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Nearly 73% of Florida high school seniors fail to apply for federal college aid

Interactive map reveals rate at which students in state counties complete the FAFSA

Tampa, FL – As of March 15, nearly 73% of Florida high school seniors have failed to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). According to the most up-to-date data released by the U.S. Department of Education’s [FAFSA Completion Tool](#), just 27.1% of Florida high school seniors had finished the key document which secures them access to Pell Grants, federal loans and work-study jobs. A [new interactive map](#) developed by the Florida College Access Network (Florida C.A.N.!) charts the FAFSA completion rates by county and allows viewers to see differences from last year.

“The state deadline to complete the FAFSA is May 15 and for several Florida higher ed institutions, their priority deadline has already passed. It’s not too late to get money for college but you have to fill out the form,” said Braulio Colón, executive director of Florida C.A.N.! “Florida has 204,629 high school seniors but only 55,529 of these students have successfully completed the FAFSA. That number is far too low. It means major grants and federal loans are going unused by students who will need them to get a college education and secure a future.”

Last year, the federal government began offering access to its FAFSA Completion Tool which allowed viewers to track how many students at each high school across the country are completing the federal financial aid forms. Previously, high schools estimated their FAFSA completion rate using self-reported surveys, which are often unreliable. Both the FCAN map and the FAFSA Completion Tool will be updated every two weeks.

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About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network engages communities for higher education promoting college-readiness, access, and success for all students, particularly limited-income, first generation, and underrepresented students through research, communication, advocacy, and community support. Our Big Goal is to increase the proportion of working adults in Florida who hold a quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by 2025. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org