

## **IRS Data Retrieval System**

Parents and students: **Helpful FAFSA functionality in place**

Students and parents completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) this fall can take advantage of functionality that allows tax information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to flow directly into a student's online FAFSA.

Schools may accept this automatically populating tax account information to verify adjusted gross income (AGI) and taxes paid rather than an IRS form that lists tax account information.

If the FAFSA information was received from the IRS Data Retrieval System, it lessens the probability that a family will be selected to provide additional verification of data provided to the FAFSA. While verification isn't a bad thing, it does add time and effort to the financial aid award process because the school must receive the tax documentation required for this process directly from the IRS.

To use the student IRS data retrieval tool:

- Enter your FSA ID and click "Link to IRS" from the online FAFSA form.
- Your FAFSA will be saved and you will be transferred to the IRS website.
- Enter the requested information on the IRS website EXACTLY as it appears on your tax return.
- Once the IRS has validated your identification, your IRS tax information will display. You can transfer your information from the IRS, or choose to return to FAFSA on the Web from the IRS website. If you do not transfer your information or choose not to return from the IRS website you will have to log back in to open your saved FAFSA.
- If you transfer your IRS tax information, questions that are populated with tax information will be marked with "Transferred from the IRS."

If you have questions, contact the financial aid office at your school, or visit [ReachHigherMontana.org](http://ReachHigherMontana.org).