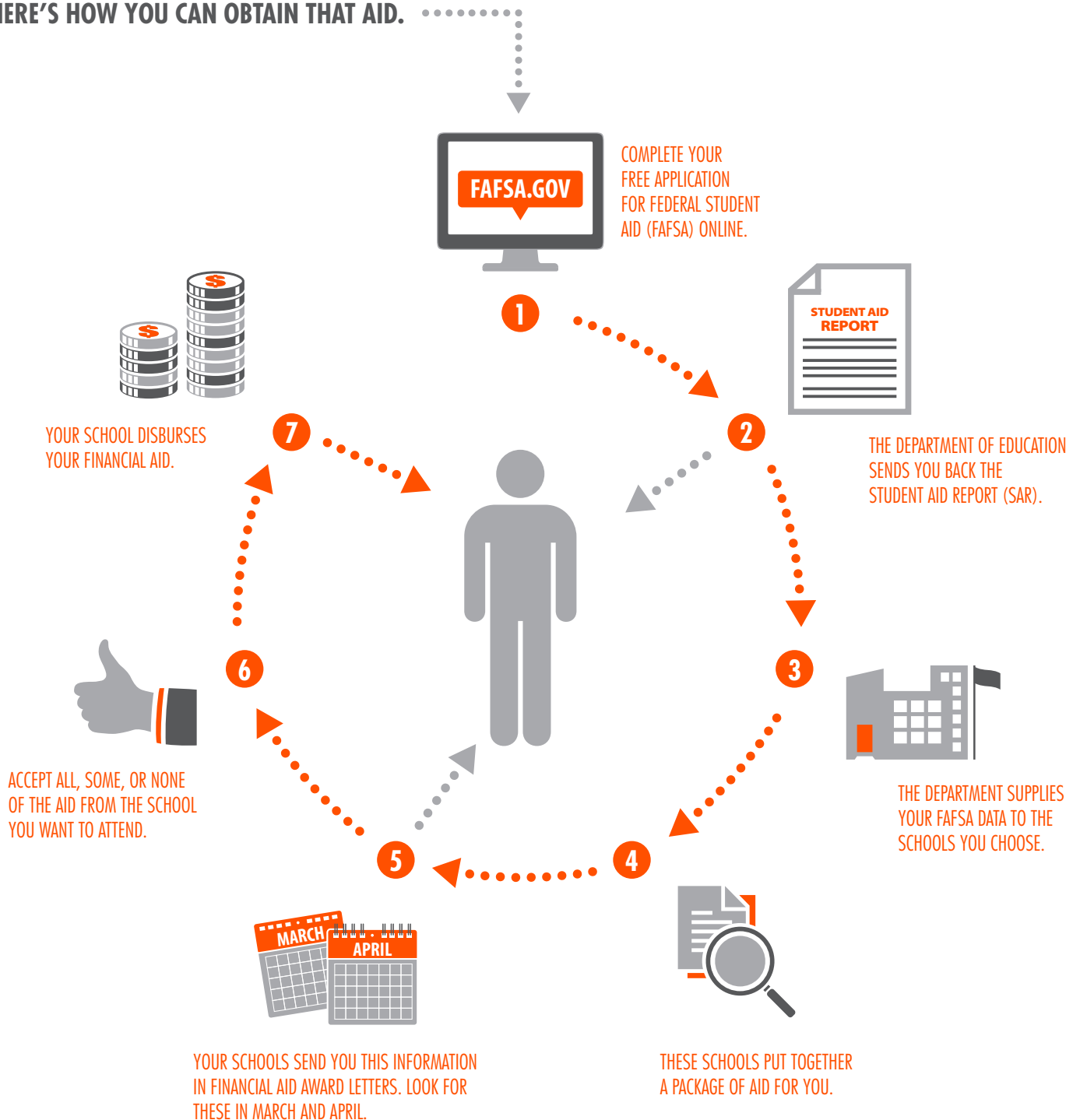


# EXPLORE THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

IF YOU NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE, FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID IS YOUR BEST BET.  
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN OBTAIN THAT AID.



1512-59885

# EXPLORE THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

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1

COMPLETE YOUR FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) SOON AFTER JANUARY 1 FOR EACH YEAR YOU NEED AID. VISIT FAFSA ON THE WEB AT [FAFSA.GOV](https://fafsa.gov).

2

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCESSES YOUR FAFSA DATA, CALCULATES HOW MUCH YOUR FAMILY CAN PROVIDE FOR YOUR EDUCATION – CALLED THE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC) – AND SENDS YOU BACK A SUMMARY CALLED THE STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR).

3

THE DEPARTMENT SUPPLIES YOUR FAFSA DATA TO SCHOOLS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.

4

BASED ON YOUR FAFSA DATA, THESE SCHOOLS ESTIMATE YOUR FINANCIAL NEED AND PUT TOGETHER A PACKAGE OF AID TO HELP YOU MEET THAT NEED.

5

YOUR SCHOOLS SEND YOU THIS INFORMATION IN FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS. LOOK FOR THESE IN MARCH AND APRIL IF YOU'RE APPLYING FOR NEXT FALL.

6

WEIGH YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFERS ALONG WITH OTHER FACTORS IN DECIDING WHERE TO GO TO COLLEGE. ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN A SCHOOL, ACCEPT ALL, SOME, OR NONE OF THE AWARD OFFERED TO YOU.

7

YOUR SCHOOL DISBURSES YOUR FINANCIAL AID WHEN CLASSES BEGIN.