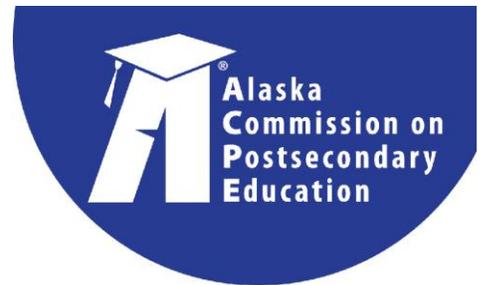




ACPE
COLLEGE GOAL ALASKA
 800 East Dimond Blvd, Suite 200
 Anchorage, Alaska 99515
1-800-441-2962
 IN JUNEAU 907-465-2962
 FAX 907-269-7991
CollegeGoalAK.org



Changes Impacting the 2017-18 FAFSA

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and how is it changing?

The FAFSA is the application students complete to apply for federal and Alaska state student aid, which can be used to attend an eligible college or career school. In addition to determining eligibility for federal student aid, many private organizations and institutions rely on information from the FAFSA to determine eligibility for other sources of aid.

Two changes to the FAFSA will take effect for students attending college or career training during the 2017–18 school year. The first high school class to be affected by these changes is the graduating class of **2017**.

- a. The FAFSA will be available earlier (**October 1** instead of **January 1**).
- b. The FAFSA will collect income information from an **earlier** tax year.

Here’s a table with a summary of the changes. You’ll find details below the table.

When a Student Is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year’s Income Information Is Required
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income information from two years prior (sometimes called “Prior-Prior”), which in this case is also 2015 income information. (See table)

2. How will an earlier FAFSA and the change to the income year benefit students?

- Alignment – with the college application process.
- Certainty – “Prior-Prior” taxes will typically be finalized; no estimates required.
- More time – for students to explore and understand financial aid options and apply for aid before state and school deadlines.

3. Will colleges change their financial aid processing timelines due to the FAFSA being available earlier?



ACPE
COLLEGE GOAL ALASKA
800 East Dimond Blvd, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99515
1-800-441-2962
IN JUNEAU 907-465-2962
FAX 907-269-7991
CollegeGoalAK.org



That is a decision that each college will make. Students should contact their schools to determine whether the schools will adjust their processing timelines once the FAFSA is available earlier. It is important for the students to confirm individual deadlines.

4. Do students still have to complete the FAFSA every year?

Yes. Students will need to fill out the FAFSA for each school year in which they plan to be a student. Eligibility for financial aid can differ from year to year for various reasons, including a student's or family's financial situation or the number of family members in college.

5. Is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) still available with the 2017-2018 FAFSA?

Yes. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) allows applicants (and their parents, if applicable) to access the IRS tax return information needed to complete the FAFSA, and transfer the required information directly into the FAFSA from the IRS. To do so, it is imperative that the address provided on the FAFSA is identical to the information provided on tax returns.

6. Can a student still be selected for verification if he or she is using 2015 income information on his or her 2017-2018 FAFSA?

Yes. A student can be selected for verification by either the U.S. Department of Education or by the student's school. Verification is a process by which a student is required to submit documentation that the data reported on the student's FAFSA is accurate.

7. What if students' financial situation has changed since "Prior-Prior" tax year?

Students who experience dramatic changes in their financial situation should contact their financial aid office, which may use professional judgment as appropriate to the students' situation.