

Dear Parent,

Looking for scholarships, preparing for college interviews, pulling applications together—your senior has lots to get done. To top it all off, the holidays, with all their distractions, are fast approaching. The urge to get overly involved can be practically irresistible. Learn how you can help without becoming a helicopter parent.

FAFSA: The Key to Financial Aid

January 1 is more than just the start of the new year for college-bound seniors—it's the first day they can submit the FAFSA. Its length can be intimidating, but it's a good idea to file the form as early as possible. Completing the FAFSA enables your child to start the financial aid process and tap into the many federal and state resources that make college affordable. These opportunities include student grants, work-study, and loans.

First, complete your income tax returns; your child needs your tax information to answer many of the questions. After submitting the FAFSA, you and your child have the chance to review your information to make sure it's correct. At the same time, you'll learn the preliminary estimate of the amount your family is expected to contribute to your child's education. It's known as the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and helps to determine any aid awards your child receives.

For more information, visit our website @ <http://surrattsvillehsptsa.com/default.aspx>

[FAFSA—get the scoop and connect to free resources](#)

Bob Ross