

## **Summary of Changes**

### **2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

**Colors** - The 2008-2009 FAFSA colors are orange for student information and purple for parent information.

**Year References** - All year references are to be incremented by one year.

**Design** – The design and layout of the FAFSA is essentially unchanged from the previous year.

**Data Elements** – The wording of two questions have been revised, however the question numbers remain the same as in 2007-2008.

**School/College References** – Where applicable and if reference is beyond high school, replace the word school with the word college.

#### **Application Pages**

##### **Page 7**

**Question 21** - We revised question 21 asking are you male by adding are you female. This is a more direct question to determine if a student is required to register with the Selective Service.

Question: [Are you male or female? \(Most male students must register with Selective Service to get federal aid.\)](#) Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 27** - We revised question 27 asking whether a student will have a high school diploma or GED before the 2008-2009 school year to include two additional options (home schooled or other). The Notes on page 2 refers students to new instructions for reporting an option.

Question: [If you will complete high school or its equivalent before you begin the 2008-2009 school year, enter the correct number in the box. See Notes page 2](#)

##### **Page 10**

**Step Six** - We revised the text in Step Six to refer to “colleges” instead of schools. This is more consistent with education beyond high school.

[Step Six: Indicate which colleges you want to receive your FAFSA information.](#)

#### **Notes Pages**

##### **Page 2**

**Notes for question 16 (page 7)** - We added instructions specifically for question 16 regarding marital status to clarify changing this information after signing the FAFSA.

[Report your marital status as of the date you sign your FAFSA. If your marital status changes after you sign your FAFSA, you must not change this information.](#)

**Notes for question 27 (page 7)** – [Enter the correct number in the box in question 27.](#)

[Enter 1 for High School Diploma](#)  
[Enter 2 for General Educational Development \(GED\) certificate](#)  
[Enter 3 for Home Schooled](#)

Enter 4 for Other

**Notes for questions 34 (page 8) and 78 (page 9)** - We added a sentence at the end of these instructions to emphasize another condition for answering "Yes" to this question.

"If you filed a 1040 and were not required to file a tax return, you should answer "Yes" to this question."

Page 4

**Notes for questions 71-75** – We added text to the instructions for dependent students and their parents explaining that answering these questions will not reduce their benefits from the five federal means-tested benefit programs.

"Mark an oval ... 2006. Use ... household." "Answering these questions will not reduce your eligibility for student aid or these other federal benefits."

**Notes for questions 92-96** - We added text to the instructions for independent students and spouse explaining that answering these questions will not reduce their benefits from the five federal means-tested benefit programs.

"Mark an oval ... 2006. Use ... household." "Answering these questions will not reduce your eligibility for student aid or these other federal benefits."