



Sparta High School

School Counseling Department

205 W. Hood Sparta, IL 62286

PHONE: (618) 443-4341 (Ext. 109) Email: amiles@sparta.k12.il.us

Dear Sparta High School Seniors and Parents/Guardians:

As you may be aware, the graduation requirements for the Class of 2023 has been updated in recent years as results of **Public Act 101-0180**. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, in addition to all other graduation requirements, a student must meet one of the following requirements to receive a public school diploma:

- 1. File a FAFSA Application; or**
- 2. File an Application for State Financial Aid; or**
- 3. File a waiver/opt out with the school district**

The FAFSA is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. This single application opens your student up to grants, federal work study, scholarships, and loan opportunities for post-secondary education. Your student may be undecided right now regarding their plans for after high school, and our best-laid plans are always subject to change, so **it is my recommendation that all seniors file the FAFSA by Jan 15, 2023**. *The earlier you submit your application the more access to available funds. The FAFSA is not just for students who plan to attend college. Financial aid awarded through the FAFSA may also be applied to technical, trade, and vocational programs.

How do you get started?

- 1. Check out www.fafsa.ed.gov - Look for the Web Worksheet. It will help you collect the info you need to complete the FAFSA ONLINE!**
- 2. Watch this video for a full overview of the process: <https://youtu.be/w9HWaQpuNSk>**
- 3. Create your FSA ID.** An FSA ID is a username and password that give you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature.
 - a. Both the student and the parent will need an FSA ID—*write it down in a safe place, it's tough to retrieve if you lose it***

Now you are ready to file your FAFSA!!

Go to FAFSA.gov to complete the 2022-23 FAFSA

Class of 2023 FAFSA Goal:

All Class of 2023 SENIORS will successfully file the FAFSA by January 15, 2023.

***Graduation Information -**

If you haven't already done so, please make sure you have placed your graduation order of Invitations as well as Cap & Gown. In person ordering is complete, but online ordering is still active.

<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1073824/Sparta-High-School/>

Feel free to contact the counseling office with any questions!

Sincerely,

Abbey J. Miles, M.S. Ed
School Counselor
Sparta High School