

FAFSA Quick Tips

- **Every student** that is planning on attending a postsecondary institution should plan on filing the 2018-2019 FAFSA. Even if you do not feel like you will qualify for any money, many outside scholarships and schools require the application. The FAFSA report also helps give each school a better view of assistance that needs to be provided.
- Students planning to enter college for the 2018-2019 school year will be filling out the **2018-2019 FAFSA**. You will use your **tax forms from 2016** to fill out the FAFSA.
- If your student is planning on attending college for the summer of 2018, then you must additionally fill out the 2017-2018 FAFSA that uses your 2015 taxes.
- If you need assistance filling out your FAFSA, come see **Ms. Carlton** to set up a meeting. Be sure to bring the required information and tax forms.
- The FAFSA will be available starting on **Oct. 1st**. Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. You should **NEVER** be asked to pay a fee for completing the FAFSA. You can submit a paper version, but online is quicker and less likely to get audited.
- In North Carolina, it is recommended to file the FAFSA **as soon as possible** after Oct. 1
- More tips for completing the FAFSA is located at: <http://studentaided.gov/fafsa>
- You are strongly recommended to use the **IRS Data Retrieval Button** when filling out your FAFSA. This button allows you to automatically retrieve and enter your tax information. The reason this is highly recommended is you will be less likely to be at risk for verification. The process of verifying your information with the college can be frustrating, so if possible use the IRS Data Retrieval Button. Ensure that all items are spelled **EXACTLY** as they appear on your tax form when using the Data Retrieval Tool (even if the accountant made a mistake).