



GEAR UP MASSACHUSETTS FAFSA AWARENESS FORM:

Dear GEAR UP Massachusetts participant,

Institutions of higher education award millions of dollars in federal, state and institutional financial aid each year to eligible students. Many students, however, miss out because they don't think they are eligible and don't complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To apply, students must complete the FAFSA available on the Federal Financial Aid web site at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Financial Aid can be used to pay for tuition, fees, books, transportation, and other educational expenses.

We strongly encourage you to complete the FAFSA. If you need help with your financial aid application or college financial planning, our GEAR UP Massachusetts office has counselors that can assist you.

Please select the option below that best describes your plans to complete a FAFSA. **Choosing not to complete the FAFSA will have no effect on whether you will or will not be admitted.**

- I plan to apply for federal, state and institutional financial aid and am prepared to complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- I plan to apply for federal, state and institutional financial aid, but I need help from the Financial Aid Office to complete the FAFSA.
- I do not plan to apply for federal, state or institutional financial aid at this time.

My signature below indicates that I have read the GEAR UP Massachusetts FAFSA Awareness Form.

X _____

(GEAR UP Massachusetts participant's signature)

(Date)

*As of June 2009, applications to Massachusetts public higher education institutions include language strongly encouraging completion of the FAFSA to secure aid.