

Using the FAFSA IRS Data Retrieval Tool

What is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool? The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows financial aid applicants to upload the federal tax data from the IRS to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

How do families access the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to complete the FAFSA?

When completing the online FAFSA (located at fafsa.gov), the IRS Data Retrieval Tool can be accessed in the “Financial Information” section of the application. Students who have already submitted an initial FAFSA will first need to select the “Make FAFSA Corrections” option. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool will only be available after the student or the student’s parent(s) indicates that the federal tax return has already been completed.

What is the process to upload the federal tax data? The parent or student (depending on whose information is being reported) will be required to provide his or her FSA ID. The FSA ID is also used to electronically sign the FAFSA. After supplying the FSA ID, the applicant will be transferred to the IRS website where identification is validated, including the exact address on record with the IRS. If a successful match is made, the federal tax data will be displayed on the screen and can then be transferred to the FAFSA.

Who can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool? Anyone who has filed a Tax Return with the IRS can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Parents or students who filed an amended tax return, filed with a head of household or married filing separately tax status, had a change of marital status after the end of the tax year or filed a foreign tax return will be unable to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. The Tool is also available only to taxpayers who have a valid Social Security number. Taxpayers who file tax returns using a Tax ID Number (TIN) will not be able to use the