## Important Changes to the 2017-2018 Financial Aid Application Process

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<td>Why is it so important to students?</td>
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The FAFSA and Dream Act Applications open 3 months earlier than the normal January 1 date, although the annual March 2nd priority deadline remains the same.

2017-2018 application process opens on October 1, 2016.

Prior-Prior Year: 2017-2018 Application uses income and tax information from 2015.

With Prior-Prior Year, income and tax information is more readily available.

Increased likelihood that families can report income through DRT on the FAFSA, which simplifies the process.

Helps streamline the college application process, allowing entering students to apply for financial aid at the same time.

Allows families to make more informed decisions on cost and financial aid eligibility.

Applications will be received in a more timely manner.

Staff will begin reviewing applications in early 2017 with a larger percentage of student records available.

Greater usage of DRT may reduce need for verification.

With this streamlined process, our staff will have more time to advise students and their families.