



Ready, Set, FAFSA! Virtual Financial Aid Events

Fact Sheet for Schools and College Access Programs

Free college and financial aid events are available to Minnesota students and families via Zoom! The series, running four Tuesday evenings in October, will cover tips on applying to college, general financial aid information, details on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Minnesota Dream Act for undocumented students, and other ways to pay for college. Please let students in your community know about this opportunity. To access tools and materials to promote these events in your school or program, access our [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#).

What are the dates, topics and suggested audience?

All sessions are at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights and will last approximately 45-60 minutes. Participants can ask questions in the chat. Participants can attend any number of sessions (choose dates during registration). Suggested audience is 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

- **October 1: Apply to College** | 10-12th grade students
- **October 8: Understand Financial Aid** | 10-12th grade students
- **October 15: Prepare to Apply for Financial Aid** | 12th grade students
- **October 22: Scholarship Search** | 10-12th grade students

Who are the presenters?

Presenters are from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and ECMC The College Place.

Will this information be offered in other languages?

Yes! All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. In addition, there will be financial aid professionals during each session who can answer questions in the chat in Spanish, Somali and Hmong if needed. We plan to record the presentations as well.

How can students and families participate?

All sessions will be on Zoom, but space is limited. Students and families can register at the following link: bit.ly/RSFAFSA. Session materials and recordings will be posted on the same page after each event.



Is there a scholarship for students?

Students who attend any of the sessions or watch a session recording will be eligible to win a \$1,000 scholarship (one entry per session attended) awarded by ECMC The College Place Minnesota.

What tools are available to help promote these events?

The [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#) includes information about virtual financial aid events for school/program newsletters, email messages and social media posts to engage students and families. It includes:

- **Ready-made graphics** in two sizes (square and rectangle), in two formats (.png and .pdf) and in four languages (English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong).
- **Short blurbs for family communications** to include in newsletters, emails, texts.
- **A social media guide** for 2024 College Knowledge Month includes several images to promote Ready Set FAFSA events with corresponding captions to share on Instagram, Facebook and/or Twitter accounts.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

- Beth Barsness, beth.barsness@state.mn.us | Minnesota Department of Education
- Libby Fahrenkamp, libby.fahrenkamp@state.mn.us | Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Tara Pribnow, tpribnow@ecmc.org | ECMC The College Place Minnesota
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