

**THEC  TSAC**

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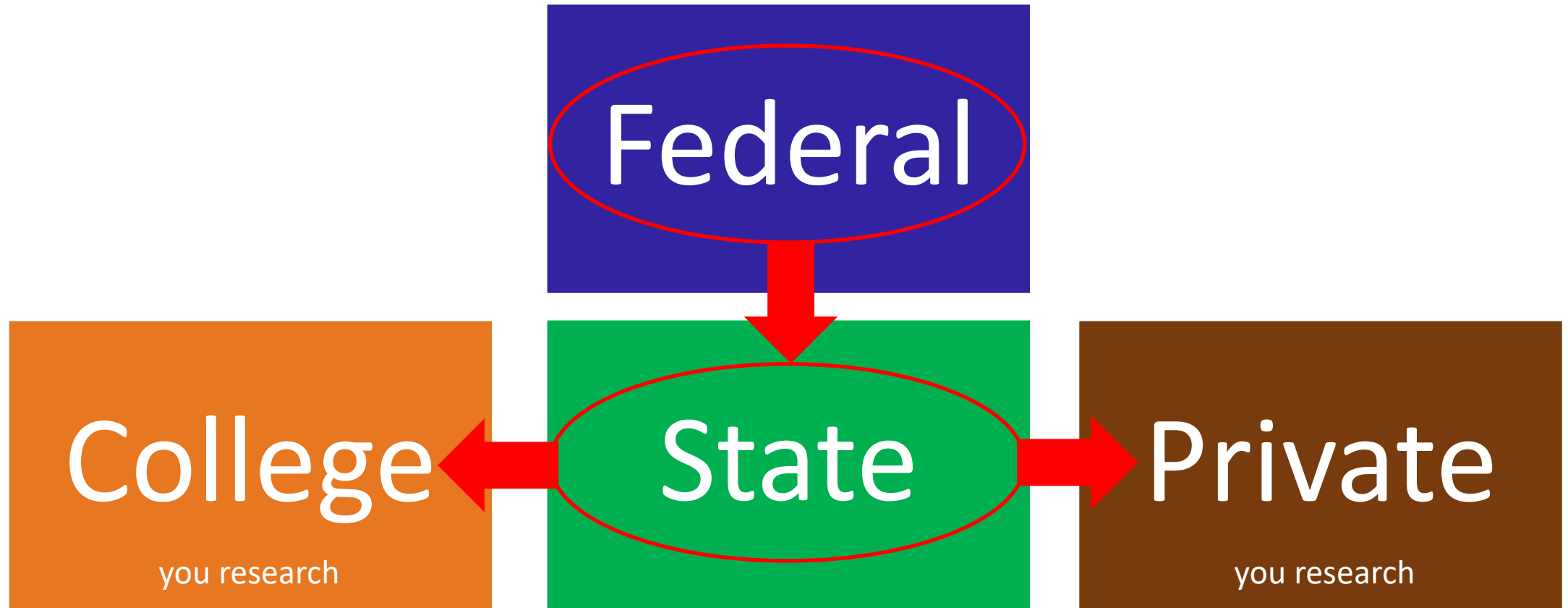
Paying for College

**Financial Aid – ANY and ALL**  
*money awarded or lent to  
students to help pay for their  
education*

# Types of Financial Aid

1. **Scholarships** – free money awarded on ACT, GPA, or skill
  - Renewable vs. Non-renewable
2. **Grants** – free money awarded on need
  - Student Aid Index (SAI)
3. **Loans** – borrowed money that must be paid back with interest
4. **Work study** – earned money from on-campus employment

# Sources of Financial Aid



# Senior Year Checklist

## FALL SEMESTER

- Become Hope Scholarship eligible
- Apply to several colleges (admissions, scholarships, etc.)
- Complete **TN Promise** application by **November 3, 2025**
- Begin working on your FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) starting October 1, 2025

## SPRING SEMESTER

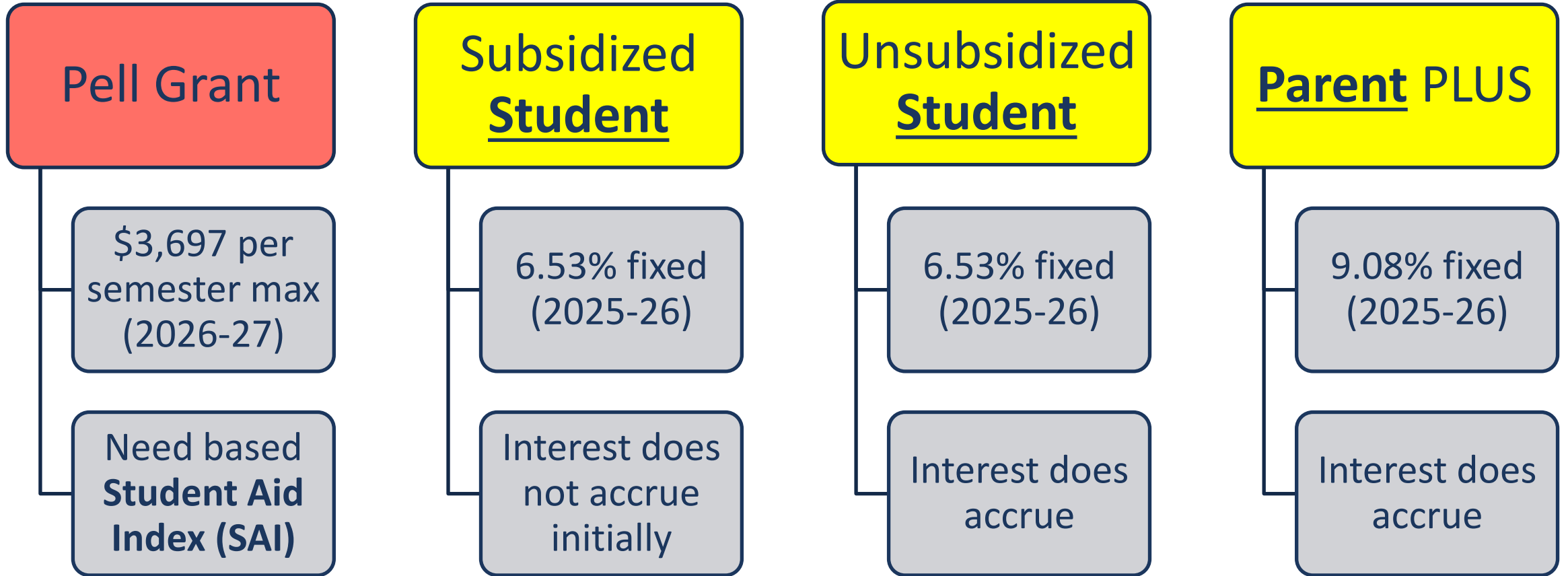
- Complete **2026-27 FAFSA** at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) by **April 1, 2026**
- Complete local/private scholarship applications
- Compare financial aid packages, ask questions, and follow up as needed

# Cost of Attendance

College	2-yr Public	4-yr Public	Private
Tuition	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$40,000
Housing	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Books	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Other	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

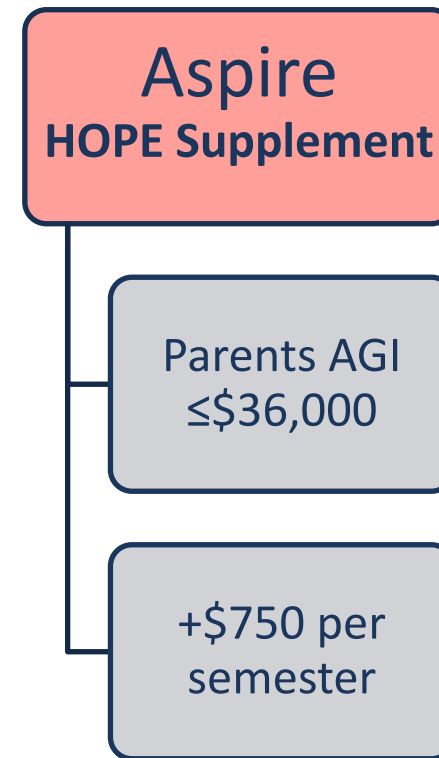
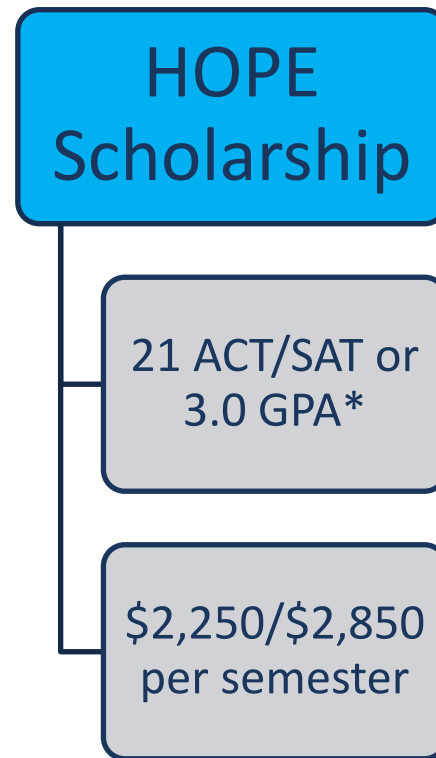
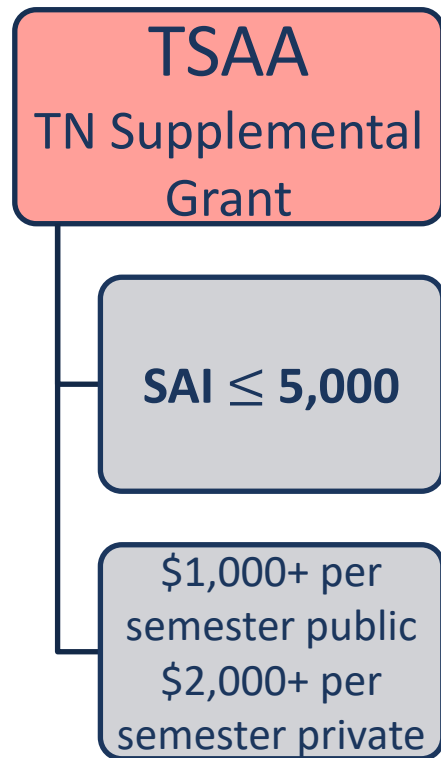
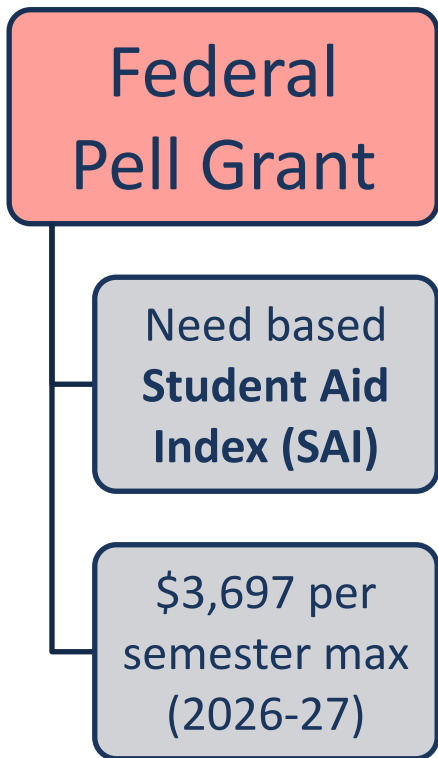
\*Estimated costs for one-year of college; check your prospective college's website for specific costs.

# Federal Student Aid



■ Grant  
■ Loan

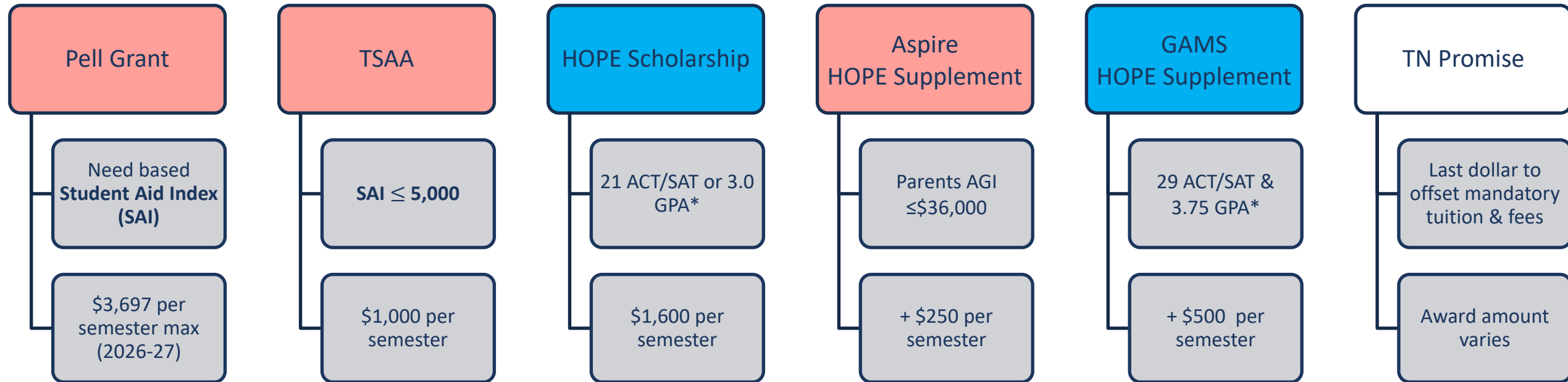
# TN 4-yr Public & Private



\*All courses calculated on a 4.0 scale per the Uniform Grading Policy

Need  
Merit

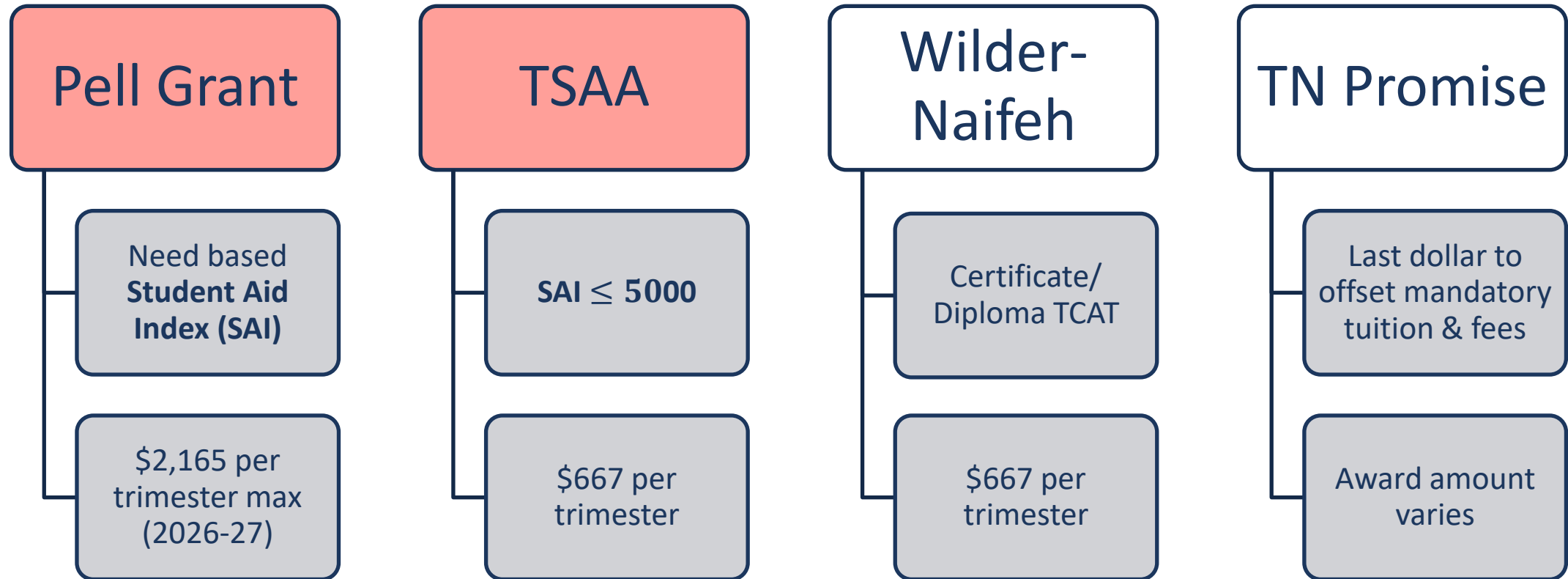
# TN Community College



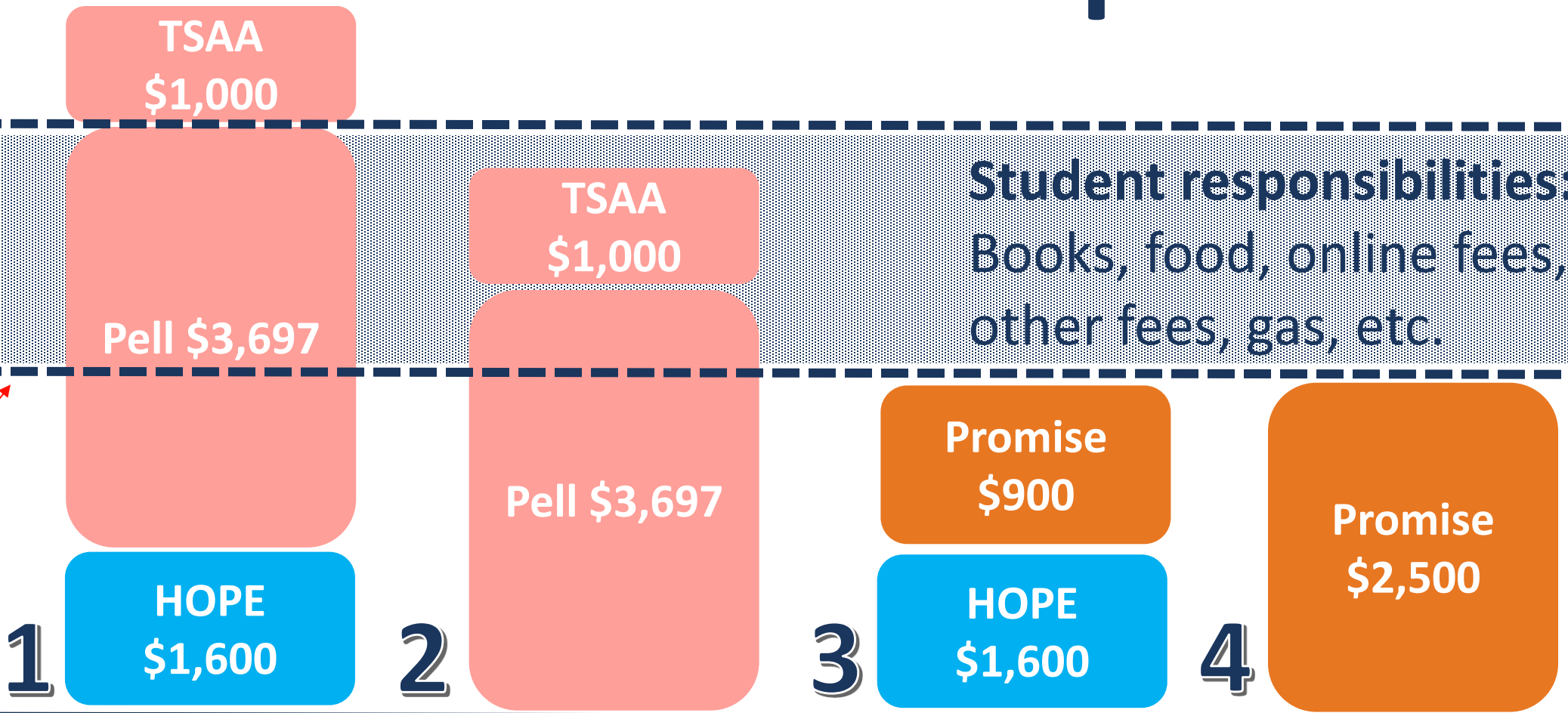
\*All courses calculated on a 4.0 scale per the Uniform Grading Policy

Need  
Merit

# TCAT



# TN Promise Examples



Promise allows students to attend a community college or TCAT mandatory tuition & fees free through a last dollar scholarship.

Need  
Merit

# TN Promise Checklist

- Apply to the Tennessee Promise program at [tnpromise.gov](https://tnpromise.gov) by **November 3, 2025**
- Complete 2026-27 FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) by **April 1, 2026**
- Attend mandatory meeting as coordinated by *partnering organization*
- Complete and submit 8 hours of community service by **July 1, 2026** coordinated by *partnering organization*

Promise allows students to attend a community college or TCAT mandatory tuition & fees free through a last dollar scholarship.

# TNP Checklist (January enrollee)

- Apply to the Tennessee Promise program at [tnpromise.gov](https://tnpromise.gov) by **November 3, 2025**
- Complete 2024-25 FAFSA and 2025-26 FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) by **March 15, 2026**
- Satisfy mandatory meeting requirement coordinated by *partnering organization*
- Complete and submit 8 hours of community service by **April 15, 2026** (coordinated by *partnering organization*)

\*Promise allows students to attend a community college or TCAT tuition-free through a last dollar scholarship.

# FIND WHAT CAREER BEST FITS YOU

Looking to find the right career or college for you? Get started with our career interest quiz and find the perfect fit for your future!

[FIND A CAREER](#)



## FINANCIAL AID INFO & CONTACT

What is financial aid and who can help me?



## TENNESSEE FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid available in Tennessee.



## HOW TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA

Tips and information for filling out your FAFSA.



## LIFESTYLE CALCULATOR

A short quiz to learn what you'll need to earn.



## FINANCIAL AID MYTHS & TIPS

Separating financial aid fact from fiction.



## TSAC STUDENT PORTAL

Create or log in to your TSAC Student Portal.

02 FIND WHAT CAREER BEST FITS YOU 

# 2026-2027 FAFSA

1. Available **October 1, 2025** at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
  - **2024 income/tax info**
2. Priority deadline **April 1, 2026**
3. Create FSA ID(s) – Can be created now at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov); **800-433-3243**
4. Student & Parent must create IDs and complete his/her half of the FAFSA for submission

# FSA ID = FAFSA

## Username/Password

Which parent(s) need FSA IDs to submit the 2026-27 FAFSA?



**Student**



**Parent 1**



**Parent 2**

# Student Invites Parents to FAFSA® Form

The student is asked to enter personal information about their parents in order to send them an invite to their FAFSA® form.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for student Raya Tran. The progress bar indicates the user is on the 'Personal Circumstances' step. A blue box titled 'Invite Parents to your FAFSA Form' contains instructions: 'You will need to provide information for your parents. Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. You can invite your family members to your form to help you complete all required sections.' Below this, a green box states: 'Enter names of parents, identified on the prior page, and we'll send electronic requests on your behalf. Please make sure to provide information that your parents would use to login to StudentAid.gov.' The form includes two columns for 'Parent' and 'Parent Spouse (optional)'. The 'Parent' column has fields for First Name (Alcina), Last Name (Tran), and Date of Birth (05/05/1973). The 'Parent Spouse' column has fields for First Name, Last Name, and Date of Birth.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for entering parent information. It features two columns for 'Parent' and 'Parent Spouse (optional)'. Each column has a 'Social Security Number (SSN)' field with a 'SHOW' or 'HIDE' button and an information icon. Below the SSN field is a checkbox labeled 'My parent doesn't have a SSN'. The 'Email Address' and 'Confirm Email Address' fields are present for both columns, with the email address 'alcinatran@school.edu' entered in the 'Parent' column. At the bottom of each column is an 'Invite Parent' button. At the bottom of the entire section are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

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**COMPLETE  
YOUR FAFSA®  
EVERY  
YEAR**



# Reasons for FAFSA

- Federal Pell Grant
- HOPE Scholarship & TN Promise
- Student & PLUS loans
- Because the college said so (i.e. institutional aid)

# FAFSA Checklist

- Student Social Security number
- Student FSA ID username/password
- Parent(s) Social Security number(s) **(parents without a social security number can still serve as a FAFSA contributor)**
- Parent(s) FSA ID username(s)/password(s)
- Student's driver's license number if you have one
- 2024 tax information **(including 2024 W-2, Schedule 1, and Schedule K-1 forms)** for student and parent(s)
- Records of your untaxed income, such as child support
- Checking and savings (e.g. Money Market, CDs, etc.) account balances

# The 26/27 FAFSA-What's New?

## Real-time identity verification

- Beginning in August, all users who create a StudentAid.gov account with a Social Security number (SSN) will have their accounts **verified immediately**. This will allow for the immediate ingestion of tax information from the IRS. *Users who do not have a SSN will continue to follow identity validation processes as prescribed by FAFSA.*

# The 26/27 FAFSA-What's New?

## Simplified Contributor Invite Process

- Students completing a 2026–27 FAFSA form will be able to **invite a parent or spouse as a contributor simply by entering their email—instead of asking students for a contributor's personally identifiable information—which will generate a unique, non-case sensitive code**. The code will be sent to the parent or spouse by email. The parent or spouse will be directed to accept the invite by entering the code on an “Accept an Invite” page that can be accessed by the email or StudentAid.gov once they are logged in. The Department expects this update to ease the process for users and ***reduce errors associated with matching contributors to their accounts based on identifying information.***
- Please note that the simplified contributor invite process will be available to students who invite a contributor, or parents who invite a spouse, to complete a 2026–27 form. If a contributor begins a FAFSA on behalf of a student, they will use the existing process to invite the student to the form. In that case, the student must have a StudentAid.gov account and will be linked immediately to the application upon being invited.

# FAFSA Assets

## Considered

- Family farm
- Small business
- Money Market Funds, Mutual Funds, CDs
- Stocks, stock options, bonds
- 529 college savings plans (parent asset)
- Rental property

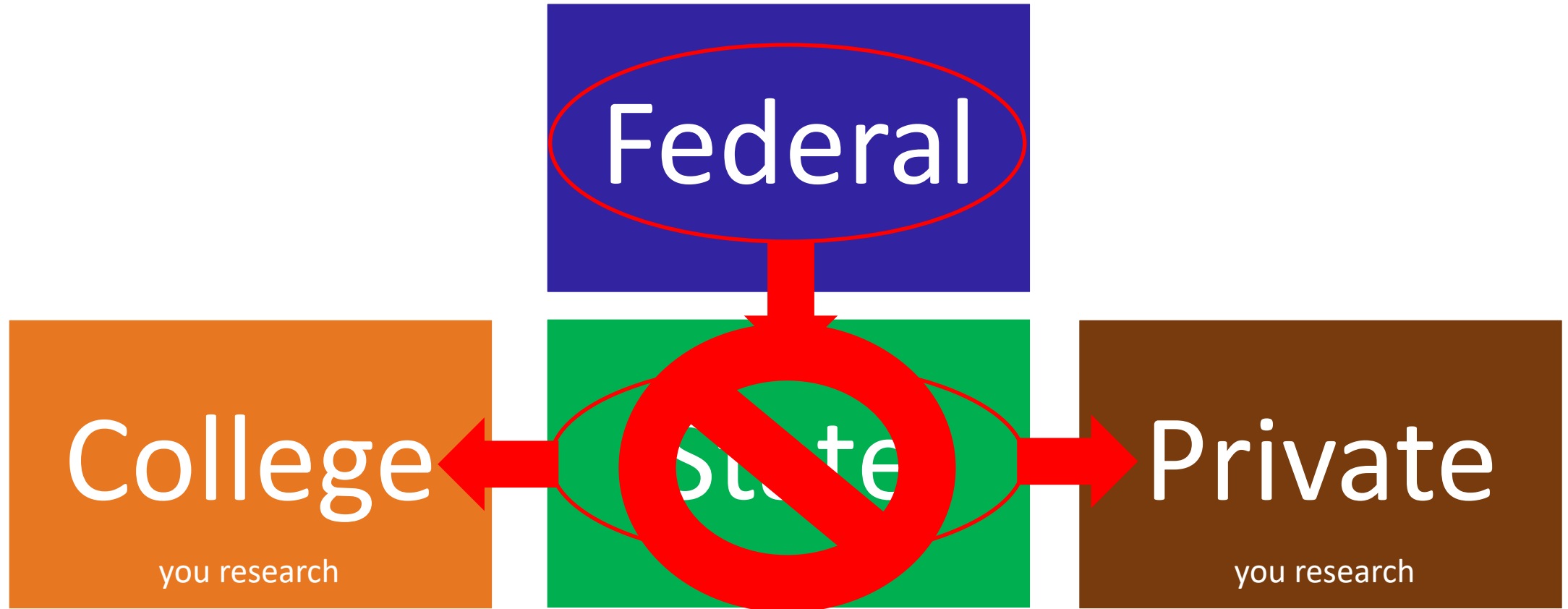
## NOT considered

- Value of life insurance
- 401[k] plans
- Pension funds
- Annuities
- Non-education IRAs

# FAFSA Dependency

- 24 or older?
- Married?
- Master's or Doctorate?
- U.S. Armed Forces?
- Veteran?
- Children/dependent receiving  $\frac{1}{2}$  their support from you?
- Since you turned 13, were both parents deceased, foster care, or ward of the court?
- Emancipated?
- Legal guardianship?
- Unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

# Going out of State





**THEC**  
**TSAC**

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**tnpromise**



**collegefortn.org**