

# College Confidence: What America Knows About Paying for College



A snapshot of the national study by Sallie Mae® and Ipsos



## Most families view college as a path to better opportunities, but there is confusion about education financing

**81%**

of college-bound juniors and seniors view higher education as a path to better opportunities or key to a good job

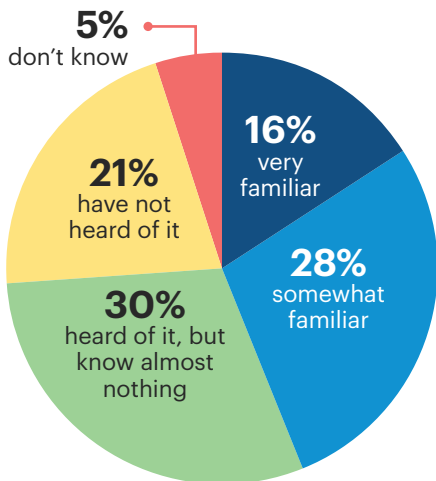
**12%**

of college-bound families feel very confident about paying for college

**11%**

of college-bound families feel very knowledgeable about the different ways to pay for college

## Most families have heard of the FAFSA, but fewer understand it



**62%** of college-bound families say they will submit the FAFSA®

**20%** say they feel very prepared to complete the application

**29%** of families say that filling out the FAFSA is a waste of time if the family makes too much money



**54%**

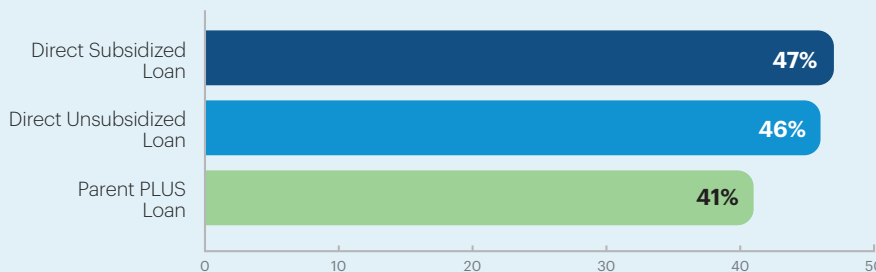
of college-bound families are familiar with financial aid offers, but **37%** don't know what information is included in those offers



**45%** believe that scholarships are only available for students with exceptional grades or abilities

## Many families aren't sure what needs to be paid back

Percentage of families who correctly identified money that needs to be repaid



**First-generation college families require additional college-planning guidance**

**44%**

of first-generation families don't know where to go for help planning to pay for college

Learn more by visiting [SallieMae.com/CollegeConfidence](https://SallieMae.com/CollegeConfidence) Join the conversation online with #SallieMaeResearch.

Ipsos conducted the *College Confidence: What America Knows About Paying for College* survey online, in English, between August 19 - September 20, 2022. Ipsos interviewed 550 parents of 16- to 18-year-old students planning to continue their education, and 585 16- to 18-year-old students with plans to continue their education beyond high school from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii.

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