

November 12, 2021

Dear Senior Families

I just wanted to send out another reminder and some information regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you have any questions regarding FAFSA or need assistance, please contact me at [holly.hansen@cd-csd.org](mailto:holly.hansen@cd-csd.org) and I will gladly help or point you in the right direction.

FAFSA is used by the federal government to determine how much financial aid a student qualifies for their college education. Once completed, this form is then sent to each college of interest that is indicated on the FAFSA, which can be up to 10 institutions. The selected schools then can award financial aid based on a family's financial situation. The state government also uses the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state aid. Aid can come in the form of loans, grants, or work study opportunities.

The FAFSA can be filled out anytime, but families are encouraged to complete it before your student's college's financial aid priority date. A priority date is the date at which your student can receive the maximum amount of financial aid for which they qualify. *Some colleges' priority deadlines are as soon as December 1st, so please complete the FAFSA sooner than later.* If you/your student are to file after the priority date, there is no guarantee funds will be available.

As of 11/10/21, only 22% of Central DeWitt seniors have completed the FAFSA. It is highly encouraged that all college going seniors (regardless of degree type) complete the FAFSA to determine how much funding or student aid they are eligible for. If you complete the FAFSA, it does not mean you need to utilize the aid given to you, but helps determine if any grants or scholarships can be received based on the family's financial situation. Some programs, such as The Last Dollar Scholarship, require students to complete the FAFSA to earn. The Last Dollar Scholarship is a program that allows for Iowans to obtain post secondary certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in high demand jobs tuition free. If you would like more information on the Last Dollar Scholarship, please let me know.

Completing the FAFSA can be overwhelming, and there are agencies that provide free support to complete the application. If you need any help, please let me know!

Holly Hansen