

Email sent home on September 18, 2025



Dear Seniors and Families:

As you are aware, NJ public school students are required by state law to complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application (NJAFSA) as a **prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma**.

The law:

- Applies to the graduating classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027;
- Allows a student's parent or guardian to complete a waiver form exempting their student from this requirement. A student who is at least 18 years old may exempt themselves from the requirement;
- Provides that, if a student is under 18 years old and a waiver form cannot be reasonably obtained from the parent or guardian, the student's school counselor may authorize the waiver;
- Requires each school district and charter school to annually notify students and parents/guardians of this requirement;
- Prohibits school districts from taking adverse action against a student due to the student's receipt of an exemption; and
- Requires the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to issue a report that includes the number of students that completed a financial aid form under this requirement and the number of students exempted.

The school will be advised by the state when you have completed your submission.

If you choose to not complete the FAFSA, you will be required to submit a student/guardian waiver [via this form](#) by May 1, 2026. Please return completed waivers to the School Counseling office.

FAFSA is scheduled to open on October 1st.