



Financial Aid Offices:
50 Oakland Street, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481 19 Flagg Drive, Framingham, MA 01702
Phone (781) 239-2600 Phone (508) 270-4010
Fax (781) 239-2607
Email: finaid@massbay.edu

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification 2021-2022 Academic Year

Student's Name: _____

MassBay ID#: _____

The law governing the FSA programs is based on the premise that the family is the first source of the student's support, and the law provides several criteria that decide if the student is considered independent of his or her parents for aid eligibility. A student reaching the age of 18 or 21 or living apart from his or her parents does not affect his or her dependency status. However, a dependent student who meets the definition of an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied self-supporting youth who is at risk of being homeless may be deemed an independent student (for financial aid purposes only).

- A. If you answered "Yes" to the homelessness questions on the FAFSA below, please provide required documentation and attach with this form. (Legal eligibility definitions for Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness according to the Department of Education is located on page 2)

FAFSA QUESTIONS 55-57:

55. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

56. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

57. At any time on or after July 1, 2020, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

- B. If you are unable to provide relevant documentation from section A, and you are either (1) homeless and unaccompanied or (2) at risk of being homeless, unaccompanied, and providing for your own living expenses—Contact and schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid Counselor. Please call 781-239-2600 or email finaid@massbay.edu.
- C. If you answered "No" to the homelessness questions 55 – 57 and you are not homeless and will provide parental information on the FAFSA: you must correct the information on your FAFSA and provide parental information. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

My signature certifies that the information I have provided in support of my Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Verification is true. I agree to provide further proof of the information if requested.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Legal eligibility definitions according to the Department of Education:

- **At risk of being homeless** – when a student’s housing may cease to be fixed, regular and adequate, for example, a student who is being evicted and has been unable to find fixed regular and adequate housing.
- **Homeless** – lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. Examples of homelessness include but not limited to
 - living with other people temporarily because they have nowhere else to go;
 - in substandard housing (if it doesn’t meet local building codes or the utilities are turned off, it is generally not adequate);
 - in emergency or transitional shelters, for example, trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency after disasters;
 - in motels, campgrounds, cars, parks, abandon buildings, bus, or train stations, or any public or private not place designed for humans to live in; and
 - in the school dormitory if the student would otherwise be homeless.
- **Self – supporting** – when a student pays for his own living expenses, including fixed, regular and adequate housing
- **Unaccompanied** – when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- **Fixed housing – stationary, permanent, and not subject to change**
- **Regular Housing – used on a predictable, routine or consistent basis**
- **Adequate housing – sufficient for meeting both physical and psychological needs typically met in the home**

Additional Information is provided in the link below:

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/2021-02/2122FSAHbkAVGCh5.pdf>

<https://ifap.ed.gov/dear-colleague-letters/07-29-2015-gen-15-16-subject-unaccompanied-homeless-youth-determinations>