

Increasing FAFSA Completion in Florida

A PLAYBOOK FOR SUCCESS



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ABOUT HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Helios Education Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to achieve a postsecondary education. Our work is driven by our four fundamental beliefs in Community, Equity, Investment, and Partnership, and we invest in initiatives across the full education continuum.

Through our Florida Regional Student Success Initiative, Helios is helping undeserved, low-income, and first-generation students from the state's large population centers in Miami, Orlando, and Tampa achieve a postsecondary education.

In Arizona, where Latino students comprise the largest percentage of the K-12 public school population, the Foundation is implementing its Arizona Latino Student Success initiative focused on preparing all students—especially students in high-poverty, underserved Latino communities—for success.

Dear Colleague,

According to the National College Attainment Network, high school seniors who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are 63 percent more likely to enroll in postsecondary education than students who do not complete the FAFSA. Helios Education Foundation, along with many organizations throughout Arizona and Florida, has prioritized FAFSA completion as a key strategy to encourage all students – but especially those from first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented communities – to pursue postsecondary education.

This brief, “Increasing FAFSA Completion in Florida: A Playbook for Success” is the result of a collaborative partnership between Helios and the Florida College Access Network to provide valuable information and resources to help support FAFSA completion in Florida. Ultimately, we hope this document educates community leaders about the importance of the FAFSA and provides tactical information for educators and community members who help support students and families in completing the FAFSA.

We appreciate the partnership of the Florida College Access Network in the creation of this “playbook” and for all of the work they do on behalf of Florida students.

Sincerely,



Vince Roig
Founding Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Roig".



Paul J. Luna
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Luna".

Helios Education Foundation (Helios) is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to achieve a postsecondary education. Fundamental beliefs in Community, Equity, Investment, and Partnership drive our work, and we invest in initiatives across the full education continuum. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that every student graduates from high school ready for college and career and goes on to complete a high-quality postsecondary degree or certificate.

One recent project that exemplifies these principles has been in our work in improving FAFSA completion. With its origin in Arizona, our FAFSA work started in partnership with Valley Leadership, a community-focused organization aimed at mobilizing leaders to impact the most pressing issues facing the state. There we collaborated with community leaders and stakeholders to develop the Arizona FAFSA Playbook as part of the Education Impact Team's inaugural efforts. The goal of the work, like here in Florida, is to increase the college-going rate for the state.

With the success of the Arizona FAFSA Playbook, Helios then began to have conversations with stakeholders and community leaders in Florida. After being encouraged to create a playbook for Florida, Helios then partnered with the Florida College Access Network (FCAN) to develop a Florida-specific playbook. This document and supporting

tools are the culmination of that work. We hope that the playbook will increase FAFSA completion rates across Florida and help communities, regions, neighborhoods, districts, and schools increase postsecondary access.

This brief has seven main sections. In Part I we describe and detail the economic benefits for increasing FAFSA completion rates in Florida. In particular, we identify how increased FAFSA completion rates lead to higher college-going rates, which lead to greater state prosperity. Part II examines national trends and policies around FAFSA completion at the state and Federal level. In Part III, we highlight a calendar of important filing dates. In particular, we identify the dates everyone should know to maximize award amounts. Parts IV and V examine best practices and incentives for communities, districts, and schools to implement FAFSA opportunities. Part VI identifies a set of measurements and baseline data that can be used to monitor FAFSA completion progress. Finally, Part VII is a one-page handout. It is for students and families, and contains the most important information they need to know. The one-pager is printed in both English and Spanish so that it can be quickly photocopied and given to multiple students and families.

As you work your way through this playbook we want to highlight for the reader that the playbook is meant to be a high-level guide for opinion leaders, legislators, school board leaders, teachers, parents, and even students.



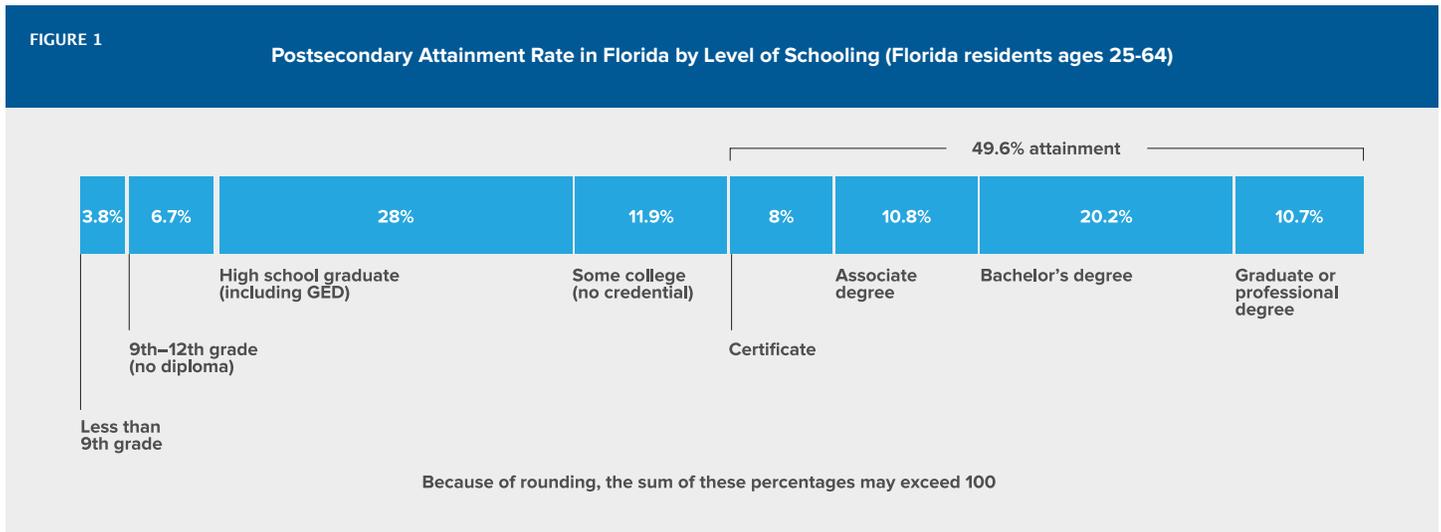
Economic Argument for Increased FAFSA Completion

Florida is at a critical juncture in determining its economic future. Currently, only 49.6% of Florida’s population holds a certificate, or associates degree or higher (See Figure 1 below). For minorities, this proportion is even lower. For example, 30.1% of African Americans have a certificate or higher and 36.2% of Hispanics do so. In contrast, 45.4% of Whites in Florida have a postsecondary certificate or higher. Yet, according to the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, more than 68 percent of Florida jobs will require at least some amount of postsecondary education by 2020 (Carnevale, 2013). Considering the importance of postsecondary education attainment, a critical question the state must answer is: How can Florida increase postsecondary opportunities to further economic prosperity and viability?

One of the most obvious ways to increase economic opportunities is to increase the proportion of high school students matriculating to college-going after graduation. Yet, over the last four years, the college going rate in Florida has been relatively flat with a sharp decline in 2019. According to a report released by the National Student Clearinghouse, between 2018–2019 Florida saw the largest dip in enrollment (–5.2%) among degree-granting institutions nationwide (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Term Enrollment Estimates 2019).

One set of strategies that has tremendous potential to increase postsecondary enrollment are those focused on increased FAFSA completion rates. Prior research out of the National Center for Education Statistics shows that roughly 90% of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA attend college directly after high school, compared with 55% of non-completers. Because of this strong association between FAFSA completion and college-going, many organizations and states have implemented FAFSA challenges or completion campaigns to increase the proportion of students going to college directly after high school. For example, the National College Attainment Network led a 2016–2017 FAFSA completion challenge in 22 cities across the country. Overall, NCAN’s grantees increased completion by 10% in two years (NCAN Why Invest in Increasing FAFSA, 2017).

In Florida, getting more high school graduates to attend and complete college has tremendous economic benefits for individuals and the state as a whole. Numerous studies have shown the tax and social benefits for states with a more highly educated workforce. For the individual, this translates to higher wages and greater financial opportunities. For example, according to the most recently reported data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the median wage for a person in the United States with a high school diploma or no college is \$712 a week, Comparatively, a person with an associate degree makes \$836 a week, while an individual with a bachelor’s degree makes \$1,173 a week (see Table 1).



Reproduced from Lumina’s *A Stronger Nation: Learning Beyond High School Builds American Talent*

TABLE 1
Median Weekly Earnings by Level of Education

Educational Attainment	Median Usual Weekly Earnings	Unemployment Rate
Doctoral Degree	\$1,743	1.5%
Professional Degree	\$1,836	1.5%
Master's Degree	\$1,401	2.2%
Bachelor's Degree	\$1,173	2.5%
Associate Degree	\$836	3.4%
Some College, No Degree	\$774	4.0%
High School Diploma, No College	\$712	4.6%
< High School Diploma	\$520	6.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.
Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.



Trends in Federal/State Legislation and Policies

While educational leaders have conducted awareness campaigns around the importance of the FAFSA, both Federal and state governments have begun taking more formalized steps to increase completion. This section focuses on two important trends:

- 1 FAFSA Completion Initiative
- 2 FAFSA completion as a requirement for graduation

FAFSA COMPLETION INITIATIVE

In 2014, President Obama announced that the U.S. Department of Education and state student aid agencies would partner to provide necessary data to identify individual students who have not completed their FAFSA. Previously, high schools relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rate, which were often inaccurate. Currently, Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education) provides state agencies with data about students' FAFSA submissions and completions so that schools can ensure higher rates of completion.

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Aid manages the FAFSA data sharing agreements between the state and school districts in Florida. Through the data portal, school districts can see which students

have completed a FAFSA and a Florida Financial Aid Application—the form used to apply for state aid including Florida's largest investment, the merit-based Bright Futures Scholarship. Unfortunately, not all districts take advantage of accessing this data with Office of Student Financial Aid. As of January 2020, 32 of Florida's 67 school districts, and Florida Virtual School have FAFSA data sharing agreements (See Table 1A).

FCAN leads the Florida FAFSA Challenge, a statewide initiative aimed at increasing FAFSA completion by 5% each year. Using statewide data in 2013, FCAN estimated the graduating class missed out on over \$100 million in Pell Grants because they failed to complete the FAFSA. To increase awareness and support students, FCAN started the Florida FAFSA Challenge in 2014. In the 2014–15 school year, 52.5% of Florida high school seniors completed a FAFSA—ranking the state 39th in the country. While Florida in 2018–19 still trailed the national average of 63.3%, the state made significant gains in four years with a completion rate of 60.3% and overall rank of 31st in the country.

TABLE 1A
Florida Counties with and without FAFSA Agreements with the Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Aid

Counties with agreement	Counties without agreement
Alachua	Baker
Brevard	Bay
Broward	Bradford
Collier	Calhoun
Citrus	Charlotte
Dixie	Clay
Duval	Columbia
Escambia	DeSoto
Hamilton	Flagler
Hardee	Franklin
Highlands	Gadsden
Hillsborough	Gilchrist
Lee	Glades
Leon	Gulf
Manatee	Hendry
Marion	Hernando
Martin	Holmes
Miami-Dade	Indian River
Nassau	Jackson
Orange	Jefferson
Osceola	Lafayette
FL Virtual	Lake
Palm Beach	Levy
Polk	Liberty
Pinellas	Madison
Putnam	Monroe
Sarasota	Okaloosa
St. Lucie	Pasco
Sumter	St. Johns
Taylor	Santa Rosa
Washington	Seminole
Wakulla	Suwannee
Dozier/Okeechobee	Union
	Volusia
	Walton

FAFSA COMPLETION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

One of the newest trends aimed to increase FAFSA completion has been the decision by some states to require completion as a condition for high school graduation. Beginning in the 2017–18 academic year, Louisiana became the first state to require FAFSA completion as a condition for graduation. Under this policy each graduating student has to complete the FAFSA in his/her senior year of high school or opt out with a non-participation form or waiver.

In its first full year of implementation, the Louisiana Department of Education announced a record number of graduates (25,803) that enrolled in the Fall of 2018. In addition, the state also reported an increase in the graduation rate, as well as an increase in the rate at which students earn early-college credit or state-approved, industry-valued career credentials. Overall, 57.4 percent of graduates of the class of 2018 enrolled in a postsecondary institution after high school.

Two additional states recently implemented the Louisiana policy. The Texas and Illinois state legislatures passed similar legislation in 2019. These graduation requirements take effect in 2021.

Tennessee requires a completed FAFSA as part of the eligibility requirements for its over 20 state financial aid programs, including the HOPE Scholarship, Tennessee Promise, Tennessee Reconnect, and Tennessee Student Assistance Award. Due to this requirement, Tennessee is consistently ranked at or near the top among states for FAFSA completion.

Given the strong correlation between FAFSA completion and college enrollment, the Arizona State Board of Education included FAFSA completion as a component in the state’s redesigned school accountability system beginning in 2016–17. This metric is included under the “College and Career Readiness Indicator,” which makes up 20% of a high school’s letter grade.

The importance of FAFSA completion has captured the attention of Florida policymakers. During the 2020 state legislative session, Representative Richard Stark (D) from Broward County, and Senator Janet Cruz (D), from Hillsborough County, filed House Bill 993 and Senate Bill 1550. The proposal follows similar legislation in other states and would require students to complete a FAFSA application or a waiver of completion to graduate from high school.



Calendar of Important Dates

The FAFSA Cycle opens on October 1st each year and runs for 21 months. Since grant money and scholarships are limited, most universities and colleges have a FAFSA priority date so that students can take full advantage of available aid. Typically, both a college application and FAFSA application must be completed by the priority date to qualify for the largest financial aid package. Table 2 (below) shows the calendar of important dates for Florida college students.

TABLE 2 FAFSA Deadlines for 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021	
2019 – 2020 Class of 2019	2020 – 2021 Class of 2020
Opens October 1, 2018	Opens October 1, 2019
Closes June 30, 2020	Closes June 30, 2021

FAFSA Priority Deadlines for Florida Universities	
University of North Florida	October 15
University of Central Florida	December 1
Florida State University	December 1
University of Florida	December 15
Florida A&M University	January 1
Florida Atlantic University	January 1
Florida Gulf Coast University	January 1
Florida Polytechnic University	January 1
University of South Florida	January 1
Florida International University	March 1
University of West Florida	June 30
New College of Florida	June 30

Additional information on College Decision Day/College Signing Day can be found at: <https://www.bettermakerroom.org/collegesigningday/>



Creating a Plan and Incorporating Incentives – Tips for Schools

Plan! Plan! Plan! Like all good strategies, planning is key in creating successful outcomes. Through a combination of information, reminders, and assistance for students about financial aid, stakeholders can see an improvement in college entry, persistence, and ultimately completion. Based on our review of state efforts and existing practices, we recommend that those seeking to improve FAFSA completion rates incorporate the following six steps into their work.

1 Have A Goal

FLORIDA FAFSA CHALLENGE

The Florida FAFSA Challenge is a statewide initiative aimed at increasing FAFSA completion among Florida high school seniors while promoting friendly competition. The goal of the challenge is to increase the FAFSA completion rate by 5% annually until all graduating seniors complete a FAFSA. A statewide FAFSA completion dashboard containing over 600 high schools throughout Florida can be found at the following website: <https://http://floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/florida-fafsa-challenge-dashboard/>

High School Completion Data Reports

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>

2 Plan

CREATE FLORIDA FAFSA EVENTS WITH VOLUNTEERS

LEAP Tampa Bay College Access Network and United Way Suncoast partner to train community members to assist families in filling out the FAFSA. Then, in both Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, LEAP and United Way Suncoast work with high schools to assist families in navigating the student financial aid process. These events are typically held during school hours, after school, or in the evening for senior students and their families.

For more information visit:
Volunteersuncoast.org/fafsa

Or seek out support from your local college access network (LCAN) or United Way.

3 Provide Incentives

Across the country there is wide variation in FAFSA incentives. Some states, for example, offer free tuition when students complete the FAFSA (e.g., free community college in Tennessee), while others offer increased scholarship dollars when students complete early. While Florida does not provide all of these incentives, we provide a number of free and low cost incentives that can be utilized.

FREE INCENTIVES

- Free tickets to school sporting events
- Free prom or homecoming tickets
- Family members present student their diploma at graduation
- Principal/assistant principal dress-up OR do something funny (i.e. karaoke, flash mob w/ teachers, pie throw, etc.)
- Access to principal/teacher parking for 5 days (consecutively or random)
- Detention OR tardy removal for referring students who have not completed their FAFSA applications
- Free yearbook OR individual student recognition in the yearbook
- Movie day at school
- School Fun Day (i.e. dress up, DJ/music at lunch, carnival games, etc.)

LOW-COST INCENTIVES

- Cap and gown vouchers
- Free meals/gift cards (i.e. Starbucks/Dutch Bros/Pizza Hut/McDonalds/Taco Bell/etc.)
- School supplies backpack/gift basket
- Movie tickets/popcorn/drink vouchers
- Ice cream sundae FunDAY
- Field trip (students vote)
- Breakfast (donuts, coffee, etc.)
- Bring food truck/coffee truck/vendor to serve the students
- Mystery gift bag
- Water balloon fight
- School store/bookstore certificate (students can buy snacks/t-shirt/etc. at school merchandise store)

4 Have a Deadline

An early filing deadline motivates students to prioritize completing the form. Due to recent federal changes making it possible for families to use prior tax/income year information, the FAFSA is now available on October 1st.

5 Get the Community Involved

Look for opportunities to engage the community with the work. For example, work with your local LCAN or United Way to plan activities. (See Best Practices Section for ideas on what LCAN's are doing)

In the Tampa Bay region, volunteers from United Way Suncoast assist students with their Federal Student Aid applications.

For more information visit:
www.volunteersuncoast.org/fafsa

Check out your local United Way to see what they are doing around FAFSA completion.

6 Participate In Professional Training

Participate in a FAFSA training or webinar.

Recruit adult volunteers to help students fill out the forms.

Locate other volunteer and non-profit groups who can help with community involvement and other examples of events related to FAFSA.

COVERING UNMET NEED

FAFSA completion is required for all participants in the Tennessee Promise program, which covers unmet financial need for students at the state's community colleges. The program was introduced in 2014, and, as a result, FAFSA completions by Tennessee high school graduates jumped from 31,000 to 45,000, where they remained steady in 2016.

HOW CAN WE PRIORITIZE FAFSA FOR UNDERSERVED STUDENTS?

NCAN has nine recommendations for increasing FAFSA completion rates among low-income students.

- 1 Make low-income students the center of initiatives.
- 2 Foster as many partnerships as possible.
- 3 Invest in college access professionals.
- 4 Collect data on FAFSA completion to raise accountability for initiatives.
- 5 Design FAFSA completion initiatives according to the needs of the target population.
- 6 Be consistent about FAFSA completion outreach and messaging.
- 7 Start raising awareness about the FAFSA early.
- 8 Provide sufficient and easily accessible resources on organization websites.
- 9 Ensure the state education agency is invested in FAFSA completion.



FAFSA Completion Best Practices

In Florida there have been a number of exemplary schools and LCANs implementing FAFSA best practices. The following examples received state recognition for their work from the FCAN under the Florida FAFSA Challenge. The first three examples highlight the work of the LCAN within the larger community. The fourth example highlights the best practices of one individual school. We encourage educational leaders to use some or all of these practices in their own schools and LCANs.

ACHIEVE ESCAMBIA

www.achievescambia.org

Pensacola, Florida

During the 2018 Florida FAFSA Challenge, only 31.9% of 12th graders had completed a FAFSA through the end of March. Realizing the critical role FAFSA completion plays in postsecondary success, Achieve Escambia, the LCAN serving Escambia County, took on the Florida FAFSA Challenge for the first time during the 2018–19 school year.

The LCAN implemented several new strategies and incentives to support students filling out their FAFSA including gift cards and scholarships. However, it was their new FAFSA navigator program that made a significant difference. Through access to the student-level data, the LCAN imbedded a FAFSA navigator (or a FAFSA Coach) inside schools to assist students who were struggling to complete the FAFSA, or who needed help fixing errors.

With these efforts, the county went on to win the “Most Improved School District” award in the 2019 Florida FAFSA Challenge—increasing their completion rate by 5.2 percentage points. Booker T. Washington High School in Escambia County also won “Most Improved – Medium School” after increasing their completion rate by almost 10 percentage points.

LEAP TAMPA BAY

www.leaptampabay.org

Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, Florida

Through a unique partnership LEAP Tampa Bay and United Way Suncoast leveraged existing efforts and resources to increase FAFSA completion in the Tampa Bay region. United Way Suncoast already had strong financial stability programming in the area through direct-service and volunteer training.

The partnership has two primary strategies to target FAFSA completion. First, United Way Suncoast and LEAP Tampa Bay recruit volunteers who go through a United Way-led training in FAFSA completion. In addition to hosting several in-person trainings every year, United Way Suncoast also records their trainings and makes them available online to other college-access professionals and volunteers. To make sure the right students were getting the right support, LEAP Tampa Bay works with district counseling supervisors to identify schools based on their free and reduced-price lunch rate and their previous FAFSA completion rates to focus additional support.

Volunteers are then deployed to FAFSA completion events organized by LEAP Tampa Bay. Second, United Way cross-promotes the importance of FAFSA completion through other community services they offer, like their Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) program, and their advising on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



UPLIFTED AND ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (OCPS)

www.uplifteducation.org

UpliftED (formally Central Florida College Access Network) organized a workgroup to increase FAFSA awareness and help bolster completion in Orange County—the winner of the “Most Improved – Large District” award in the 2017 Florida FAFSA Challenge. UpliftED worked with Orlando-based Heart of Florida United Way to launch the Going2College text messaging campaign, which provides financial aid information and resources throughout the FAFSA application process. Additionally, OCPS’s college transition counselors (CTCs) helped train college and career counselors at OCPS high schools, which the county credits with leading the way for their FAFSA completion performance.

OCPS’s five CTCs collectively visited each OCPS high school on a weekly basis. The district also employs college and career specialists (CCS) who are at each high school every day. These district staff join school counselors to visit senior classrooms and provide information about the importance of FAFSA completion. At most high schools, seniors began filling out their FAFSA during these sessions.

Each school organized a Financial Aid Night for their community, which featured a financial aid expert presenting pertinent information and answering questions. Schools hosted multiple daytime and evening FAFSA workshops to provide students individual support to accurately complete their FAFSAs. Information was also shared with parents who were able to receive individual help during monthly Parent Academies through breakout sessions geared towards families of students filling out FAFSA.

Student-level FAFSA data allowed school and district staff to identify which students had an incomplete application or had not started an application. CTCs, CCSs, and school counselors subsequently used this data to contact individual students or their parents. Administrators anticipated meeting with each student and parent to identify individual completion challenges.

JOSE MARTI MAST 6–12 ACADEMY

Hialeah, Florida

At Jose Marti, Jonathon Milian also known as “Mr. Mill\$”, the academy’s College Assistance Program (CAP) Advisor sports the “money suit” as a quick and easy way to make sure his students are aware of the FAFSA. The “money suit” has been a success and has sparked dozens of conversations with students and parents about the financial aid process, including dispelling some common myths.

In previous years, Milian provided incentives such as offering preferred parking and free movie tickets to students who complete the all-important form. He has also had success assisting parents with the form, many of whom don’t feel comfortable sharing their personal and financial information, or speak little English. “Mr. Mill\$” and his money suit caught the attention of students in other grades. They often approached Milian and ask about it, which gave him the opportunity to talk to kids at an early age about the money that is available for college, and to make sure they know that they can get help with planning for college.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES AROUND FAFSA COMPLETION

graduatenyc.org

impacttulsa.org/fafsa/

financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources/all.jsp

strivetogether.org

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56263ab0e4b08b375368ef9b/t/5638b5e5e4b014506dabdb0/1446557157654/FAFSA+Completion+and+Best+Practices.pdf>

<http://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/nosca/nosca-school-counselors-fafsa-completion.pdf>

<http://floridacollegeaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2016-17-FL-FAFSA-Challenge-Toolkit.pdf>

https://www.gearupowa.gov/sites/default/files/basic-page-documents/C2C%20ACT%20Presentation%202018.pptx_.pdf

forbes.com/sites/civcnation/2018/11/16/how-louisiana-led-the-nation-in-fafsa-completion





Baseline Measurements and Impact

Using data can be an effective way to examine a school’s current FAFSA completion rate and opportunity for growth. To more fully gauge a schools current FAFSA completion picture, we recommend disaggregating data to see how completion rates breakdown by race/ethnicity, gender, and free and reduced lunch status. In this section we examine:

- 1 How to calculate the FAFSA completion rate;
- 2 Where to get the data; and
- 3 Special considerations.

HOW TO CALCULATE THE FAFSA COMPLETION RATE?

At its most basic, FAFSA completion should be very straightforward. When calculating a FAFSA completion rate, take the total number of students that completed the FAFSA and divide it by the total number of enrolled high school seniors. This number will yield a FAFSA completion rate for a particular high school, district, region, state, etc.

WHERE DO WE GET THE DATA?

In the past, high schools often relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rates. Unfortunately, those rates were often inflated and inaccurate. To assist schools and districts, Federal Student Aid now provides high schools with current data about FAFSA submissions and completions so that high schools can track their progress and reminded students to complete the FAFSA. In Florida the data is warehoused at The Florida Department of Education’s Office of Student Financial Aid.

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS?

While we have the ability to track FAFSA, we must also identify that it will be difficult to be 100 percent precise. For example, Federal Student Aid does not report numbers for schools with less than five students. Therefore, we do lose some data with very small schools. Second, FAFSA is calculated by the number of FAFSA completers divided by the number of enrolled seniors. Yet, sometimes not all seniors graduate. As a result, sometimes FAFSA completion rates are slightly off. In Florida we ask stakeholders to dig deeper than aggregate data. Table 3 below shows the data we recommend that each school and/or community collect around FAFSA completion.

TABLE 3
Recommended Indicators for FAFSA Completion

Number of Enrolled Seniors
Number of Graduates who Completed FAFSA
Proportion of Students who Completed FAFSA
Proportion of Students who Completed FAFSA by Race/Ethnicity
Proportion of Hispanic students who Completed the FAFSA
Proportion of Students who Completed the FAFSA by Gender
Proportion of First Generation Students who Completed the FAFSA
Proportion of Free/Reduced Lunch Students who Completed the FAFSA

Please feel free to copy and share the following page with students and families in your community.



FAFSA Para Familias



Identificación de Usuario de Ayuda Federal Para Estudiantes (FSA ID)

Cuando complete una solicitud FAFSA, obtendrá un nombre de usuario FSA (FSA ID, esto provee acceso a su información de FAFSA)

- Para obtener uno, visite: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Los padres y los estudiantes tendrán que usar correos electrónicos únicos (diferentes) para crear un nombre de usuario y contraseña
- Use su nombre legal completo, fecha de nacimiento y número de seguro social para crear un FSA ID
- Verifique su FSA ID con su correo electrónico y / o número de teléfono celular para asegurar su cuenta



Fechas de prioridad FAFSA

Año académico 2020–2021

Aplicación disponible el
1 de octubre de 2020

Periodo de aplicación cierra el
30 de junio de 2021

2020 – 2021 Class of 2020

Aplicación disponible el
1 de octubre de 2021

Periodo de aplicación cierra el
30 de junio de 2022



Documentos para reunir de antemano

Tenga estos documentos listos:

- Número de seguro social para estudiantes y padres
- Declaración de Impuestos y formularios W-2 de 2018 para estudiantes y padres
- Lista de colegios / universidades que desea que reciban su FAFSA
- Registro de ingresos no declarador (ejemplo: manutención infantil)
- Número de licencia de conducir (si está disponible)



Después de enviar la FAFSA

Hay algunas cosas a tener en cuenta cuando su solicitud esté completa: Número de seguro social para estudiante y padres

- El Informe de Ayuda Estudiantil (SAR) se enviará por correo electrónico cuando se procese la solicitud
- Es posible que se requiera verificación, haga un seguimiento con su departamento de ayuda financiera del colegio o universidad

FAFSA + Solicitud de admisión universitaria = Carta de adjudicación



Llenar la FAFSA

Algunos consejos para completar su FAFSA:

- Inicie la sesión con su FSA ID o la información del estudiante
- Estudiantes del grado 12 que se gradúen de la escuela secundaria en el año 2020 deben completar la FAFSA para el año académico 2020-2021
- La aplicación móvil myStudentAid se puede usar en dispositivos móviles para completar la solicitud FAFSA
- Los estudiantes pueden enviar su FAFSA a un máximo de 10 colegios o universidades a la vez



Otra información

¿Sus padres son indocumentados? Mientras que el estudiante sea ciudadano estadounidense o no ciudadano elegible, pueden completar una solicitud FAFSA y calificar para ayuda financiera federal. Esto es lo que hay que hacer:

- El estudiante necesita un nombre de usuario FSA, el padre no
- Use solo los ceros para los padres sin un número de seguro social
- Imprima la página de firma de FAFSA, los padres tendrán que firmar ese documento y enviarlo por correo
- Hable con su colegio o universidad sobre alternativas formas o procesos de ayuda financiera

FAFSA for Families



FSA ID

When you fill out a FAFSA, you will get an FSA ID (this allows you to access your FAFSA info)

- To get one, visit: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Parents AND Students will each use unique emails to create a username & password
- Use your legal full-name, date of birth, and social security number to create an FSA ID
- Verify your FSA ID with your email and/or cell phone number to secure your account



Priority FAFSA Deadlines

2019 – 2020 Class of 2019	2020 – 2021 Class of 2020
Opens October 1, 2018	Opens October 1, 2019
Closes June 30, 2020	Closes June 30, 2021



Documents to Collect Beforehand

Have these documents ready:

- Social Security number for student and parent(s)
- 2018 taxes and W-2s for student and parent(s)
- List of colleges/universities you want to receive your FAFSA
- Record of untaxed income (i.e. child-support)
- Driver's license number (if available)



After the FAFSA is Submitted

There are a few things to look out for once your application is complete: Social Security number for student and parent(s)

- Student Aid Report (SAR) report will be emailed to you once the application is processed
- Verification may be required, follow up with your college or university's financial aid department

FAFSA + College Application = Award Letter



Filling out the FAFSA

A few tips for completing your FAFSA:

- Sign-in with your FSA ID OR Student information
- Seniors graduating High School in 2020 will complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA
- The myStudentAid app can be used on mobile devices to complete the FAFSA application
- Students can send their FAFSA to as many as 10 colleges or universities at a time



Other Information

Are your parents undocumented? As long as the student is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, they can complete a FAFSA and qualify for federal financial aid. Here is what to do:

- Student needs an FSA ID, parent does not
- Use all zeros for parents without a SSN
- Print the FAFSA signature page, parent will physically sign that document and send it in the mail
- Talk to your college or university about alternative forms or processes for financial aid



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