



New FAFSA Graduation Requirement

Class of 2021 Students and Parents,

I want to make you aware of an important new requirement for graduation: completion of the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). The FAFSA is an official form that families must use to apply for federal financial aid to pay for college. It is also used by many colleges and universities in making financial aid decisions for prospective students.

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, students must complete the FAFSA in order to graduate from any Illinois public high school. Alternatively, a parent may opt out of the graduation requirement by completing the [ISBE FAFSA Non-Participation Form](#) and returning it to the CCHS Attendance Office.

Regardless of the graduation requirement, completing the FAFSA is an important step for students to maximize their ability to attend college! Families are eligible to complete the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2020. Your Class of 2021 School Counselor, Krista Antrim will be supporting you throughout the process. Additional materials from Ms. Antrim have been mailed to you for your assistance, and you can now schedule [Virtual FAFSA Completion Meeting](#) with her. Please contact her at 618-457-3371 ext. 206 if you have questions about FAFSA completion. If you have questions about the graduation requirement, contact me at 618-457-4722 ext. 27.

Sincerely,

Stephen Murphy
Superintendent