



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2027-28 FAFSA Application Open for Tennessee Students

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) today announced that the 2027-28 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open for all Tennessee students. Students and their families can begin applying at www.fafsa.gov.

Completing the FAFSA is a required step to access a wide range of financial aid programs, including the Pell Grant, the Tennessee Promise scholarship, and the HOPE Scholarship. Families should have financial documents such as tax returns and W-2 forms on hand when filling out the application.

Tennessee has [officially ranked #1](#) in the nation for FAFSA completion for ten consecutive years, according to the National College Attainment Network. The Class of 2026 secured a 76% completion rate among Tennessee Promise applicants; the state continues to set the standard in ensuring Tennessee students access aid.

“For students and families, having the FAFSA available earlier means more time to plan, explore options and understand the financial aid available to them,” said Dr. Steven Gentile, THEC Executive Director. “We encourage Tennesseans to get an early start and take this important step toward making their college and career goals a reality.”

To support students and families, THEC leads TN FAFSA Frenzy, an event that provides students and families with step-by-step instructions, video guides, and other free FAFSA resources available at CollegeforTN.org/FAFSA.

Starting now through April 1, 2027, schools and community organizations across Tennessee will also host TN FAFSA Frenzy completion events, providing hands-on assistance to students and parents. By offering clear guidance and support, THEC and its partners aim to help families maximize eligibility for federal and state financial aid, making college more attainable for every student in the state.

Each year, THEC recognizes high schools across the state through the [TN FAFSA Challenge](#), which highlights schools with outstanding completion rates or significant improvement. A list of 2025-26 FAFSA Champion schools is available at CollegeforTN.org.

For more information and to begin your FAFSA application, [visit www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

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About CollegeforTN

CollegeforTN is Tennessee's statewide college access and financial aid platform, working to simplify the path to higher education for students and families. They offer free tools and guidance tailored to TN Promise, the FAFSA, admissions, and career planning. Have questions about the FAFSA? Visit CollegeforTN.org/FAFSA.

About the Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly. As the state's higher education coordinating body, its mission is to build a strong higher education landscape that provides opportunities for all individuals to pursue high-quality education and high-value credentials.