Guide to the

Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA)

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ORSAA Support

(541) 687-7400, option 3

ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov www.OregonStudentAid.gov



This is a guide to accompany the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA), an application of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's Office of Student Access & Completion (OSAC). The guide addresses key sections and questions contained in the ORSAA.

Introduction to the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA)

The ORSAA is an alternative to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for Oregon residents who are undocumented, including students who have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status, TPS and U Visa status. Both the FAFSA and the ORSAA open on **October 1** each year.

You can learn more about the ORSAA on the OSAC website: www.OregonStudentAid.gov/fafsa-orsaa.aspx. You can also find this page by visiting www.OregonStudentaid.gov and selecting the tab FAFSA/ORSAA.

The ORSAA is modeled off of the FAFSA. Although most questions in the ORSAA are the same as in the FAFSA, a few questions are slightly different, including several Oregon-specific questions that are used to determine eligibility for state grants and scholarships. All financial information must be entered manually by the student and parent. For help with the FAFSA, visit the Federal Student Aid website: https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact.

Do *NOT* complete the ORSAA if you are a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen with an Alien Registration number – these students should complete the FAFSA (https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing). International students who are studying in the U.S. on a student visa are NOT eligible for state or federal financial aid programs and should NOT complete the ORSAA. To learn more about non-U.S. citizens and financial aid eligibility, visit https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens.

ORSAA & OSAC Programs

Undocumented students, including DACA students, are NOT eligible for federal financial aid (including the Federal Pell Grant), but they may be eligible for the OSAC-administered programs listed below. The ORSAA is required to apply; OSAC uses information from the ORSAA to calculate students' award eligibility for state grants and scholarships.

The ORSAA is a required application for the following OSAC-administered financial aid programs:

- Oregon Opportunity Grant
- Oregon Promise Grant
- Certain OSAC Scholarships

Most OSAC-administered grants and scholarships have additional requirements and/or steps to apply. Visit www.OregonStudentAid.gov for more information about each program.

Security & Use of ORSAA Data

The ORSAA is an Oregon developed application for students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA. It is a confidential application that is used solely by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to qualify students for financial aid in Oregon. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes. Information that is shared with the HECC via the ORSAA is used only by the HECC and partner colleges, universities, and foundations in order to administer grants and scholarships. The HECC does not share data with any other agency, state or federal. The HECC will do everything within its authority and jurisdiction to protect the ongoing confidentiality of the ORSAA information.

Guidance for DACA students

To apply for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise Grant, or participating OSAC scholarships, DACA students must complete the ORSAA. DACA students may also want to complete the FAFSA. Students should contact the financial aid office at their college to find out if their school wants them to file the FAFSA in order to qualify for institutional aid. Different colleges have different approaches: some may require DACA students to complete the FAFSA online, or a paper version of the FAFSA, to help determine aid at the college or university level.

Even if a DACA student has already submitted a FAFSA, the student must submit an ORSAA to be considered for state-administered financial aid: Oregon Promise, Oregon Opportunity Grant, and certain OSAC scholarships.

ORSAA Pre-Filter Tool

Before creating an account for the ORSAA, students will answer a few <u>"pre-filter" questions</u> to help determine if they should complete the ORSAA. Questions include:

- Do you have a Social Security number?
- Are you a US citizen or US national?
- Are you an international student, or are you living in the United States with a valid visa or immigration status?
- Will you have lived in Oregon for at least 12 months prior to attending college?

Based on their responses, students will be instructed to file the ORSAA *or* the FAFSA - or advised that they are not eligible for state aid via the ORSAA. The answers provided in the pre-filter tool are NOT saved; this is simply a tool for students and families to help determine if they should complete the ORSAA. The pre-filter is on the OSAC website at: https://osacapps.hecc.oregon.gov/orsaa-filter.aspx After answering the pre-filter questions, visitors will be directed to the ORSAA (or the FAFSA), depending on their situation.

What-to-Bring Checklist

- Date of birth for student and parent(s)
 Email for student and parent(s)
 Prior 2 years of federal income tax returns (1040 form), and other records of money earned
 Records of current total of other asset accounts, bank checking/savings and cash
 Current net worth of investments, real estate, business and investment farms
- Investment records, including 529 plans or other prepaid college plans (if applicable)
- ☐ Records of untaxed income (such as child support received and untaxed pensions)

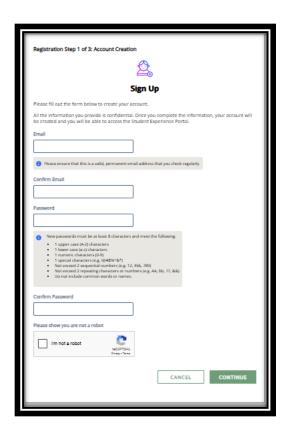
How to Complete the ORSAA

The following screen shots and instructions highlight certain sections and questions to help complete the ORSAA. Not all questions in the ORSAA are addressed here, but key points are highlighted.

Account Registration Page

There are 3 steps in creating an account to access the ORSAA.

Step 1: Students provide their personal email and confirms it. Students should not use an email address from their school that will become inactive. A password is created that has the minimum requirements as stated and password is confirmed. Student clicks on "I'm not a robot", in which the student will get a number of pictures and student must select the correct pictures it asks to move forward. Student selects Continue once it gets confirmed.

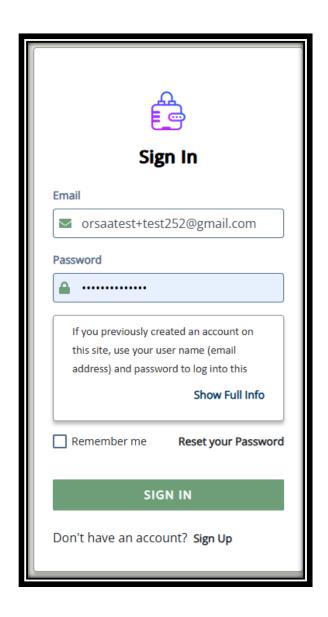


Step 2: The student must validate their email for email authentication process. They will receive an email from noreply@osacstudentxqa.regenteducation.net, the student must follow the link that is provided by clicking on it. They will be directed back to the registration page, then student selects the "Continue" button. The sign in page will appear, the student enters their email and password they used to create their account and clicks on the "SIGN IN" button.

Registration Step 2 of 3: Email Authentication Please validate your email We sent you a confirmation email with a link to activate your account. Access your email account and click on the link provided in the confirmation email. Click here to send a new confirmation email to orsaatest+test252@gmail.com.



Step 3: The student enters their first name, last name, Social Security, DACA OR ITIN number, and date of birth. The Social Security, DACA and ITIN number field is optional. The student should leave this field blank if they do not have one. Students click on "Done" to finish their account registration.

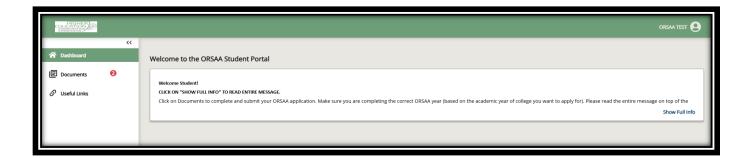


Students should keep a copy of their email and password used to create the student account. They will need this information if they need to edit any of the ORSAA information – email address, adding a school, etc. Students should also print or save a PDF copy of the application created and provided at the end of the ORSAA process.

Student Landing Page

Once the student creates an account, this is the landing page they will see. To get started, the student must click on "Documents" to complete and submit their ORSAA application. They will need to make sure they are completing the correct ORSAA year (based on the academic year of college they want to apply for).

For example, the 2026-27 is the ORSAA year that students should select, if they are seeking financial aid for college between July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 (this corresponds with the FAFSA year).



The application is accessible by clicking on the "Review and Update"



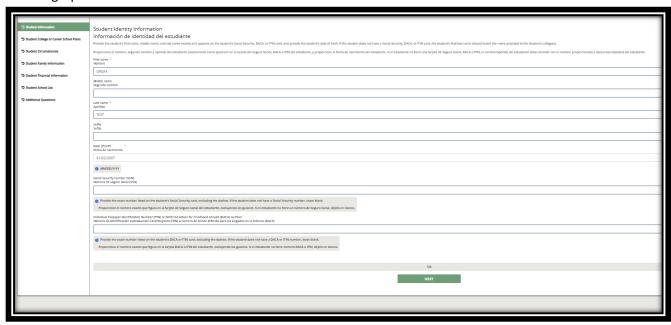
Then click "Start, Edit or Complete a Form" button on the application document.



Student Information

The ORSAA begins with several basic questions about the student's full name, gender, date of birth, address, and contact information. Optional questions ask for social security, DACA or ITIN number and phone number. If the student does not have a DACA, social security or ITIN number, the student can leave this blank.

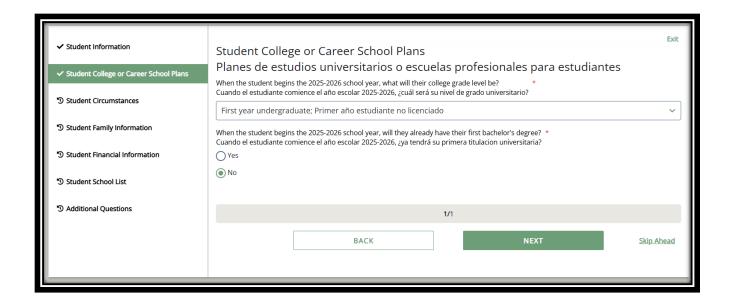
This section also asks about the student's marital status, high school completion status, student's State of Residence, month and year student became a full-time resident of the state, and the student demographic information.



Student College or Career School Plans

This is the second section of the application, after Student Information. This section asks students' college grade level, if they have received a bachelor's degree, and if the student is pursuing an initial certification at the elementary or secondary level.

Current high school seniors or recent high school graduates should NOT select "Graduate student" here – this means that they have already completed college. Graduate students are NOT eligible for state grants (including Oregon Opportunity Grant) or Federal Pell Grant.



Student Circumstances

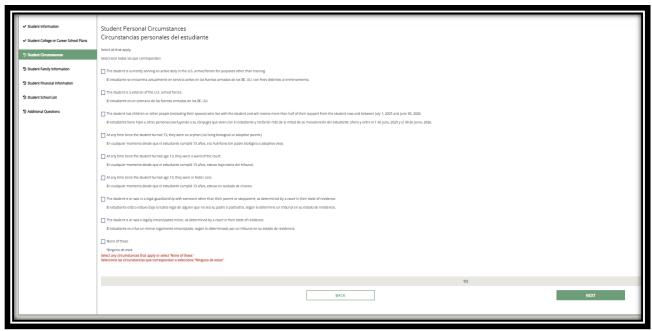
This section asks about the students' personal circumstances, student homelessness and unusual circumstances.

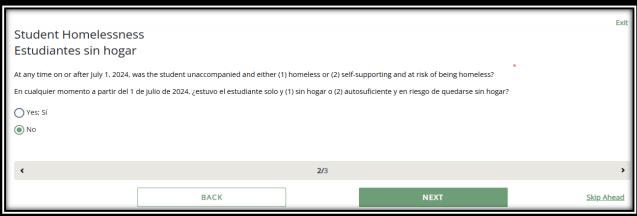
The ORSAA contains several questions that are used to determine students' dependency status. These questions are identical to the FAFSA:

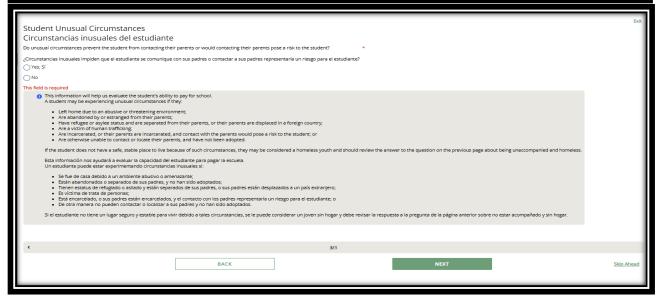
- The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.
- The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with the student
 and will receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1,
 2025 and June 30, 2026. This question will update with each academic year to the
 corresponding dates.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent.)
- At any time since the student turned age 13, they were a ward of the court.
- At any time since the student turned age 13, they were in foster care.
- The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

Each dependency question on the application is accompanied by further details and definitions of terms. For more information on dependency status, please refer to the FAFSA guidelines: https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency.

Based on the responses in this section, the student will be determined to be either dependent or independent. Dependent students are required to enter parent information in a later section.

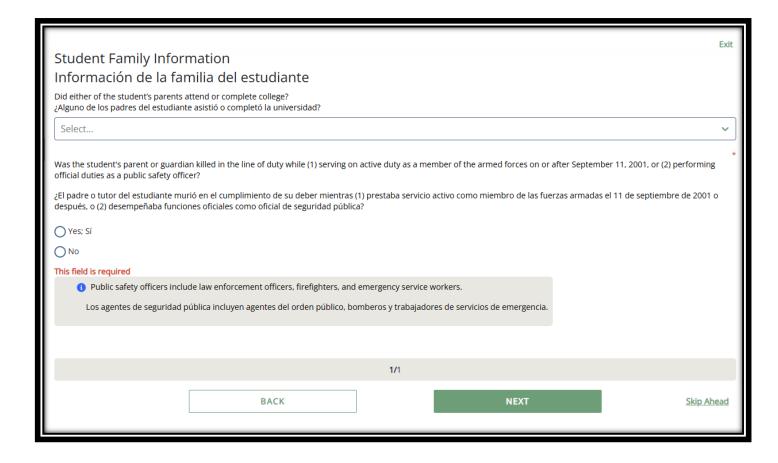






Student Family Information

This section asks information about parent's college completion if any, and if a parent or guardian was killed in the line of duty.



Student Financial Information

All of the financial information in this section pertains to the student (and spouse, if applicable). Financial information for the parent(s) is reported in the parent financial information section. The majority of income and tax return questions on the ORSAA pertain to 2 years prior to the financial aid year. Each question contains explanation and definition of terms within the application.

The following categories and items are included in this section of the application:

Tax Return Information

- Income Tax Return Status
- Tax Filing Status
- Type of Income Tax Return
- Foreign Income
- Eligibility to File 1040 A/B/D/E/F/H
- Adjusted Gross Income from Income Tax Return
- Taxes Paid from Income Tax Return
- Income Earned from Working
- Tax exempt interest income
- Earned Income credit (EIC)
- Education Credits

Assets

- Cash, Savings, and Checking Account Amounts
- Real Estate or Investment Net Worth
- Business or Farm Net Worth

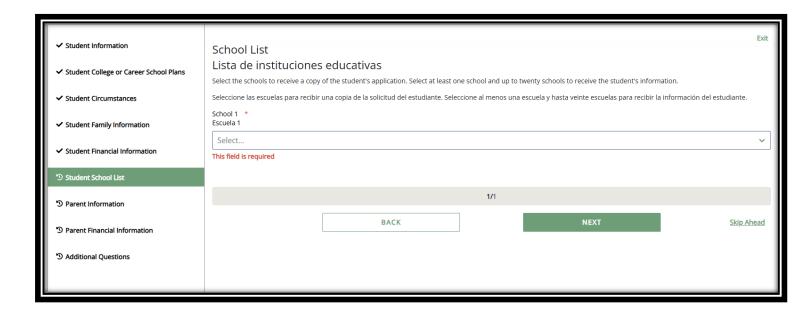
Untaxed Income

- Pension Payments
- Child Support Received
- Other Untaxed Income
- Other Non-Reported Money Received

Student School List

Similar to the FAFSA, students must list the schools they are interested in attending so that schools can receive a copy of the ORSAA to determine financial aid packages. To be eligible for state grants, students must list at least one college or university in Oregon.

The student can select up to 20 schools here. They can delete schools and add more schools after submitting it, by logging back in and selecting to edit the form.



Parent Information

In this section, dependent students provide information about their biological or adoptive parent(s), including marital status, household number, how many people in college, social security number, email address, residency information. A parent who does not have a social security number can enter all zeros. One question asks about the parent's "state of legal residency." Even if the parent is an undocumented resident in the United States, they can enter the state where they currently live. The tax and financial questions in this section are identical to those in the Student Financial Information section.

To help determine who to list as parent(s), refer to the FAFSA guidelines—Who's My Parent When I Fill Out My FAFSA? https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents.



In the Parent Information section, dependent students will be asked to select how many people are in the parents family. Include the parent (and spouse or partner,) the parent's dependent children (even if they live apart due to college enrollment), and other people living with the parent now. Include these dependent children and other people only if the parent will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027 (dates will change with every academic year). For the Parent's Household Number in College, the dependent student should count him or herself plus any additional students who are in the household. However, students should not count the parents themselves, even if they are also students.

Parent Financial Information

All of the financial information in this section pertains to the parent.

The majority of income and tax return questions on the ORSAA pertain to 2 years prior to the financial aid year. Each question contains explanation and definition of terms within the application.

The following categories and items are included in this section of the application:

Tax Return Information

- Income Tax Return Status
- Tax Filing Status
- Type of Income Tax Return
- Foreign Income
- Eligibility to File 1040 A/B/D/E/F/H
- Adjusted Gross Income from Income Tax Return
- Taxes Paid from Income Tax Return
- Income Earned from Working
- Tax exempt interest income
- Earned Income credit (EIC)
- Education Credits

<u>Assets</u>

- Cash, Savings, and Checking Account Amounts
- > Real Estate or Investment Net Worth
- Business or Farm Net Worth

Untaxed Income

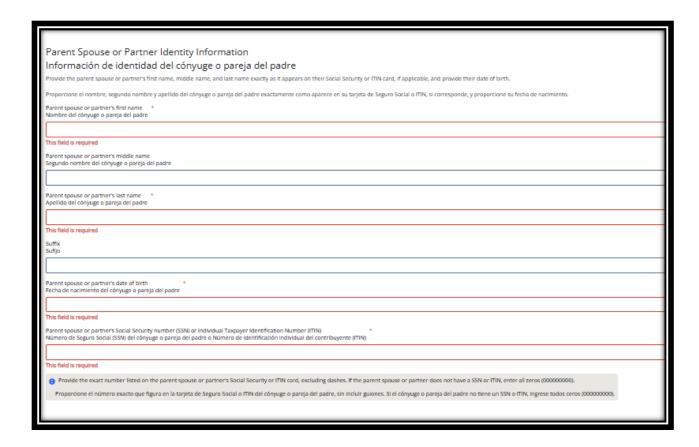
- Pension Payments
- Child Support Received
- ➤ Other Untaxed Income
- Other Non-Reported Money Received

Federal Benefits Received

- > Earned income credit
- > Federal housing assistance
- > Free or reduced-price school lunch
- Medicaid
- > Refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan
- Supplemental Security Income
- ➤ Temporary Assistance for Needy families
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and children

Parent Spouse or Partner Information

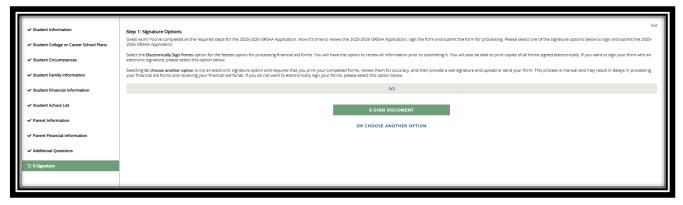
All of the financial information in this section pertains to the parent's spouse or partner. Questions include date of birth, phone number, email address, mailing address, and social security, or ITIN number. If the parent's spouse or partner does not have an SSN or ITIN, enter all zeros (000000000).

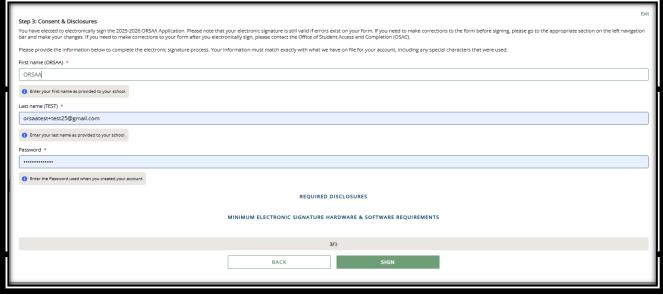


E Signature

After answering all questions in the ORSAA, the student chooses how they want to provide their signature. They can electronically sign or choose another option. We highly recommend electronically signing it as choosing the other options will take longer for their application to get reviewed and processed. The student selects the "E Sign Document" button, then the student must download a PDF version of their responses of the application by clicking the downfacing arrow icon. Once downloaded the student acknowledges all the information provided on their application is true and correct by clicking the box before the statement and then clicking the "Next" button.

Student then signs electronically by providing their first and last name, and password for the ORSAA account, then clicks "Sign" button. It is important to make sure that the computer meets all hardware and software requirements necessary for electronic signature. Currently Safari does not allow this action on cellphones. We recommend using Google Chrome browser if applying by cellphone.





Incomplete ORSAA

Once the student signs the ORSAA, they will return to the landing page. At this point, the student can check the status of the application here. If the student is dependent, a new status will appear in the application box: "Request Parent Signature." In the action box, the student should select the green box "Request parent signature" to invite a parent to sign the application. If the student is Independent, a new status will appear in the application box: "SATISFIED". No further action is necessary on the application is in "SATISFIED" status.

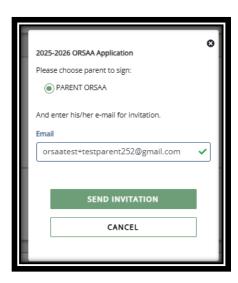


Parent Process

Choose Parent to Sign ORSAA

Both the dependent student AND a parent must sign the ORSAA. The parent cannot create an ORSAA account until after the student has signed the ORSAA electronically and sent the parent an invitation to sign the ORSAA.

After the student clicks the "request parent signature" button, the student will see a screen that asks the student to choose a parent to sign the ORSAA. The student should make sure the parent's email address is correct or enter a new email address for parent, if necessary. The student then selects one parent who will receive the invitation to sign. The parent must use an email address different from the student. Once they select what parent will sign, student clicks on the "Send Invitation" button.



Confirm Parent Selection

Once the student confirms the parent selection, an email invitation will be sent to the parent email.



Parent Invitation Email

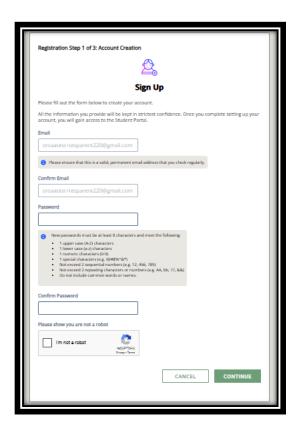
A few minutes after the student initiates the invitation to sign, the parent will receive an email inviting them to create an account. *The link is only active for 72 hours*. If the parent waits more than 72 hours to create an account and sign the student's ORSAA, the student must go back to the ORSAA and re-invite the parent.

The parent creates an account by following the link they received by email. If the parent is using the same computer or device as the student, the student must first log out of the ORSAA completely before the parent can create an account.

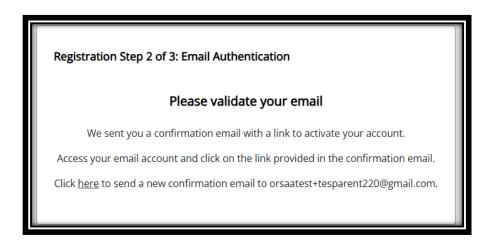
Parent Account Creation

This process is the same as a student account creation, however it will require the last 4 digits of their social security number (or all zeros if they do not have an SSN). There are 3 steps in creating an account to access the ORSAA.

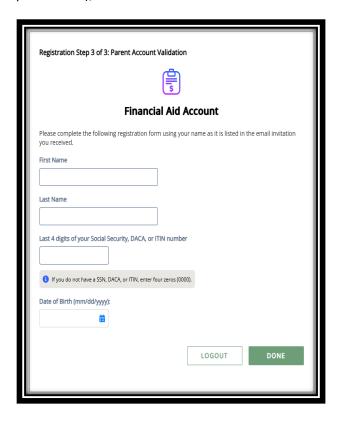
Step 1: The parent provides their personal email and confirms it. A password gets created that has the minimum requirements as stated and confirms the password. Parent clicks on "I'm not a robot", in which the parent may get a number of pictures and parent must select the correct pictures it asks for to move forward. The parent selects "Continue" once confirmed.



Step 2: The parent must validate their email for email authentication process. They will receive an email from noreply@osacstudentxqa.regenteducation.net, the parent must follow the link that is provided by clicking on the link. They will be directed back to the registration page, then parent selects the "Continue" button. The sign in page will appear, the parent enters their email and password they used to create their account and clicks on the "SIGN IN" button.



Step 3: The parent provides their first name, last 1 digits of SSN, DACA or ITIN# (if none please put four 0's), and date of birth and click the "Done" button.



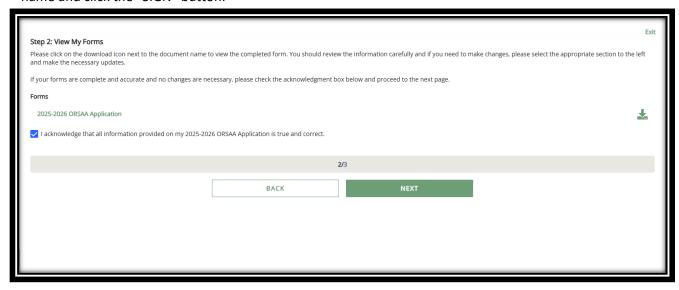
Parent Landing Page

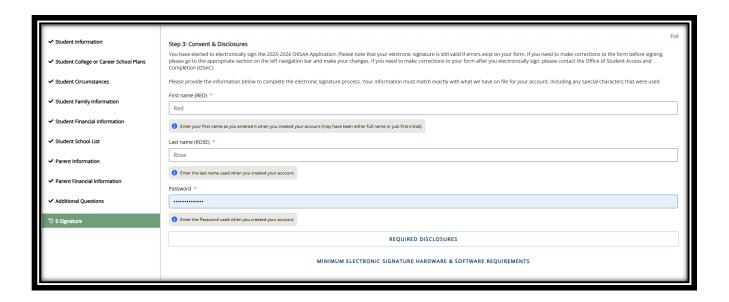
From the landing page, the parent will choose to review and sign the incomplete application. Parent must click on "Review and Update", then click "Sign form" if no corrections are needed, otherwise they click on "Start, Edit or Complete Form" button.



Parent Review & Electronic Signature

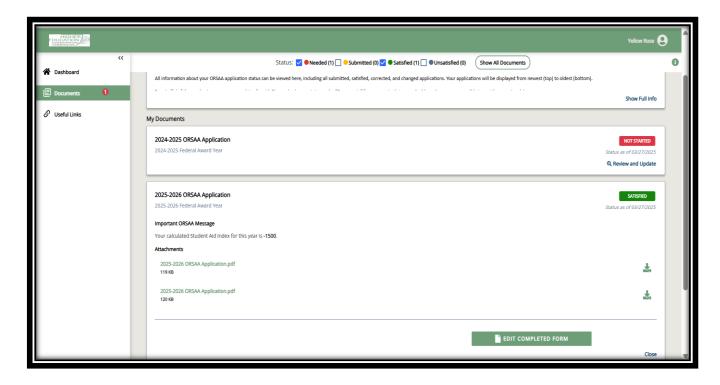
If parents choose to edit the form, before signing the ORSAA, the parent must click through each section of the ORSAA. They will have the opportunity to edit any information, or simply to click through and electronically sign at the end. The final page is for electronic signature. Parent will select "E-SIGN DOCUMENT" option. The parent will have to click the download button and then select the acknowledgement statement, then click the "NEXT" button. Then they must type in their first name, last name and click the "SIGN" button.





Satisfied ORSAA

After the parent signs, the student can sign in and check the landing page to ensure that the ORSAA for the correct year is in a "SATISFIED" status. This is the only place to confirm completion; a confirmation email will be sent to the student stating their application was submitted successfully as well.



If marked **SATISFIED**, this means that the student (and parent, if a dependent student) has electronically signed the ORSAA. No further action is necessary. The applicant may log in to their account later and update information if necessary (contact info, school selections, etc.). Next year, the student can log in with the same email and password to complete the ORSAA again. **Just like the FAFSA**, **the ORSAA must be completed each year that the student is in school, in order to be considered for financial aid.**

ORSAA Support

Contact OSAC for support in English or Spanish:

(541) 687-7400, Option 3

ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov www.OregonStudentAid.gov

