



## Who is my “parent” on the FAFSA?

When you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will be required to report information about yourself as well as your parent(s) unless you are eligible to complete the FAFSA as an independent student. Refer to the following information to determine whose information you should report on the FAFSA.

- **If your parents are married and living together**, answer questions on the FAFSA using information from both of your parents.
  - **Indicate marital status as: Married**
- **If your parents are divorced or separated and do not live together**, answer questions on the FAFSA using only information from the parent with whom you have lived most often over the past year.
  - **Indicate marital status as: Divorced or Separated**
- **If you live most often with a parent who has remarried**, answer questions on the FAFSA using this parent’s information as well as their spouse’s information.
  - **Indicate marital status as: Married or Remarried**
- **If your parent is widowed or was never married**, answer questions on the FAFSA using information from this parent only.
  - **Indicate marital status as: Widowed or Never Married**
- **If your parents are divorced but live together**, answer questions on the FAFSA using information from both of your parents.
  - **Indicate marital status as: Unmarried and both parents living together**
- **If your parents are separated but live together**, answer questions on the FAFSA using information from both of your parents.
  - **Indicate marital status as: Married or Remarried**

*In all cases, when the FAFSA asks you about your parents’ education level, report the education level of your birth parents, if known.*

### Independent Students

You may not have to report information about your parent(s) on the FAFSA if you are an independent student (*see back of this form*).



Detroit Public Schools Community District | Macomb Intermediate School District  
Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies





You are an independent student if you answer “yes” to any of the following questions and are therefore not required to provide parental information on the FAFSA. *NOTE:* if you are an independent student, be sure to make an appointment with your counselor as soon as possible to go over documentation you need to support your independent status on the FAFSA.

Question	Yes?	No?
Are you over 22 years old?		
As of today, are you married? (Also answer “yes” if you are separated but not divorced)		
At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctoral degree?		
Do you now have—or will you have—children who will receive more than half of their support from you, now through June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020?		
Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (if you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)		
Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?		
At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?		
Has it been decided by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? (You also should answer “Yes” if you are now an adult but were in legal guardianship or were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of an adult in your state. Answer “No” if the court papers say “custody” rather than “guardianship.”)		
Has it been decided by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? (You also should answer “Yes” if you are now an adult but were in legal guardianship or were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of an adult in your state. Answer “No” if the court papers say “custody” rather than “guardianship.”)		
At any time on or after July 1, 2018, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?		



Detroit Public Schools Community District | Macomb Intermediate School District  
Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies

