



**INDIANA COMMISSION** for  
HIGHER EDUCATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **FAFSA Opens Today For 2022-2023 School Year**

*Hoosier students can apply for state financial aid through April 15, 2022*

**(INDIANAPOLIS)** – Hoosier students and families are encouraged to file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA), which is now open for the 2022-2023 school year.

The [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) reminds Hoosiers that filing the FAFSA by April 15, 2022 is imperative for securing money for college and accessing some of the \$390 million in state financial aid and billions of dollars in federal aid available for learners.

“Regardless of family income, filing the FAFSA is an important first step for anyone interested in education and training beyond high school,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. “It’s surprising how much money is left on the table each year because many Hoosiers assume they don’t qualify for state or federal financial aid. There is a significant amount of funding available to help with the cost of college, but you must at least have a FAFSA on file to use it.”

Filing the FAFSA is required for many of Indiana’s scholarship and grant opportunities, such as the Frank O’Bannon Grant and the Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant, and many colleges require a completed FAFSA to award merit and need-based scholarships. Regardless of the degree being pursued – including short-term certificates, associate and bachelor’s degrees and higher – students should file the FAFSA to potentially qualify for available financial aid.

Currently, there are nearly 15,000 high school seniors who qualify for Indiana’s early-college promise program, the [21st Century Scholars](#) program. Completing the FAFSA on time is a necessary step for Scholars to earn the full scholarship amount of up to four years of college tuition.

### **How to file the FAFSA**

Students can file the FAFSA online at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). The first step for students who have not previously filed the FAFSA is to create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. Then, each student will need:

- Social Security number
- Alien Registration number (for non-U.S. citizens)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned from 2020
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

Improvements to simplify and shorten the FAFSA are coming for the 2023-24 academic year, however this year filers will notice a new look to the form, making it easier to navigate and get assistance. The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 800-4FED-AID. Hoosier families can also access free FAFSA help through INvestEd Indiana at [www.investedindiana.org](http://www.investedindiana.org).



**READY, SET**  
**FAFSA**

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

**FILE YOUR FAFSA**  
at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's  
(IMS) Day of Innovation!  
**10/23/21 @ 10 AM**  
4790 W 16th St, Indianapolis, Indiana

  

[LearnMoreIndiana.org/IMS](https://LearnMoreIndiana.org/IMS)

### Upcoming in-person FAFSA filing opportunity

The Commission will have representatives available at the upcoming [Innovation Showcase](#) at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (4790 W. 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222) on Saturday, October 23 between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (ET). Indiana high school students can receive support filing the FAFSA on site and can enter to win a CollegeChoice 529 scholarship.

Teachers, high school students and families are invited to attend the showcase to learn about the technology behind autonomous vehicles and can meet aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs, including the teams that help power Indiana's entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. [Register now](#) for free admission.

### Applications now open for Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

The [Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship](#) also opens October 1 and provides up to \$7,500 per year of college (up to \$30,000 total) for top performing Hoosier students who commit to teaching in Indiana for five years after earning their degrees. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2022.

For questions about state financial aid, students can contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by phone at 888-528-4719 or via email at [awards@che.in.gov](mailto:awards@che.in.gov).

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### About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the [21st Century Scholars](#) early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's [Reaching Higher in a State of Change](#) strategic plan at [www.in.gov/che](http://www.in.gov/che).