What is an FSA ID?

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (***FAFSA***®) at [fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/).

If you are a parent of a ***dependent student***, you will need your own FSA ID if you want to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. If you have more than one child attending college, you can use the same FSA ID to sign all applications. *Please note: Each FSA ID user must have a unique e-mail address*.

Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature. **Don't give your FSA ID to anyone—not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA**. Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of [identity theft](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/scams#identity-theft)!

[top](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid#page)

What happened to the Federal Student Aid PIN?

The FSA ID replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN on May 10, 2015. (Read a post on the Department of Education blog providing an [“obituary” for the PIN](http://www.ed.gov/blog/2015/06/federal-student-aid-pin-1998-2015/), explaining its history and introducing the FSA ID.)

If you haven’t logged in to a Federal Student Aid site (such as fafsa.gov or StudentLoans.gov) since May 10, you will need to create an FSA ID before you can log on in the future.

If you already have a PIN, you can link your information to your new FSA ID by entering your PIN while registering for your FSA ID. (This will save you time when registering for your FSA ID.) If you’ve forgotten your PIN, don’t worry; you can either enter the answer to your PIN “challenge question” during the FSA ID registration process to link your PIN, or you can just create your FSA ID from scratch.

**A PIN is not required to create an FSA ID**.

**Wondering why the FSA ID replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN?** The main reason we made the change was to increase security. Having a username and password is much more secure than a PIN that you enter in conjunction with personally identifiable information (your Social Security number, name, and date of birth). The fewer times you have to enter personally identifiable information over the Internet, the safer you are.

We were also able to improve usability. The PIN was launched in 1998, and while it served students and their families well for 17 years, a lot has changed in that time. The modernized experience available with the FSA ID includes features such as resetting forgotten passwords with e-mail, using an e-mail address instead of a username to log in, and compatibility with more browsers and devices.

Where can I use my FSA ID?

Once your information is verified with the Social Security Administration (one–three days from the date you apply), you will be able to use your FSA ID to access your personal information on any of these ED websites, depending on what you need to do: