



EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE OF GUIDANCE SERVICES

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Re: New Jersey Financial Aid Graduation Requirement

Under [P.L. 2023, c.295](#), New Jersey's new graduation requirement, to receive a high school diploma students in the graduating classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027 **must**:

- Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) or the [NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application](#) (NJAFSA), **or**
- Be exempted from the requirement by completing a [waiver form](#), signed by the student and parent/guardian, and returned to the guidance/counseling

The FAFSA gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or vocational school. Through completing the FAFSA, students can be considered for federal financial aid, including Pell grants, work-study programs, and loans. In addition, many states and colleges, as well as some private financial aid providers, use FAFSA information to determine students' eligibility for aid.

Those students who do not meet the requirements for FAFSA (non United States citizens or eligible non citizens) and meet the criteria below will complete the NJAFSA application (linked above). That criteria includes:

- Attended a New Jersey high school for at least three years
- Graduated from a New Jersey high school or received equivalent of a high school diploma in New Jersey
- Are able to file an affidavit stating that you have filed an application to legalize your immigrant status or will file an application as soon as you are eligible to do so

Those who do not qualify for the FAFSA or the NJAFSA, or request an exemption from the financial aid application requirement under the law, must complete the [waiver form](#). Hard copy forms can also be obtained from the high school guidance/counseling office.

The form must be submitted to your student's school counselor by May 1st of your student's senior year. If you have questions, please contact your child's school counselor.

Sincerely,

Samantha Elko

Samantha Elko
Director of Guidance/School Counseling

EMBRACE-ENGAGE-EDUCATE

New Jersey Department of Education Star Schools: Swift Elementary School 2000 and Eagle Academy 2003
New Jersey Department of Education Best Practices:
High School 1993, Middle School 2002, Davenport School 2001 & 2003, and Swift School 2005
Alder Avenue Middle School, New Jersey and United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Award, 2012

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