

## Introduction to the Student Aid Report (SAR)

The Student Aid Report (SAR) is a summary of the information you entered on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The SAR also notifies you of your Expected Family Contribution (see EFC on right), and if you are eligible for a Pell Grant.

After completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you should receive a SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically or 2-3 weeks if you filed a paper version. Check immediately for:

- EFC (upper right of pg 1)
- Any mistakes or errors (pgs 5-8)

### Why is the SAR important?

- Your SAR is the form that tells you how much federal student aid you are eligible to receive, and how much the government expects your family to pay.

### What happens after I receive my SAR?

- Check for mistakes or errors. Any colleges you listed on your FAFSA will also receive a copy of your SAR. Notify your prospective school's aid office immediately to make corrections. A delay could mean less aid.

### What if I don't receive my SAR?

- Call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) if you do not receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks.

### When do I receive my aid?

- Once your prospective colleges review your SAR and verify your eligibility, they will each construct an aid package and send you an award letter. You do not need to accept all of the aid that's offered to you; accept only the aid you want. Rejecting one form of aid, however, will not result in increases in the other forms of aid.
- Federal student aid will first be applied to certain school charges, such as tuition, fees, room and board. Any excess will then be disbursed to the student.

### Highlights of each page in your SAR:

- 1- Intro: Tracks the aid process for you. If there is an asterisk next to your EFC, you have been selected for verification.
- 2- Confidentiality info: Includes other formal reminders.
- 3- EFC, other info: EFC is listed at the top, along with other information, such as issues affecting your aid eligibility.
- 4- Summary of loans: As a high school student, you probably do not have any loans yet. If you have not taken out any loans, the totals should read zero (0).
- 5-8- FAFSA summary: Review the summary. Make corrections or changes in the spaces provided. You can also make changes online at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**SAR Information Acknowledgement:** A summary of your FAFSA. If any information is wrong, financial or otherwise, you can correct it on pages 5 through 8 of the SAR or online.

### Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The EFC is the amount your family will be expected to pay based on your situation. It is found on page 1 of your SAR.

#### *How is the EFC calculated?*

The U.S. Department of Education uses the Federal Methodology (FM) to calculate your aid eligibility. The FM takes into account: family income, the number of family members (in college or not), the net value of assets and your enrollment status, among other factors. To estimate your EFC, click on the "Expected Family Contribution Calculator" at <http://www.finaid.org/calculators>.

#### *Why is there an asterisk next to my EFC?*

It means you have been selected for verification and must provide documents to your prospective college(s) to verify the information submitted on the FAFSA. However, even if there is no asterisk next to your EFC, your school may still select your FAFSA for verification.

#### *What should I do if I was selected for verification?*

If your college asks for verifying documents, send them as soon as possible to avoid a delay in the aid process.

#### *What if I find mistakes on my SAR?*

Inform your prospective college(s) financial aid office of any mistakes. Be sure to make corrections as soon as possible. On the Web, using your PIN: Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and under "FAFSA Follow Up," click "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." You will be able to check off the items you want to change and make corrections accordingly. On paper: Flip to the last pages of the SAR and find your original FAFSA info. Make changes in the spaces provided. Only fill in the areas that need to be changed and/or corrected. Once finished, you must mail it in.

### Financial Planning Tool from Making It Count!

The Making College Financial Planning Count online tool provides an interactive overview of the college financing process. You can work at your own pace and save your work as you go.

This free online program will help you:

- Plan for and manage college costs.
- Understand the FAFSA, including critical tips and deadline dates.
- Learn more about the types of financial aid available, including scholarships and grants.
- Create your own personal college funding strategy using our College FundPath™ Worksheet.

This valuable tool can be accessed anytime at: <http://www.elearning.makingitcount.com>.

An in-school, assembly-style version of this program is also available for high school students and their parents from September through April. For more information, visit <http://mcfc.makingitcount.com>.