

## How to Complete the FAFSA - Lesson Plan Script

### For the 2025-26 FAFSA

Slide	Educator Script
How to Complete the FAFSA	Let's talk about the FAFSA and why you need to complete it.
FAFSA: HS Graduation Requirement	<p>Starting with the class of 2025, Nebraska law requires all public high school students to complete and submit the FAFSA, or actively opt out, as a graduation requirement.</p> <p>The law ensures that all Nebraska seniors complete the FAFSA, unlocking federal financial aid and encouraging you to consider further education beyond high school.</p> <p>Don't leave money on the table. In 2022, Half of Nebraska graduates missed out on \$23 million by not filing.</p> <p>Also, the law supports Nebraska's goal of 70% credential attainment by 2030.</p>
Complete the 2025-26 FAFSA	<p>The 2025-26 FAFSA will use 2023 tax information. You will also need to report certain assets and untaxed income. I will give you a FAFSA Checklist that lists all the required documents.</p> <p>Renew the FAFSA every year you attend college.</p> <p>This year, the FAFSA opens on December 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 can be used to help students determine which parent(s) will complete the FAFSA and supply their income and asset information.
Assets	Report the value of any assets as of the day the FAFSA is completed. Your parent's primary home and retirement plans are excluded.
Farmers & Business Owners	Farmers, Ranchers or Business Owners must report the net worth of that operation. They should be able to find that net worth figure on a current balance sheet.
StudentAid.gov	Go to <b>StudentAid.gov</b> , select "Complete the FAFSA" form and log in. You'll see several pages of instructional videos that may be skipped if desired.

Slide 9	The first page will display your personal information from your FSA ID.
Slide 10	Your permanent address is automatically filled in; if you need to make changes, you can do so.  Enter the date that you began to live in Nebraska.
Slide 11	You must consent and approve for the IRS to transfer your tax information into the FAFSA. If you do not approve, you will not receive federal financial aid.
Slide 12	Indicate your current marital status and your year in school for 2025-26.
Slide 13	This refers to the independent status we discussed earlier. We'll assume that you answered "no" to all of these questions.
Slide 14	If you are an unaccompanied youth or homeless, you can mark this "yes."
Slide 15	Indicate your parents' current marital status.
Slide 16	If your parents are divorced or separated, this wizard will help you determine whose information to use.
Slide 17	You will need to invite your parent or parents to complete their portion of the FAFSA.
Slide 18	You have a choice to answer the demographic questions or mark that you prefer not to answer.
Slide 19	Report your assets on this page, including cash, savings, checking accounts, businesses, investment farms, and current net worth of investments, including real estate.  Remember, do not include your primary home value or qualified retirement accounts.
Slide 20	You can include up to 20 colleges to receive your FAFSA results. Include all schools that you are considering.

Slide 21	You must sign and submit your FAFSA.
Slide 22	The parent section is 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.
Slide 23	You are done! Expect your FAFSA Submission Summary via email from Federal Student Aid within three days.
Questions?	Do you have any questions?