extreme circumstances.
Demographic Info	You must answer student's sex. You have a choice to answer the race/ethnicity questions or mark that you prefer not to answer.

Citizenship Status	Indicate whether you are a US citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
Parent Status	Indicate if either parent attended college, and if either were killed in the line of duty.

High School Completion Status	You will be asked about your high school completion status when you start the 2026–27 school year. Select the “high school diploma” option.
High School Info	Find the high school you attend by first entering your state and city. Select the correct high school from the search results.
Tax Filing Status	Indicate if you completed a 2024 IRS form 1040 or 1040–NR.
Asset Info	You must answer every question in the asset section, even if the answer is zero. Report the value of each asset as of the day you complete the FAFSA.
Select Colleges	You can list up to 20 colleges to receive your FAFSA results. Include all schools that you are considering by searching for them by state or school code.
Invite a Parent as a Contributor	Enter your parent’s email address to invite them to complete their section of the FAFSA.
Parent Contributor	Your parent will receive an email inviting them to your FAFSA. Share the invitation code from this page with your parent so they can access your form.
FAFSA Review Page	Use this page to review or edit the data you provided on the FAFSA.
Sign and Complete	Review and agree to the terms and conditions, then digitally sign the form.
Pending Submission	This page indicates that your FAFSA is not complete - it requires your parent data.
Parent Email Invitation	Your parent will open the email invitation that includes a link to <b>StudentAid.gov</b> .

Parent Log In	The link will take your parent to your FAFSA where they log in using their <b>StudentAid.gov</b> account username and password.
Accept FAFSA Invitation	If your parent used the link from the email, the invitation code will automatically be populated on this page.
Parent Section	The parent section is very similar to the student section, so we will not show you those screens. After the parent section is complete, have them sign and submit the FAFSA.
FAFSA Submission Summary	You are done! Expect your FAFSA Submission Summary via email from Federal Student Aid within three days.
Questions?	Do you have any questions? If I cannot help you, contact EducationQuest for free assistance with the FAFSA.