

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID STEP BY STEP

(For immigrant students who qualify under SB1528, formerly HB1403)

Undocumented immigrant students and those who are not permanent U.S. residents do not qualify for federal financial assistance to pay for college. However, TX Senate Bill 1528, signed into law in August, 2005 makes it possible for undocumented students to be eligible for statefunded financial aid. You can get state financial aid at public and private universities, and public community and technical colleges. SB1528 students are eligible to receive the TEXAS Grant, the Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG), the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG), the Texas Equalization Grant (TEG), and the College Access Loan (CAL).

To get this financial aid, you and your parents must fill out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, or depending on the university's preference, the **Texas Application for Student Financial Aid (TASFA)**, providing important information about your family's income and expenses. Colleges and universities will use the FAFSA or TASFA to determine how much state financial aid you are eligible for. It is crucial that you fill out a FAFSA or TASFA form! This is how students receive money for going to college from the government and from the colleges and universities.

You can get a copy of the FAFSA or TASFA from your college advisor or counselor. You can also request one from a college admissions or financial aid office. Both applications become available on **January 1st** of every year. You must fill it out in the early Spring if you are planning to start college in the fall. ***The sooner after January 1st you fill out and submit the FAFSA or TASFA, the greater your chances of getting good financial aid.***

You can find out which application a university prefers by calling the financial aid office, or by looking at the list on the back of the TASFA that includes the universities that accept the TASFA. If your college or university is not on that list, then they probably prefer that you submit a FAFSA application.

Most high schools offer financial aid information sessions for students and parents. In the Spring, Austin ISD offers a series of **Financial Aid Saturdays** at various high schools, where you and your parents can get assistance in filling out and submitting the FAFSA or the TASFA. Don't miss those!!

Evangelina Orozco, Immigrant College Coordinator, Office of Bilingual Ed/ESL, Austin ISD
(512) 414-6427, or send an email to eorozco@austinisd.org

When filling out the FAFSA or the TASFA, keep in mind:

1. You must make sure you qualify for Senate Bill 1528 – talk to Vangie Orozco, Immigrant College Coordinator with the Austin ISD Office of Bilingual Ed/ESL (414-6427).
2. If the university asks you to fill out the FAFSA, complete a **paper FAFSA** by filling out with a black pen. **You cannot do the online FAFSA** application because it requires a Social Security number. You can do it in either English or Spanish.
3. If the university prefers that you submit a TASFA, go to www.collegefortexans.com, to download the application, **fill it out on the computer, and print it out, OR you can get a paper TASFA and fill out with a black pen.** The TASFA is also available in English or Spanish.
4. You must complete a separate application for each college/university you are applying to. Hand in directly, or mail in, a completed FAFSA or TASFA (with any required supporting documents) to the financial aid officer at the college(s)/university(s) you are applying to. Do not mail either of these forms to the federal or state government.
5. Remember that the FAFSA and TASFA ask about your and your parents' income. Even if your parents do not file an income tax return, these forms can be filled out by putting down estimates of your household income. If your parents do file an income tax return but haven't filed yet this year, urge them to file as soon as possible because it is best if you have their income tax returns ready before filling out these applications.
6. If you are submitting a TASFA application, and your parents are planning to file an income tax return, then the TASFA requires that you submit copies of the income tax returns with the application. If your parents will not be filing an income tax return, then you can put down estimates of the annual income. Make sure to check with the university about any additional forms or supporting documents they may require if your parents are not filing an income tax return.
7. If submitting a FAFSA, at the top of the first page, write your name, student ID and **SB1528**, so that your FAFSA gets processed appropriately. You do not have to do this if submitting a TASFA.

***Evangelina Orozco, Immigrant College Coordinator, Office of Bilingual Ed/ESL, Austin ISD
(512) 414-6427, or send an email to eorozco@austinisd.org***