

Dear students and parents/guardians of the Class of 2024,

There is a new requirement for New Hampshire students to graduate high school. For the Class of 2024 going forward, students will be required to submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** or sign a waiver opting out.

### **The FAFSA: What it is and why it matters for YOU**

#### **What is the FAFSA?**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form to apply for federal financial aid for college and/or training, including grants, work-study, and loans. The FAFSA is also used by colleges, some trade/vocational schools, and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for aid such as scholarships.

It is FREE to complete and does not obligate the student or parent/guardian to anything.

Note: The FAFSA is one step in applying for financial aid. Some colleges require additional forms, too.

#### **Why is it relevant to me?**

Do you want to know all the options you have for how to fund your future? The ONLY way to know for sure if you qualify for any need- OR merit-based aid is to file a FAFSA.

The FAFSA is how to figure out all the options available to you and learn more about them. It's still your choice to select which options you want – or don't want.

*Students in New Hampshire left \$7.9 million in Pell Grants on the table by not completing the FAFSA in 2022 (NCAN).*

If you don't file a FAFSA, you DEFINITELY will not receive any financial aid – because you haven't applied for it!

#### **Does the FAFSA obligate me to anything?**

Not at all! Remember, it's your choice if you use financial aid available to you. You don't have to accept loans, grants, or scholarships.

#### **How do I fill it out?**

Access the FAFSA form: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>

Resources to help along the way:

- <https://studentaid.gov/help/fafsa>
- <https://www.nhheaf.org/financing/financial-aid-process>

#### **I'm still thinking of opting out. What now?**

If you choose not to file the FAFSA, you may sign a [waiver](#) from the NH Department of Education indicating that you opt out from the requirement. The waiver may be signed by the student if they are 18 years old or older; otherwise, the parent/guardian signs. Your school's counseling team and administrators will provide more information about where to submit the waiver once you've signed.

**The NHHEAF Network is an education-focused, NH-based nonprofit that offers FREE college, career, and financial aid resources. Check out their [website](#) and other services for more info and support!**

