

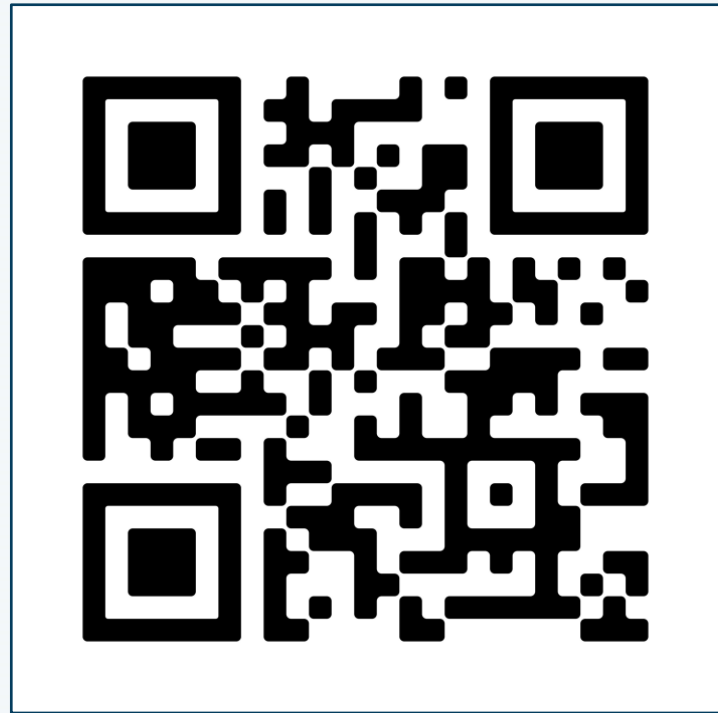
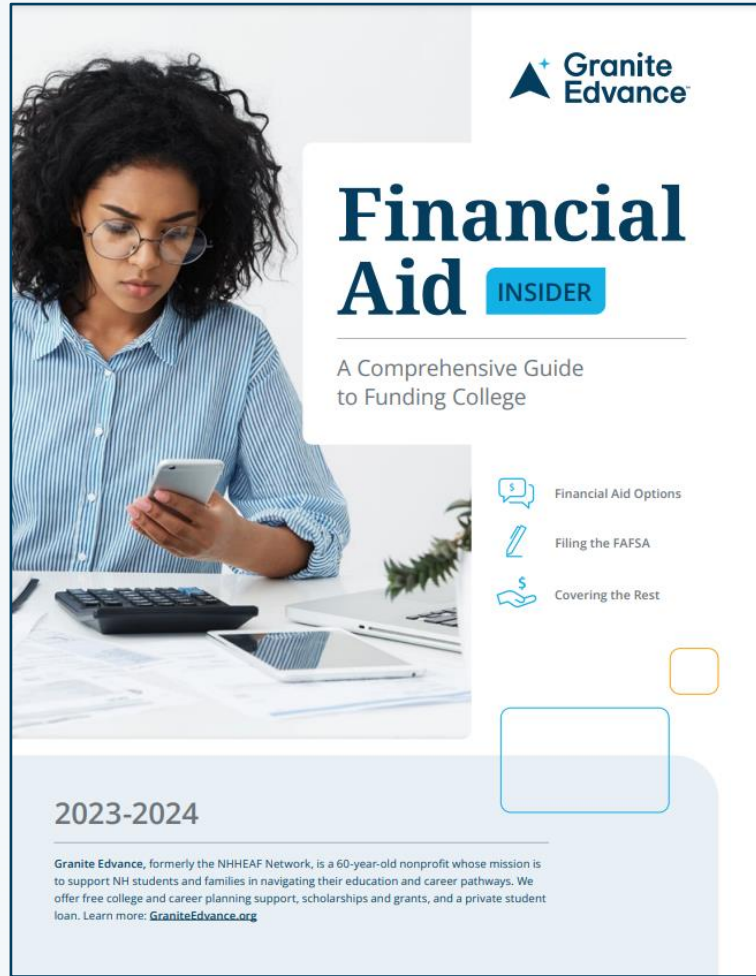
SIGN IN

Understanding the Financial Aid Process

Presented by:



Financial Aid Insider- Digital Copy



SCAN ME!

Who We Are



We are dedicated to providing students and families with FREE, important information about higher education and career planning



Team of expert Education and Career Specialists



Aim to empower students to plan and achieve their future goals with confidence and excitement



Facilitate connections among individuals and organizations that support students



Serve all NH students of any age, background, interest, and pathway



Appointments

We offer virtual and in-person appointments Monday-Friday. In-person appointments are held in our Concord office.

Schedule online:

<https://calendly.com/graniteedvance>

Or call: **603.227.5444**

Career & Aptitude Exploration

- Complete assessment and meet with a counselor to discuss careers and college majors that match your results

Exploring Education Pathways

- College, career prep, program options, application process, understanding role of financial aid

Financial Aid Support & FAFSA Prep

- Ask your questions about the financial aid process, create FSA ID

FAFSA Assistance

- FAFSA filing assistance

Reviewing Financial Aid Offers

- Understanding & comparing offers, next steps



Financial Aid Basics

How to Prepare



Understanding Financial Aid



Definition and Goal:

- The goal of financial aid is to help students pay for college. Financial aid is offered in the form of grants, scholarships, federal student loans, and work study jobs.

Achieved by:

- Evaluating a family's ability to pay for educational costs (Student Aid Index)
 - SAI can be as low as -\$1,500
 - Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner
 - Providing a balance of gift aid and self-help aid (when available)
- 
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Types of Financial Aid



Gift Aid

Merit-based (scholarships)

- Offered based on academic, artistic, or athletic talent; community service, leadership

Need-based (grants)

- Based on the family's finances



Self-Help Aid

Federal Loans

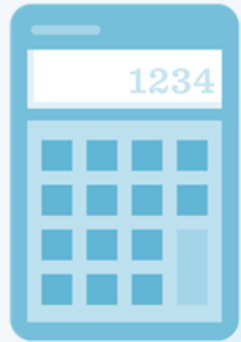
- Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized

Work Study

- Need-based campus employment

Net Price Calculators

- Calculators will differ from college to college
- Results are an estimate of potential financial aid – you still must file the FAFSA and any other required financial aid forms



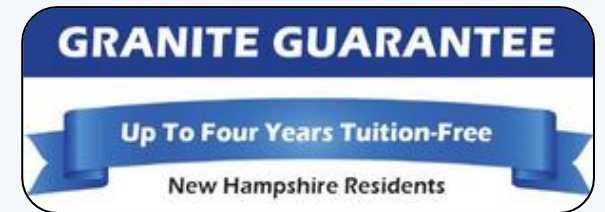
THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. Have the “money talk” early
2. Focus on *net price*, NOT *sticker price*
3. Types of aid offered at each school:
 - Merit?
 - Need?
 - Both?

NH-Specific Cost Savings Programs

Granite Guarantee

- Free tuition for first-time students or CC graduates attending a NH public college. Must be attending full-time and eligible for the Pell Grant.



Community College

- Offers a more affordable college option for students at a price of \$215 a credit



Tuition Break

- Students are eligible for the program when they enroll in an approved major that is not offered within their own state's public colleges/universities.
- Currently, a full-time Tuition Break student receives an average tuition break of \$8,600
- nebhe.org/tuitionbreak





Applying for Financial Aid

Financial Aid Forms

FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- studentaid.gov
- Available December 1st

CSS Profile

- cssprofile.org
- Available October 1st

TIPS

- Check with each school to determine required application forms and specific deadlines
- Your timeline may be very different from the timeline of others
- Consider these variables:
 - WHERE are you applying?
 - HOW are you applying?
 - WHEN is the college's deadline?



The FAFSA Form
must be completed
EVERY year

Goal of the FAFSA:

- To collect a family's personal and financial information to calculate the **Student Aid Index (SAI)**

Who Should File the FAFSA?

- Everyone!

Why file the FAFSA?

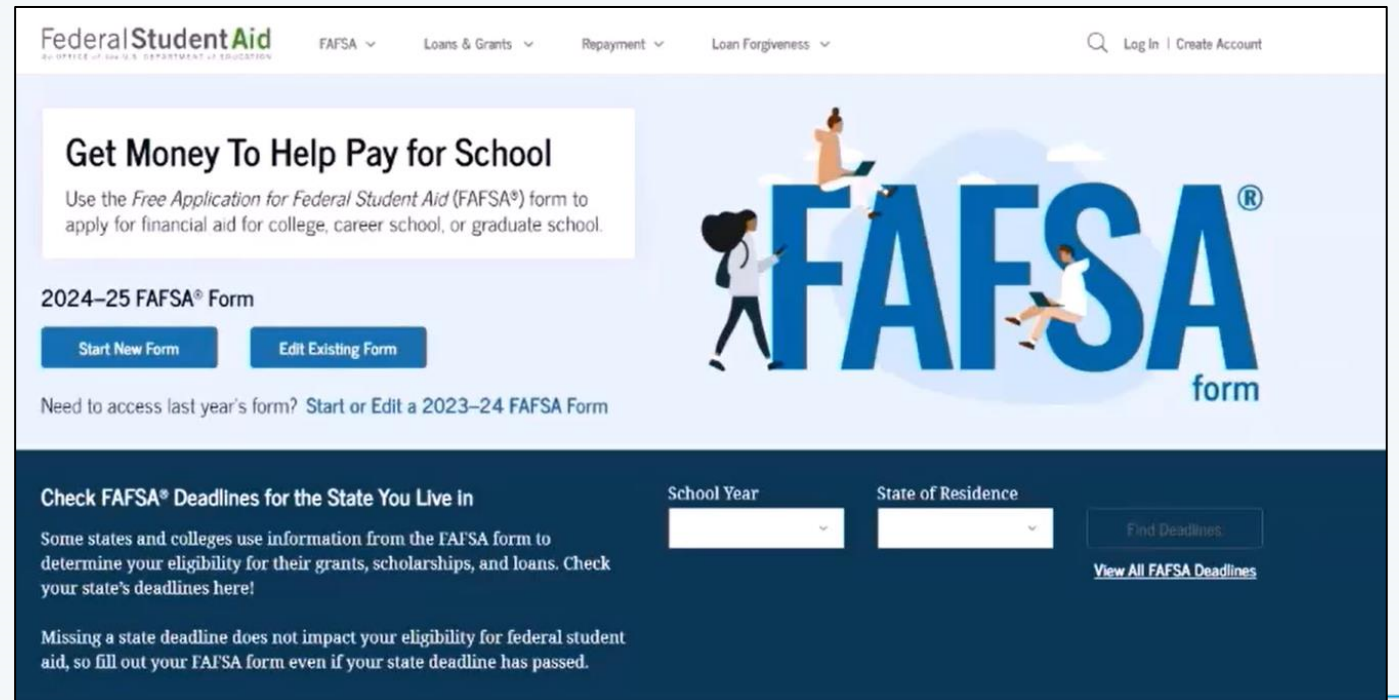
- You may be eligible for Federal Aid (federal loans, federal grants and/or work-study opportunities)
- Some private scholarships require the FAFSA as part of their application process

File Online

studentaid.gov

Completing the
FAFSA is FREE

Chat online with FAFSA
Specialist or call:
1-800-4-FEDAID



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo "Federal Student Aid" and the text "AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION". To the right of the logo are several menu items: "FAFSA", "Loans & Grants", "Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". Further right are "Log In" and "Create Account" links. Below the navigation bar is a large banner area. On the left side of the banner, there is a white box with the heading "Get Money To Help Pay for School" and the text "Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school." Below this box, it says "2024–25 FAFSA® Form" and provides two buttons: "Start New Form" and "Edit Existing Form". To the right of the banner is a large graphic of the word "FAFSA" in blue, with the word "form" in a smaller font below it. The graphic includes illustrations of students: one sitting on the letter 'A', one walking with a backpack, and another sitting on the letter 'S'. Below the banner, there is a dark blue section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In". This section contains two dropdown menus for "School Year" and "State of Residence", a "Find Deadlines" button, and a link "View All FAFSA Deadlines". At the bottom of this section, there is a paragraph: "Missing a state deadline does not impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed."

studentaid.gov Account

- A username/password that allows students and parents to log in to studentaid.gov
- Takes 3-5 days to verify
- Needed BEFORE completing the FAFSA

What is needed to create your account:

- Social Security number
- Your own cell phone and/or email address

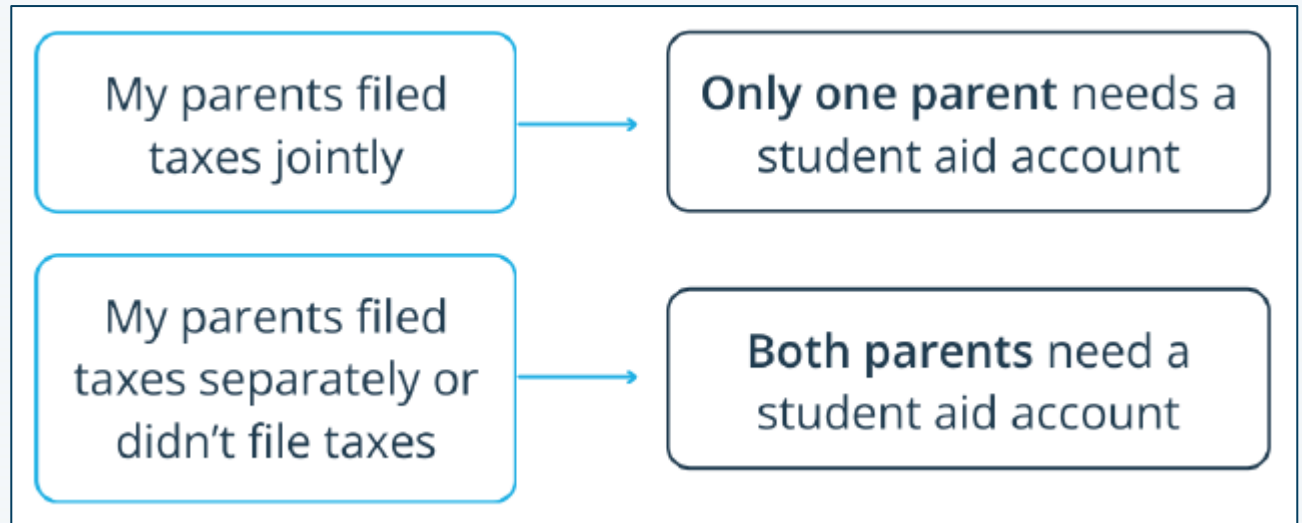
Remember to save your Backup Code! You will use your backup code to access your account in the event you cannot use any other two-step verification method.

FAFSA Contributor(s)

My biological parents or adoptive parents are married:

OR

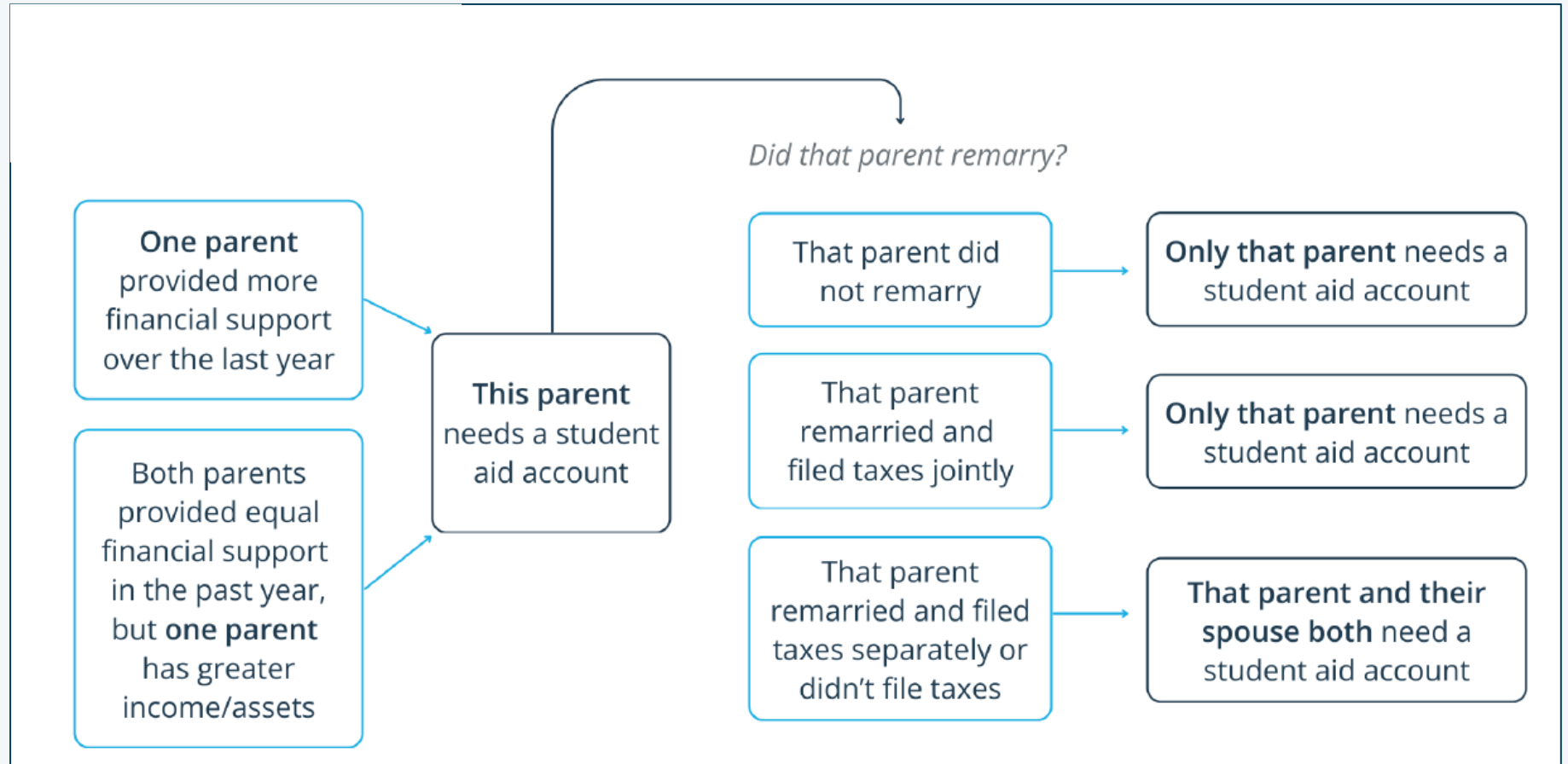
My biological parents or adoptive parents aren't married but live in the same house:



For more details about who need a student aid account, see the **Financial Aid Insider**

FAFSA Contributor(s)

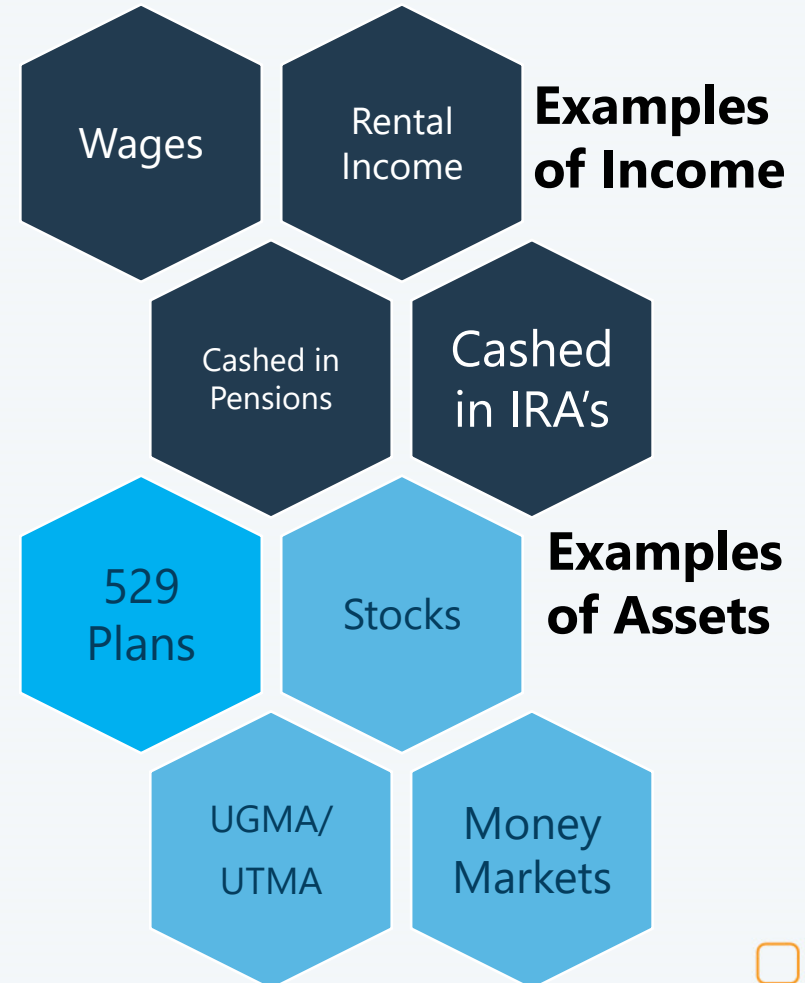
My biological or adoptive parents are divorced or separated:



What is needed?

Students and parents of dependent students MUST consent to the use and disclosure of tax information for the FAFSA

For more details about FAFSA income and asset requirements, see the **Financial Aid Insider**



Common Questions

- Whose FAFSA is it?
- When is the deadline to complete the FAFSA?
- Which year's tax return should a family use?
- Who qualifies as an independent student?
- Does the number of college students in the household impact financial aid?
- If a student is not sure they are going to college, should they still complete a FAFSA?



- Used by approximately 250 colleges to determine eligibility for institutional aid
- Use student's College Board log-in to access form
- \$25 fee to register and to send to first school; \$16 for each additional school
- Fee waivers available for qualified students

cssprofile.org

Special Circumstances

- Contact financial aid professionals at each college
- Complete special circumstances form on each school's financial aid webpage
- Have realistic expectations of financial aid appeal outcomes

MAY be considered:	WILL NOT be considered:
Loss or reduction of employment	Vacation expenses
Separation or divorce of parents	Graduate school expenses for a sibling
Death of a parent	Wedding expenses
High unreimbursed medical or dental expenses	Consumer debt
Unusual losses in business, investments, or real estate	Expenses related to pets



Searching for Scholarships

National Search

Start the search now

Deadlines will differ based on the scholarship you apply for

collegeboard.org

fastweb.com

scholarships.com

scholarshipowl.com

scholarships360.com

Helpful Tips:

- Create an appropriate and unique email address for the college and scholarship processes
- Do not pay money to apply

Local Search



School

Check with School Counselors

Check with your counselor for information about local scholarships for students from your community



Work

Check with your (or your parents') employer(s)

Many have scholarship programs set up for their employees or their family members

NH Specific Scholarships



Granite Edvance



- Awarded \$500,000 to NH students in 2024
- Award amounts range from \$2,500-\$5,000
- Trade school, associate and bachelor's degree students eligible
- Opens March 2025

NH Charitable Foundation

Statewide Student Aid Program

- For students enrolling in 4-year degree programs

Career Aid to Technical Students Program

- For students enrolling in 2-year degree programs
 - Open Mid-January
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Prepare



Gather the required personal and financial information required by the FAFSA and/or CSS profile



Make a chart/list of each school's submission deadline



Complete the FAFSA, being sure to identify each school you may consider applying to (up to 20)



SUBMIT your FAFSA before the **EARLIEST** financial aid submission deadline



Determine which schools may also require the CSS profile and complete and submit that as well

Questions

Phone:

603.227.5444

Email:

findyourdirection@graniteedvance.org

Schedule an appointment:

<https://calendly.com/graniteedvance>



**Thank you for
attending!**

Your feedback matters. Please
complete our presentation
evaluation.

