



Tax Primer

IRS tax form reference guide for completing the Parents' Financial Statement.



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Introduction

Use this tax primer as a reference guide for understanding IRS tax forms that are most helpful to you as you complete your Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) online.

Please keep in mind that this primer does not include an overview of every possible tax form you might receive or need to file with the IRS. It focuses, instead, on the main tax forms that families will need to have on hand to complete the PFS accurately and correctly.

Covered in this tax primer are these forms:

- Form W-2
- Form 1040
- Form 1040 Schedule 1
- Other Schedules
- Schedule C
- Form 1099-MISC

For each of these tax forms, the primer answers three questions:

- 1. What is the form used for?
- 2. What does the form look like?
- 3. Which lines on the form matter the most for completing the PFS?



Important

Be sure to send all your tax forms as required by each school you are applying to for financial aid. Do not limit what you submit to schools to the documents covered in this tax primer. If a school requires your tax forms and schedules, be sure to upload the full set of taxes that you submit to the IRS when filing your tax return. Doing so ensures that you complete each school's document requirements correctly, avoiding possible delays in the process.

Form W-2

What is the W-2 for?

The W-2 is an annual statement of your earnings for the calendar year provided by your employer. It also displays how much was withheld from your pay for taxes, Social Security, and Medicare. This is where you can also see how much of your income was put into certain types of pre-tax retirement plans.

What does the W-2 look like?

22222	a Employee's social security number		PFS 7A or 7B	
b Employer identification number	EIN)	OMB No. 1545-0	Wages, tips, other compensation	2 Federal income tax withheld
c Employer's name, address, and	ZIP code	3	Social security wages	4 Social security tax withheld
		5	Medicare wages and tips	6 Medicare tax withheld
		7	Social security tips	8 PFS 8C
d Control number		9		Codes D, E, F, G, H
e Employee's first name and initial	Last name	13	Nonqualified plans	12a 12b 12b 12c
f Employee's address and ZIP coo	le			12d
15 State Employer's state ID numb	er 16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income ta	x 18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax 20 Locality name
Form W-2 Wage and	d Tax Statement	20X	X Department o	f the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service

Which Lines on the W-2 matter most for completing the PFS?

Report the salary in Box 1 of your W-2 on Line 7A of the PFS for the parent listed as "Parent A." Use 7B for the parent listed as "Parent B." Be sure to report the totals from all W-2s if either parent has more than one for the year.

Look at Box 12. If any amounts appear in this section with a code D-H, be sure to report that amount as "Payments to tax-deferred retirement plans" in PFS Line 8C of the Nontaxable Income Worksheet. If you have multiple W-2s, be sure to report the total amount.

You do not have to report any other information from the W-2 on the PFS. It is possible that one or more schools you're applying to might ask you to supply other information from the W-2. You'll most likely be required to submit or upload a copy of each W-2 you receive as part of your financial aid application.

Form 1040

What is the 1040 for?

The 1040 is used to report your sources of income, as well as any adjustments, deductions, and credits against your income that will determine how much and what types of federal taxes you should have paid for the tax year. If you've paid too much in taxes, it will show how much of a refund from the federal government you are entitled to receive. If you've paid too little in taxes, it will show how much more you need to pay.

What does the 1040 look like?

The 1040 is the base form. It can include additional schedules based on your income. Here's the 1040 base form:

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Dependents	1000	instructions);							D.I.F. II.I						
(1) First name	(266	instructions).	Last name		(2) 50	cial secur	fly no.	(3)	Relationship t	o you	Child	(4) ✓ ff tax credit	f qualifies fo t Cr): er dependents
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Which Lines on the 1040 matter most for completing the PFS?

Nearly every Line of the 1040's Income section has a corresponding Line on the PFS where the income information should be reported. Most are straightforward one-to-one matches. However, a few lines warrant a little more guidance:

→ 1040 Page 1: Household Information

Be sure your tax filing status on PFS Line 6B matches what is checked off at the top of your 1040 form. An incorrect choice on the PFS can cause a miscalculation of the credit you receive for federal income taxes paid.

When listing your dependents on the PFS, make sure it is consistent with those listed on your 1040 Line 6C. If you support children or others in your household that you cannot claim as a dependent, be sure to list them and explain their relationship to you in the PFS "Other Considerations" section

→ 1040 Page 1 Line 1: Salary/Wages

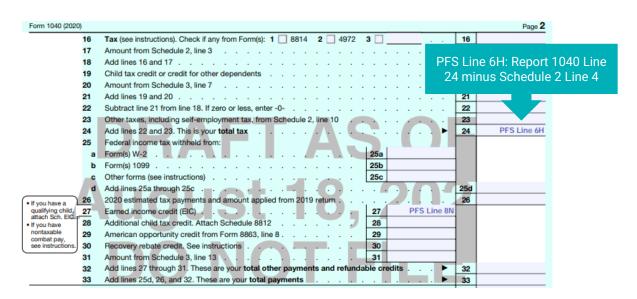
Salary and wages reported here are a total of salaries earned by the parents in the household. The PFS asks you to report each parent's salary separately, so you won't see a single Line item on the PFS for the total salaries. Be sure, though, that the total of the salaries you enter in Line 7A and 7B for each parent is the same as the total shown on Line 1 of your 1040 Page 1. Business owners must be careful not to report profit taken from the business as salary or wages. If you own a business and paid yourself or your spouse a salary from the business, and reported it with a W-2, only enter the amount of salary from the W-2 in Lines 7A or 7B.

→ 1040 Page 1 Lines 4a, 5a and 6a: Distributions from IRA, Pensions, and Social Security

1040 Lines 4a, 5a and 6a each show the total income you received from IRA, Pensions, and Social Security. Lines 4b, 5b and 6b show the taxable portion of those totals. Report taxable amount of IRA, Pensions and Annuities on PFS Line 7J/7K. Report Line 6b taxable amount of Social Security on PFS Line 7L.

To report the nontaxable portion correctly, take the difference and report it in the appropriate PFS line item in the Nontaxable Income section (PFS Section 8). Report your nontaxable Social Security benefits in PFS Line 8B.

→ 1040 Page 2: Other Taxes and payments



→ 1040 Page 2 Line 24

This shows what you owe for the different types of federal taxes on your income. PFS Line 6H asks you to report your federal taxes paid. Be sure to report the amount shown on 1040 Line 24. If you also have Self-Employment taxes reported on 1040 Schedule 2 Line 4, do not include those in PFS Line 6H, since you will report those separately for each business. If you paid self-employment taxes, for PFS Line 6H, report the total tax on Line 24 of Page 2 minus any Schedule 2 Line 4 Self-Employment tax.

→ 1040 Page 2 Line 27

Earned income credits shown here are considered non-taxable income and should be reported on PFS Line 8N.

Form 1040 Schedule 1

What is the Schedule 1 for?

Schedule 1 is used to report additional income received such as capital gain, unemployment compensation, proprietorship business, corporation/partnerships, and rental income. Schedule 1 also list deductions from self-employment tax.

What does the Schedule 1 look like?

	Additional Income and Adjustments to Income	ŀ	OMB No. 1545-0074				
	Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Go to www.irs.gov/Form1040 for instructions and the latest information.						
		our socia	Sequence No. 01 I security number				
Par	t Additional Income						
1	Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes	1					
י 2a							
za b	Alimony received		PFS Line 7N				
3	Business income or (loss). Attach Schedule C						
4	Other gains or (losses). Attach Form 4797		THE LINE IS IN				
4 5	Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Attach Schedu		The Blie H				
6	Farm income or (loss). Attach Schedule F		TTO Entering				
7							
8			PFS Line 7R				
0	Other income. List type and amount ►	8	PFS Line 7S				
9	Combine lines 1 through 8. Enter here and on Form 1040, 1040-SR, or 1040-line 8						
Par	Adjustments to Income		ļ				
10	Educator expenses	1	D				
11	Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis governmofficials. Attach Form 2106	nent	1				
12	Health savings account deduction. Attach Form 8889	1	2				
13	Moving expenses for members of the Armed Forces. Attach Form 3903	1	3				
14	Deductible part of self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE	14	PFS Line 7H				
15	Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans	1					
16	Self-employed health insurance deduction	1	6				
17	Penalty on early withdrawal of savings	1	7				
18a	Alimony paid	18	a				
b	Recipient's SSN						
с	Date of original divorce or separation agreement (see instructions)						
19	IRA deduction	1	PFS Line 7F				
20	Student loan interest deduction	2	0				
21	Tuition and fees deduction. Attach Form 8917	2	1				
22	Add lines 10 through 21. These are your adjustments to income. Enter here on Form 1040, 1040-SR, or 1040-NR, line 10a		2 PFS Line 7E				

Which Lines on Schedule 1 matter most for completing the PFS?

→ 1040 Line 3: Business income or (loss)

This refers specifically to income or loss you had from a Sole Proprietorship, for which you also completed a Schedule C. On Line 15-18 of the PFS, the total of the net profit or loss from each Schedule C business you own should equal the amount shown on your Sch 1 Line 3. Be sure to send or upload each Schedule C you file, if you have income or a loss listed on your 1040 Schedule 1 Line 3.

→ 1040 Line 5: Rental Real Estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.

This Line can be complicated depending on what type of income is included here since many different types of income can be reported on your Schedule 1 Line 5.

For income reported on Line 5 from rental property, trusts, or royalties, report the amount on 7q of your PFS.

For income reported on Line 5 from S corporations or Partnerships that you share ownership in, report the amount on 7q or your PFS, then complete lines 15-18 of your PFS (the section that asks you to detail the income and expenses of the business). Reporting the amount in these two areas will <u>not</u> double-count it.

Be sure to upload each Schedule E you file if you have income or loss listed on your 1040 Schedule 1 Line 5.

→ 1040 Schedule 1: Adjustments to Income

Be sure to report the total shown on Sch 1 Line 22 on PFS Line 7E. If you have adjustments in 1040 Lines 14, 15, or 19, report them in the proper lines on the PFS. If you have adjustments other than those three, be sure to leave a note in PFS item 7F to specify what the adjustments were for (e.g., "alimony paid" or "Educator expenses").



Important

If you file a 1040 Schedule 1 and have reported income from rental real estate, partnerships, S-corporations (Line 5) or Business/Farm income (Line 3/6), please use our Tax Primer for Self-Employed Parents for further instruction on how to complete section 19 of the PFS.

Other Schedules

Which Lines matter most for completing the PFS?

→ Schedule A

If you filed a Schedule A, you itemized deductions and should say "Yes" to PFS Line 6G and report the amount on PFS Line 6H. If you did not itemize your deductions, say "No" to PFS 6G. No other questions on the PFS ask about any amounts in this section of the 1040.

If your itemized deductions include medical and/or dental expenses, look at your Schedule A Line 1. You can report the total medical and dental expenses shown there in PFS Line 14D. Don't itemize? You can still report your medical and dental expenses on PFS Line 14D even if you did not itemize them on a Schedule A.

SCHEDULE	Α	Itemized Deductions	OMB No. 1545-0074			
(Form 1040)		Go to www.irs.gov/ScheduleA for instructions and the latest information. Attach to Form 1040 or 1040-SR.	20xx			
Department of the T Internal Revenue Se			Attachment Sequence No. 07			
Name(s) shown on	Form	1040 or 1040-SR Yo	ur social security number			
Medical		Caution: Do not include expenses reimbursed or paid by others.				
and	1	Medical and dental expenses (see instructions)				
Dental	2	Enter amount from Form 1040 or 1040-SR, line 11 2				
Expenses	3	Multiply line 2 by 7.5% (0.075)				
	4	Subtract line 3 from line 1. If line 3 is more than line 1, enter -0	4			
Taxes You	5	State and local taxes				
Gifts to Charity	11	Gifts by cash or check. If you made any gift of \$250 or more, see instructions				
Caution: If you made a gift and got a benefit for it,	12	Other than by cash or check. If you made any gift of \$250 or more, see instructions. You must attach Form 8283 if over \$500 12				
see instructions.	13	Carryover from prior year	1			
		Add lines 11 through 13	14			
Total Itemized	·····					
Deductions	Peductions 18 If you elect to itemize deductions even though they are less than your standard deduction check this box					

→ 1040 Schedule 2 Line 4

Report the total amount of self-employment taxes you paid for your business(es). These should also be report on Line 17J on the PFS. Note that the PFS will ask you how much self-employment tax you paid for each business separately. The total of all of those self-employment tax amounts should be equal to what's reported here on the Schedule 2 Line 4.

Par	t II Other Taxes		
4	Self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE	4	PFS Line 7J
5	Unreported social security and Medicare tax from Form: $\mathbf{a} \square 4137 \mathbf{b} \square 8919$.	5	
6	Additional tax on IRAs, other qualified retirement plans, and other tax-favored		

Schedule C

What is the Schedule C for?

The Schedule C is used for reporting specific details about each business you own for which you are the sole proprietor. It shows the name, location, and type of business. It details the total, gross income you received for the business. It itemizes the allowable expenses of the business that can be written off against the business's income to ultimately show what your net profit or loss was on the business. The net profit or loss is then entered on your Form 1040 Schedule 1 on Line 3. When you submit your 1040 to the IRS, you are required to attach/include a Schedule C for each sole proprietorship you own.

What does the Schedule C look like?

SCHI (Forn Departm	OMB No. 1545-0074						
Name o	security number (SSN)						
A	Principal business or profession	on, inci	uding product or service (s	ee instru	uctions)	B Enter	r code from instructions
с	Business name. If no separate	busin	ess name, leave blank.			D Empl	oyer ID number (EIN) (see instr.)
E	Business address (including s	uite or	room no.) 🕨				
	City, town or post office, state	, and	ZIP code				
F	· · · · · · · · · · · ·	7.0		3) 🗆 🤇	Other (specify)		
G	Did you "materially participate	in th	e operation of this business	during	2018? If "No," see instructions for li	mit on lo	osses . Yes No
н							
1					(s) 1099? (see instructions)		🗌 Yes 🗌 No
J							
Part	Income						
1	Gross receipts or sales. See in	nstruct	ions for line 1 and check th	e box if	this income was reported to you on		
	Form W-2 and the "Statutory	emplo	ee" box on that form was	checked	1	1	
2	Returns and allowances					2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1 .					3	
4	Cost of goods sold (from line	42) .				4	
5	Gross profit. Subtract line 4	from li	ne3			5	
6	Other income, including feder	al and	state gasoline or fuel tax cr	edit or r	refund (see instructions)	6	
7	Gross income. Add lines 5 a	ndi6.				7	
Part	Expenses. Enter expense	enses	for business use of yo	ur hom	e only on line 30.		
8	Advertising	8		18	Office expense (see instructions)	18	
9	Car and truck expenses (see			19	Pension and profit-sharing plans .	19	
	instructions)	9		20	Rent or lease (see instructions):		
10	Commissions and fees .	10		а	Vehicles, machinery, and equipment	20a	
11	Contract labor (see instructions)	11		ь	Other business property	20b	
12	Depletion	12		21	Repairs and maintenance	21	
13	Depreciation and section 179 expense deduction (not			22	Supplies (not included in Part III) .	22	
	included in Part III) (see			23	Taxes and licenses	23	
	instructions)	13		24	Travel and meals:		
14	Employee benefit programs			a	Travel	24a	
	(other than on line 19).	14		ь	Deductible meals (see		
15	Insurance (other than health)	15		_	instructions)	24b	
16	Interest (see instructions):			25	Utilities	25	
а	Mortgage (paid to banks, etc.)	16a		26	Wages (less employment cm		
ь	Other	16b		27a	Other expenses (fr		
17	Legal and professional services	17		b	Reserved *		
28	Total expenses before expen	ses fo	r business use of home. Ad	d lines 8	3 three		
29	Tentative profit or (loss). Subt	ract lin	e 28 from line 7				
-	Expenses for business use of	f your	home. Do not report the				

in the simplified method (see instructions)

Which Lines on Schedule C matter most for completing the PFS?

If you have a Schedule C, you have a Sole Proprietorship. On PFS Line 6H, answer "Yes." You will be required to complete Section 15 for Business/Farm information.

On PFS Line 15C, select "Sole Proprietorship" and complete the questions about each business based on the income and expense information provided on the Schedule C. See below for guidance:

→ Schedule C: Business Information and Income

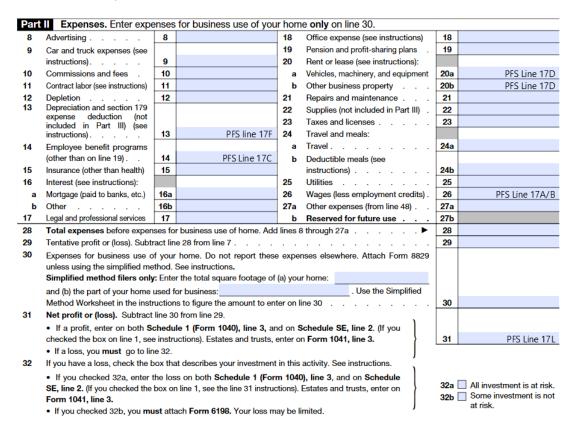
2 Returns and allowances 2 3 Subtract line 2 from line 1 3 4 Cost of goods sold (from line 42) 4 5 Gross profit. Subtract line 4 from line 3 5 6 PFS L 6 PFS L	XX No. 09	5. OMB No. 1545 COMB No. 1545 Attachment Sequence No. Security number (SSN)		t file Fo	Hold Control Contrelating control Control Control Control Control Contr	SCHEDULE C (Form 1040) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service (99) Name of proprietor
PFS Line 15K D Employer ID number (EIN) (s C Business name. If no separate business name, leave blank. D Employer ID number (EIN) (s PFS Line 15A D Employer ID number (EIN) (s E Business address (including suite or room no.) PFS Line 15G thru 15J City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code E F Accounting method: (1) Cash (2) Accrual (3) Other (specify) G Did you "materially participate" in the operation of this business during 2020? If "No," see instructions for limit on losses Yes H If you started or acquired this business during 2020, check here Yes Image: Composition of the composition			F 1 1	- 17		A Discission
C Business name. If no separate business name, leave blank. D Employer ID number (EIN) (s PFS Line 15A I I I E Business address (including suite or room no.) ► PFS Line 15G thru 15J I I City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code I Cash (2) Accrual (3) Other (specify) ► G Did you "materially participate" in the operation of this business during 2020? If "No," see instructions for limit on losses I Yes H If you started or acquired this business during 2020, check here I Yes I Did you make any payments in 2020 that would require you to file Form(s) 1099? See instructions I Yes J If "Yes," did you or will you file required Form(s) 1099? I Yes Part I Income I Gross receipts or sales. See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked I PFS Line 1 2 Returns and allowances I PFS Line 1 Gross profit. Subtract line 4 from line 3 I 4 Cost of goods sold (from line 42) I Subtract line 4 from line 3 I FFS Line 1 <td>ons</td> <th>de from instructions</th> <th>Enter cod</th> <td>- I'</td> <td></td> <td></td>	ons	de from instructions	Enter cod	- I'		
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J If "Yes," did you or will you file required Form(s) 1099? Image: See instructions of the form(s) 1099? Part I Income Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and allowances Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and allowances Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and allowances Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and allowances Image: See instructions for line 1 and check the box if this income was reported to you on Form W-2 and the "Statutory employee" box on that form was checked Image: See instructions for Image: See instructions for the form line 3 and the form line 3 and the form line 3 and the form line 4 and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or refund (see instructions) Image: See instructions form l		🕨 🔲			u started or acquired this business during 2020, check here	H If you started or a
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6 Other income, including federal and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or refund (see instructions) 6 PFS Li	Line 16C		5			0
	Line 16D		-		•	
7 Gross income. Add lines 5 and 6	2.10 100	,1501	-			



Important

Complete a separate PFS section on income for every sole proprietorship you own.

→ Schedule C: Business Expenses and Net Profit/Loss



- Look at Line 13: If you are writing off any depreciation or "section 179 expense," you will see an entry here. PFS Line 17F asks you to report this amount. If you claim depreciation, you likely also file a Form 4562. If you have a 4562, be sure to send or upload it with your tax forms. This allows the school to clarify how much of the amount on Line 13 is actual depreciation vs. "section 179 expense." This is to your advantage, typically.
- Look at Line 26: If you paid wages to employees for your business (as reported on W2's that you filed for them), the PFS will ask you to separate out any wages you paid for yourself or your spouse from wages you paid to others. If Schedule C Line 26 includes wages for yourself and/or your spouse, report the amount you paid to yourself and/or your spouse on PFS Line 17A. Only report this amount if you provided a W-2 as documentation of those earnings. Do NOT report your net profit as your salary.

If Schedule C Line 26 includes wages paid for anyone other than yourself or your spouse, report the amount that went to other employees on PFS Line 17B.

By definition, a sole proprietorship doesn't share the profit or loss of the business with any other person or entity. Report the amount on Schedule C Line 31 on PFS Line 17L to reflect your share of the total business profit or loss (in other words, the amount that belongs to you).

Important

Fill out a separate PFS section on expenses and net profit for every sole proprietorship you own.

Form 1099-MISC

What is Form 1099-MISC for?

The Form 1099-MISC is provided to you by a person or firm for whom you performed work or service by hiring yourself out as a freelancer, contractor, or the like. 1099s can also show other types of income such as royalties, commissions or rents. Basically, it shows income you earned that wasn't provided to you as someone else's employee or from your investments.

Other types of 1099s you might receive:

- 1099-DIV (which reports income from dividends, distributions, and capital gains from investments accounts such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds)
- 1099-INT (which tracks interest income you earned from investments such as savings accounts).

What does the Form 1099-MISC look like?

		RRECTED (if checked)		
PAYER'S name, street address, city or t or foreign postal code, and telephone n		, ZIP 1 Rents	OMB No. 1545-0115	
		\$ 2 Royalties	20XX	Miscellaneous Information
		\$	Form 1099-MISC	
		3 Other income	4 Federal income tax v	
		\$ PFS Line 7T		For Recipient
PAYER'S TIN	RECIPIENT'S TIN	5 Fishing boat proceeds	6 Medical and health care p	ayments
		\$	\$	
RECIPIENT'S name		7 Payer made direct sales totaling \$5,000 or more of consumer products to	8 Substitute payments i dividends or interest	n lieu of This is important tax information and is
		recipient for resale	\$	being furnished to
Street address (including apt. no.)		9 Crop insurance proceeds	10 Gross proceeds paid attorney	to an the IRS. If you are required to file a return, a negligence
		\$	\$	penalty or other
City or town, state or province, country,	and ZIP or foreign postal code	11 Fish purchased for resale	12 Section 409A deferra	als sanction may be imposed on you if this income is
		\$	\$	taxable and the IRS
Account number (see instructions)	FATCA filing requirement	13 Excess golden parachute payments	14 Nonqualified deferre compensation	d determines that it has not been reported.
		\$	\$	reported.
		15 State tax withheld	16 State/Payer's state r	no. 17 State income
		\$		\$
		\$		\$

Which Lines on Form 1099-MISC matter most for completing the PFS?

Income reported on your 1099s should already be included in certain lines of your 1040. On the PFS, any income reported on a 1099-MISC (other than rents and royalties) should be reported on PFS Line 7S.

If you and/or your spouse received multiple 1099s, be sure to add the amounts and report the total income on PFS Line 7S.



Important

- Do not report any amounts reported on a 1099-MISC as salary or wages, even if you earned it by working for someone as a contractor, freelancer, etc. When reporting your salary or wages on the PFS, ONLY include income for which you received a W-2.
- Many schools will require you to submit a W-2 as part of your financial aid application. If you didn't receive a W-2 (meaning you didn't earn a salary as someone else's employee), but you did receive a 1099-MISC as a contractor or freelancer, submit your 1099-MISC in place of the W-2 the school requires.