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1983-2023

Let's Talk About the FAFSA

April 8, 2024

PRESENTED BY

Mila Tappan, Manager of College Access and Outreach

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FAFSA Completion and Processing Update

FAFSA Completion Update

- **FAFSA was "soft-launched" on December 30th**
  - The first 10 days were rough!
- What have been **some common FAFSA completion issues**?
  - FAFSAs have been submitted without required signatures
  - Parent information not provided
    - These issues result in an **SAI is not being calculated and follow up will be required.**
- Increased **FSA ID issues** since the launch
  - Many more people having to call to get assistance to resolution

FAFSA Completion Update

The good news….

- **Many students** are successfully filing the FAFSA and reporting that it is much easier than anticipated.
- Independent students - often filing in less than 15 minutes
- Dependent students - student and parent sections typically take less than 20 minutes each

FAFSA Processing Update

FAFSAs Processing…

- Initially FAFSAs were to be processed in late January
- Processing delayed announced on January 30
- Delay due to updating of tables used to calculate the SAI
- Income protection tables were updated by 18% to reflect inflation
- Update will result in **lower SAIs** (and more Pell Grant eligibility) for many students

FAFSA Processing Update

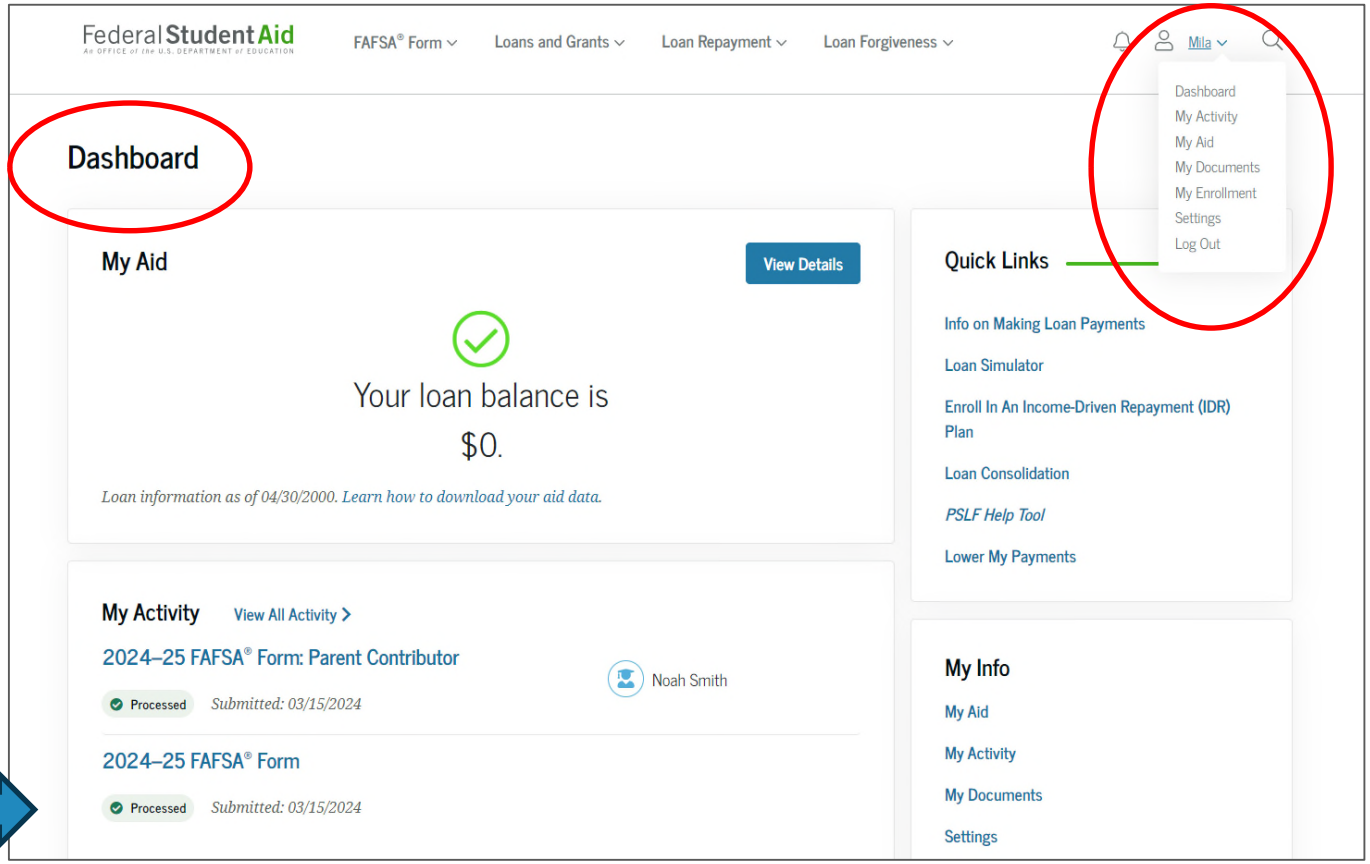
Here's what we know about FAFSA processing:

- **Processing began in mid-March** and the backlog of submitted FAFSA has been processed.
- Please encourage your students to log into StudentAid.gov and check their status to make sure it is has updated from "**In-Review**" to "**Processed**."
- Newly filed FAFSAs should be process in 2-3 days.

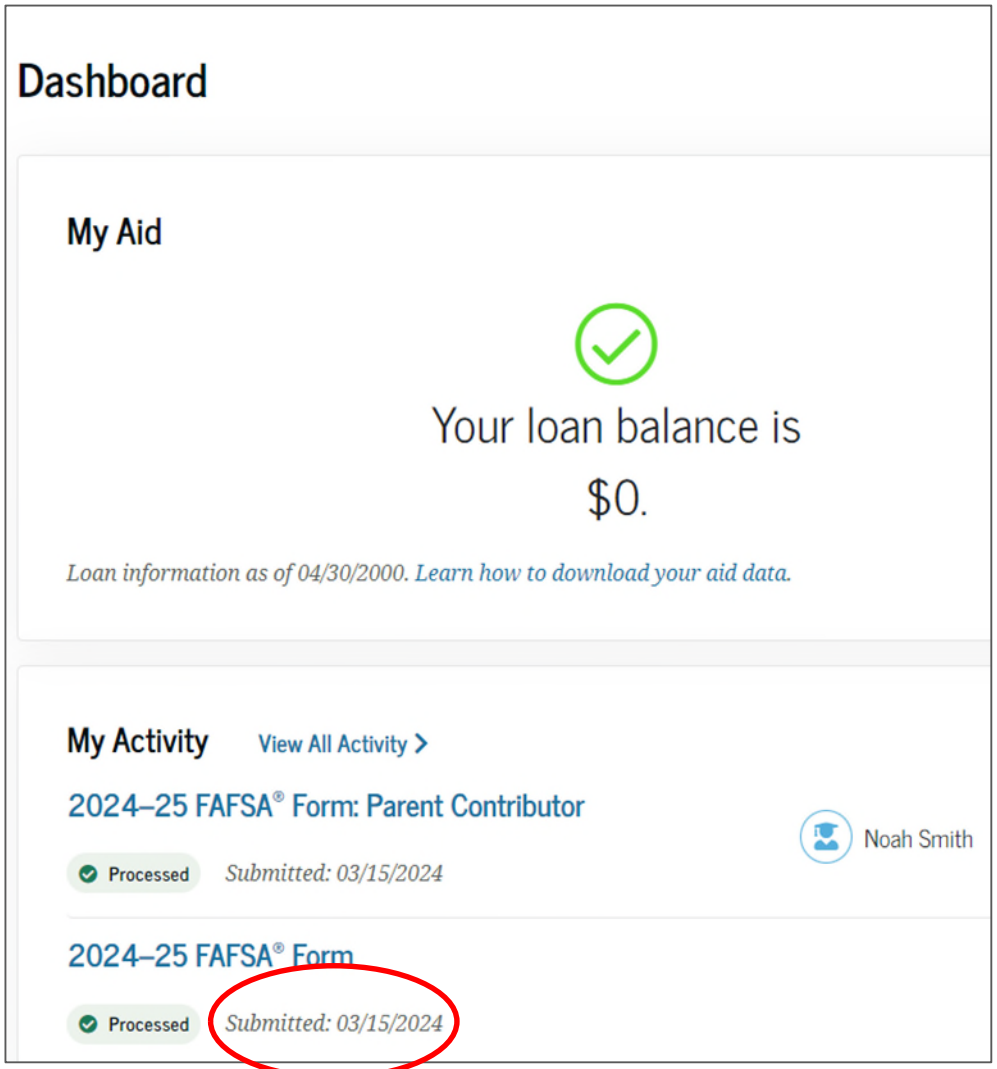
FAFSA Processing Update

What does this mean for students and parents?

Students will see that their FAFSA status has been updated by logging into StudentAid.gov.



FAFSA Processing Update



FAFSA Processing Update

What to Expect:

- Once a FAFSA has been processed, the **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** should be available.
- Student will be able to view the answers provided on the FAFSA (except FTI information will not be visible).
- Original SAIs will be recalculated using updated tables.

- **MANY, many** students do not have a calculated SAI.

FAFSA Processing Update

What to Expect:

- Emails are supposed to be sent at some point to notify students that their FAFSA has been processed.
- **No corrections can not be made yet** - no exact date as to when corrections can be made.
- We'll send out notifications once corrections can be made.

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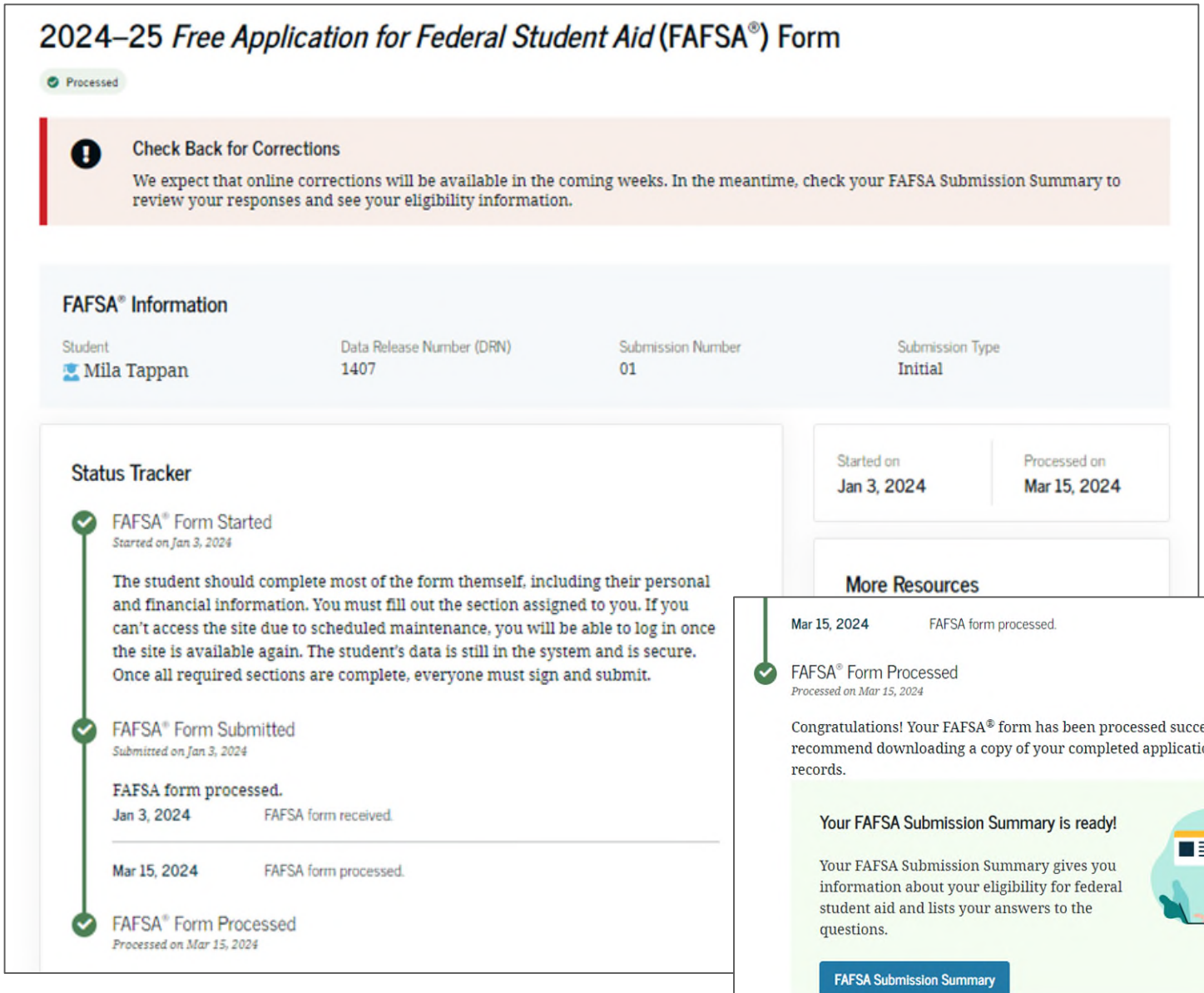
FAFSA Processing Update



2024–25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Form

Processed

Check Back for Corrections

We expect that online corrections will be available in the coming weeks. In the meantime, check your FAFSA Submission Summary to review your responses and see your eligibility information.

FAFSA® Information

Student	Data Release Number (DRN)	Submission Number	Submission Type
Mila Tappan	1407	01	Initial

Status Tracker

Started on Jan 3, 2024 | Processed on Mar 15, 2024

FAFSA® Form Started
Started on Jan 3, 2024

The student should complete most of the form themself, including their personal and financial information. You must fill out the section assigned to you. If you can't access the site due to scheduled maintenance, you will be able to log in once the site is available again. The student's data is still in the system and is secure. Once all required sections are complete, everyone must sign and submit.

FAFSA® Form Submitted
Submitted on Jan 3, 2024

FAFSA form processed.
Jan 3, 2024 FAFSA form received.

Mar 15, 2024 FAFSA form processed.

FAFSA® Form Processed
Processed on Mar 15, 2024

More Resources

Mar 15, 2024 FAFSA form processed.

FAFSA® Form Processed
Processed on Mar 15, 2024

Congratulations! Your FAFSA® form has been processed successfully! We recommend downloading a copy of your completed application to keep for your records.

Your FAFSA Submission Summary is ready!

Your FAFSA Submission Summary gives you information about your eligibility for federal student aid and lists your answers to the questions.

FAFSA Submission Summary

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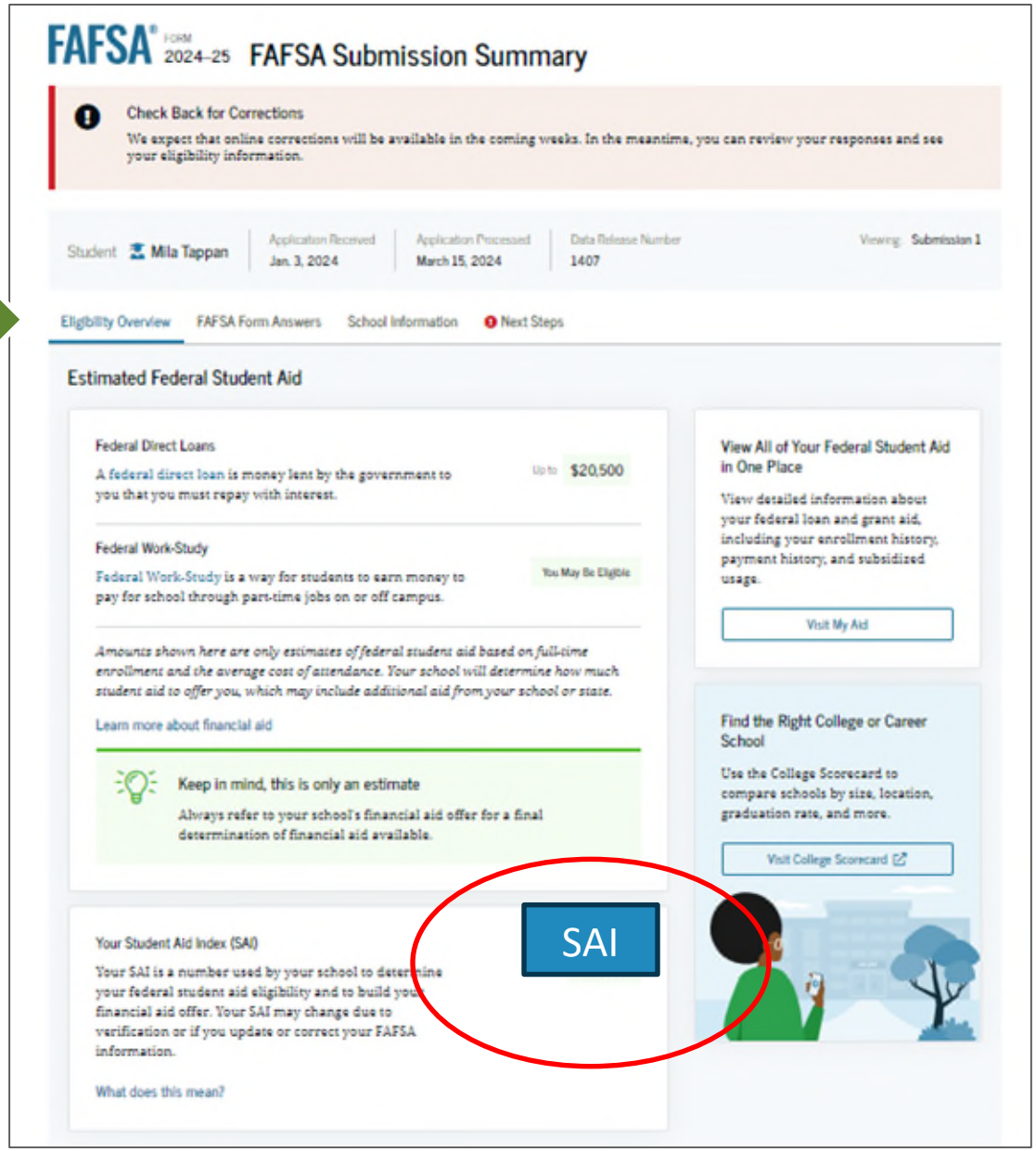
FAFSA Processing Update

Tabs:

- Eligibility Overview
- FAFSA Form Answers
- School Information
- Next Steps



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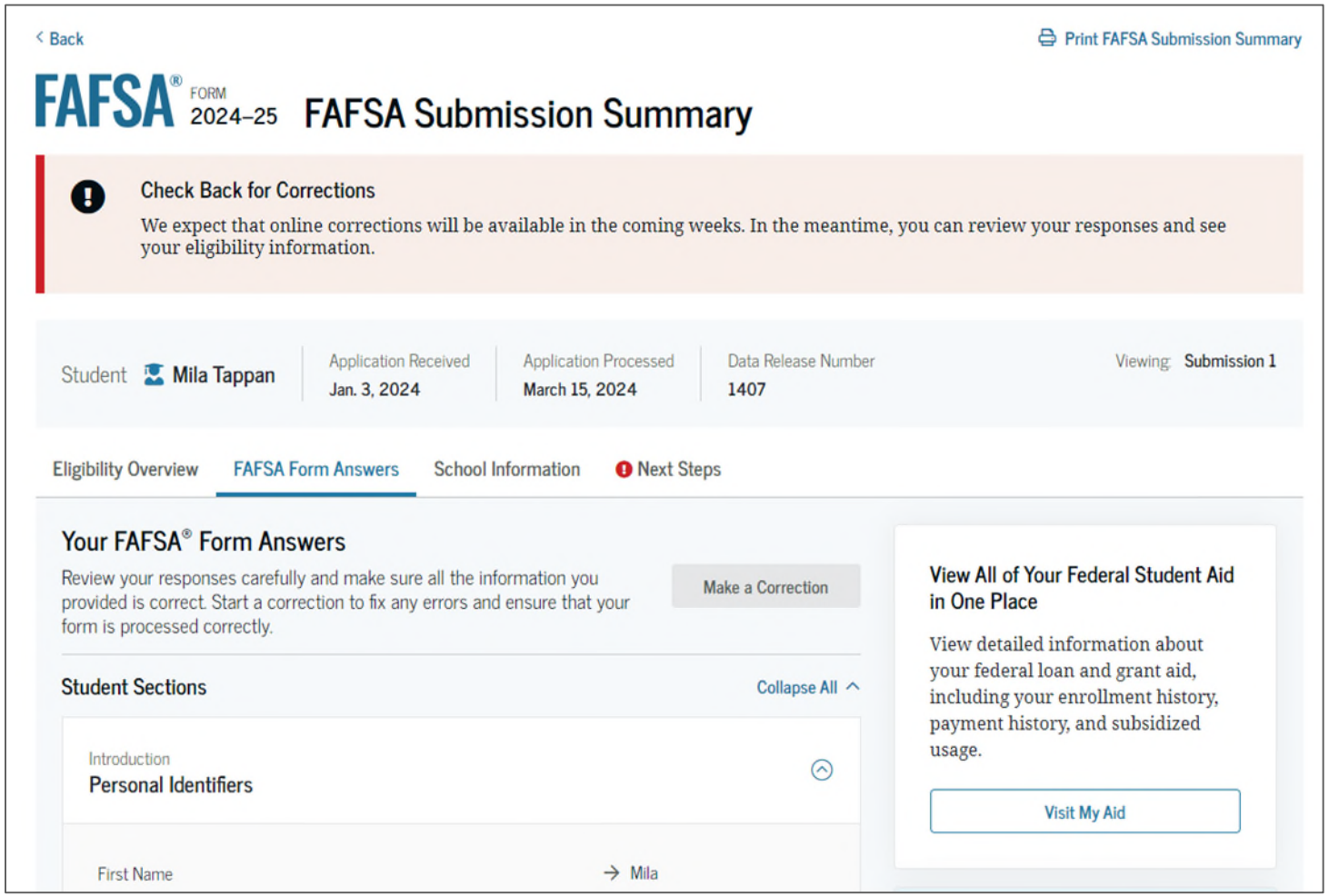
FAFSA Processing Update



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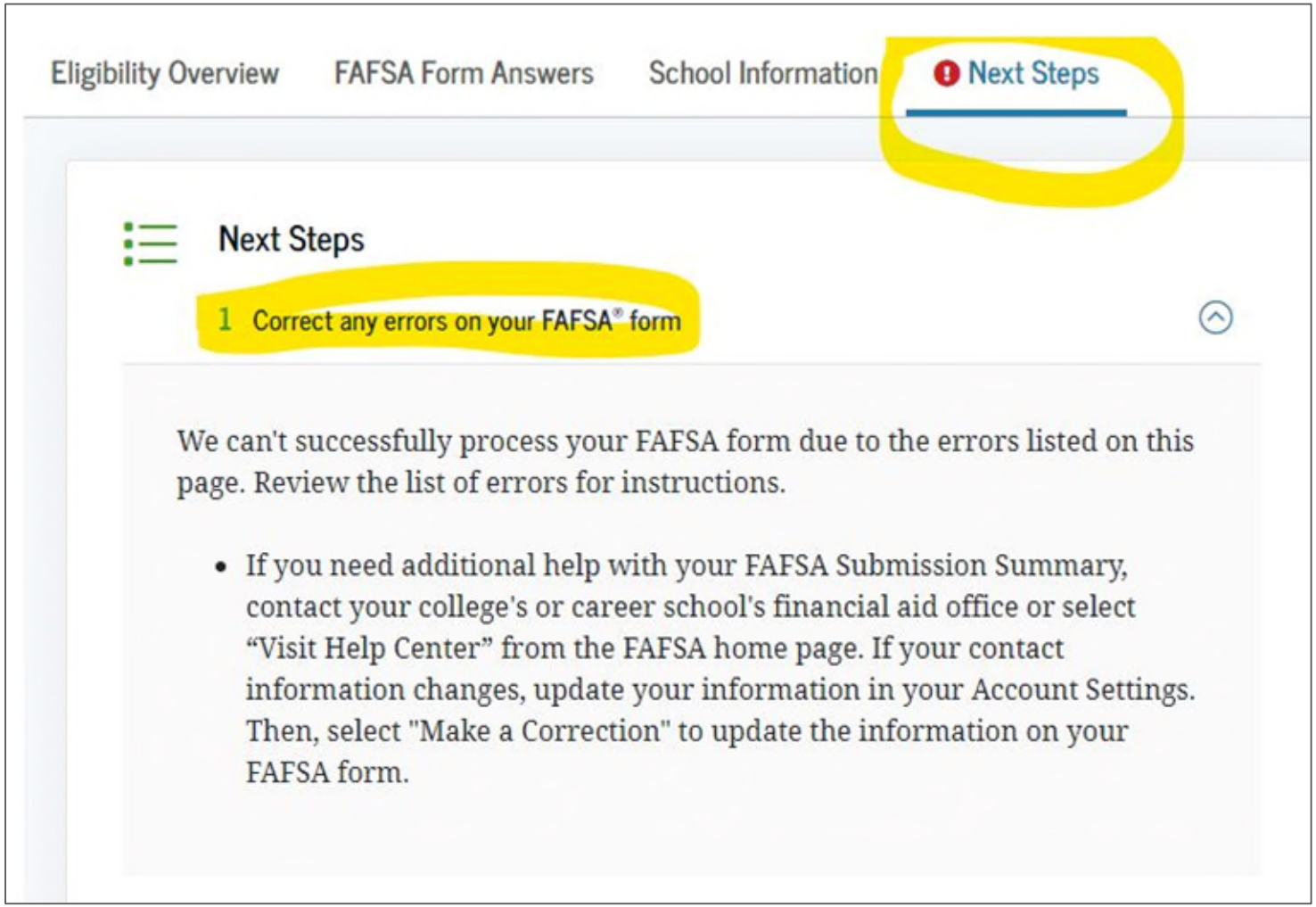
FAFSA Processing Update



FAFSA Corrections

What to Expect:

- **Once corrections are available,** students will be able to:
  - add missing signatures
  - correct answers to questions
  - add additional schools
- Stay tuned for additional information on the FAFSA correction process!
- **Every time** someone logs into StudentAid.gov they receive this email.

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FAFSA Processing Update

What to Expect from Colleges:

- **Schools are receiving FAFSA records** (referred to as ISIRs).
- Schools are working to **load and test records** and finalize award parameters.
- Update from this last week:
  - FSA announced that about **15-20% of FAFSA records have some incorrect tax data** from the IRS.
  - The FAFSAs potentially impacted are for tax filers with education tax credits and amended tax returns.
- Official financial aid offers will **be delayed until later in April or even May.**

Fix for Parent without an SSN

Mixed-Status Families Update:

- Mixed-status families were unable to file a FAFSA until mid-March.
- Technical fixes have **resolved this issue** (for the most part!)
- However, at last check, the IRS match wasn't working for anyone without SSN.
  - Contributors will need to **manually enter tax return related data.**
- **Good news** related to FSA ID creation: an email will automatically be generated if the individual's identity can't be verified.

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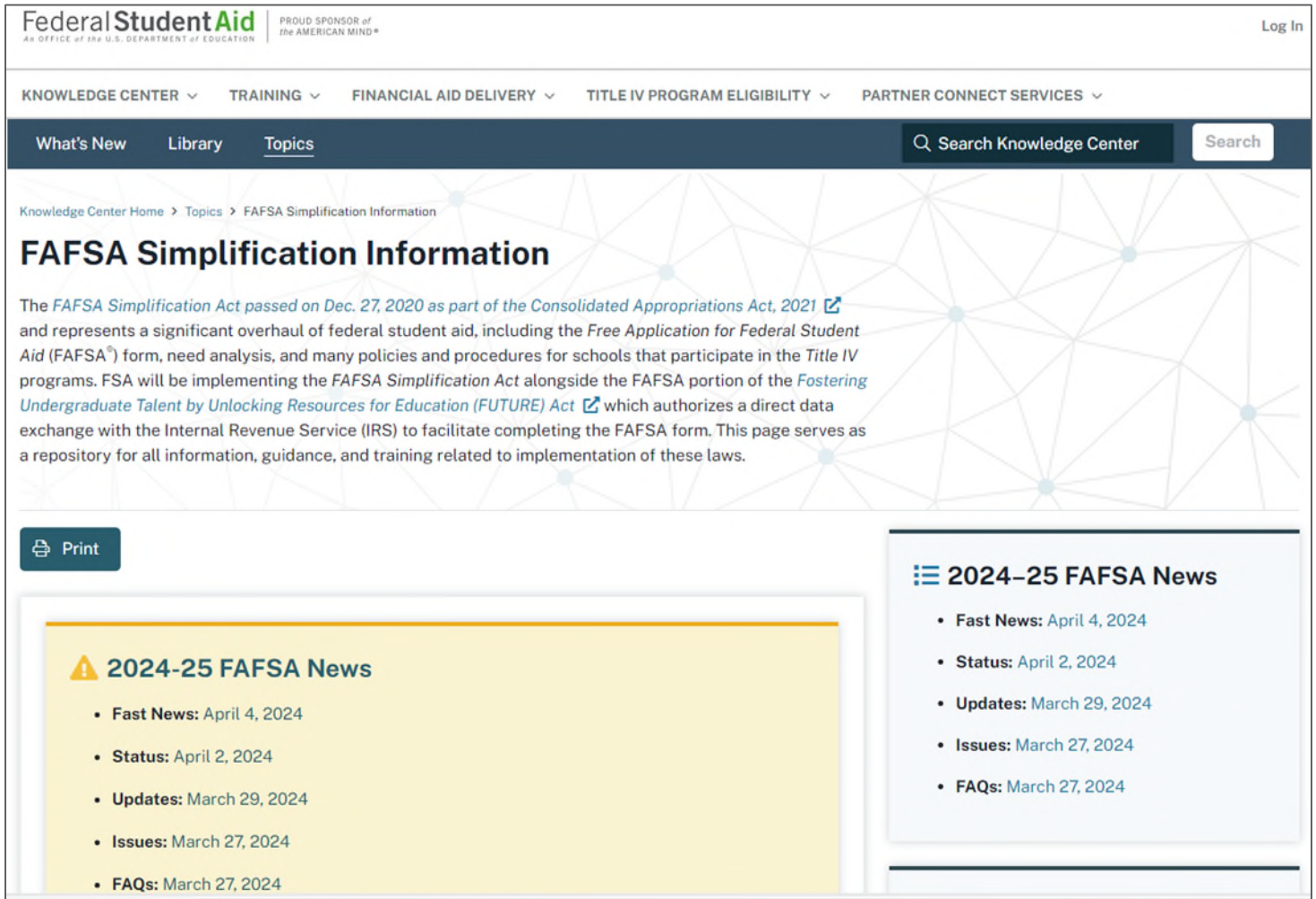
Best Source for Issue Resolution and Updates?

[FSA Knowledge Center](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information) - https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information



Students Should Follow Up with Schools, if Needed

Things for Students and Families to Keep in Mind:

- Contact the school's financial aid office if still unable to file a FAFSA or missed a deadline due to challenges.
- Special Circumstance review can be requested.
  - Parent SAI is no longer divided by the number in college, but families should reach out if **financially impacted** by the number in college.
  - Families should contact school if there has been a **change in income** or other circumstances not reflect on the FAFSA.
- **Admission acceptance/deposit deadline**
  - Has deadline changed?
  - Does the family need an extension?

FAFSA Filing Update

- FAFSA filing is **down by about 25%** for high school seniors.
- Please encourage students who haven't filed a FAFSA to file now!
- **FAME FAFSA Portal** will be available soon (fingers crossed!).
- Stay tuned for updates!

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FAFSA Filing and Corrections Tips

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Steps Prior to Filing a FAFSA

Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

- Accounts are created at **StudentAid.gov**.
- When an account is created, individuals set up a **username and password (referred to as an FSA ID)**.
- An FSA ID is required to access the FAFSA and all Federal Student Aid processes and serves as legal signature.
- All students and contributors must have their own FSA ID.
- Create FSA IDs **at least three days prior** to filing a FAFSA.

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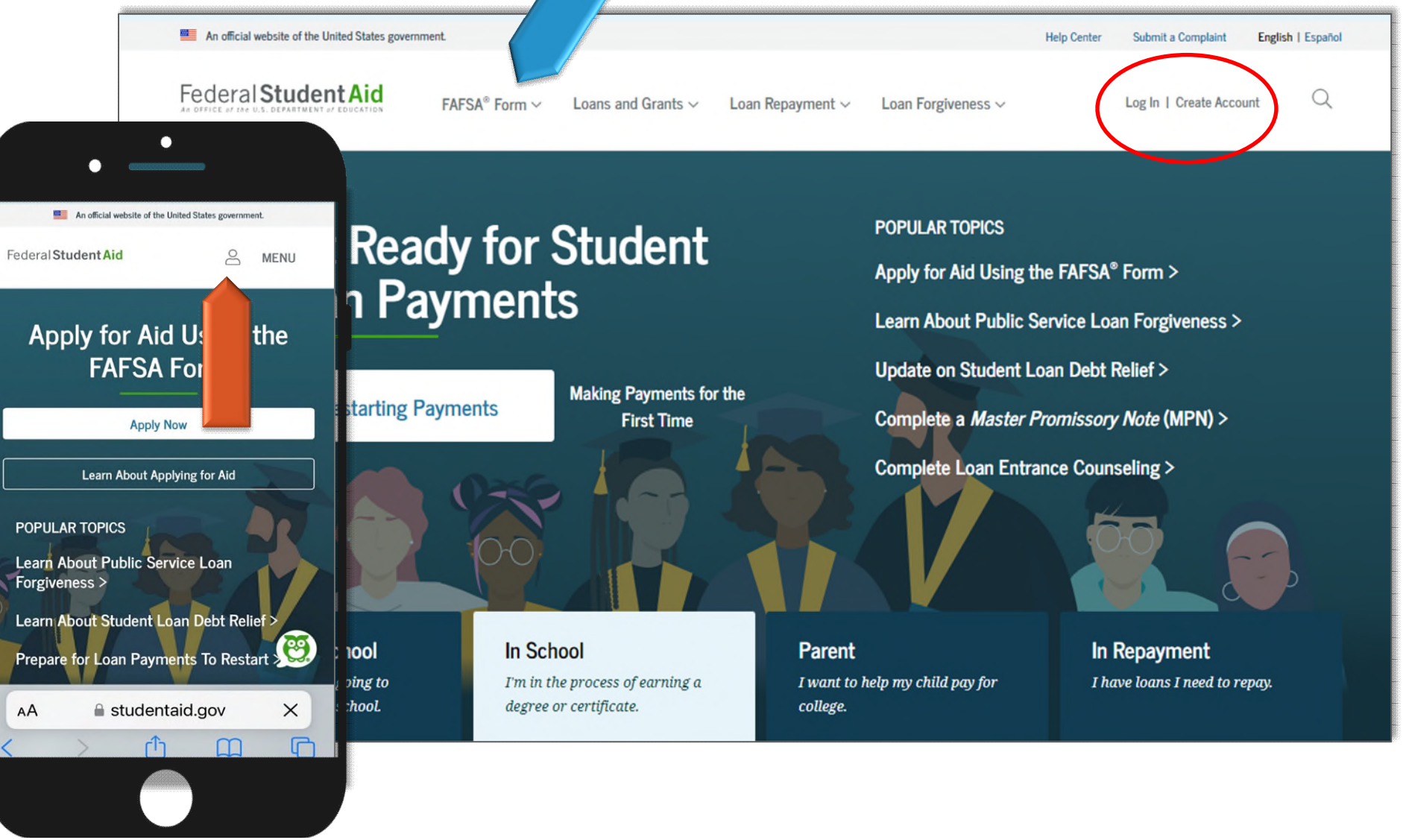
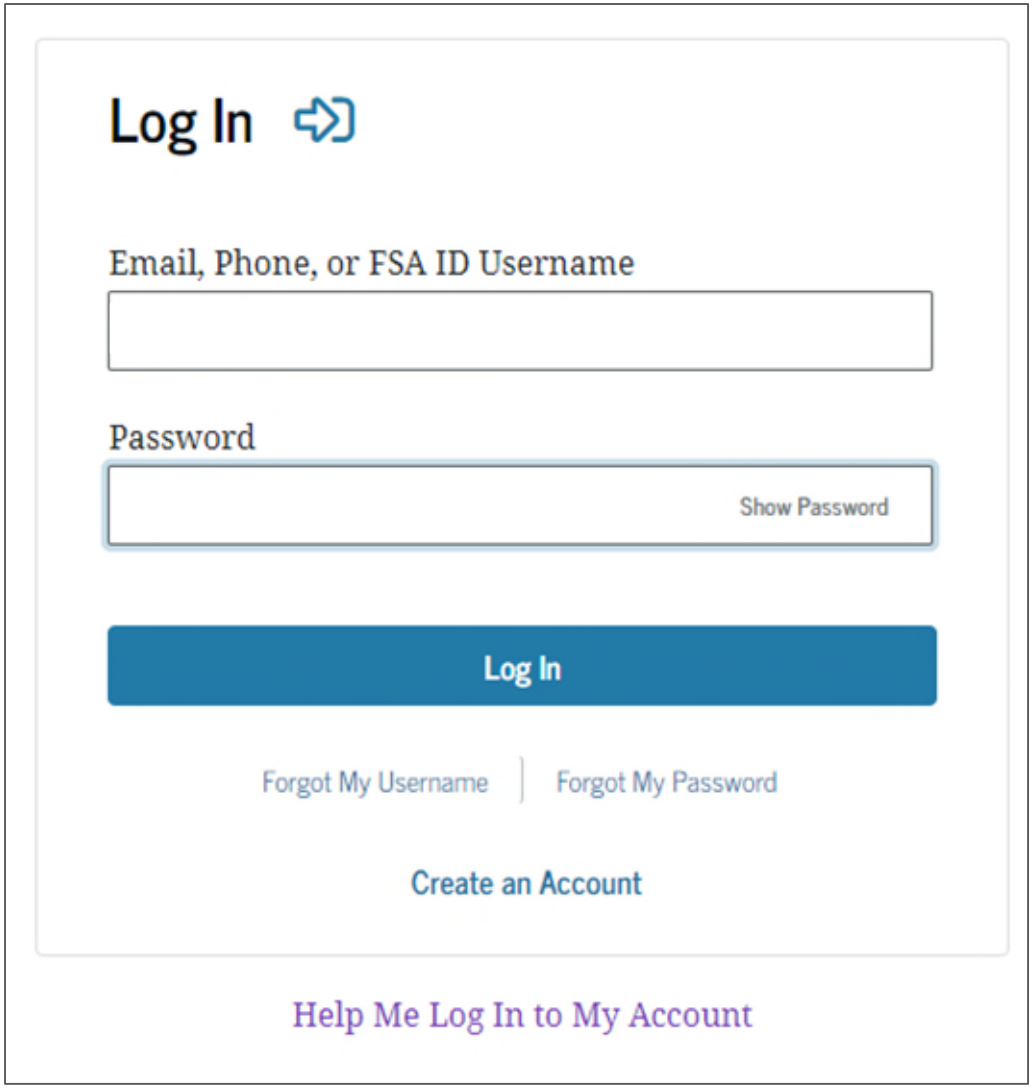
StudentAid.gov



Log In

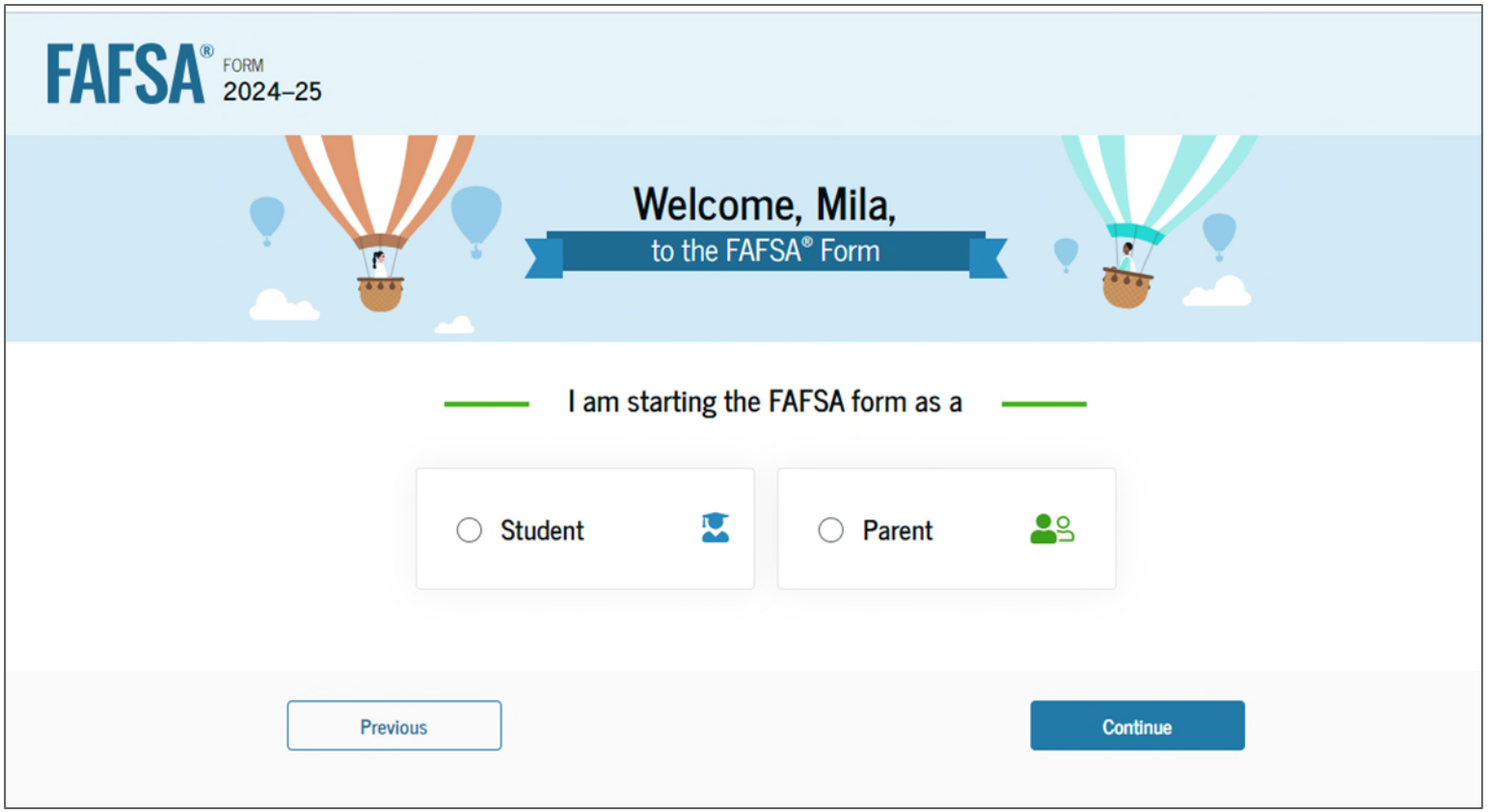
Either the Student or the Parent can start the FAFSA!

Go to **StudentAid.gov** to log in.



Filing the FAFSA

Click on the role of the person who logged in with their FSA ID.



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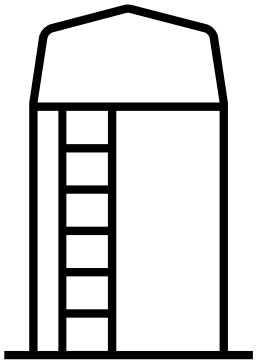
Decide Who Will Start the FAFSA

2024-25 FAFSA is a ***Roles-Based*** form

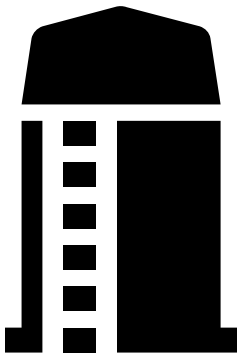
Student Section



Either student or parent can start the FAFSA and they will **"invite"** the other to complete the FAFSA.

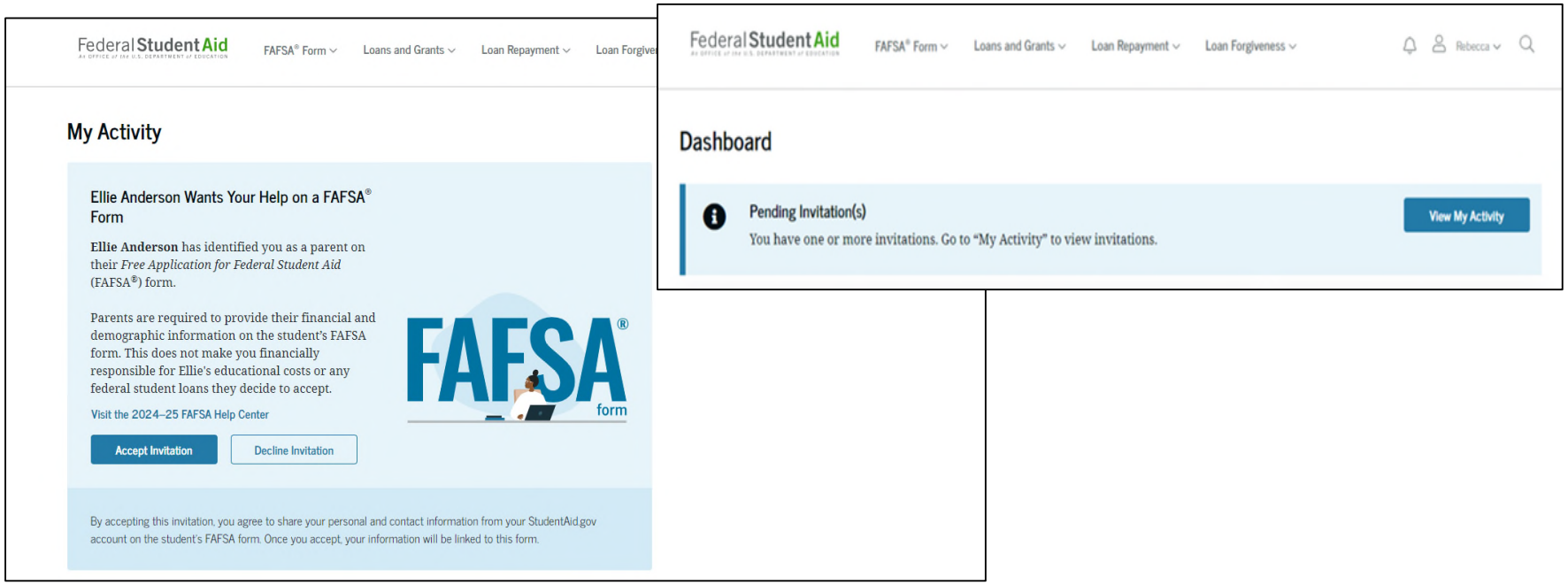
The invite is what connects the student and parent sections of the FAFSA.

Parent Section



Whoever Start the FAFSA….

Regardless of who starts the FAFSA, the other party will receive email with link or can go directly to **StudentAid.gov.**



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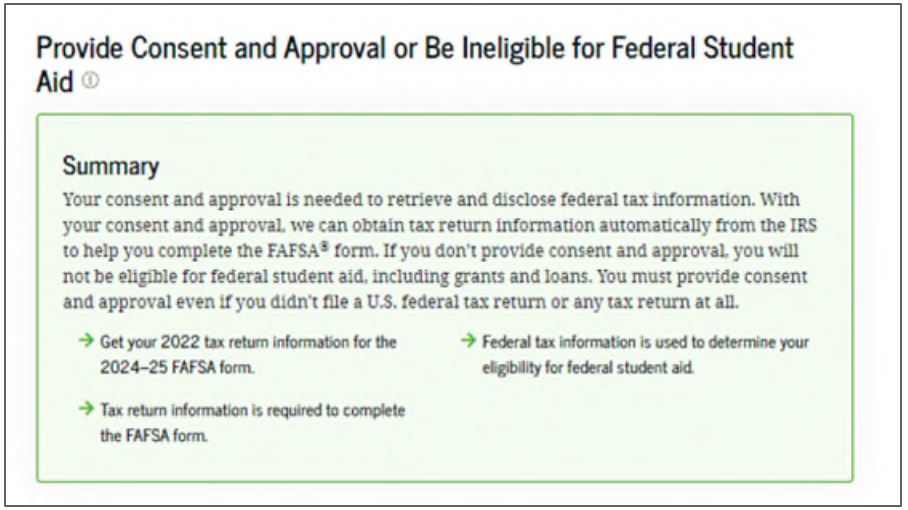
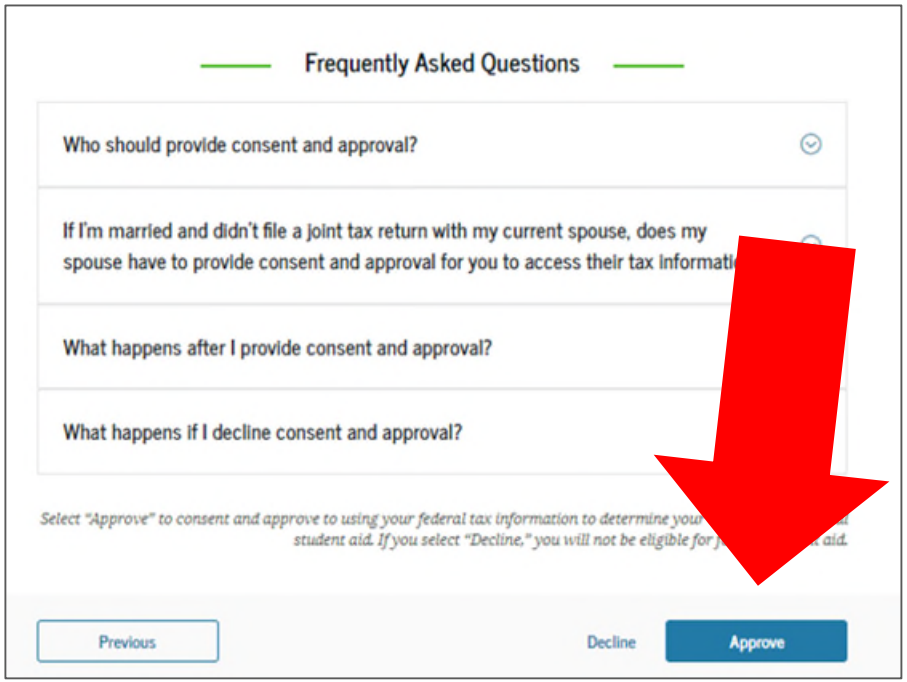
Things to Keep in Mind

Consent and Approval

- Contributors **must** provide consent and click on approval. If an individual doesn't not "Approve," the student will be ineligible for federal student aid.
- If consent is provided, federal tax information will be transferred automatically!





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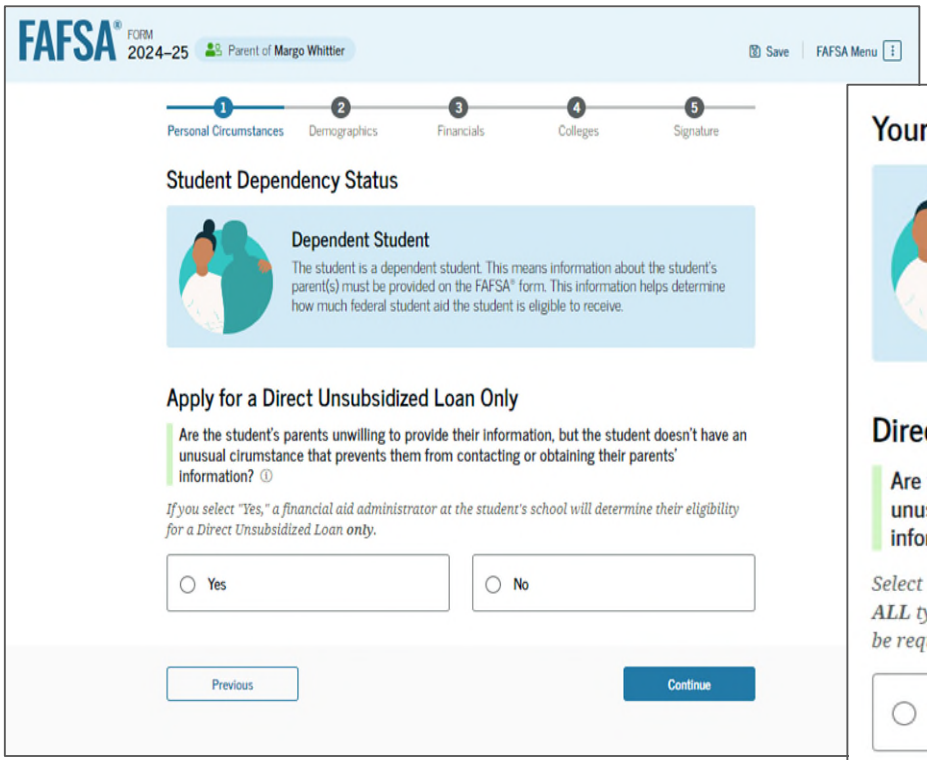
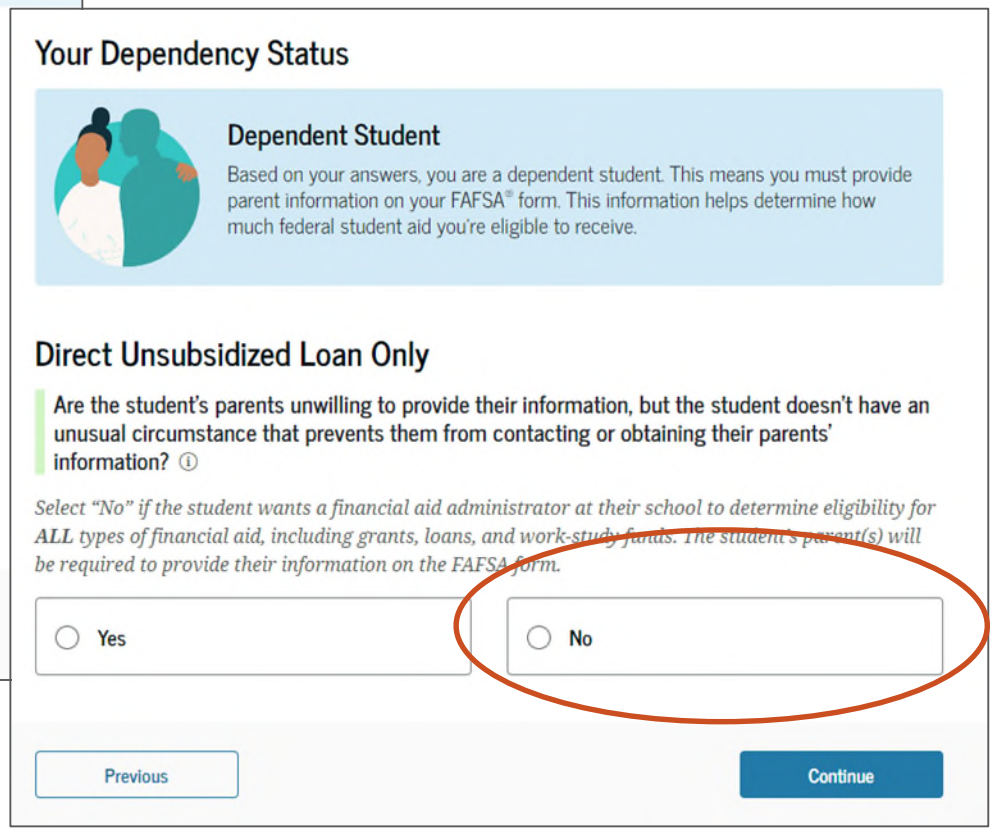
Things to Keep in Mind

For dependent students to be considered for all types of aid, parents must be willing to provide information so answer **"No"** to this question.

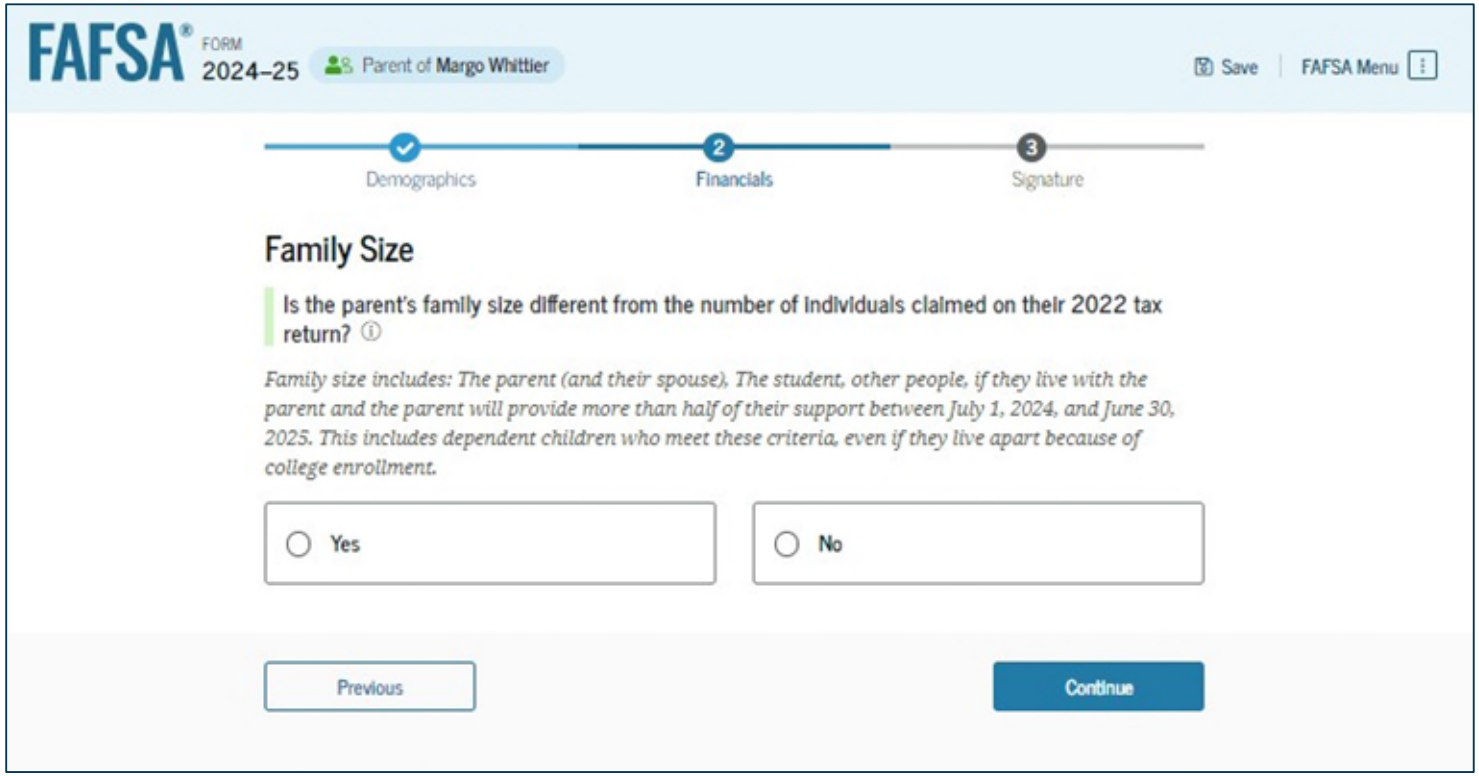


New wording!



Things to Keep in Mind

On the Family Size page (in Parent Financials) check **"Yes"** if family size has changed since 2022.



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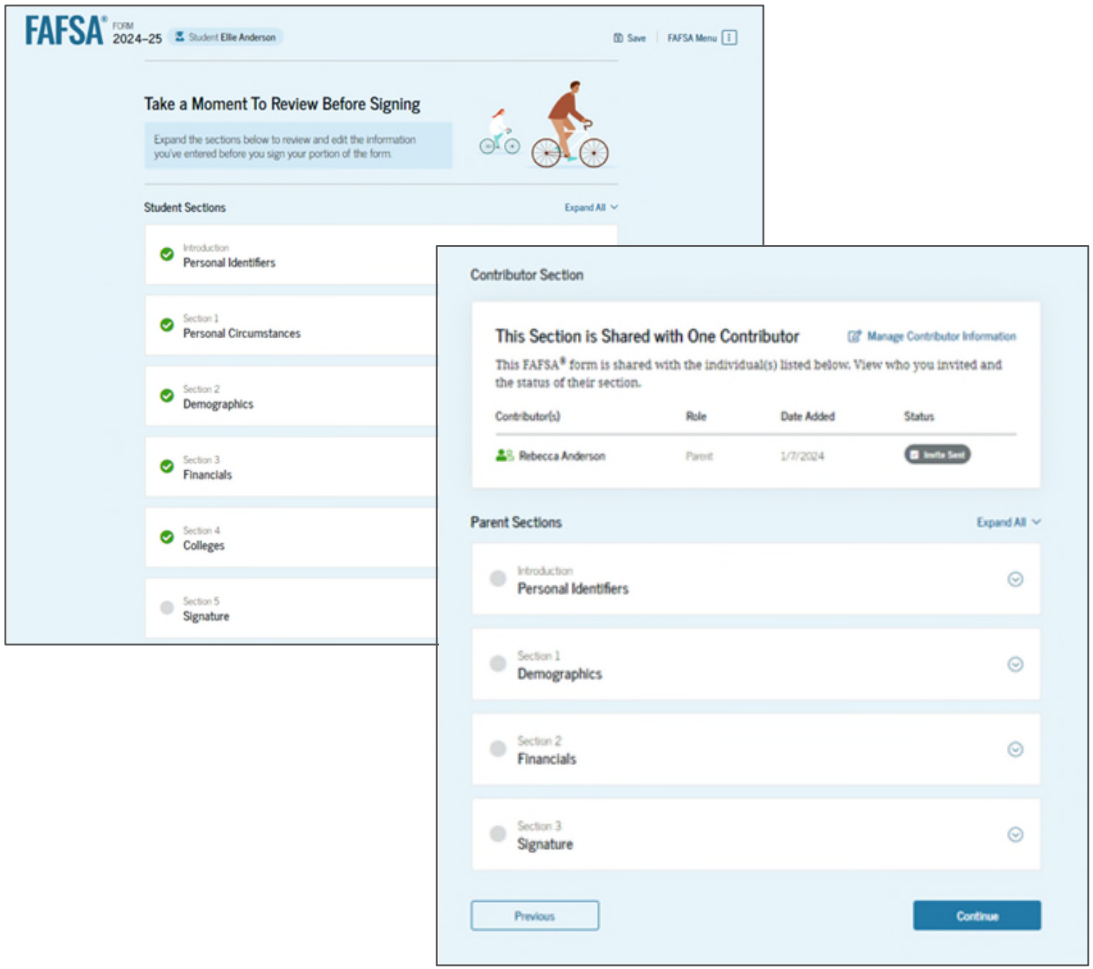
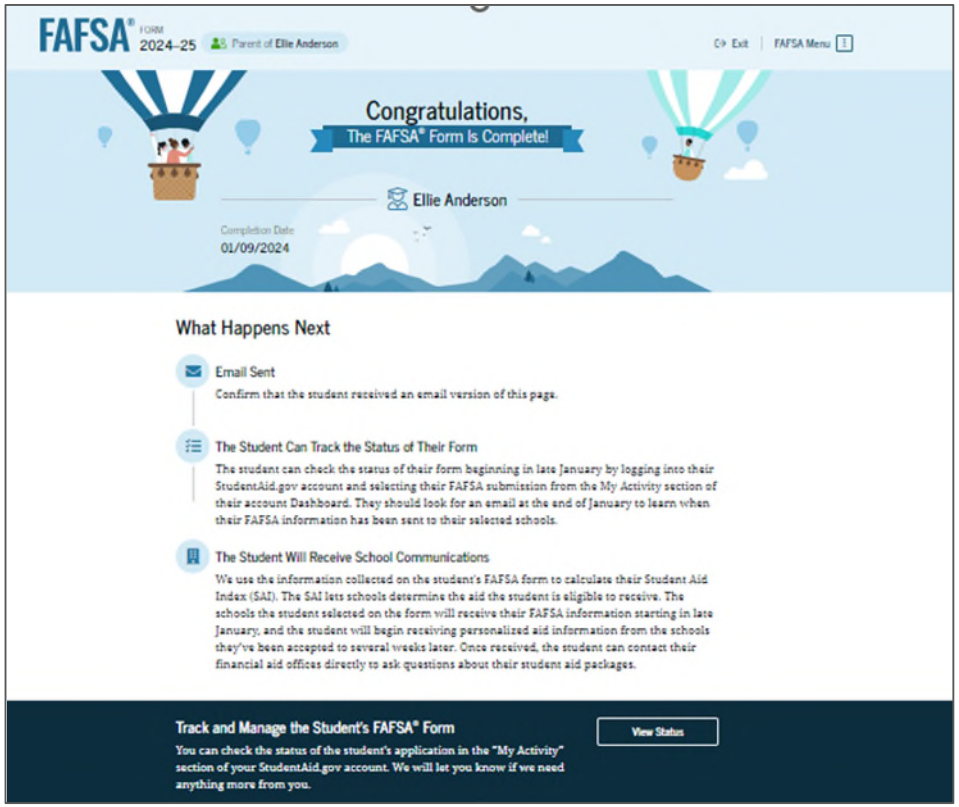
Things to Keep in Mind

- Expand all to review all responses or expand each section individually.
- Click on question hyperlink to be taken to that page.
- **Signature** is on the next page after slicking on **“Continue.”**



Things to Keep in Mind

- When parent submits the FAFSA, they will see a congratulations page with limited information.
- **Student** will see a congratulations page and receive an email confirmation with estimated SAI.



Things to Keep in Mind

- Student (only) receives an email when FAFSA has been submitted.
- Email is from the **U.S. Department of Education** with a subject line of ***"We Received Your FAFSA Form"***

We received your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.

Submission date: **January 09, 2024**

Date Release Number (DRN): **9525**

Note: Keep your DRN private. Read about the Data Release Number for more information.

Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) = 13108

The SAI is **not** a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college. Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

Based on the eligibility criteria, you don't appear to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. However, you may be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants; scholarships; and/or work study

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Questions?

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