

Who Is the Parent Of Record On the FAFSA Starting In 2024-25?

This guidance is specific to the 2024-25 award year and later.

This AskRegs Knowledgebase Q&A was updated on July 25, 2023 to clarify the timeframe for providing the greater amount of support for the student.

Effective with the 2024-25 award year, the parent of record on the FAFSA is noted below. You will notice that the parent with whom the student lived the most in the past 12 months prior to filing the FAFSA is no longer a criterion for divorced or separated parents. For divorced or separated parents, income and assets are reported for the parent who provides the most financial support over the 12 months prior to filing the FAFSA even if the student does not live with that parent or lives with the other parent. The parent is self-reported on the FAFSA by the parent, and unless there is conflicting information, there is currently no requirement to verify or otherwise confirm which parent provides the greater portion of support.

See [Section 475\(f\) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 \(HEA\), as amended \[20 USC 1087OO Amendment of Section\]](#):

"(f) Consideration of parental income

(1) Parents who live together

Parental income and assets in the case of student whose parents are married and not separated, or who are unmarried but live together, shall include the income and assets of both parents.

(2) Divorced or separated parents

Parental income and assets for a student whose parents are divorced or separated, but not remarried, is determined by including only the income and assets of the parent who provides the greater portion of the student's financial support.

(3) Death of a parent

Parental income and assets in the case of the death of any parent is determined as follows:

(A) If either of the parents has died, the surviving parent shall be considered a single parent, until that parent has remarried.

(B) If both parents have died, the student shall not report any parental income or assets.

(4) Remarried parents

If a parent whose income and assets are taken into account under paragraph (2), or if a parent who is a widow or widower and whose income is taken into account under paragraph (3), has remarried, the income of that parent's spouse shall be included in determining the parent's assessment of adjusted available income if the student's parent and the stepparent are married as of the date of application for the award year concerned.

(5) Single parent who is not divorced or separated

Parental income and assets in the case of a student whose parent is not described in paragraph (1) and is a single parent who is not divorced, separated, or remarried, shall include the income and assets of such single parent."

In its [Better FAFSA Better Future webinar presentations](#), the U.S, Department of Education (ED) further addressed divorced or separated parents. The determination is made in this specific order:

1. The parent of record is the parent who provided the greater portion of the student's financial support during the 12 months immediately prior to filing the FAFSA.
2. If neither parent provided support in the 12-month period in #1, the parent of record is the parent who provided the greater portion of support during the most recent year that the student received financial support from a parent.
3. If both parents claim an equal amount of support, then the parent of record is the parent with the greater amount of income or assets.