



# CSS PROFILE Talking Points

## For the 2019-20 Academic Year

The CSS Profile helps financial aid administrators efficiently and cost-effectively manage the financial aid process. The Profile uses the College Board's Institutional Methodology (IM) to determine financial aid eligibility for institutional funds. Listed below are highlights of the Profile:

- Provides a more equitable review and consistency in financial aid awards for families in similar circumstances.
  - More family information is collected on the Profile and this information supports the work of the aid office in fairly evaluating the need of the applicant. For example, the aid administrator knows the ages of the children and where they are enrolled in school. The FAFSA collects only the total number in the family and number in college.
  - Requests three years of income information to help identify year-to-year changes in a family circumstances.
  - The family's medical and dental expenses, private school tuition, and education loan repayments collected. The Profile provides space for the family to explain unusual circumstances. Because none of these data are collected on the FAFSA, the family must take additional steps to share this valuable information with the aid administrator
- Online application that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - Applicants are charged \$25 for the first school and \$16 for each additional school, which can be paid by credit or debit card.
  - **Fee waivers** are granted automatically for a limited number of first-year, first-time domestic applicants from very low income families who qualify based on the information provided on the Profile. First-time, domestic applicants who used an SAT fee waiver may also qualify.
  - Noncustodial Profile is an online application designed to support consistent collection of information from the noncustodial parent in the situation or divorced or separated parents.
  - Many institutions and organizations utilize the Profile to award financial aid from sources outside of the federal government.

Questions? Contact customer support at 844-202-0524 (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, with extended hours from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., January through April) or email [help@cssprofile.org](mailto:help@cssprofile.org).

