

2024-2025 FAFSA Terminology

CONTRIBUTOR

Anyone who is asked to provide information on the FAFSA – Student, Student's Spouse, Parent(s), and Step-parent(s)

CONSENT

Each contributor will now need to provide their consent to their Federal Tax Information (FTI) being included in the FAFSA, even if they did not file a U.S. Tax Return

FPS (FAFSA Processing System)

Replaces the **Central Processing System**

The name for the platform processing the forms

FSS (FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY)

Replaces the **Student Aid Report**

After submitting the FAFSA form, the applicant receives a FAFSA Submission Summary, which is a summary of the data provided on the FAFSA form

FAMILY SIZE

Replaces **Household Size**

Will be determined by the number of exemptions claimed on federal tax returns from the IRS. (Note: There will be an option to change that number on the FAFSA if it no longer reflects the accurate family size)

SAI

Replaces the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

An eligibility index number that a college's or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much Federal student aid the student would receive if the student attended the school. This number results from the information that the student provides in their FAFSA

Federal Tax Information (FTI)

Replaces the **Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)**

A contributor's tax information transferred directly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) after giving their consent

FAFSA Contributor

A contributor is anyone who is asked to provide information on an applicant's FAFSA



The student

The student's
spouse (if
applicable)

A biological or
adoptive parent

The spouse of a
remarried parent who is
on the FAFSA--the
stepparent

The 2024-2025 FAFSA is student driven, so that means the student's answers on their section will determine who will be a contributor (in addition to the student). Students will need the contributor's name, date of birth, Social Security Number (SSN), and email address to invite them to complete the required portion of the FAFSA. Contributors will need to provide personal and financial information on their section of the FAFSA.

If a dependent student's parents are unmarried and living together, both parents will be contributors, will need to have separate FSA IDs, and need to provide consent. Dependent students whose parents filed their U.S. income tax return as Married Filing Jointly only require one parent contributor to complete the FAFSA. If the student's parents filed separately, both parents will be considered contributors and therefore need separate FSA IDs, and both must provide consent.

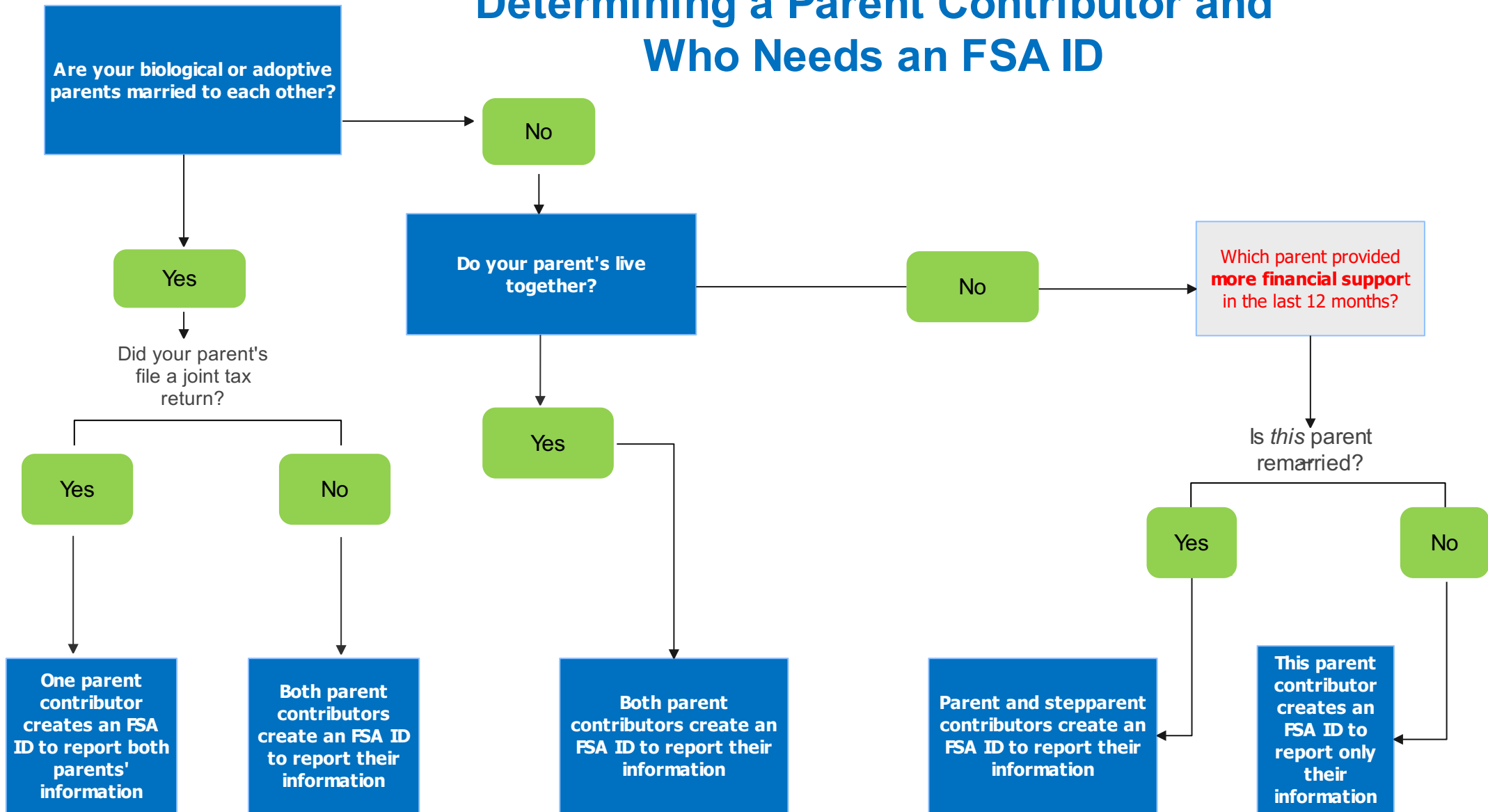
If an independent student is married and filed separately, both individuals are contributors, must have FSA IDs, and must provide consent for the student to be eligible for Title IV aid.

EVERYONE (students, spouses (if applicable), and parents) will need to Consent to Retrieve and Disclose Federal Tax Information (FTI) on the FAFSA for federal student aid eligibility. This consent will allow the IRS to share FTI.

IMPORTANT: If a required contributor refuses to provide their information and consent and approval, the FAFSA form will be incomplete, and the student will be ineligible for federal student aid.

IMPORTANT: An applicant's FAFSA will be deleted after 45 days of inactivity, so if the contributor does not respond or the applicant makes no adjustments to the FAFSA after a 45 day period, the FAFSA will be deleted.

Determining a Parent Contributor and Who Needs an FSA ID



FAFSA Contributors Must Create an FSA ID

An FSA ID allows your contributors to access and sign the FAFSA.

Contributor is any individual required to provide a signature and consent on the FAFSA form. To access, create, or submit an online FAFSA, contributors must create an FSA ID. A student's **Contributor is:**

- *Biological or Adoptive Parent*
- *Parent's Spouse-Stepparent*
- *Student's Spouse (if 2022 tax returns were filed separately)*



2024-2025 Parent of Record and Parental Income on FAFSA

Parents who are married or unmarried and live together

Parental income and assets in the case of student whose parents are married and not separated, or who are unmarried but live together, shall include the income and assets of both parents

Divorced or separated parents

Parental income and assets for a student whose parents are divorced or separated, but not remarried, is determined by including only the income and assets of the parent who provides the greater portion of the student's financial support even if the student does not live with that parent

Remarried parents

If a parent whose income and assets are taken has remarried, the income of that parent's spouse shall be included if the student's parent and the stepparent are married as of the date of application

Single parent who is not divorced or separated

Parental income and assets in the case of a student whose parent is single, not divorced, separated, or remarried, shall include the income and assets of such single parent

Death of a parent

Parental income and assets in the case of the death of any parent is determined as follows:
(A) If either of the parents has died, the surviving parent shall be considered a single parent, until that parent has remarried
(B) If both parents have died, the student shall not report any parental income or assets