



January 10th, 2024  
Volume 9, Issue 2

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Newsletter

## FAFSA

The T.E.A.C.H. program **requires** all students to apply for federal financial aid. This policy has allowed us to utilize federal financial aid dollars and save the T.E.A.C.H. program **THOUSANDS** of dollars! Many of our students were excited to learn that they qualified for additional financial aid. (You can use both federal financial aid and the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship at the same time.)

The time to complete the FAFSA for the 2024-2025 school year is now. However, the U.S. Department of Education has introduced significant changes for the 2024-2025 FAFSA. The following are the three major updates you need to know.

1. **FSA ID Requirement:** To complete the FAFSA, you must create an FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID). [Create the FSA ID](#) at least *three* days before completing the FAFSA to allow time for verification by the Social Security Administration.
2. **Reporting Business and Farm Net Worth:** If your family owns a business or farm, you must now report the net worth on the FAFSA.
3. **Change in Calculation:** The FAFSA calculation will no longer consider how many children are in college simultaneously, even though the form will still ask how many students will be in college.

The 2024-2025 FAFSA is now open. It's important to complete it as soon as possible once it becomes available. Create FSA IDs early and keep them in a safe location, as you will need them each year you complete the FAFSA.

Gathering the required documents and information in advance is crucial for a smooth FAFSA application process. Below is a summary of what you'll need.

- 2022 Federal Income Tax Return and Schedules
- Current checking and savings account balances
- Present value of investments (stocks, bonds, CDs, etc.)
- 529 college savings plan value – only for the student completing the FAFSA
- Net worth of second residences or rental properties
- Child support received for the last completed calendar year

*I am not an expert in the FAFSA. Therefore, I recommend asking for help from your college/university or EducationQuest. EducationQuest offers various resources and tools to assist with the FAFSA process. You can schedule an appointment with EducationQuest to get free, personalized assistance from college planning specialists. (<http://www.educationquest.org/> or 1-800-303-3745)*

### Steps:

1. Apply for Federal Financial Aid at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) NO FEE to apply!!
2. After you receive your confirmation or award letter, forward a copy to T.E.A.C.H. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE YOUR CHARGE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FALL 2024 TERM UNTIL WE RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION OR AWARD LETTER.**
3. Accept any scholarships or grants that you **do not** need to repay. **Please do not accept any student loans, etc.**



Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

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## PODCASTS



**Early Matters** is the podcast of the Center on Child and Family Policy, exploring the science and policy of early childhood. Hosted by Dr. Katharine Stevens, the show features engaging, in-depth conversations with a diverse range of leading researchers, practitioners, and policy experts on what matters most to help young children and their families thrive. The Center on Child and Family Policy (CCFP) is a non-partisan think tank based in Washington DC, dedicated to advancing science-driven policy that gives every child the strongest start possible.

Early childhood, ages birth to eight, is the most rapid period of development in a human's life, which can leave those surrounding a young child sprinting to keep up.

Our mission on **The Good Life in Early Life** podcast is to share the latest happenings in early care and education in Nebraska. We delve into early childhood topics, providing relevant and reliable information to keep you up to date. Each episode features interviews with academic experts, educators, providers, families, or informed community members.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

This fall, we had EIGHT graduates! While on T.E.A.C.H....

**Cortney** from Ord graduated with her Associate Degree from Central Community College. Since Summer 2018, Cortney completed four contracts and 52 credits.

**Vivian** from Omaha graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Winter 2015, Vivian completed seven contracts and 109.5 credits.

**Morlita** from Omaha graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Summer 2009, Morlita completed ten contracts and 155 credits.

**Ciara** from Grant graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Spring 2020, Ciara completed three contracts and 83 credits.

**Katie** from Omaha graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Fall 2017, Katie completed five contracts and 120.5 credits.

**Jessica** from Columbus graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Fall 2015, Jessica completed three contracts and 70 credits.

**Christyna** from Omaha graduated with her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Since Winter 2015, Christyna completed eight contracts and 136.5 credits.

**Sydney** from Lincoln graduated with her Certificate from Southeast Community College. Since Spring 2021, Sydney completed one contract and 21 credits.



## 20 QUESTIONS

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Tessa from Douglas County. She is currently a teacher at a child care program in Omaha. She has been on a Bachelor Degree Gap Scholarship since the Spring 2023 term.

1. Where were you born? **Omaha, NE**
2. What is something you are proud of? **Getting awarded Teacher of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year!**
3. If you could meet someone famous, past or present, who would it be? **Shawn Mendes**
4. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? **Time travel**
5. What is one of your biggest pet peeves? **When people just stare at you**
6. What's one place you really want to travel to? **British Columbia, Ireland, & Hawaii**
7. What is something you are afraid of? **I'm deathly afraid of bats, and not the baseball bat, but flying bats, lol!!**
8. What are your favorite TV shows? **Outer Banks, Outlander, Downton Abby, & His Dark Materials**
9. What is your least favorite subject in school? **Math and science**
10. Do you have any brothers or sisters? **One younger brother**
11. What is your favorite season? **Summer**
12. Do you have a favorite holiday? **Halloween**
13. What's your favorite food? **Meatloaf and angel food cake**
14. What do you like to do in your free time? **DIY projects, read, embroidery, & watch movies**
15. Would you rather live in a place that was always hot or a place that was always cold? **Always hot, I hate the winter!!**
16. If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be? **Bubbly, trustworthy, & kind**
17. What is your favorite movie? **Harry Potter, The Goonies, Titanic, The Help, Avatar: The Way of Water, & Little Women**
18. If I weren't a teacher, I'd be... **A school counselor or something in communications or public relations.**
19. What's your favorite subject in school? **English, history, & art**
20. What is your favorite color? **Brown or neutral colors**



## NEW PAYMENT POLICY IN EFFECT

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, payments towards invoices must be made before the start of the next term.

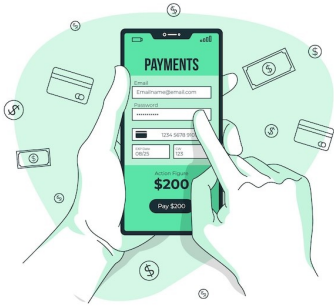
We will no longer be able to let charges incur for the next term without a zero balance or a payment towards an outstanding balance.

This means charge approvals for an upcoming term will not be sent if you owe money and have not made a payment.

The goal is for you to have a zero balance at the start of every term.

This applies to both recipients and sponsoring programs.

At this time, we can still only accept checks or money orders.



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Instagram and Facebook!



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>:** MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY –OFFICE CLOSED

**JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>:** LINCOLN LITTLES 2024 EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT

**FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>:** EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE @ CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN GRAND ISLAND—JULIE WILL BE THERE!

**FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>—16<sup>TH</sup>:** JULIE OUT OF THE OFFICE

**FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>:** PRESIDENT'S DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

**FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>:** LAST DAY OF WINTER TERM @ MCC

**FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>:** T.E.A.C.H. & WAGE\$ ADVISORY TEAM MEETING

**MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>:** FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM @ MCC

**MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>:** COLUMBUS AREA EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE—JULIE WILL BE THERE!

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