

Dear Seniors and Family Members:

It's time to fill out the **FAFSA - the Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. This form is used to determine the amount of money a family is expected to contribute to the price of attending a post-secondary institution. The results of the FAFSA are used in determining student grants, work-study, and loan amounts. It is essential that this form be filled out correctly and in a timely fashion.

The form was available as of January 1st, and though you do need your previous year's tax information to complete it, you can estimate your tax amounts for the purposes of timely submission, and update the application once your taxes are completed. In other words, **DO NOT WAIT** until March or April (when your taxes are done) to complete the FAFSA. Filing the form early ensures you are at the head of the line to receive limited post-secondary monies; some awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have not done so already, you need to obtain a pin number to complete the form. Each student and (one) parent must have a pin number. Each of you will electronically "sign" the form. You are encouraged to complete the form online. You can obtain your pin at:

<http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>

A link to the electronic FAFSA can be found at www.fafsa.gov. The paper version (while not recommended) is available through a link on the Financial Authority of Maine (FAME) website: www.famemaine.com/education.

We encourage you to visit the FAME website for lots of helpful information about financing higher education.

IF YOU NEED HELP FILLING OUT THE FAFSA, consider attending a local COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY EVENT! (Information below):

What is College Goal Sunday?

College Goal Sunday is a nationwide program that provides information and assistance to Maine students and their families applying for financial aid for higher education. College financial aid officers and other qualified professionals volunteer their time to help college-bound students complete

the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the required federal financial aid form.

When is College Goal Sunday?

Maine's 7th Annual College Goal Sunday will be held on January 31, 2010. Locations, and a wealth of other information, can be found at this link: <http://www.collegegoalsundaymaine.com/index.php>

Who Should Attend College Goal Sunday?

Students and families who need help completing the FAFSA form for the upcoming academic year.

What do I need to bring?

Students and their parents should bring their most recent tax information, such as completed IRS 1040 tax returns, W-2 statements and other income and benefits information.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) administers college Goal Sunday. Anyone interested in learning more about College Goal Sunday can contact FAME at 1-800-228-3734 or by Email at education@famemaine.com

As always, we are here to help. Please let us know how we can assist you!
Truly,

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