MASFA

Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid

Who Should Complete the MASFA?

- Students not eligible to file a FAFSA, may complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA).
- Student must live in Massachusetts and meet the "High School Completer" status requirements under the MA Tuition Equity Law.
- If the student is a U.S. citizen, an eligible non-citizen, or an international student who is in the United States with a valid visa, they should **NOT** complete the MASFA.

High School Completer Status

The Massachusetts "High School Completers" Tuition Equity Law carves a pathway to **in-state tuition rates** and **state financial aid** for certain non-US citizen students.

Student must meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

- 1. Attended a Massachusetts High School for at least three (3) years
- 2. **Graduated** from a **MA High School** or have received the equivalent of a high school diploma (i.e., GED/HiSet) in MA
- 3. Can't have an ineligible non-immigrant status
 - Eligible statuses include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Victims of Human Trafficking or other Crimes
- 4. Be admitted to a public or private institution of higher education within the Massachusetts system of public higher education.
- 5. Physically reside in Massachusetts

WHO SHOULD FILE THE MASFA?

To be eligible for most types of financial aid, students must complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA). If you are unsure which form to complete, please answer the questions below.

Are you a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Eligible Noncitizen?

Eligible noncitizen: Permanent U.S. Resident Card (I-551), Conditional Permanent Resident (I-551C), holder of an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94), T-Visa holder, "Cuban-Haitian Entrant," holder of a valid certification or eligibility letter from the Dept. of Health & Human Services showing designation of "victim of human trafficking." (FAFSA-Eligibility for Non-U.S. Citizens)





Do you currently have a nonimmigrant visa or status (8 U.S.C. § 1101(A)(15)(A-S))?

Examples Include:

Temporary Workers & Trainees, Students & Exchange Visitors, Diplomats & Other Representatives, Temporary Visitors, and their spouses and children

Examples DO NOT Include:

Victims of Human Trafficking or Other Crimes, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Temporary Protected Status (TPS)



Do you meet the following criteria?

✓ You have attended high school in Massachusetts during at least three (3) academic years and earned a high school diploma (or the equivalent) in Massachusetts.

AND

✓ You have resided in Massachusetts for 12 months prior to the enrollment in a higher education institution.





YES

Based on your response, you should file the MASFA

Based on your responses, you are NOT eligible for federal or Massachusetts state financial aid. You should <u>not</u> complete the FAFSA or MASFA applications at this time.

MASFA Application

- The MASFA is only available electronically. Paper applications are not available.
- The MASFA application(s) is available via the <u>Student Experience</u>
 <u>Portal.</u>
- Students should complete the application on a computer/laptop.
- Completing application on a mobile phone is NOT recommended.
- The application collects information to help determine student eligibility for state and institutional financial aid programs.
- It is important that the student read each question carefully, before providing answers.
 - Certain questions may qualify the student to skip other sections on the form. [i.e., Special Circumstances, Parental Information]

MASFA Application

- At the end of the application, the form will require the student (and parent, if student is a dependent) to review and sign the application.
- Selecting the [Electronic] 'E-Signature' is the PREFERRED option in order for the form to automatically calculate the student's Student Aid Index (SAI). **Faster processing time.
 School(s) receive student's MASFA data quicker.**
- Selecting 'Paper-Signature' will require students to download application, sign it, and upload the signed application to the portal. This option will require a manual review of the form by the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance before an SAI can be calculated. **Extra processing time before school(s) receives the data.**

MASFA Applications

- 2024-2025 Application: currently open
 - For students currently enrolled in college, Fall 2024/Spring 2025
 - Application deadline: June 30, 2025
- 2025-2026 Application: will open in December 2024
 - For students who will enroll in college, during Fall 2025 and/or Spring 2026 semester(s).
 - Application deadline: June 30, 2026
- School(s) listed on student's application will be able to view ISIR data and package state financial aid

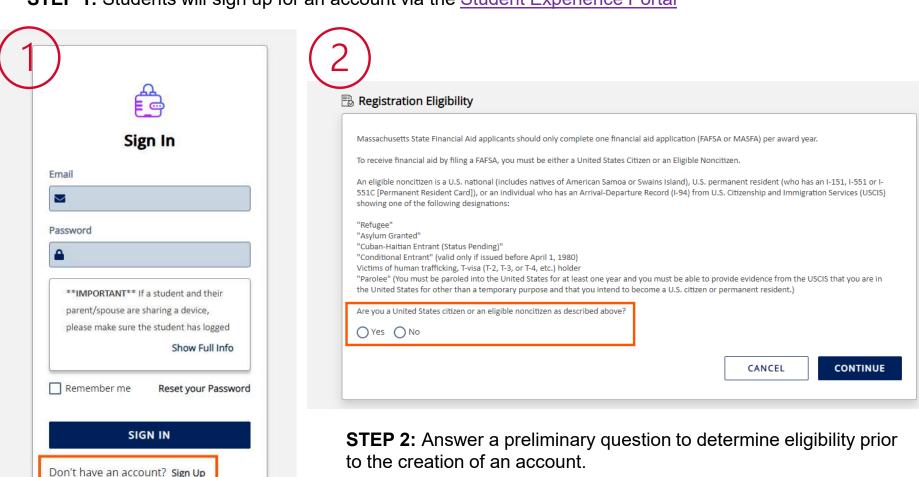
What Information Needs To Be Provided?

Students will need to provide the following information on the MASFA application:

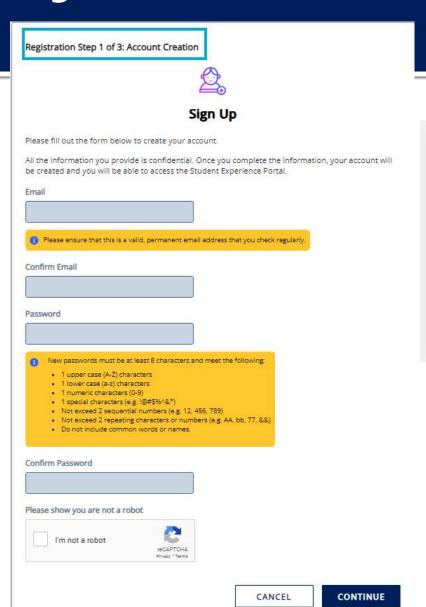
- Date of birth, mailing address, phone number, personal email address
 - Student should use a personal email address that they have access to. Do not use a high school email address [firewall security issues; some students don't have access to HS email address after graduation]
 - Dependents (students under the age of 24) will also need to provide their parent's date of birth, address, email address
- Social Security (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
 - Dependent students will also be asked to provide parent's SSN information.
 - If student and/or parent does not have an SSN or ITIN, student can still complete the application
- High School information (school name, city, state, dates of attendance)
- Tax return and/or other income information from two years prior
 - 2025-2026 Application Income earned / tax information from 2023
 - If student is married, spouse's information will also be required
 - If student is under the age of 24, they must provide your parent's information on the MASFA application, even if they will not contribute to student's college expenses.
 - Professional Judgement: If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent student from providing
 parent information, they will be asked to provide additional information to their college and/or MA Office of
 Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) to determine if they are eligible to be considered as an 'independent'
 student. Parents not willing to provide information is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

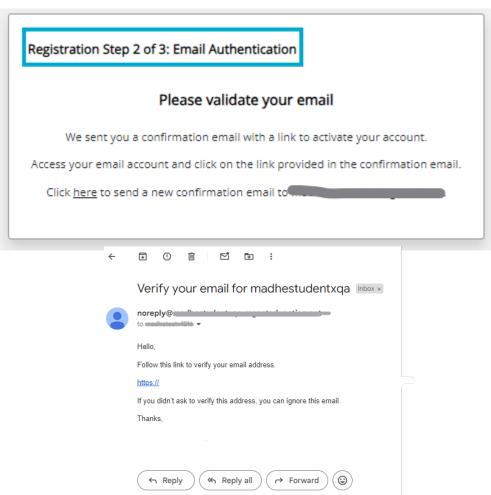
Creating an Account

STEP 1: Students will sign up for an account via the Student Experience Portal



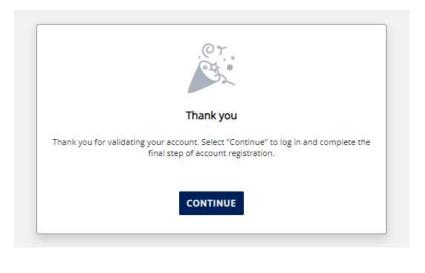
Registration: Account Creation / Email Authentication



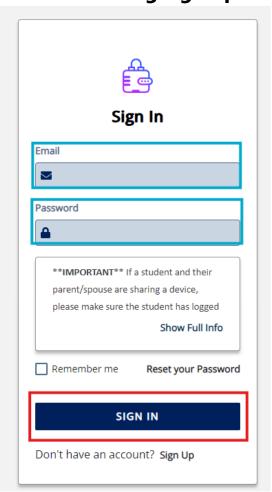


Email Authentication/ Sign-In

After verifying email address, redirected to the student portal page. Click 'Continue'.

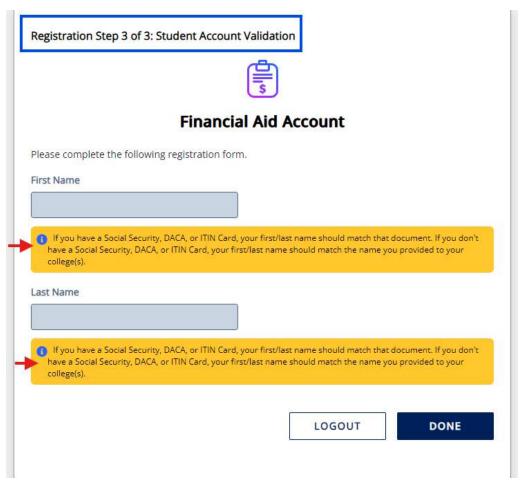


Enter the email address and password created during sign up



Student Account Validation

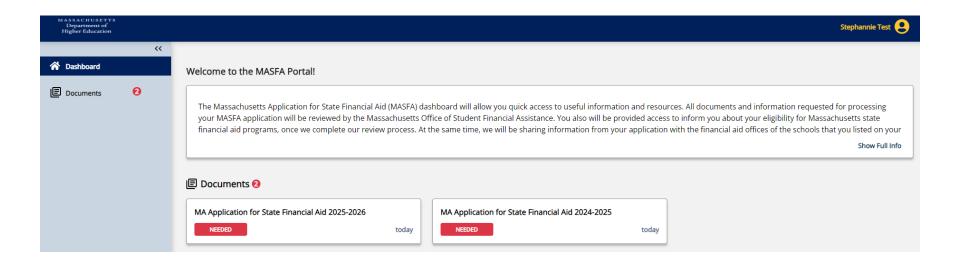
IMPORTANT: Enter first and last name as it appears on your official government issued document [such as your Social Security Card, Social Security Card, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), USCIS Employment Authorization, or Passport]



Student MASFA Portal

Student Dashboard

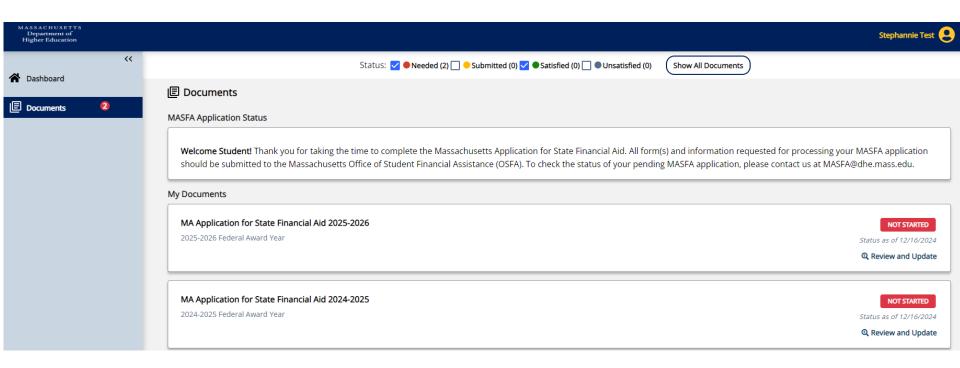
Once account registration is complete, student will be redirected to the MASFA Portal/Dashboard.



Student MASFA Portal

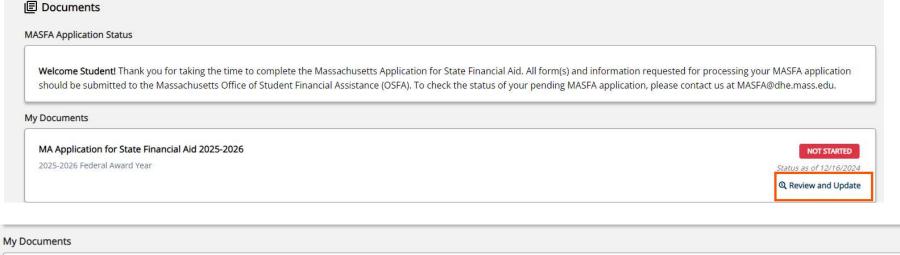
Documents Tab

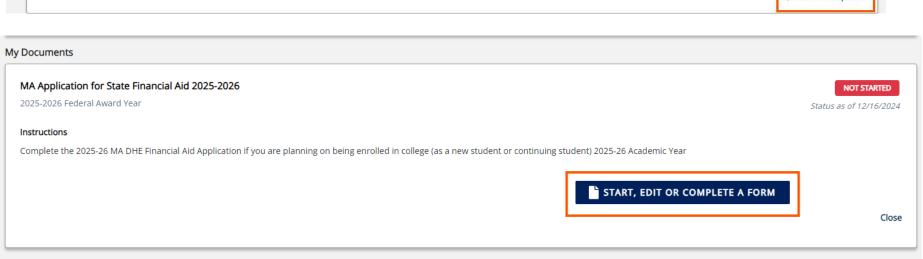
Another view of Application/Status



Application – Review and Update

Click "Review and Update" to Start the application



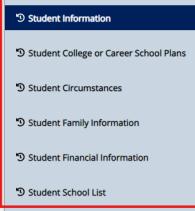


MASFA Application

- Student Information
- Student College or Career School Plans
- Student Circumstances
- Student Family Information
- Student Financial Information
- Student School List
- Parent Information [dependent student only]
- Parent Financial Information [dependent student only]
- E-Signature

MA Application for State Financial Aid

MA Application for State Financial Aid 2025-2026



Student Identity Information Información de identidad del estudiante

Provide the student's first name, middle name, and last name exactly as it appears on the student's Social Security, DACA, or ITIN card, and provide the student's date of birth. If the student does not have a Social Security, DACA, or ITIN card, the student's first/last name should match the name provided to the student's college(s).

Proporcione el nombre, segundo nombre y apellido del estudiante exactamente como aparecen en la tarjeta del Seguro Social, DACA o ITIN del estudiante, y proporcione la fecha de nacimiento del estudiante. Si el estudiante no tiene una tarjeta de Seguro Social, DACA o ITIN, el nombre/apellido del estudiante debe coincidir con el nombre proporcionado a la(s) universidad(es) del estudiante.

First name * Nombre

STEPHANNIE

Middle name Segundo nombre

Last name *
Apellido

TEST

Suffix Sufiio

Date of birth Fecha de nacimiento

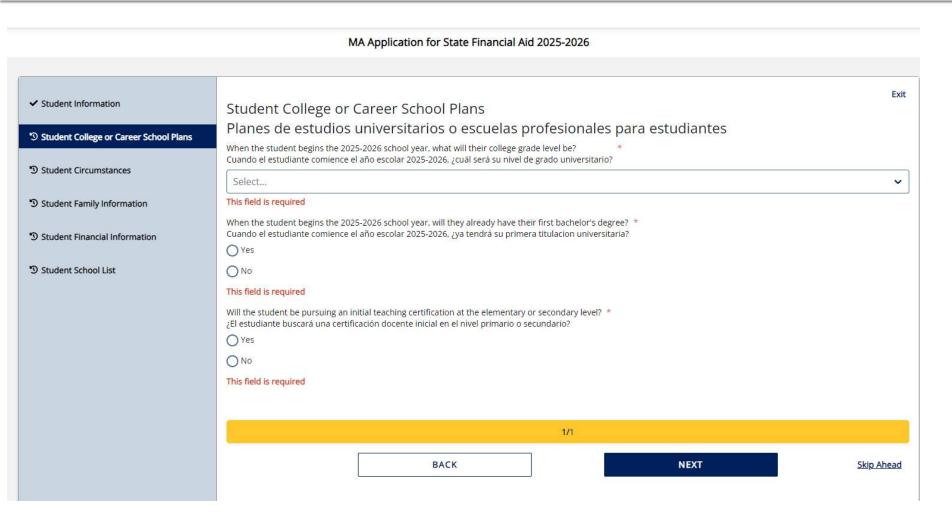
This field is required

Exit

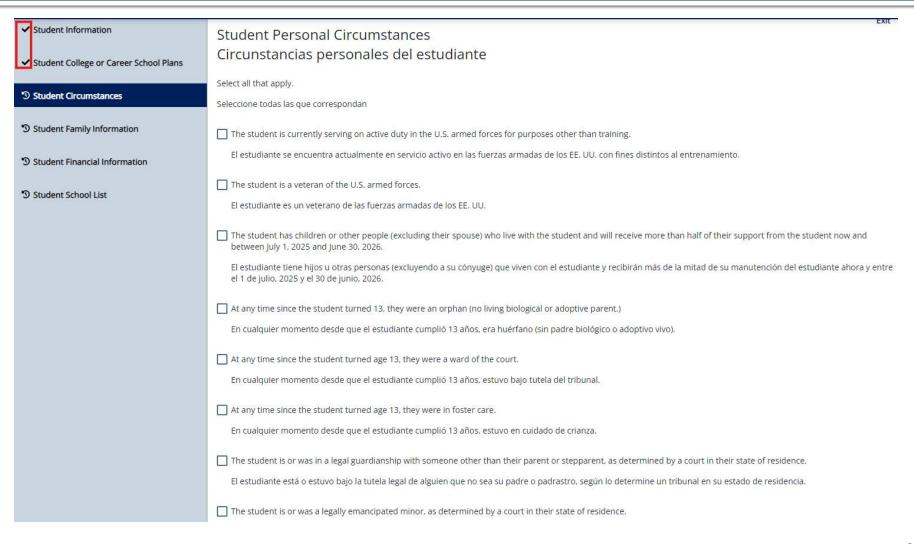
Student Information

- Student's First and Last Name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
 - if student does not have one, they will leave the field BLANK
- Mobile Number
- Email Address (will already be pre-populated)
- Mailing Address
- Student's Marital Status
- High School Completion Status as of 2025-26 school year
- State of Residence (what state does student reside in)
- Month and year student became a full-time resident of the state indicated.
- Demographic Information race, gender, ethnicity (Optional)

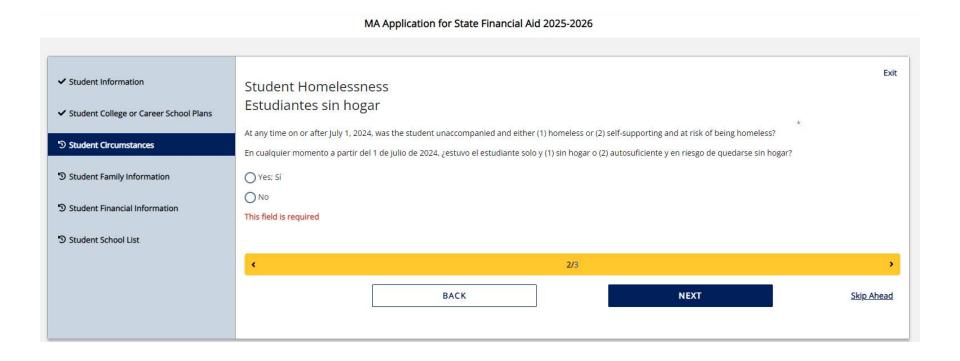
Student College or Career School Plans



Student Personal Circumstances



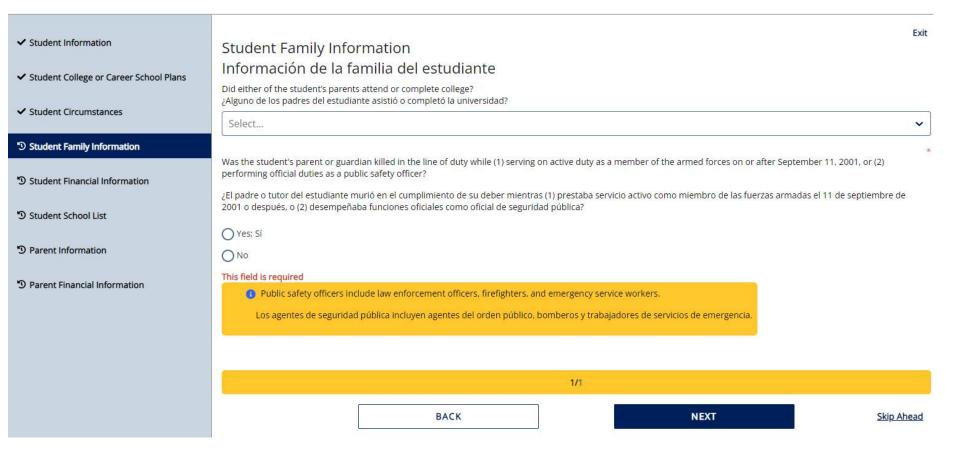
Student Circumstances



Student Unusual Circumstances

✓ Student Information Student Unusual Circumstances Circunstancias inusuales del estudiante ✓ Student College or Career School Plans Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student? Student Circumstances ¿Circunstancias inusuales impiden que el estudiante se comunique con sus padres o contactar a sus padres representaría un riesgo para el estudiante? Yes; Sí 3 Student Family Information This field is required 3 Student Financial Information 1 This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school. A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they: 3 Student School List · Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment; · Are abandoned by or estranged from their parents; Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country; · Are a victim of human trafficking; · Are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or Are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents, and have not been adopted. if the student does not have a safe, stable place to live because of such circumstances, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the question on the previous page about being unaccompanied and homeless. Esta información nos ayudará a evaluar la capacidad del estudiante para pagar la escuela. Un estudiante puede estar experimentando circunstancias inusuales si: Se fue de casa debido a un ambiente abusivo o amenazante: · Están abandonados o separados de sus padres, y no han sido adoptados; · Tienen estatus de refugiado o asilado y están separados de sus padres, o sus padres están desplazados a un país extranjero; · Es víctima de trata de personas; Está encarcelado, o sus padres están encarcelados, y el contacto con los padres representaría un riesgo para el estudiante; o De otra manera no pueden contactar o localizar a sus padres y no han sido adoptados. Si el estudiante no tiene un lugar seguro y estable para vivir debido a tales circunstancias, se le puede considerar un joven sin hogar y debe revisar la respuesta a la pregunta de la página anterior sobre no estar acompañado y sin hogar.

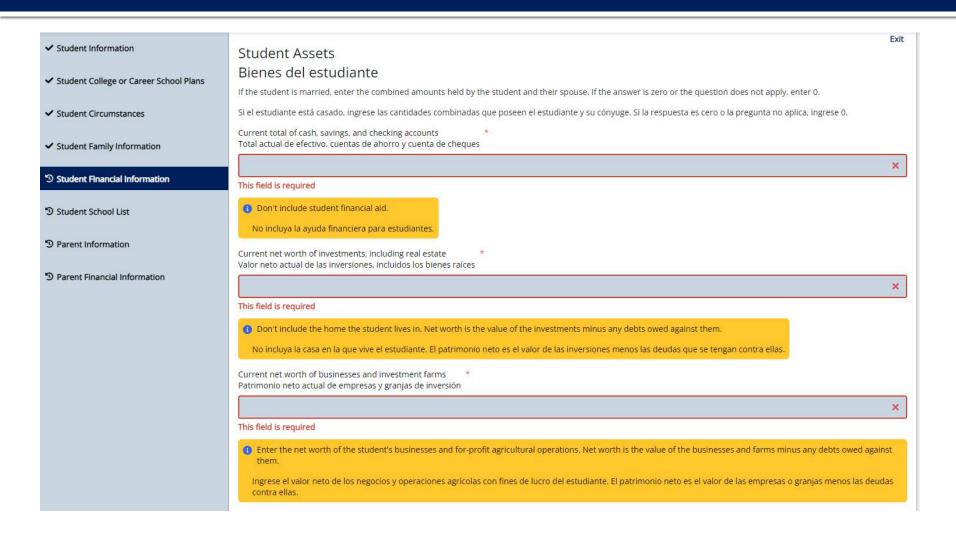
Student Family Information



Student Financial Information



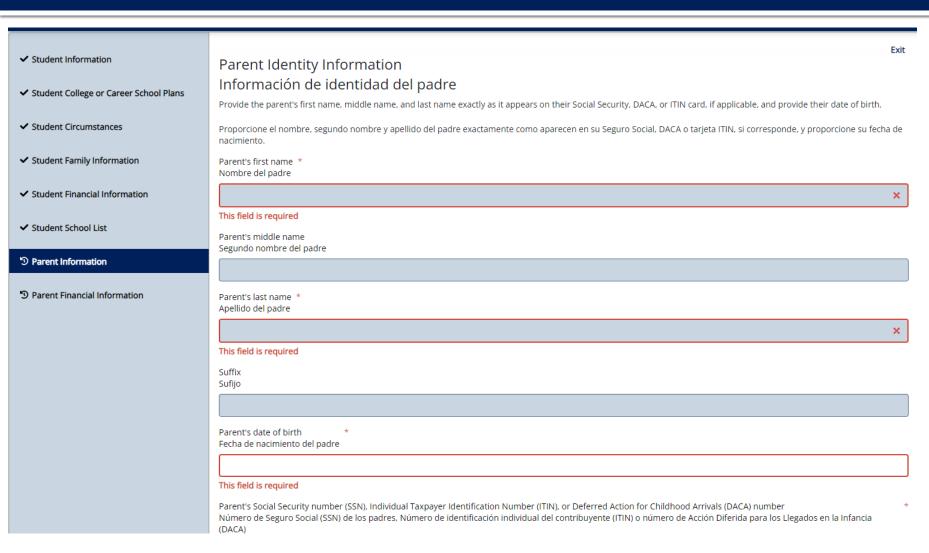
Student Financial Information - Assets



Student School List



Parent Information (Dependent Student)



Parent Information

- Parent's First and Last Name
- Parent's Date of Birth
- Parent's Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
 - If they don't have one, they will enter 9 zeros in the field (000000000)
- Contact Information
 - Email Address
 - Mobile Phone Number
 - Mailing Address
- Marital Status
- State of Residence (what state does parent reside in)
- Month and year parent became a full-time resident of the state indicated
- How many people in the parent's family
- How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026?
- Federal Benefits Received (if any)
- Parent Tax Filing Status

Parent Information

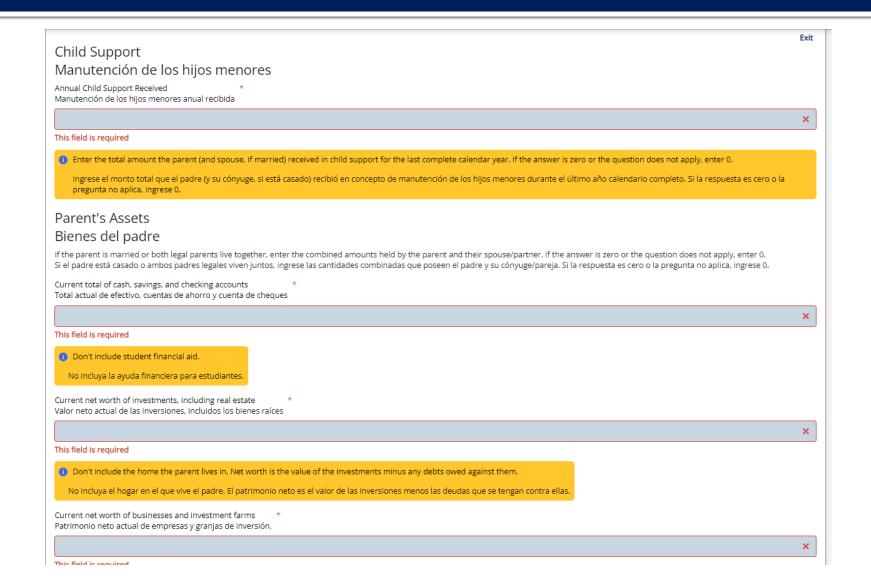
- Parent's First and Last Name
- Parent's Date of Birth
- Parent's Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
 - If they don't have one, they will enter nine zeros in the field (00000000)
- Contact Information
 - Email Address
 - Mobile Phone Number
 - Mailing Address
- Marital Status
- State of Residence (what state does parent reside in)
- Month and year student became a full-time resident of the state indicated
- How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026?
- Federal Benefits Received (if any)

Parent Tax Filing Status Parent Tax Filing Status Estado civil de la declaración de impuestos del padre Did or will the parent file a 2023 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? ¿El padre presentó o presentará un formulario 1040 o 1040-NR del IRS 2023? Yes; Sí () No This field is required Did or will the parent file a 2023 joint tax return with their current spouse? ¿El padre presentó o presentará una declaración de impuestos conjunta 2023 con su cónyuge actual? Yes; Sí O No This field is required Indicate the parent's income tax filing status for 2023. Indique el estado de presentación de la declaración de impuestos del padre para 2023. Select... This field is required If answer is **YES** to parent filed a tax return, it will prompt to

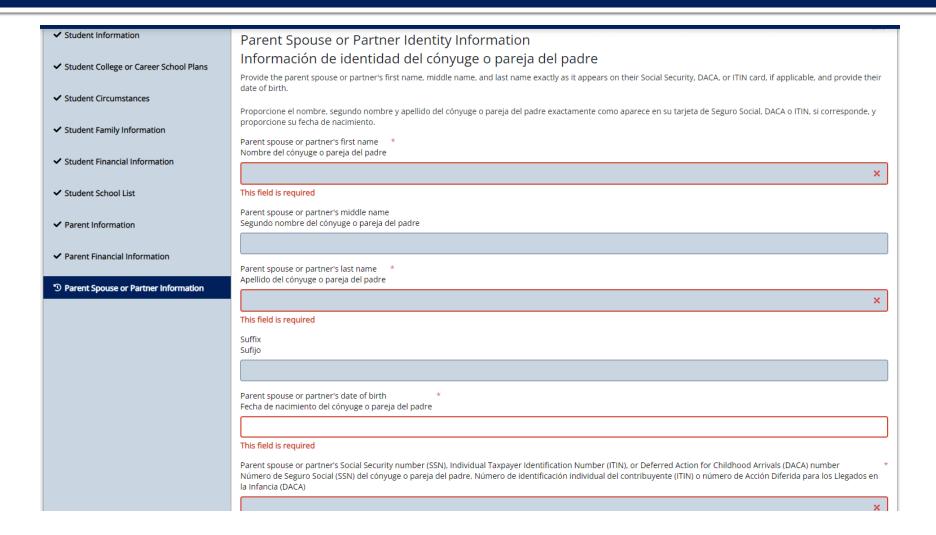
If answer is **NO**, it will prompt additional questions regarding why a tax return was not filed (i.e., no income earned, etc.)

enter information on their tax return.

Parent Financial Information

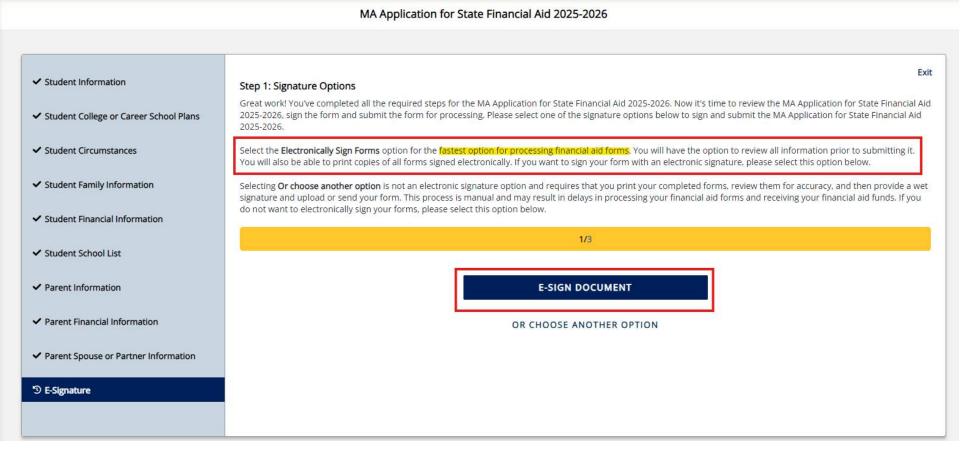


Parent Spouse or Parent Information



E-Signature

Once application has been completed, final step is the E-Signature



View My Forms

Step 2: View My Forms

Please click on the download icon next to the document name to view the completed form. You should review the information carefully and if you need to make changes, please select the appropriate section to the left and make the necessary updates.

If your forms are complete and accurate and no changes are necessary, please check the acknowledgment box below and proceed to the next page.

Forms

MA Application for State Financial Aid 2025-2026

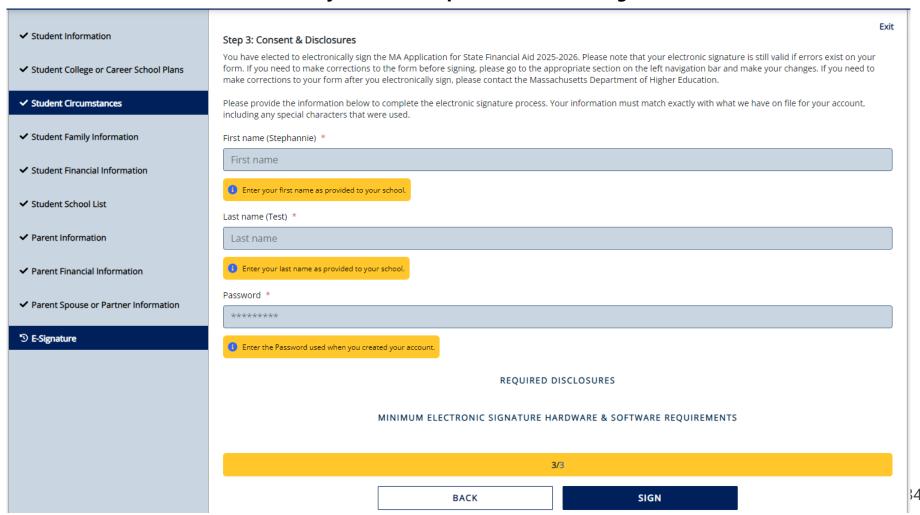
I acknowledge that all information provided on my MA Application for State Financial Aid 2025-2026 is true and correct.

BACK

NEXT

Consent and Disclosures

Enter your First and Last Name exactly as it appears on the application and confirm your account password. Click "Sign"



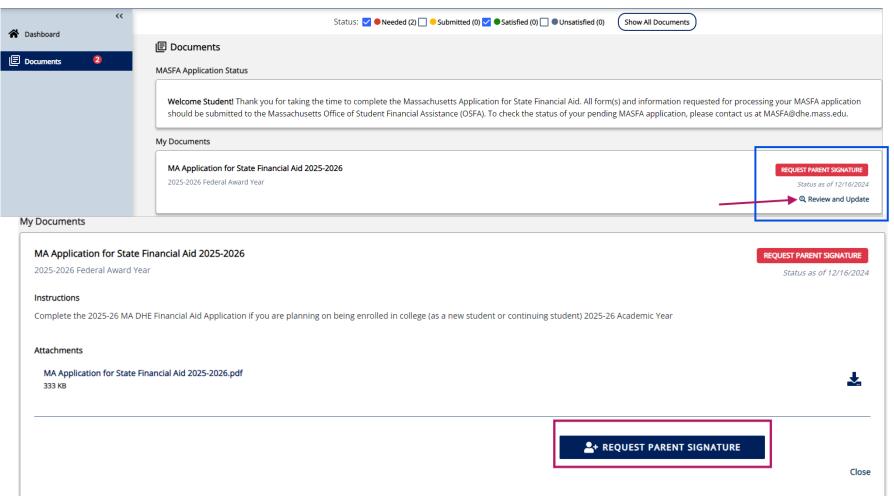
MASFA Application

- Students receive a confirmation email when their application has been submitted.
 - Subject Line: MA Application for State Financial Aid 2025-2026 Submitted
 - Message: Dear 'Student Name': You have successfully completed and e-signed your section of the MA Application for State Financial Aid 2025-2026. Your next steps are to invite your parent to complete and e-sign the parent section of the document.
- Once the e-signature process is complete, student will be redirected to "Documents" page.
- "Independent" Students application is complete once they complete the e-signature process.
- "Dependent" Students application requires a parent signature in order for application to be processed.

MASFA - Dependent Student

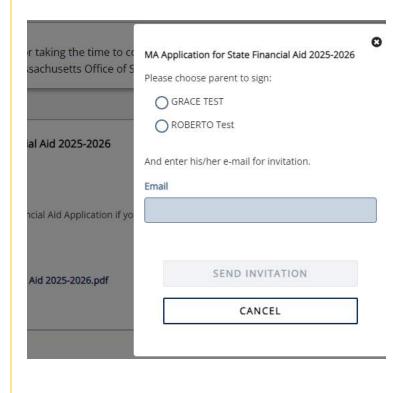
Request Parent Signature

Dependent Students will be required to "Request Parent Signature"

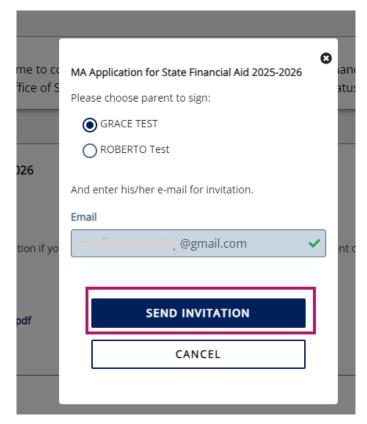


Request Parent Signature

Student will click "Request Parent Signature" button, and a prompt will populate with parent(s) name(s).

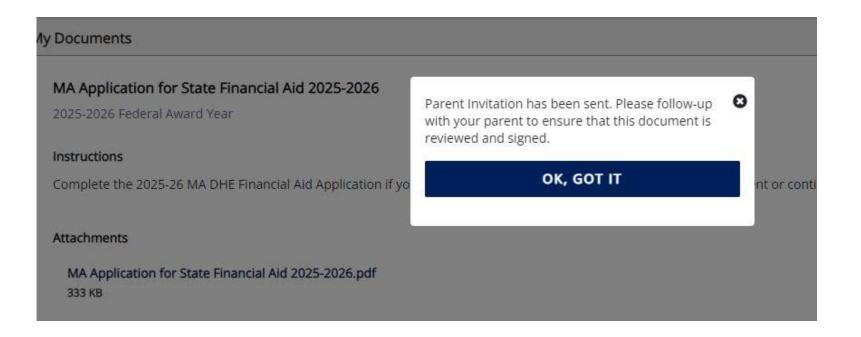


The email address will pre-populate when parent's name is selected. Click "Send Invitation".



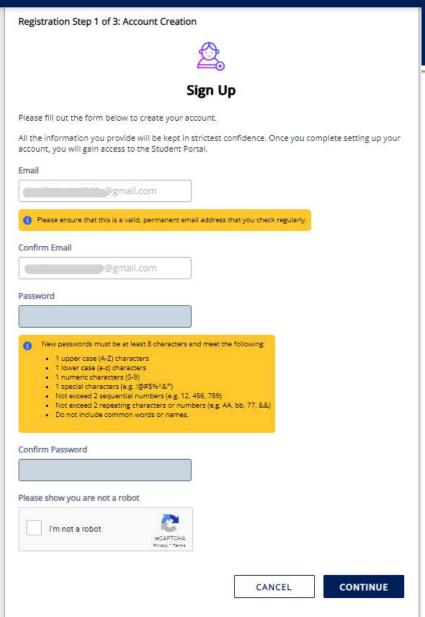
MASFA Application - Dependent

Parent will receive an **email invitation** with a link to create a parent account in order to complete the e-signature process. Once the parent completes the e-signature process, the student will receive a confirmation email that the parent has signed the application.



Parent Account Creation

- Once parent clicks link in email, it will bring them to their account creation page.
 It is very similar to student account creation page.
 [Note: URL has 'parent' in it]
- Parent email address will be pre-populated on this screen
- Parent should create a password for their account



Parent Account Creation

Email Authentication

Registration Step 2 of 3: Email Authentication

Please validate your email

We sent you a confirmation email with a link to activate your account,

Access your email account and click on the link provided in the confirmation email.

Click here to send a new confirmation email to @gmail.com.

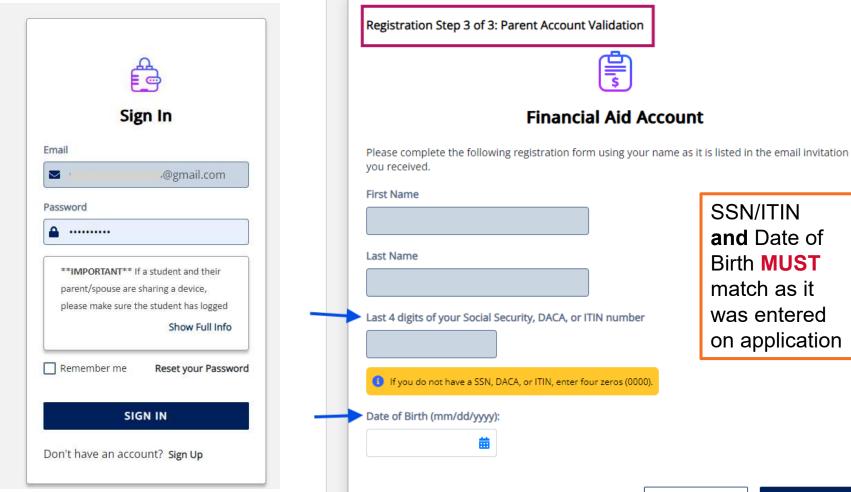


Thank you

Thank you for validating your account. Select "Continue" to log in and complete the final step of account registration.

CONTINUE

Sign-In / Account Validation



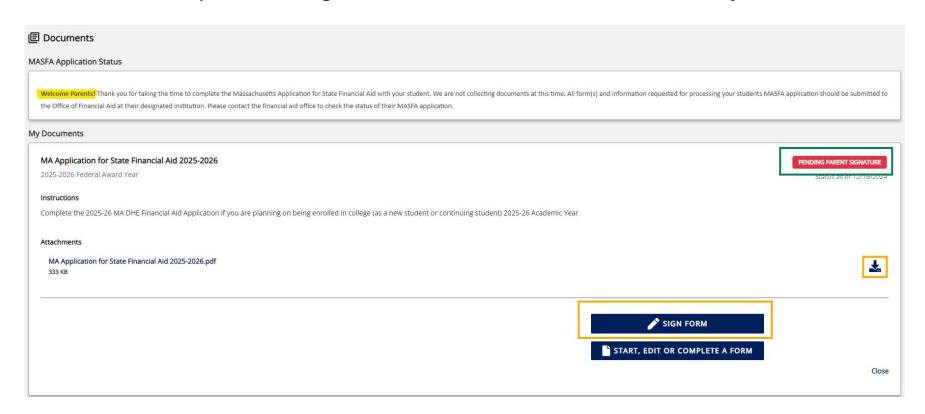
SSN/ITIN and Date of Birth MUST match as it was entered on application

LOGOUT

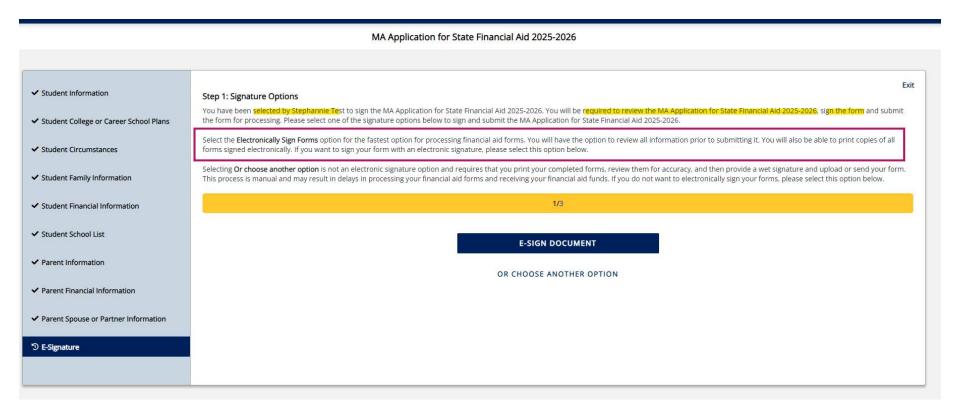
DONE

Parent Account – Documents Page

- Parent can download application to view what was entered
- Has the option to Sign Form and Edit Form (if necessary)

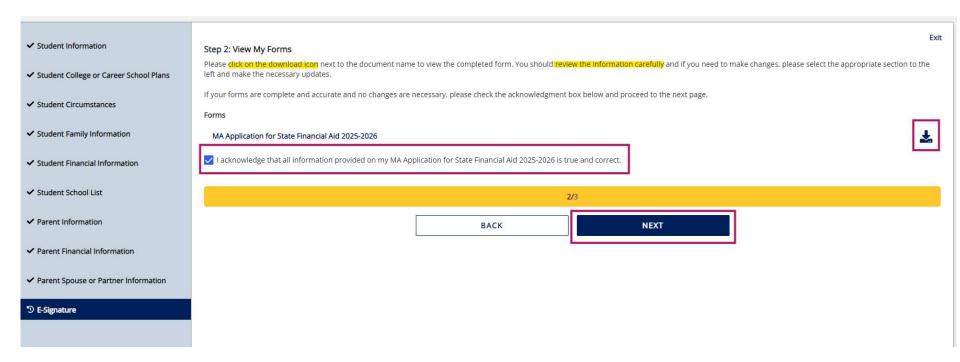


E-Signature



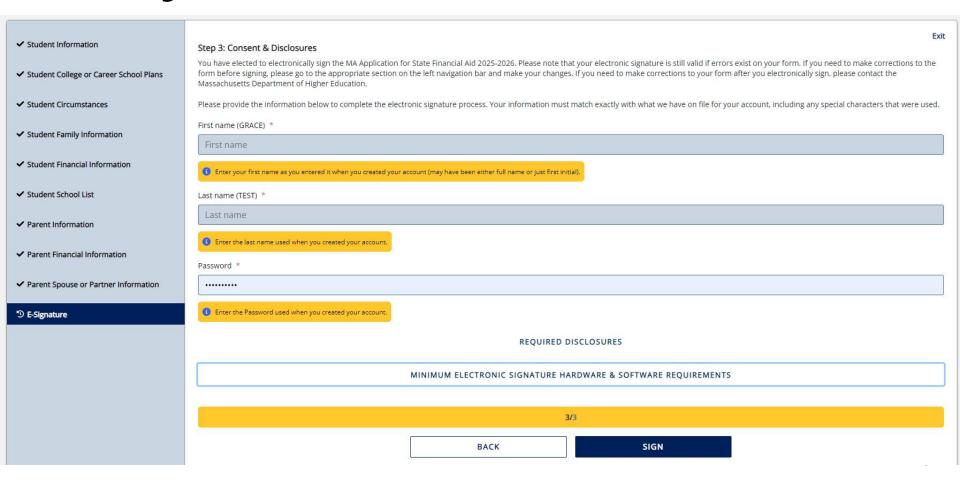
View My Forms

Download application, check the acknowledgment box and click "Next"

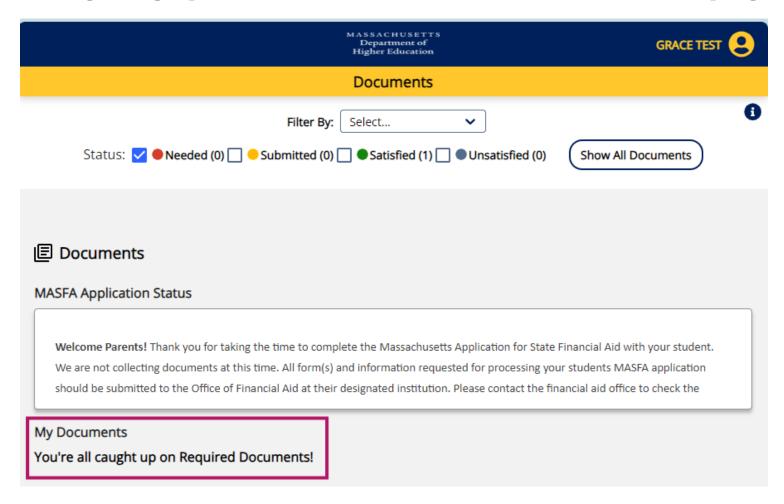


Consent and Disclosures

Parent should enter First and Last Name, Account Password, and Click "Sign"

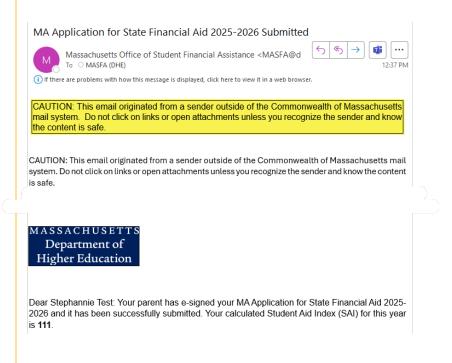


After signing, parent is redirected to Documents page



MASFA Application – Next Steps

Student with a completed application will receive an email that their application has been successfully submitted.



Student MASFA Status Portal

- Students with a completed application will also receive a separate email from our office inviting them to log in to a different portal to view their application status, Student Aid Index (SAI), and tentative MASSGrant award.
- If a student has any ineligible reasons they may need to correct (i.e., state of residency, high school information), information/instructions will be provided via this portal.

MASFA Application – Next Steps

- Verification Process: the MA Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)
 has suspended verification for the 2024-2025 AND 2025-2026
 applications
 - We are not collecting any additional tax documents at this time.
 - Students should make sure they are providing accurate income/tax information on their applications.
- Once the student's application is complete, it will be processed by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), and the ISIR data will be shared with the school(s) listed on the student's application.
- The school the student enrolls in will use the MASFA data to assess the student's eligibility for in-state tuition and need-based state financial aid.
- Students should contact the financial aid office of the college they are planning to attend for more information on their financial aid eligibility/options and next steps.

Contacts

MA Office of Student Financial Assistance

- Stephannie Barboza, <u>sbarboza@dhe.mass.edu</u>
- Robert Brun, <u>rbrun@dhe.mass.edu</u>

Tuition Equity website:

https://www.mass.edu/tuitionequity/home.asp