

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Don't Miss Out on Financial Aid for School! Get FAFSA Help at SmartAboutCollege.org!**

Everyone who wants to attend college in the fall should be thinking about completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) now — and nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) can help.

Visit SmartAboutCollege.org and click on “Free FAFSA Help” on the College Goal Montana banner to access videos explaining the FAFSA completion process step by step, beginning with getting a FAFSA PIN, through signing and submitting the application. In addition, should students or families need one-on-one assistance, the website provides email, phone and chat options.

“Everyone who wants to attend college next fall should complete the FAFSA,” said Rhonda Safford, statewide coordinator of College Goal Montana. “Each year, eligible families don't complete the FAFSA because they aren't aware that financial aid is available, or they don't think they will qualify. We don't want anyone to miss out on this valuable aid.”

In order to complete the FAFSA, students and parents should have the following information available:

- FAFSA PIN number — to get your pin, log on to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- Social Security numbers (students and parents)
- 2012 federal tax returns (or 2011 tax returns if 2012 are not complete)
- W-2s, tribal income, other aid information (TANF, child support, other benefits)
- Additional asset information (money market funds, stocks, other investments)

“We at SAF are pleased to provide this valuable FAFSA completion help in an online format,” said Safford. “It allows us to reach more students and families than ever before, and at the FAFSA filers' convenience.”

Safford reminds students that many postsecondary institutions have priority deadlines for completing the FAFSA. At most Montana schools, that deadline is March 1, with the exception of The University of Montana which has a deadline of Feb. 15.

In addition, Safford advises students and families that the “F” in FAFSA stands for free. With resources like SAF's online instructional videos, email, phone and chat options, and school counselors and financial aid staff, no one needs to pay for help completing this important form.

*Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to finance and pursue their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants and public benefit programs - to date more than \$25 million. For more information, visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).*