Counselor to student email

Hello seniors,

If you are going to college next year, an important step in the process begins now. The first step of the financial aid process is to file the **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** , the form that helps you access grants, scholarships, and student loans.

**Deadlines**
Every college or university has their own preferred filing date for the FAFSA -- some as early as February 1st -- so check out [www.ICANsucceed.org/priority](http://www.icansucceed.org/priority) to find the priority dates for the schools you are applying to.

**Tax Information**

**You will use your parents’ tax information from 2022 to file the FAFSA for the 2024-25 school year.** The FAFSA is solely based off of 2022 taxes, so you won’t have to update the FAFSA with 2023 taxes. **Visit** [**www.fafsa.gov**](http://www.fafsa.gov) **to file the form.**

You should file as early as possible, meeting the earliest priority date of the schools you are interested in attending. Applying early don’t commit you to any school, it simply gets the process started so you can **receive your financial aid offers** and begin comparing your options. You have until **May 1st** to make your final decisions.

**Assistance**If you have questions about paying for college, or would like **free help filing your FAFSA,** ICAN offers free resources for college planning and financial aid. You can visit their website, [www.ICANsucceed.org](http://www.icansucceed.org)/ to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment, or call their toll free number, 877-272-4692 to talk to an advisor.

You can also visit a FAFSA Ready Iowa event which offers free assistance without an appointment. Visit [www.icansucceed.org/fafsareadyiaevents](http://www.icansucceed.org/fafsareadyiaevents) to find a location near you.

Stay on top of the process, and **schedule an appointment to file your FAFSA as soon as possible**!

[SCHOOL COUNSELOR]