



## FINANCIAL AID

It's very important to apply for financial aid. You must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for grants, federal loans or work-study jobs. Although the FAFSA pertains directly to federal aid, most states use the FAFSA to determine state-based financial aid. So, even if you don't think you will qualify for any grants; you must complete the FAFSA to be eligible for other types of student aid. If you don't file a FAFSA, some schools will not even consider you for their school's scholarships.

There are 4 types of financial aid:

1. Scholarships
2. Grants
3. Loans
4. Work Study Opportunities

The first step in the financial aid process is to file a FAFSA. The deadline for filing the FAFSA is May 1<sup>st</sup>. However, you should file your FAFSA as early as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>; because some colleges have earlier deadlines. The financial aid process is complicated and ever-changing. The best source of information about financial aid is the Financial Aid Office at the college(s) to which you are applying.

You will receive a notice that your FAFSA was received approximately two weeks after filing. You will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) 4 to 8 weeks after filing your FAFSA. The SAR is a report of the information that you reported in your FAFSA. Carefully check your SRA; make corrections if necessary; and return the form. Make sure to copy the form before returning. However, if the information is correct, file the form in your financial aid folder (if you don't have a file, start one). A copy of your SAR will go to the designated school listed on your FAFSA.

For more information about financial aid, visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) .