

**Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District
ABSEGAMI HIGH SCHOOL
201 S. Wrangleboro Road
Galloway, NJ 08205**

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Guidance #: (609) 652-1485
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Website: www.absegami.net

January 20, 2012

Dear Student/Parent/Guardian:

Parents and students are urged to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) electronically by logging onto their website at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This form is also offered in Spanish. The federal government strongly encourages parents and students to file electronically.

What to do:

1. **Get a Social Security number.** If you submit without a number, your application will not be processed.
2. If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25, remember to register, if you have not already, with Selective Service.
3. Request a PIN; with a PIN you can apply, sign, make corrections, and submit your application. The website to obtain your PIN is: www.pin.ed.gov. Keep your Federal Student Aid PIN in a secure place. Do not reveal your PIN to anyone, even if that person is helping you fill out the FAFSA. The only time you should be using your PIN is when you are on secure U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites.
4. Obtain the online FAFSA worksheet at: www.CollegeAnswer.com/FAFSA. You do not have to use this worksheet. It is an optional tool to use before submitting your FAFSA. In addition, some colleges require students to submit an additional financial aid application known as the CSS Profile. Students may register for the CSS Profile at www.collegeboard.com. This website walks you through the entire "going to college" process and visitors will find one of the internet's largest scholarship search databases.
5. Complete the FAFSA on the internet. After completing the FAFSA electronically, remember to exit the application and close the browser.
6. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the data you reported on your FAFSA. When you receive your SAR, carefully review it line by line. Make corrections or changes, if necessary. If your FAFSA information is complete, an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is printed in the upper-right hand corner. The schools you listed on the FAFSA will receive electronic copies of your SAR. To learn more about your SAR visit www.CollegeAnswer.com/SAR. No need to wait for your SAR to learn your EFC. To get an estimate today, visit www.CollegeAnswer.com/SAR.
7. At least 30 percent of submitted FAFSA forms are selected for verification. If you are selected, an asterisk (*) will appear after your EFC number. Submit tax returns and other documentation to your college financial aid office.

Remember when applying for scholarships, small sums add up. In addition to Naviancei, check www.collegeboard.com and www.fastweb.com. However, do some prep work and make a list of academic, extracurricular, and work experience that makes you stand out. The more specific the scholarship the easier it is to win, says Baird Johnson of FastWeb, which has a data base of more than 600,000 scholarships. Also, don't forget to talk to your college financial aid officers; most aid ultimately comes from them. Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an award letter showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare award letters from the schools to which you applied and see what aid you can receive from each school.

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Seniors, remember to submit your letter of college/university acceptance and any scholarship awards you have received to your Guidance Counselor. We would like to share the news and update our records. If you have not completed your college application process, please pay close attention to your application deadline. If you have any questions, please contact the Guidance Department.

Sincerely,

Robert Quim
Guidance Supervisor