Dear Senior Parents,

Financial aid applications inform postsecondary institutions’ decisions about student eligibility for federal, state, and institutional funds. Financial aid awards can help students pay for their educational expenses after high school.

Each high school senior in a Texas public school district or open enrollment charter school must now complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TAFSA) as a state requirement for graduation. [Texas Education Code §28.0256](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cb00609%5CDesktop%5Cfafsa) allows a student to opt out of the financial aid application graduation requirement by submitting a signed form that authorizes the student to decline.

To authorize a student to opt out of the financial aid application graduation requirement, the Financial Aid Application Opt-Out form must be signed by **one** of the following:

**OPTION I**: A student age 18 years or older or emancipated minor under Chapter 31, Texas Family Code

**OPTION II**: The student’s parent or guardian and the student

**OPTION III**: A school counselor, for good cause as determined by the school counselor, and the student

***Students under 18 years of age may only be authorized to decline under OPTION II or OPTION III. Submitting a Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form does not prohibit a student from completing and submitting a financial aid application at any time in the future.***

Birdville ISD will be fulfilling the new requirement through your student’s US Government or Economics course taken in the fall semester. Your student’s US Government or Economics teacher will be assigning a daily grade called FAFSA Confirmation. This assignment will require your student to complete and submit the FAFSA. After completing and submitting the FAFSA, each student will print out his/her FAFSA confirmation page and then turn that page into his/her teacher for a grade. If a student does not have access to a printer, the student will be allowed to submit the confirmation/opt out form via Canvas. If your student fails to turn in either a FAFSA Confirmation Page or a Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form, then your student will earn a zero for the FAFSA Confirmation assignment and run the risk of not graduating.

Your student can complete his/her FAFSA at home or during one of the many FAFSA workshops that your high school will be providing. For more information about these opportunities, please contact your campus counselor. A copy of the Financial Application Opt-Out Form can be obtained from the student’s teacher, counselor or below:

English version: <http://gg.gg/w7946>

Spanish version: <http://gg.gg/w79je>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your campus Counseling Services Department. They will be able to assist you.

Sincerely,

**LeAnn D. Carroll, M. Ed.**

Director of Counseling Services

Birdville ISD