

More About the FAFSA

It is important to understand the **philosophy** behind financial aid: **A college education is NOT an entitlement.** The government expects the student/family to supply as much as they possibly can toward education, and what they cannot provide, the government may or may not. And remember that because an education is not an entitlement, even if you fill out everything perfectly, there is not a guarantee that the government or a college will come to your aid.

So...financial aid is not a sure thing that will take care of all of your college bills, but is designed to supplement what a family can afford to pay. Here is an example:

Verification

Don't be surprised or freaked out if you are asked for verification of your information—about one third of applicants are asked to do this. Do these five things if you are asked to verify:

ASK US TO HELP!

RELAX: You are not being accused of wrong-doing. You have been chosen at random.

BE ALERT: There are many ways for you to be notified. Be proactive and check back with FAFSA.

WATCH THE CLOCK: Remember that FAFSA funds are first-come, first served. Complete the verification process as soon as you can.

MINIMIZE CHANCES: Use the IRS Retrieval Tool to import tax information directly into the FAFSA.

Different School, Different Award Package

You will receive a different awards package from each school that you have applied to, each having a different bottom line (money that you will have to come up with). Don't expect to be able to go to a private or prestigious school and have the same out-of-pocket costs.

