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November 2010

Dear Counselor or Mentor:

The office of Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, would like to share some important updates and information to assist you in working with students.

Key Points

- *FAFSA on the Web* at www.fafsa.gov is smarter and easier than ever, providing an intuitive Web experience for each applicant.
- *Funding Education Beyond High School* should be accessed online at www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide if possible. Refer parents and students to this website if they want comprehensive detail about the federal student aid programs.
- This letter also includes a table showing a sampling of our written resources for your quick reference, as well as a fact sheet titled "Your Guide to FSAPubs" that provides information on how to order our free materials from FSAPubs and how to update your information in our database.

Featured Information

College Preparation Checklist. Introduced last year, the *College Preparation Checklist* (www.studentaid.ed.gov/collprep) explains how to prepare academically and financially for college through "to do" lists aimed at elementary and secondary school students and their parents, as well as adult students. Simply worded information about federal aid, what to do at FAFSA filing time, and looking for scholarships also is included. Readers are directed to publications and websites for more detailed discussions of the topics in the checklist. We recommend that you use the checklist in your outreach to students who are considering college.

Do You Need Money for College? Federal Student Aid at a Glance. If you simply want to provide students a high-level overview of federal aid, without including the extensive "to do" list of the *College Preparation Checklist*, you might consider giving them *Do You Need Money for College? Federal Student Aid at a Glance* (www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs). This 2-page flyer includes basic information on student eligibility, the application process, and aid programs and annual maximum amounts.

Status of Funding Education Beyond High School

Again this year, we are printing a limited number of copies of *Funding Education Beyond High School*. Instead, we recommend the featured materials above.

We recognize that some schools will want to continue to provide the comprehensive information of *Funding Education Beyond High School* to parents; keep in mind that the publication is available at www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide, in both html and PDF. Also, the *College Preparation Checklist* will point

830 First St. N.E., Washington, DC 20202
www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
 1-800-4-FED-AID

the reader to the online sections of *Funding Education Beyond High School* that are relevant to his or her needs at that stage of the college preparation process.

FAFSA Tools

We encourage students to apply for federal student aid using *FAFSA on the Web* at www.fafsa.gov. The online application will be smarter than ever in 2011–12, with a customized experience for every applicant. The simplified home page, the ability for applicants to access their IRS tax information, and FAFSA summary options, along with detailed information about the applicant's selected colleges, all add up to a smoother, more intuitive experience. Live interactive help is accessible as the applicant uses the site; applicants also can get assistance by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 319-337-5665.

We also want to encourage organizations with websites to link to *FAFSA on the Web*. We have developed new Web banners that you can post that will link students and families directly to www.fafsa.gov. To access the banners and instructions for adding them to your website, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/link2us. The banners will be available on that page by the end of November.

Ordering Publications

Please see the enclosed information on using www.FSAPubs.gov to order free publications. Pay special attention to the request to review your account details. We can communicate with you much more effectively if we have your correct e-mail address.

Thank you and have a successful school year.

Sincerely,



Michele Y. Brown
Acting General Manager
Student Experience Group

Major Federal Student Aid Documents for Students and Parents

Document Name	Summary and URL	Audience(s)							
		Elementary School Student and Parent	Middle School Student	Middle School Parent	High School Student (9-11)	High School Senior	High School Parent	College Student	Adult Student
College Prep Checklist	How to get ready academically and financially (www.studentaid.ed.gov/collprep)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
2011-12 Do You Need Money for College: Federal Student Aid at a Glance	Basic overview of aid and application process (www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2011-12 Funding Education Beyond High School	Detailed info on federal aid programs (www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Your Federal Student Loans	Federal loan and debt management info (www.studentaid.ed.gov/repayingpub)				11th	✓	✓	✓	✓
2011-12 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet	Preview some of the FAFSA questions (www.studentaid.ed.gov/worksheet)					✓	✓	✓	✓
2011-12 Paper FAFSA and PDF FAFSA	Free application for federal student aid (www.fafsa.gov as of 1/1/11)					✓	✓	✓	✓
2011-12 Completing the FAFSA	Detailed instructions for every FAFSA question (www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa)					✓	✓	✓	✓
Bookmark	Advertises www.studentaid.ed.gov and College.gov (www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Direct Loan Basics for Students: Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Provides students with information about Direct Loans (www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs)				11th	✓	✓	✓	✓
Direct Loan Basics for Parents: Direct PLUS Loans	Provides parents with information about Direct Loans (www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs)						✓		

Topic(s)									Spanish	Braille
early awareness (pre-hs)	college prep	types of federal aid (general)	types of federal aid (detailed)	FAFSA/applying for aid	loan info	consumer issues	scholarships	financial aid administration		
✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓
		✓		✓					✓	✓
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Your Guide to FSAPubs

The Federal Student Aid Publications Ordering System (FSAPubs) is **your source for free bulk shipments of Federal Student Aid publications**. Visit FSAPubs today to update your account and place orders:

1. You can find the FSAPubs website at **www.FSAPubs.gov**. At the site, you will be asked for your ML number, your school's identification number that appears on the mailing label of the envelope in which this letter arrived. If you don't know your ML number, call 1-800-394-7084 to find out what it is. If you do not have Internet access, you may call that same number to place orders for publications.
2. At the FSAPubs site, type your ML number into the box in the middle of the home page and click on the "LOGIN" button. If you have not visited the site in the past couple of years, you will see text on the screen asking you to validate your address. Follow the directions on the screen.
3. Even if you have visited the site regularly, we encourage you to click on the "Account Management" link on the left side of the page and choose "Add/Modify Shipping Information." On the next screen, click on "Edit" and modify any information that is incomplete or incorrect. You can do the same for your "Institution Address." Please supply your e-mail address at the site so we can notify you of any new publications, training, or emergency information.
4. To order publications, click on "Publications" at the left side of the screen and browse the list or search for specific items. Enter the quantity you need and follow the directions to place your order. Remember, all of our materials are free.

In addition to the materials listed on FSAPubs.gov, these free items are available by download or special request, as indicated:

- *We Have A Bright Future* poster—for those who work with American Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians; request from cindy.cameron@ed.gov; PDF at www.studentaid.ed.gov/brightfuture
- Fact sheets explaining federal aid programs and procedures, inspiring students to go to postsecondary school, and providing fraud prevention advice—download at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs

For information about ordering audio or Braille resources for the visually impaired, visit the "Answering Students' Questions" section of www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov.

Note: Students may read most of our publications at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs or order single copies from www.edpubs.gov or from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID.

Federal Student Aid resources for students can be found at:

Student Aid on the Web

www.studentaid.ed.gov

In-depth info on federal student aid programs, applying for financial aid, and repaying student loans:

- conduct college and scholarship searches
- estimate college costs
- track and compare financial aid award letters

YouTube

www.youtube.com/collegedotgov

- more than 60 videos
- inspirational videos from peers
- advice from current college students
- students can submit their own

college.gov

inspiration for students
to achieve
their college dreams

www.fafsa.gov

Official site of the
*Free Application for
Federal Student Aid*

Facebook

www.facebook.com/college.gov

- weekly tips, info, and links
- more than 20 videos
- more than 12,500 "likes"