Lesson Plan

Keys To Your Future: College & Career Readiness™

FAFSA Facts

45 minutes

Prerequisite: Keys To Your Future—Choosing a Path

INSTRUCTIONS

Each digital lesson is supplemented with a follow-up synchronous lesson plan to extend and reinforce learning. Activities and questions are structured in a way that supports both in-person and virtual classroom settings.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to…

- Define different forms of federal financial aid.
- Define FAFSA & the 8 key steps in the process.
- Review facts and falsehoods about FAFSA.
- Be aware of other financial support options that are not provided by the federal government.

MATERIALS

- FAFSA Fact or Myth Handout
- Links
  - Official gov blog HomeRoom
  - Official FAFSA gov site
  - Checklist for Parents
  - Ideas for other ways to get financial support

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
Opening	**Possible Prompt:** "When applying to colleges it's easy to forget about or delay applying for financial aid. By learning more about the process, you won't miss an opportunity to get financial support!" The federal government offers: • Loans • Grants • Work-study funds **Pair Share:** "With a partner describe what you know about the three resources the federal government offers. Then we will share as a class." **Class Discuss:** • Loans - borrowed money you must repay with interest (a % of the total that is added onto the loan). • Grants - financial aid you don't repay (unless, for example, you leave school and owe a refund). • Work-study - a program in which you work on campus to earn money that is applied to school expenses. "There are other ways to receive aid, such as scholarships. For this lesson, we will focus on learning how to apply for federal aid."	*Discuss* with a partner. *Share out* with class.	4 mins
New Learning	**Possible Prompt:** "To apply for federal financial aid you must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)." "Let's use this blog, HomeRoom, the official blog of the U.S. Dept. of Education, to review the 8 main steps." **Share Website:**	*Read* as a class. *Discuss* as a class.	12 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
	https://studentaid.gov/articles/steps-to-complete-fafsa-form/		
New Learning (cont'd)	**To Teacher:** Focus on the titles and describe each section without going into details. For example, you might explain what Student Demographics means in Section 3. Have students take notes and record the 8 steps to filling out a FAFSA for reference and to understand and anticipate the necessary materials needed to complete it. "You may want to access other FAFSA sites." Official FAFSA site: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa Checklists for Parents: https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists		
Activity	**Possible Prompt:** "There is a lot to know and we can't cover it all. Today let's clear up some of the misinformation about FAFSA." "The FAFSA Fact or Myth Sheet contains some truths about the FAFSA process and some falsehoods. " **Group Practice:** In your groups, read each statement and decide if it's a fact or a myth. You are not expected to know the answer from the prior reading necessarily. **Class Reveal and Group Discuss:** **(Teacher)** project or handout the Answer Chart and allow groups to	*Create* in pairs.	17 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
	review and discuss the explanations.		
Discussion	**Possible Prompts:** "Besides loans, grants, and work-study, can you think of any other ways you can get financial support for college?" **Board Title:** "Ways to Get $ for College" **Class Brainstorm:** Allow students to generate ideas—list on the board. **Teacher:** Add additional information using this site: https://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/my-money/2015/03/02/5-alternative-sources-for-college-financial-aid	*Create* in small groups.	10 mins
Closing	**Possible Prompt:** "Applying for college has a lot of moving parts: grades, entrance exam scores, application essays, letters of recommendation. Financial aid can be a life saver for many students and families. Remember, the time to apply for financial aid is DURING the college application process, not after. There are resources to help you step-by-step, so don't be afraid to do some additional research."	*Formalize* learning with the whole group.	1 min
Evaluation	**Based on what you read or shared today...** • Three things I learned are... • Two questions I still have are... • One thing that stuck with me is...	*Assess* individually.	1 min

ANSWER SHEET

FAFSA FACT OR MYTH SHEET

	FACT ✓	MYTH ✓
If your parents make "good" money, you will not qualify for financial aid.		✓ There's no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid; most people qualify for some type of financial aid, including low-interest federal student loans.
The size of your family can help determine if you qualify for financial aid.	✓ Many factors such as your family size and your year in school are taken into account.	
You should submit a FAFSA form as early as possible.	✓ Some states and schools have limited funds	
You should list every school you plan to apply to even if you are unlikely to be accepted.	✓ You can add up to 10 schools at a time and schools cannot see other names.	
You call FAFSA to find out how much money you qualify for.		✓ Contact the financial aid office at each school to find out the status of your aid and when to expect it.
Different schools have different deadlines.	✓ Yes and there are at least three deadlines to check: your state, each school, and federal deadlines.	
A FAFSA ID is created to be shared by you and your parents.		✓ If you're a dependent student, two people need their own FSA ID to sign your FAFSA form online.

	FACT ✓	MYTH ✓
You can apply for financial aid even if you don't have a high GPA.	✓ Grades may help with academic scholarships, most federal student aid programs do not take grades into account when you first apply.	
Applying to FAFSA is free.	✓ Yes, there is no cost.	
Tax information is needed to complete the application.	✓ Yes and the requirements can change, so read updated information on the FAFSA site.	
Applying for FAFSA can hurt your chance of admission at a college.		✓ Many colleges practice a need - blind policy (your admission isn't affected by finances). At need-aware college the majority are not denied because of finances, though it enters the equation)
Some colleges require a FAFSA to be considered for certain non-need-based scholarships.	✓ Often to verify US citizenship.	