K12 ACADEMICS · FREE PRINTABLE

Financial Aid & FAFSA Checklist

Get every dollar you qualify for — gather documents, meet deadlines, compare offers.

GET READY

- [ ] Create your FSA ID (student & one parent)
- [ ] Gather SSNs, tax returns, W-2s, income records
- [ ] List the schools to receive your info
- [ ] Note each school's aid deadline

FILE THE FORMS

- [ ] Submit the FAFSA (opens Oct 1)
- [ ] Complete the CSS Profile if a school requires it
- [ ] Watch for verification requests & respond fast
- [ ] Renew the FAFSA every year

FIND MORE AID

- [ ] Search & apply for scholarships (local first)
- [ ] Ask each college about institutional aid
- [ ] Check state grant programs
- [ ] Look into work-study

COMPARE & DECIDE

- [ ] Read each aid offer carefully (grants vs loans)
- [ ] Compare net price, not sticker price
- [ ] Understand loan terms before borrowing
- [ ] Appeal if your situation changed