

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Be Prepared for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

Jan. 1 marks the first day the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available, and nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation advises Montana students and families to be prepared.

“Filling out the FAFSA is a pretty straight-forward deal,” said Rhonda Safford, statewide coordinator of College Goal Montana. “But it makes it that much easier if students and parents have everything they need when they begin the process.”

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

- FAFSA PIN — to get a PIN, log on to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). Both student and parent (if the student is less than the age of 24) will need a PIN.
- Social Security Number (students and one parent)
- Last year’s federal tax returns for estimating purposes (or 2014 if complete). Confirm numbers after 2014 taxes are completed. For free help with taxes, click on the Montana Free File link on the bottom of the College Goal Montana page on [SmartAboutCollege.org](http://SmartAboutCollege.org).
- W-2s, tribal income, other aid information (TANF, child support, other benefits)
- Additional asset information (money market funds, stocks, other investments)

College Goal Montana is an annual campaign to encourage FAFSA awareness and to help students and families complete the important form. 2015 will mark the 10th year that SAF has organized the effort for Montana.

For more information about the FAFSA or College Goal Montana, visit [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org) and click on the “College Goal Montana” banner.

*Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to pursue and fund 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 \$29.6 million. For more information, visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).*

