

What is an FSA ID?

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. It stands for Federal Student Aid Identification (ID).

Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* at fafsa.gov.

If you are a parent of a *dependent student*, you will need your own FSA ID if you want to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. If you have more than one child attending college, you can use the same FSA ID to sign all applications. *Please note: Each FSA ID user must have a unique e-mail address.*

Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature. **Don't give your FSA ID to anyone—not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA.** Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of [identity theft!](#)

Where can I use my FSA ID?

Once your information is verified with the Social Security Administration (one–three days from the date you apply), you will be able to use your FSA ID to access your personal information on any of these ED websites, depending on what you need to do:

Website	What you can do at the site
fafsa.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronically sign your (or your child's) FAFSA.• Import your tax information from the Internal Revenue Service.• Prefill data in this year's FAFSA if you filed a FAFSA last year. That's called filling out a Renewal FAFSA.• Make online corrections to an existing FAFSA.• View or print an online copy of your <i>Student Aid Report (SAR)</i>.
My Federal Student Aid at StudentAid.gov/login or the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) at www.nsls.ed.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View a history of any federal student aid that you have received.• Look up your <i>loan servicer's</i> contact information.
StudentLoans.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete <i>entrance counseling</i>, the <i>Financial Awareness Counseling Tool</i>, or <i>exit counseling</i>.• Electronically sign a <i>master promissory note (MPN)</i>.• Complete <i>PLUS</i> loan requests.• Estimate your student loan payments using the <i>Repayment Estimator</i>.• Apply for an income-driven repayment plan or a <i>consolidation</i> loan.
<i>Agreement to Serve (ATS)</i> at www.teach-ats.ed.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign your ATS for the <i>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</i> Program.

When should I get an FSA ID?

You, and your parent if you're a dependent student, can apply for an FSA ID at any time. If you don't have one by the time you fill out your FAFSA, you will be prompted to apply for one. However, if you think the Social Security Administration (SSA) might have the wrong name or date of birth for you in its records, go to www.ssa.gov now to find out how to correct any errors. Your information must be correct with the SSA before your FAFSA or FSA ID can be processed.

How do I get an FSA ID?

You can create an FSA ID here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

The FSA ID process consists of three main steps:

1. Enter your log-in information.
 - Provide your e-mail address, a unique username, and password, and verify that you are at least 13 years old.
2. Enter your personal information.
 - Provide your Social Security number, name, and date of birth.
 - Include your mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and language preference.
 - For security purposes, provide answers to five challenge questions.
3. Submit your FSA ID information.
 - Agree to the terms and conditions.
 - Verify your e-mail address. (This is optional, but helpful. By verifying your e-mail address, you can use your e-mail address as your username when logging into certain ED websites. This verification also allows you to retrieve your username or reset your password without answering challenge questions.)

What happened to the Federal Student Aid PIN?

The FSA ID replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN on May 10, 2015. If you haven't logged in to a Federal Student Aid site (such as fafsa.gov or StudentLoans.gov) since May 10, you will need to create an FSA ID before you can log on in the future.

If you already have a PIN, you can link your information to your new FSA ID by entering your PIN while registering for your FSA ID. (This will save you time when registering for your FSA ID.) If you've forgotten your PIN, don't worry; you can either enter the answer to your PIN "challenge question" during the FSA ID registration process to link your PIN, or you can just create your FSA ID from scratch.

FSA ID Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have an e-mail address to create my FSA ID?

No; an e-mail address is required to not create or use an FSA ID. However, we strongly recommend that you do enter your e-mail address when you create your FSA ID. If we have your e-mail address on file, it's easier for us to help you if you get locked out of your account or forget your username or password. Also, your e-mail address can be used as an alternative to your username when you log in to fafsa.gov, StudentLoans.gov, or certain other websites.

Remember: An e-mail address can be associated with only one FSA ID. Why? The FSA ID is used to electronically sign documents such as loan promissory notes (which establish the binding legal obligation for the loan debt). Therefore, it is extremely important that any communications related to those documents or that FSA ID go to the correct person. Similarly, make sure you don't let anyone else know your FSA ID or create it for you because you'll be putting yourself at risk of identity theft or—at the very least—at risk of not knowing how to sign into your own accounts.

Do parents need FSA IDs?

Yes, a dependent student will need to have one of his or her legal parents sign the student's FAFSA, so the parent needs an FSA ID as well

Can I create an FSA ID for my child, parent, or spouse?

No. Only the owner of an FSA ID should create or use the account.

After I get an FSA ID, will I still be required to use my Federal Student Aid PIN?

No. Your FSA ID will replace your PIN as the way to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information through certain ED websites. When logging in to these websites, you will be required to enter only your FSA ID username and password.

I previously created a password when I started my FAFSA. Is that the same as the FSA ID password?

No. Prior to the implementation of the FSA ID on May 10, 2015, you may have created a password when starting a FAFSA. This FAFSA password was used to save a partially completed FAFSA or FAFSA correction and return to it later. It was also used to share a FAFSA between a parent and child who were not together geographically. If you created a password for a FAFSA or FAFSA correction, you should enter that password when you are asked for your Save Key. **Your FSA ID password is not the same as the former FAFSA password, which is now known as the Save Key.**

Does my FSA ID expire?

Your username does not expire, but your FSA ID password will expire every 18 months unless you change it.

What do I do if I get a message saying my FSA ID is locked?

An FSA ID is locked after three unsuccessful authentication attempts. There are two possible solutions. You can either have a secure code sent to your e-mail address or you can answer your challenge questions.

If you have received the message, "Your FSA ID is locked. To unlock it, use one of the following options," start with these two steps, and then choose one of the options described below.

1. Click on the black "Log In" button at the top of this page and select "Create or retrieve your FSA ID now."
2. Once you have attempted to log in, you will be taken to a page that says, "Your FSA ID is locked." You will be given two options to unlock your FSA ID—e-mail or challenge questions.

Option 1: E-mail

You can unlock your FSA ID by following these steps:

1. Click the e-mail button.
2. You will be taken to a page that says "Unlock Your FSA ID – Using Email."
3. A secure code will be sent to your e-mail address that's on record with your FSA ID.
4. Once you receive the e-mail, **within 10 minutes** you must enter the secure code in the box that says "Secure Code" and click on the submit button. (The secure code expires after 10 minutes.)
5. You will then be taken to a page that says, "Success!"
6. **Once your FSA ID is unlocked, you will need to reset the password for your FSA ID. Select the "Forgot My Password" option on the "Edit My FSA ID" tab, and follow the instructions to reset your password.**

Option 2: Challenge Questions

Your other option for unlocking your FSA ID is to use your challenge questions:

1. Click the "challenge questions" button.
2. You will be taken to a page that says "Unlock Your FSA ID – Using Challenge Questions."
3. You will be taken to a page that will ask you three of your five challenge questions.
4. You will need to answer all three questions and then click on the verify button.
5. If you answer your challenge questions correctly, you will be taken to a page that says, "Success!"
6. **Once your FSA ID is unlocked, you will need to reset the password for your FSA ID. Select the "Forgot My Password" option on the "Edit My FSA ID" tab, and follow the instructions to reset your password.**

For additional help, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID