

Independent Student Status of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination for the 2026-2027 FAFSA¹

Student's Name:

Student's SSN [optional]:

Student's DOB:

Student's Mailing Address*:

*[if the student does not have a stable address, you may list the name, phone number and mailing address of a friend or relative, or the school]

To Whom It May Concern:

This form conveys my determination that after July 1, 2025, this student was:

- an unaccompanied homeless youth, as defined by the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law No: 116-260).
- an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness.

Under the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law No: 116-260), I am authorized to document this student's living situation and determine his/her independent student status as an unaccompanied homeless youth, or an unaccompanied, self-supporting youth at risk of homelessness. Financial aid administrators must accept this documentation, unless there is specific documented conflicting information. Please address any questions to me at the number or e-mail address listed below.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Signature: | Date: |
| Print Name: | Phone: |
| Email: | |
| Title: | |
| Agency: | |
| Role (Check One): <input type="checkbox"/> School district homeless liaison, or designee of the liaison. <i>If you are the designee of the liaison, please list the name of your school district liaison here:</i> | |

¹ This form is applicable for [institutions that are requesting documentation](#) from students who are enrolling in college for the 2026-27 award year who were not previously determined to be an unaccompanied homeless youth, or an unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting and at risk of homelessness. Students who were determined to be unaccompanied homeless youth, or at unaccompanied youth who is self-supporting, and at risk of homelessness, in the prior award year are presumed to be independent for each subsequent year at the same institution, unless the student informs the institution that circumstances have changed, or the institution has specific conflicting information about the student's independence, and has informed the student of this information.

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- Director or a designee of a director of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
 - Director or a designee of a director of a program funded under TRIO or GEAR UP.
 - A financial aid administrator at the same or another institution who previously made a determination.

PERTINENT DEFINITIONS

From the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law No: 116-260) and
The 2025-26 Application and Verification Guide

Homeless

A student is considered homeless if the student lacks fixed, regular, and adequate housing. This is broader than just living “on the street.” It includes temporarily living with other people because the student had nowhere else to go; living in substandard housing (if it doesn’t meet local building codes or the utilities are turned off, it is generally not adequate); living in emergency or transitional shelters, for example, trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after disasters; or living in motels, camping grounds, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or any public or private place not designed for humans to live in. It also includes living in the school dormitory if the student would otherwise be homeless. A student living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent may be considered homeless even if the parent would provide support and a place to live. For more information on the definition of homelessness, see [“Does My Living Situation Meet the Definition of Homelessness?”](#)

Unaccompanied

When a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

Youth

Any student who is not yet 24 may qualify for a homeless youth determination.

Self-Supporting

When a student pays for his own living expenses, including a fixed, regular, and adequate housing.

At risk of being homeless

When a student’s housing may cease to be fixed, regular, and adequate; for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.