

## What is an FSA ID?

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

If you are a parent of a *dependent student*, you will need your own FSA ID if you want to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. If you have more than one child attending college, you can use the same FSA ID to sign all applications. *Please note: Each FSA ID user must have a unique e-mail address.*

Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature. **Don't give your FSA ID to anyone—not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA.** Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of [identity theft!](#)

## What happened to the Federal Student Aid PIN?

The FSA ID replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN on May 10, 2015. (Read a post on the Department of Education blog providing an [“obituary” for the PIN](#), explaining its history and introducing the FSA ID.)

If you haven't logged in to a Federal Student Aid site (such as [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) or [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov)) since May 10, you will need to create an FSA ID before you can log on in the future.

If you already have a PIN, you can link your information to your new FSA ID by entering your PIN while registering for your FSA ID. (This will save you time when registering for your FSA ID.) If you've forgotten your PIN, don't worry; you can either enter the answer to your PIN “challenge question” during the FSA ID registration process to link your PIN, or you can just create your FSA ID from scratch.

## How do I get an FSA ID?

You can create an FSA ID when logging into certain ED websites, including this one. [Create an FSA ID now.](#)

The FSA ID process consists of three main steps:

1. Enter your log-in information.
  - Provide your e-mail address, a unique username, and password, and verify that you are at least 13 years old.
2. Enter your personal information.
  - Provide your Social Security number, name, and date of birth.
  - Include your mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and language preference.
  - For security purposes, provide answers to five challenge questions.
3. Submit your FSA ID information.
  - Agree to the terms and conditions.
  - Verify your e-mail address. (This is optional, but helpful. By verifying your e-mail address, you can use your e-mail address as your username when logging into certain ED websites. This verification also allows you to retrieve your username or reset your password without answering challenge questions.)

## Do parents need FSA IDs?

Yes, a dependent student will need to have one of his or her legal parents sign the student's FAFSA, so the parent needs an FSA ID as well. [Find out which parent's information should be listed on the FAFSA.](#) It's important to understand that the student and the parent may not share an FSA ID: Your FSA ID is your signature, so it has to be unique to you.

These resources can be found at

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

If you have any further questions, please contact an MHS Academic Advisor.