

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Purpose

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board is committed to supporting student awareness of financial aid opportunities, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This policy is intended to promote student awareness of and access to financial aid in compliance with Va. Code § 22.1-206.4.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, "Student Financial Aid Application," as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-206.4, means the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to limit the school's obligation to provide information regarding alternative financial aid applications, including the Virginia Alternative State Aid (VASA) application, as required by law.

Annual Requirement

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School must provide each high school student and the parent or guardian of each high school student with guidance and information on student financial aid applications, to include resources, eligibility criteria, and deadlines.

The school must also provide additional guidance and informational materials, as provided by the Virginia Department of Education, on alternatives to FAFSA, such as the Virginia Alternative Student Aid application, for the purposes of promoting awareness of federal and state financial aid programs, resources, eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and other processes and requirements.

The school must post data relating to student financial aid applications in a publicly accessible location on the school website.

Goal Setting, Data Collection, and Reporting

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School must establish a five-year goal for increasing the percentage of high school students who complete a Student Financial Aid Application during the student's final school year before graduation. The school should review their progress toward achieving their goals and report relevant data to the Department of Education, as required.

Students are not required to complete such financial aid applications, and students and parents may decline to participate.

In implementing this policy, school personnel must not disclose any student's personally identifiable information except that which is necessary and permitted by law.

Implementation

The school will implement this policy in accordance with the procedures developed by the executive director or executive director's designee.

Adopted: September 17, 2026

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-206.4.

Cross Ref.: Pol 4045 Student Records