

Petition for Dependency Status Review 2025-2026 Academic Year

Student's Name: _____

MassBay ID#: _____

Financial Aid regulations assume that the family has primary responsibility for meeting the educational costs of students. Dependent students are required by law to provide parental information and signatures on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for financial aid. If you are considered a dependent student according to the Federal financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parental income and asset information in addition to your income and asset information.

Under the Federal definition to be considered independent for financial aid purposes for 2025-2026, you must meet at least one (1) of the following conditions:

- You were born before January 1, 2001.
- You were a ward of the court since age 13, or both parents are deceased.
- You are a veteran of the US Armed Forces or on active duty (not training).
- You are married.
- You have a legal dependent other than a spouse for whom you provide at least 51% of their support.
- You are enrolled in a graduate or professional program.
- You are or were an emancipated minor as determined by court.
- You are or were in legal guardianship as determined by court.
- You were determined to be an accompanied youth who was homeless since July 1, 2024 by your high school or school district homeless liaison, or the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program.

Occasionally, due to unusual circumstances, students can successfully appeal their dependency status.

If you can document why you should be considered independent for some unusual reason, you may petition for a waiver of federal regulations requiring parental information.

Examples of eligible circumstances include:

- Severe long-term estrangement from parents
- An unsafe domestic environment
- Unknown whereabouts of parents
- Incarcerated Parent(s)

Examples of non-eligible circumstances include:

- You are not claimed as a federal income tax exemption on your parents' income tax return
- Financial hardship
- Parent(s) desire NOT to provide financial support for college or living expenses
- Unwillingness of your parent(s) to provide parental data to complete the FAFSA
- Your ability or desire to be self-sufficient
- You don't live with your parent(s)

SECTION 1: REQUIRED Personal Statement

Please submit a letter and explain in detail the extenuating family circumstances that you believe warrant review of your dependency status. in the space provided below. You may attach additional sheets of paper if more space is needed beyond what has been provided.

SECTION 2: REQUIRED 2023 Income Verification. Please answer the following questions:

1. When was the last date you had contact with your parents?

2. When did you last live with your parents?

3. Have your parents provided you with support in the last 12 months (support includes cash, housing, food, gifts, medical insurance, loans, college costs, etc.) ? If yes, please list type and amount.

TYPE	AMOUNT
A. _____	\$ _____
B. _____	\$ _____

4. List your 2023 income from:

A. Work:

B. Untaxed Sources (for example: child support received, Veterans non-education benefits, tax exempt interest income, payments to tax deferred pension and savings plans, etc.):

SECTION 3: REQUIRED Documentation

In addition to your letter of explanation, you must submit **THREE** typed letters with wet signature, from neutral outside sources to support your request. (Email is not acceptable.) Letter writers should be familiar with your unique situation:

- Two letters from objective third parties (i.e. minister, social worker, counselor, teacher, doctor, or other professional) explaining the situation in detail.
- Third letter may include: a letter from an independent third party (family member, non-relative or friend) (example: parents of a friend, neighbor, employer) Police reports, court reports, documentation from a social agency.
- Submit a completed, signed 2025-2026 FAFSA (leave the parent sections blank). You may complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov

We may request additional documentation to support your statement, depending on the situation. We will reach out to you directly if anything else is required.

My signature certifies that the information I have provided in support of my petition for a dependency status review is true. I agree to provide further proof of the information if requested.

Student’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note: By using a typable format to sign your name electronically using this form, you are agreeing that your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this form.