

What is the EFC?

Definition

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is how much money the Department of Education (ED) and the schools expect you and your family to contribute toward your School Costs for the school year. The following factors (information you provided on the FAFSA) are used to calculate this figure:

- family size
- number of family members in college
- family savings
- current earnings

<p>School Costs</p> <p>– Expected Family Contribution (EFC)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>= Financial Need</p>

How EFC Is Used

Once your FAFSA is processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) with your EFC figure. This same information is also sent to the schools you listed on the FAFSA. The Financial Aid Officer (FAO) subtracts the EFC from the School Costs to determine your financial need.

Based on your financial need, the FAO will prepare a financial aid package for you. Certain types of federal loans are need-based meaning the amount borrowed can not exceed Financial Need as calculated above.

Special Circumstances

FAOs have some flexibility in determining how much aid you will receive. If there are special circumstances affecting your family, be sure to discuss them with the FAO. Also, the FAO's decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

Short on Funds?

Don't panic if your family does not have sufficient resources to meet your EFC. Other federal loan programs allow you to borrow to cover your EFC.