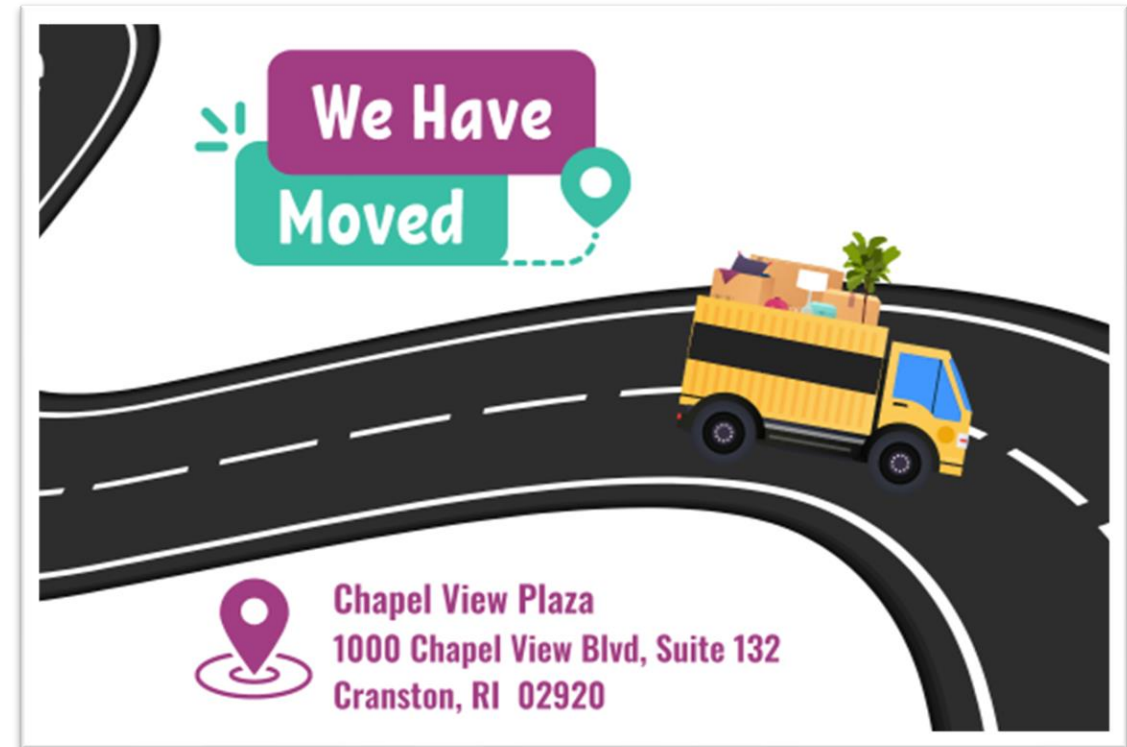
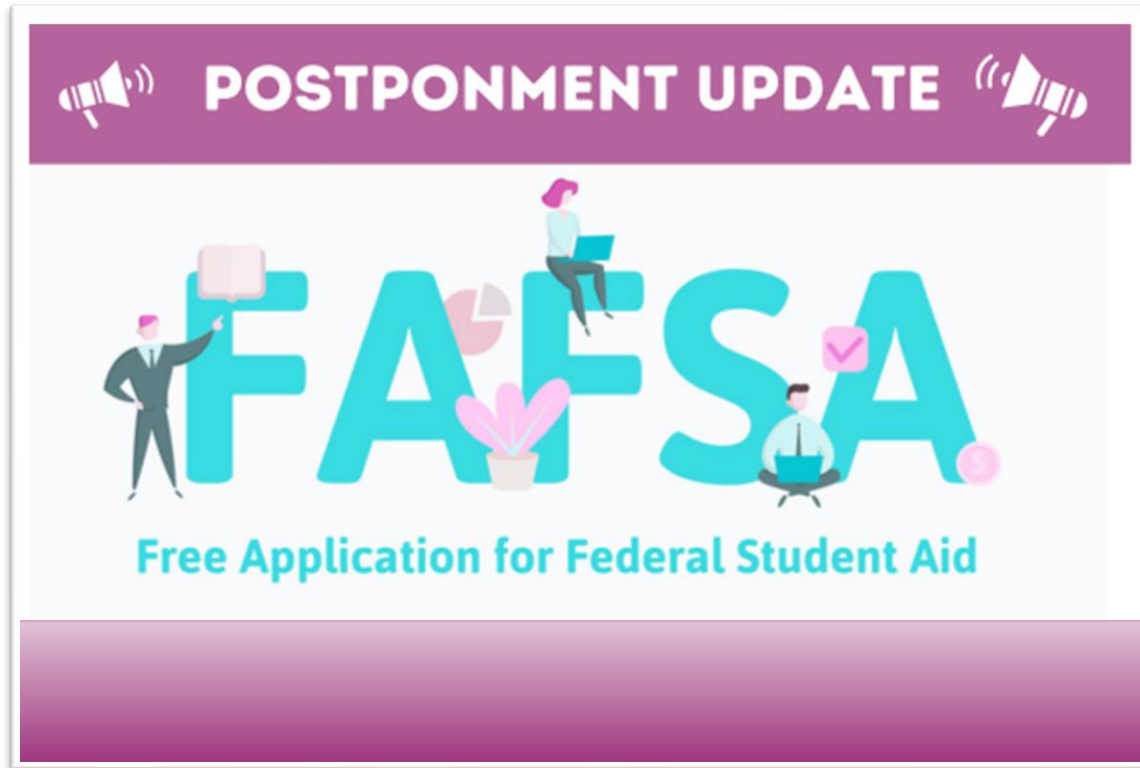




FAFSA Facts & Myths

Before we begin....2 Important Notes



Need to Knows



Need to Know - #1

The FAFSA is completely free to fill out and submit!

It's even in the name - "Free" Application for Federal Student Aid



Assistance with completion is also ***FREE*** when working with the College Planning Center

Need to Know - #2

In order to qualify for Rhode Island **FREE** tuition programs, you must submit a FAFSA

- **RI Promise**
 - <https://www.ccri.edu/ripromise/>
- **RI College Hope Scholarship**
 - <https://www.ric.edu/hope-scholarship>



Need to Know – #3

Completing the FAFSA can qualify you for **“Free Money”**.

- Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants

You can also qualify for federal loans (low rates, great benefits) by filling out the FAFSA. But don't mistake loans for “free money”.



Need to Know - #4

In Rhode Island,
approximately **\$8 Million** in
Pell Grants went unused by
the Class of 2021

www.ncan.org/news/592984/NCAN-Report-3.75-Billion-in-Pell-Grants-Goes-Unclaimed-for-High-School-Class-of-2021

Need to Know – #5

FAFSA is also used by schools in determining Institutional Aid

Schools require the FAFSA when awarding institutional aid if they are not requiring completion of the CSS Profile.



Need to Know – #6

FAFSA is used to determine Work –Study eligibility

- Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. Students can get work-study positions in some offices across campus, the mail room, the rec center, and more.
- Be sure to apply to these positions early as these jobs fill up quick!

Now
hiring.



Need to Know – #7

You should file your FAFSA EVERY YEAR, even if you didn't qualify for aid the previous year.

- Federal aid is granted on a yearly basis, FAFSA completion is required every year for aid to be granted year to year
- Your aid eligibility can change from the previous year, Not filing – Guarantees you no aid or eligibility for federal loans

FAFSA MYTHS



FAFSA MYTH #1

Myth: Your family earns too much to be eligible for aid

TRUTH:

Even if you don't qualify for need-based aid, you may qualify for other aid

FAFSA MYTH #2

MYTH: You have to apply for financial aid only once

Truth:

You have to submit the FAFSA every year

FAFSA MYTH #3

MYTH: You won't qualify for aid because you don't have good grades

Truth:

Federal aid isn't dependent on grades. Grades don't determine if you get financial aid, but they can be a factor if you will continue receiving money.

FAFSA MYTH #4

MYTH: You can declare yourself an independent student on the FAFSA to qualify for more aid

Truth:

You must meet certain criteria to qualify as an independent student – it's not just something you can choose to do in the hope of getting more aid.

FAFSA MYTH #5

MYTH: The FAFSA is long and confusing

Truth:

- It's not as bad as you think it will be, provided you're prepared
- Free completion assistance is available at the College Planning Center (30 minutes or less of your time)

QUESTIONS



For More Information

Book a free appointment:

www.collegeplanningcenter.org



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