

# \$100 Million in Pell Grants Left Behind: A Look at FAFSA Completion in Florida

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FLORIDA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK



# About the Florida College Access Network

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**Our Mission:** To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career readiness, access, and completion for all students.

**Our Vision:** At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality post-secondary degree or credential by the year 2025.



# Florida CAN's Guiding Values

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College is postsecondary education

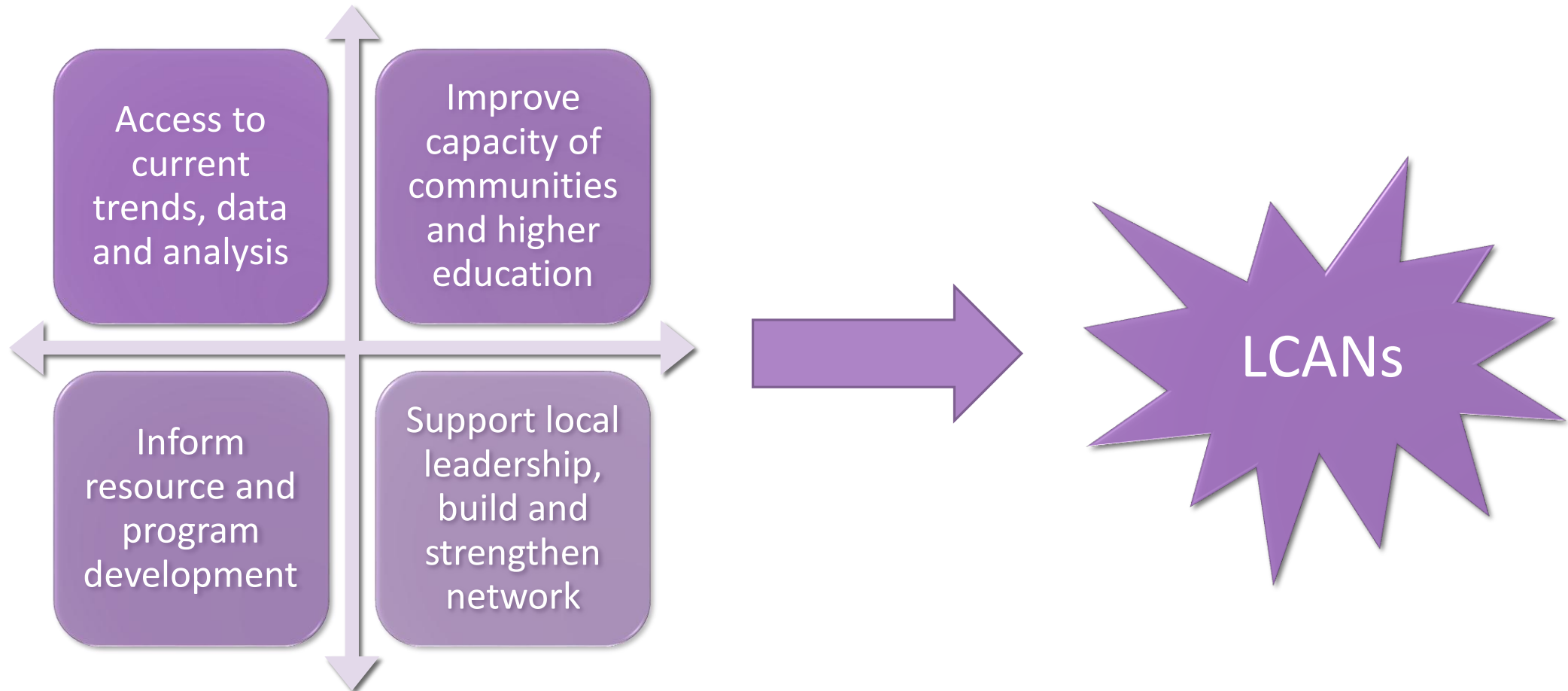
College readiness is career readiness

College is for everyone

College is a public good

Reaching Goal 2025 will require collective action

# Why research is important to Florida CAN



# The push to prepare all students for college and careers

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We asked the question over the summer, will students have what they need to be ready?

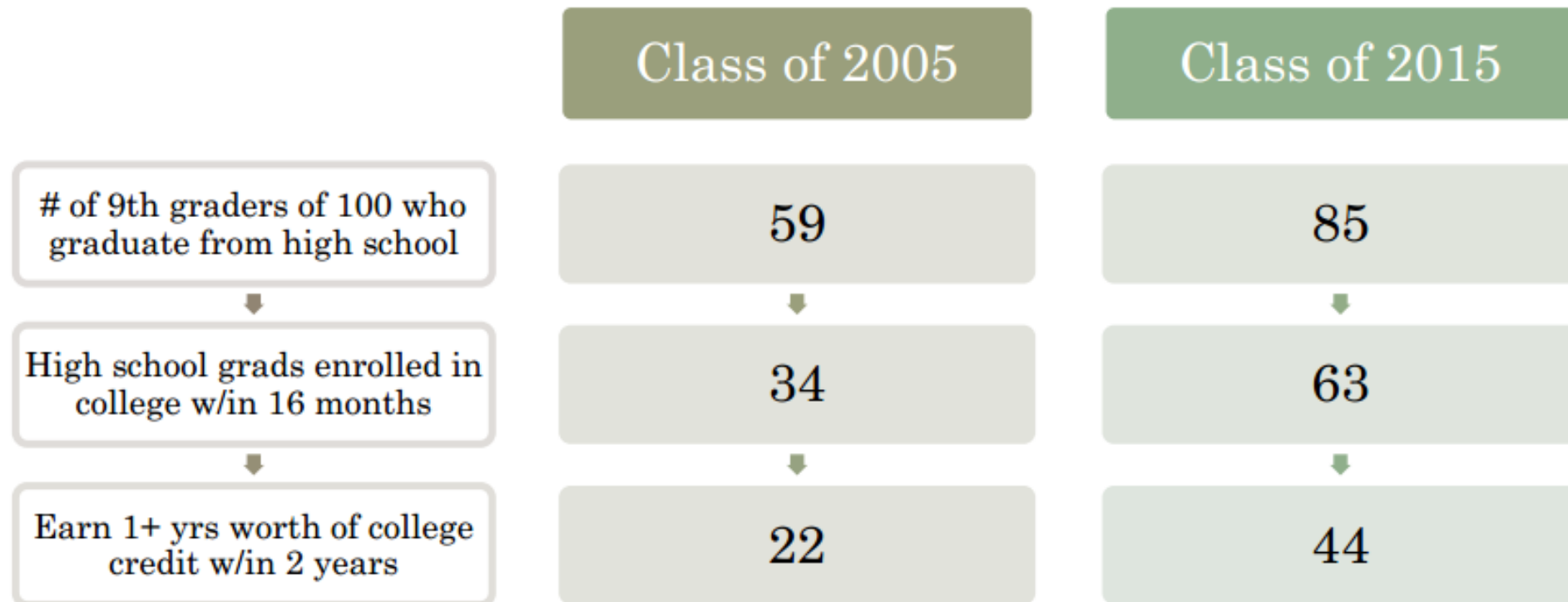
New academic standards adopted July 2010, currently being implemented

College and career readiness defined

How to evaluate progress defined

Strategies for reaching goals were put in place

# Florida Goals for Increasing High School Graduates Who Earn College Credit



Source: Florida Department of Education

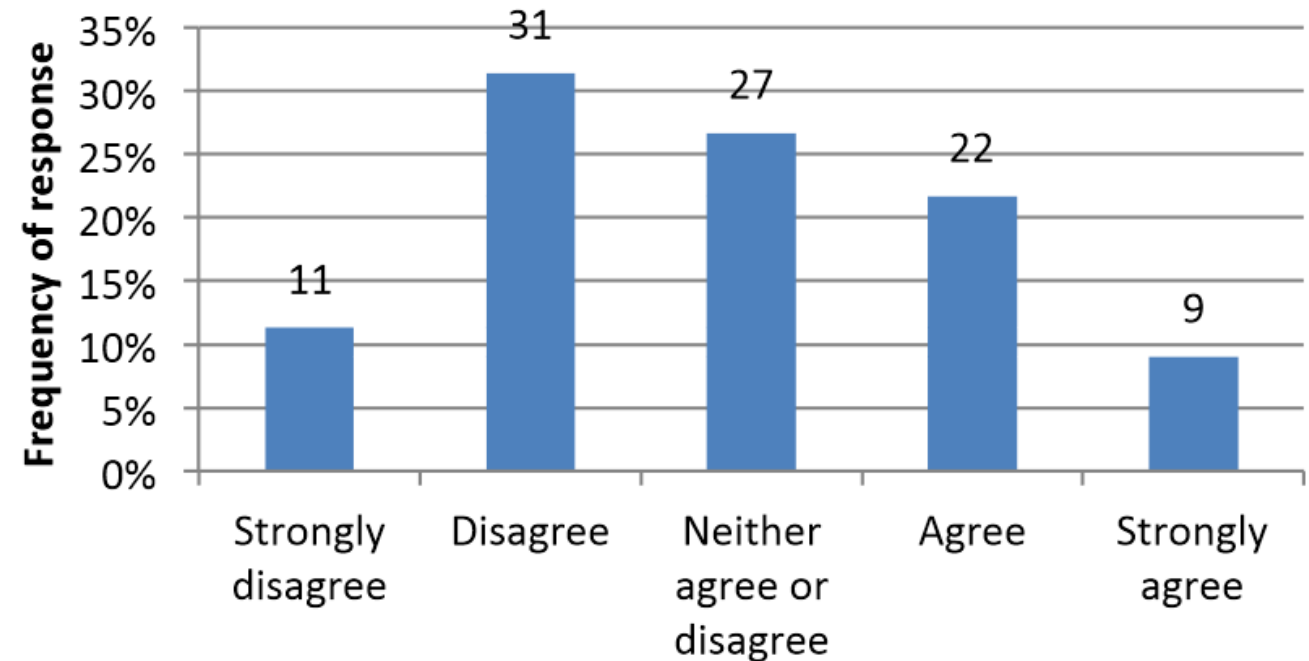
# Why is the FAFSA important?

## Families in Florida want their children to attend college...

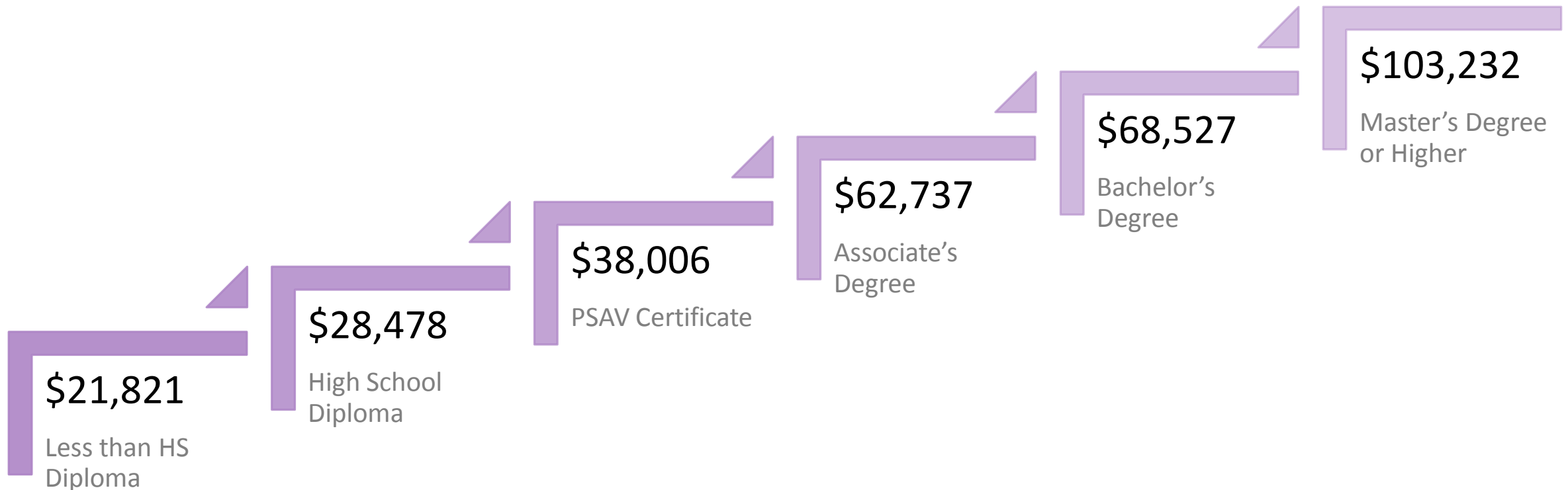
88% of survey respondents with children under 18 believe their child will go to college

## ...but aren't sure if they can afford it

31% of survey respondents agreed that college in Florida is affordable



# The economic benefits of postsecondary education and training for Floridians







# Why is FAFSA completion important?

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Is college affordable?

Florida tuition is low compared to other states...

According to the College Board, tuition and fees in 2013-14 at Florida's public 2-year and 4-year institutions is just \$3,140 (14<sup>th</sup> lowest state nationally) and \$6,336 (8<sup>th</sup> lowest) respectively.

The average tuition and fees at private nonprofit 4-year colleges in Florida is higher (\$28,087), but still lower than many other states (22<sup>nd</sup> lowest).



# Why is FAFSA completion important?

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College can be affordable, if you have financial aid to pay for it.

In Florida, 87% of first-year students receive some form of financial aid to pay for college.

Determining the cost of college is challenging and depends on knowing both what you're paying for and how you're paying for it.

# Why is FAFSA completion important?

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Despite how important financial aid is for accessing college,  
only 55% of Florida graduates in 2012-13 completed a FAFSA

Based on statewide estimates of high school graduates of  
public and private schools (WICHE)

Federal FAFSA completion data from the first  
six months of the application cycle

# Why is FAFSA completion important?

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## Where Florida Stands:

55% of Florida's high school graduates in 2012-13 completed a FAFSA

National average: 57%

Florida ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in FAFSA completion

TN highest (65%), Oklahoma lowest (44%)

59% of Florida's FAFSA completers were found to be eligible for a Pell Grant

National average: 52%

Florida's Pell eligibility is 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation

DC highest (74%), ND lowest (35%)

Program Title	Program Type	Maximum Award	Average Award	Repayment Required?	FY 2013 Appropriations
<i>Federal Aid Programs</i>					
Federal Pell Grant	Grant or Scholarship	\$5,645	\$3,833	No	\$35.2 billion
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant	Grant or Scholarship	\$4,000	\$620	No	\$696.2 million
Federal Work Study	Self-help	\$7,000	\$1,668	No	\$925.6 million
Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans	Loan	Determined by academic grade level	\$3,644	Yes	\$35.6 billion (2012)
Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans	Loan		\$4,066	Yes	\$58.5 billion (2012)
Direct PLUS Loans	Loan	Up to full cost of education amount	\$12,575	Yes	\$20.7 billion (2012)
<i>State Aid Programs</i>					
Florida Student Assistance Grant	Grant or Scholarship	\$2,413	\$1,148	No	\$121.5 million
First Generation Matching Grant	Grant or Scholarship	Determined by need and cost of education	\$1,258	No	\$5.3 million
Florida Work Experience Program	Self-help	Determined by institution	\$1,768	No	\$1.6 million
Rosewood Family Scholarship	Grant or Scholarship	\$4,000	\$3,117	No	\$60,000
Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant	Grant or Scholarship	\$2,000	\$1,973	No	\$100,000
Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship	Grant or Scholarship	\$3,000	\$2,420	No	\$321,000

# Why is FAFSA completion important?

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Based on our estimates...

Last year's graduating high school seniors left behind

**over \$100 million in Pell grant money in a single year**

by simply not completing the FAFSA

Why does this happen?

# Why is FAFSA completion important?

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## Reasons why students don't complete the FAFSA

Students don't think they'll be eligible for aid

Students find the application daunting

There is a general lack of knowledge about how the financial aid system works

Deadlines can be ambiguous or misleading

Some students don't get help from their parents with tax information, or the information needed is difficult to attain

Students associate the FAFSA or financial aid with loans

Some cite eligibility and privacy issues

# Why more FAFSAs are needed

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Over 58% of students enrolled in Florida public schools are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches...

...but only about 30% of the state's financial aid dollars are based on aid

Changes to the Bright Futures scholarship raising SAT/ACT eligibility scores are projected to reduce almost \$30 million in aid to over 18,000 12<sup>th</sup> graders in one year alone

The Florida Board of Governors estimated 10,000 students in Florida received need-based aid who would not have otherwise applied for it when the FAFSA was required for Bright Futures, which was repealed last session (CAPE Act)

During the 2011-12 academic year, our state processed 122,632 state aid applications, 30,000 more than FAFSAs



## Why more FAFSAs are needed

College going rates for low-income students are lower than their peers:  
Low income: 52%, Not low-income, 61%

District	Low-income	Not low-income	Difference
DADE	61.7%	65.7%	-4.1%
HILLSBOROUGH	48.8%	60.3%	-11.5%
BROWARD	54.3%	64.2%	-9.9%
PALM BEACH	57.2%	62.6%	-5.4%
LEON	72.2%	71.4%	0.8%

# FAFSA completion shown to have positive impact on college going rates

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Several studies published in recent years have shown the impact FAFSA completion has on college attendance

Chicago Potholes Study

H&R Block Experiment

FAFSA Completion Pilot Project

Laura Owen Dissertation

Studies on “Summer Melt” and “Summer Nudge”

# FAFSA completion shown to have positive impact on college going rates

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Student Futures Project in Central Texas viewed the FAFSA filing and college enrollment outcomes of over 10,000 high school graduates in area schools

Using National Student Clearinghouse data, the group found an astounding 79% of graduates who completed the FAFSA enrolled directly (by the following fall) into a 2-year or 4-year college, compared to 43% of graduates who did not.

Their analysis also observed the outcomes of low-income high school graduates and found those who completed a FAFSA were more than twice as likely to enroll in college (69%) compared to those who did not (28%).



# Florida CAN's Recommendations...

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*Verifying names of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA to share with school counselors*

*Establish community and postsecondary partnerships to improve FAFSA completion rates at local schools*

*Pass the Personal Financial Literacy Education Act (SB 212)*

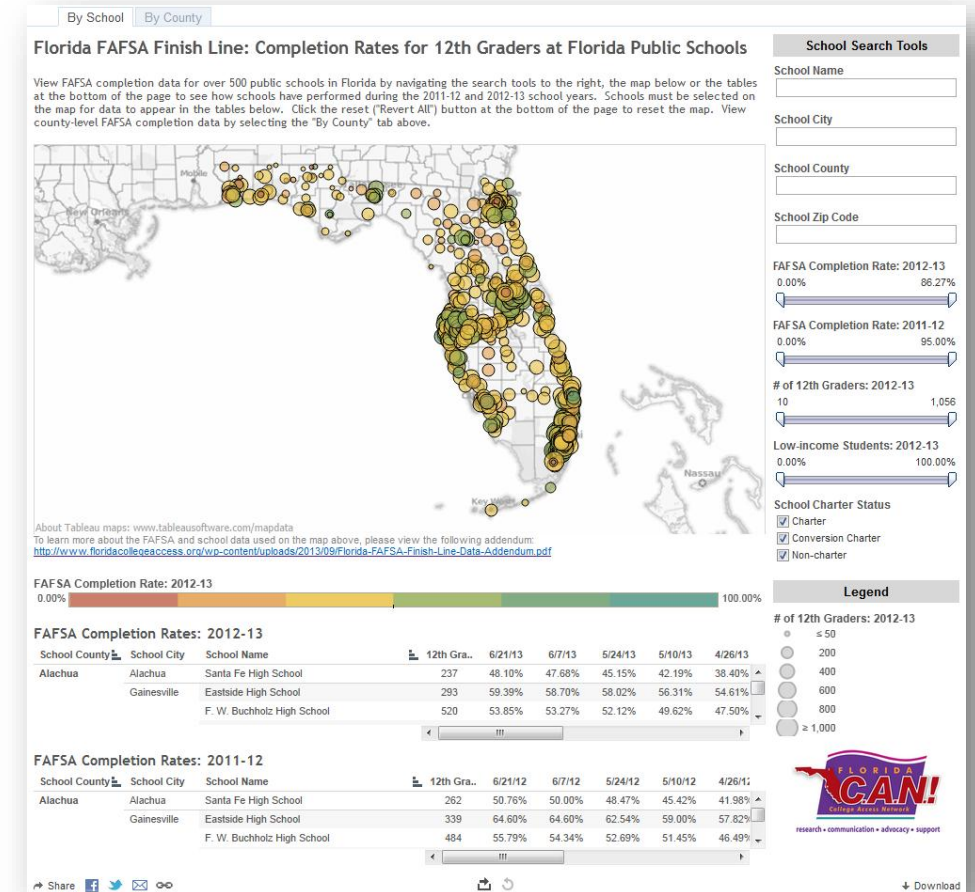
*Explore the potential of offering a “college and career readiness” course in Florida high schools*

*Set school goals for FAFSA completion*

*Leverage all college and career readiness initiatives by setting a state-wide goal for postsecondary attainment*

# Florida FAFSA Finish Line

Interactive data tool allows user to search FAFSA completion rates for over 500 public schools using different indicators



## Public Schools with Highest FAFSA Completion Rates: 2012-13 School Year

*Schools with Large 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollments (417 students or more)*

School Name	City	District	12th Graders	% Low-income	Graduation Rate	FAFSA Completion Rate
Seminole High School	Seminole	Pinellas	465	27.4%	85.8%	<b>76.1%</b>
Coral Reef Senior High School	Miami	Dade	711	41.7%	98.0%	<b>71.2%</b>
Palm Harbor University High	Palm Harbor	Pinellas	576	18.1%	94.5%	<b>63.7%</b>
West Broward High School	Pembroke Pines	Broward	627	24.5%	96.1%	<b>63.6%</b>
Newsome High School	Lithia	Hillsborough	512	15.1%	98.0%	<b>63.1%</b>
Cypress Bay High School	Weston	Broward	1,056	14.5%	96.8%	<b>62.6%</b>
City/ <u>Pem.</u> Pines Charter H.S.	Pembroke Pines	Broward	424	22.9%	96.4%	<b>62.0%</b>
Gulf Coast High School	Naples	Collier	451	22.1%	94.2%	<b>61.9%</b>
Tampa Bay Tech High School	Tampa	Hillsborough	427	66.3%	88.0%	<b>61.4%</b>
Plant High School	Tampa	Hillsborough	564	16.1%	92.5%	<b>61.2%</b>

## Public Schools with Highest FAFSA Completion Rates: 2012-13 School Year

*Schools with Medium 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollments (166 to 416 students)*

School Name	City	District	12th Graders	% Low-income	Graduation Rate	FAFSA Completion Rate
Stanton College Preparatory	Jacksonville	Duval	352	11.7%	98.8%	<b>80.7%</b>
College Academy at BCC	Davie	Broward	175	24.4%	100.0%	<b>80.0%</b>
Pine View School	Osprey	Sarasota	197	11.2%	98.8%	<b>75.1%</b>
<u>Paxon School/Advanced Stds</u>	Jacksonville	Duval	276	19.4%	100.0%	<b>73.2%</b>
<u>Suncoast</u> Community H.S.	Riviera Beach	Palm Beach	328	22.2%	100.0%	<b>73.2%</b>
Douglas Anderson SOTAs	Jacksonville	Duval	264	13.4%	95.5%	<b>69.3%</b>
Alexander W <u>Dreyfoos</u> Jr SOTAs	West Palm Beach	Palm Beach	319	18.5%	100.0%	<b>69.3%</b>
Pompano Beach High School	Pompano Beach	Broward	269	37.4%	99.7%	<b>68.8%</b>
Lincoln Park Academy	Fort Pierce	St. Lucie	223	38.1%	95.0%	<b>67.3%</b>
Somerset Academy Charter H.	Pembroke Pines	Broward	166	44.9%	94.5%	<b>66.9%</b>

## Public Schools with Highest FAFSA Completion Rates: 2012-13 School Year

*Schools with Small 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollments (20 to 165 students)*

School Name	City	District	12th Graders	% Low- income	Graduation Rate	FAFSA Completion Rate
School for Adv. Studies-North	Miami	Dade	51	51.0%	100.0%	<b>86.3%</b>
MAST Academy	Key Biscayne	Dade	133	33.4%	100.0%	<b>85.7%</b>
New World School of the Arts	Miami	Dade	108	35.6%	99.1%	<b>83.3%</b>
Arch. Up. Conservatory Char. Sch.	Miami	Dade	33	46.9%	97.0%	<b>81.8%</b>
Design & Architecture <u>Sr</u> High	Miami	Dade	112	40.2%	100.0%	<b>79.5%</b>
<u>Westshore Jr/Sr</u> High School	Melbourne	Brevard	154	9.1%	100.0%	<b>77.9%</b>
Edgewood Jr/ <u>Sr</u> High School	Merritt Island	Brevard	122	10.7%	100.0%	<b>77.9%</b>
Law Enforce. Off. <u>Memrl.</u> HS	Miami	Dade	78	78.4%	--	<b>74.4%</b>
School for <u>Adv Stdies-Wolfson</u>	Miami	Dade	46	37.7%	100.0%	<b>73.9%</b>
School for <u>Adv</u> Studies-South	Miami	Dade	106	32.5%	98.9%	<b>72.6%</b>



## Public Schools with Most Improved FAFSA Completion Rates, 2011-12 to 2012-13 SY

*Schools with Large 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollments (417 students or more)*

School Name	City	District	12th Graders	% Low-income	Grad. Rate	FAFSA Rate 11-12	FAFSA Rate 12-13	Year to Year Change
Strawberry Crest H.S.	Dover	Hillsborough	484	43.2%	83.7%	32.8%	46.9%	14.1%
West Broward H.S.	<u>Pem.</u> Pines	Broward	627	24.5%	96.1%	56.0%	63.6%	7.7%
Cypress Creek High	Orlando	Orange	723	71.1%	83.0%	48.3%	55.2%	6.9%
Miami Sunset Senior H.S.	Miami	Dade	569	70.1%	76.6%	49.2%	55.4%	6.2%
Sickles High School	Tampa	Hillsborough	474	32.7%	84.9%	47.0%	53.0%	6.0%
Duncan U. Fletcher H.S.	<u>Nept.</u> Beach	Duval	469	24.8%	84.2%	46.6%	52.5%	5.8%
Fleming Island High School	Orange Pk.	Clay	462	10.4%	93.2%	52.9%	58.7%	5.7%
Freedom High School	Tampa	Hillsborough	428	49.0%	75.2%	46.5%	52.1%	5.6%
American Senior High School	Hialeah	Dade	448	77.9%	85.6%	43.6%	48.2%	4.6%
Wharton High School	Tampa	Hillsborough	571	43.3%	75.5%	49.5%	54.1%	4.6%

## Public Schools with Most Improved FAFSA Completion Rates, 2011-12 to 2012-13 SY

*Schools with Medium 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollments (166 to 416 students)*

School Name	City	District	12th Graders	% Low-income	Grad. Rate	FAFSA Rate 11-12	FAFSA Rate 12-13	Year to Year Change
Blake High School-Magnet	Tampa	Hillsborough	341	57.3%	64.4%	39.5%	52.8%	13.3%
James <u>Rickards</u> High School	Tallahassee	Leon	192	48.9%	58.5%	54.7%	66.7%	12.0%
Mater Academy <u>Chrtr</u> High <sup>c</sup>	<u>Hialh Grdns</u>	Dade	385	79.4%	97.9%	53.1%	63.6%	10.6%
Amos P. <u>Godby</u> High School	Tallahassee	Leon	193	50.1%	69.5%	38.0%	46.6%	8.6%
Avon Park High School	Avon Park	Highlands	179	69.4%	63.2%	34.4%	43.0%	8.6%
Englewood High School	Jacksonville	Duval	341	55.9%	66.7%	26.3%	34.0%	7.8%
<u>Armwood</u> High School	Seffner	Hillsborough	330	71.6%	68.0%	35.9%	43.3%	7.4%
Golden Gate High School	Naples	Collier	279	75.4%	72.9%	34.5%	41.6%	7.1%
Wakulla High School	<u>Crawfrdvle</u>	Wakulla	252	36.8%	80.1%	35.1%	42.1%	6.9%
Dolphin Park High <sup>a,c</sup>	Miramar	Broward	233	60.9%	8.0%	0.0%	6.4%	6.4%

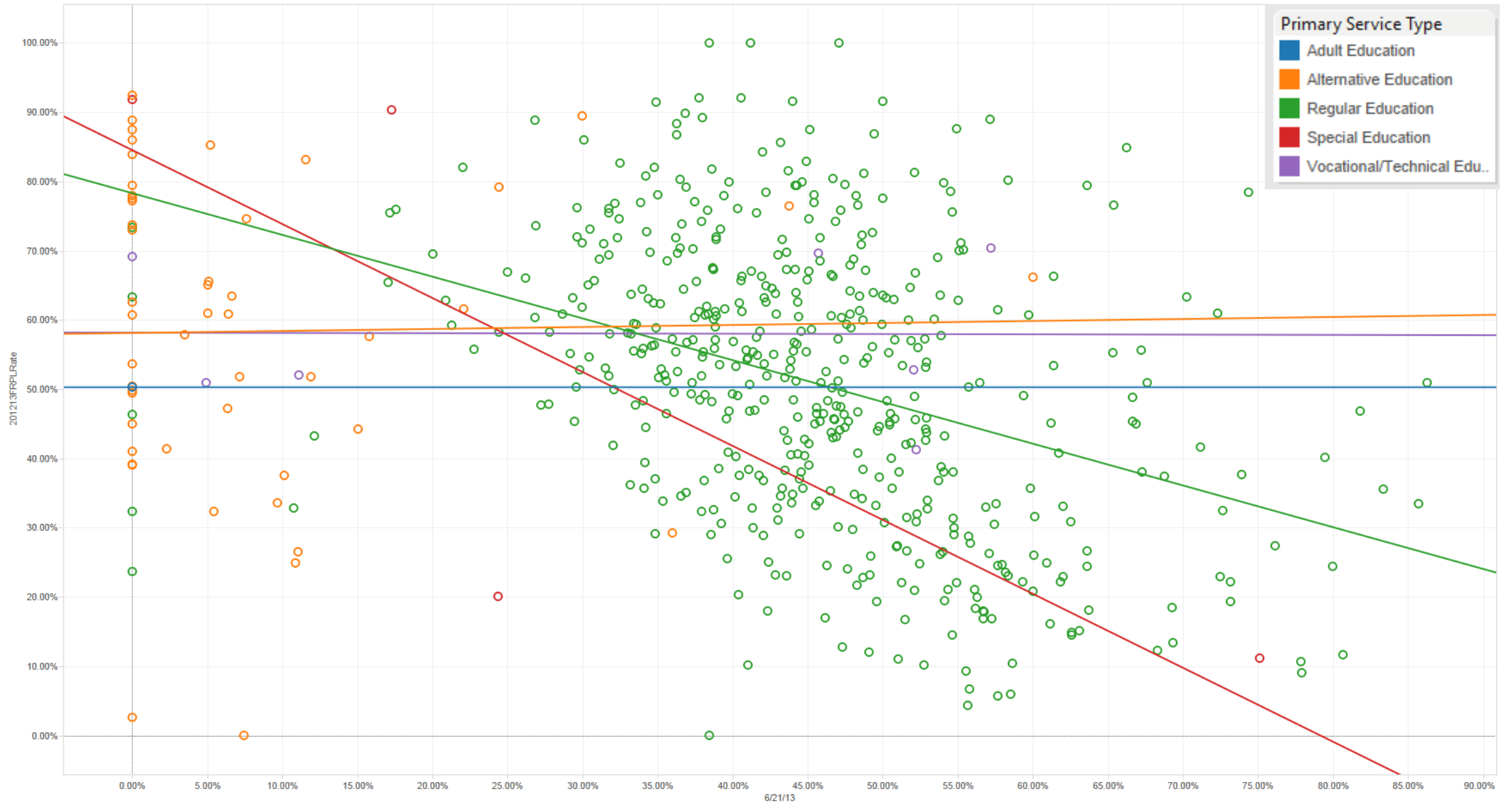
## Public Schools with Most Improved FAFSA Completion Rates, 2011-12 to 2012-13 SY

### *Schools with Small 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollments (20 to 165 students)*

School Name	City	District	12th Graders	% Low- income	Grad. Rate	FAFSA Rate 11-12	FAFSA Rate 12-13	Year to Year Change
<u>Newpoint</u> High of Tampa	Valrico	Hillsborough	51	22.1%	62.9%	23.1%	54.9%	<b>31.8%</b>
<u>Intnational</u> Studies <u>Chtr</u> H.S.	Miami	Dade	65	61.0%	89.5%	45.7%	72.3%	<b>26.6%</b>
Doral <u>Perf</u> Arts & <u>Ent</u> Academy	Doral	Dade	68	51.0%	95.5%	42.9%	67.6%	<b>24.8%</b>
Florida Youth Challenge Academy	Starke	Clay	39	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	38.5%	<b>23.1%</b>
<u>Newpoint</u> Bay Charter H.S.	Pan. City	Bay	39	10.2%	77.6%	18.2%	41.0%	<b>22.8%</b>
Franklin County Schools K-12	<u>Eastpoint</u>	Franklin	51	100.0%	65.2%	25.5%	47.1%	<b>21.6%</b>
Laurel Hill School	Laurel Hill	Okaloosa	33	61.4%	87.0%	28.0%	48.5%	<b>20.5%</b>
Legacy High Charter	Ocoee	Orange	27	9.3%	100.0%	35.3%	55.6%	<b>20.3%</b>
FAMU Develop. Research <u>Sch'l</u>	Tallahassee	Lab School	37	63.3%	81.8%	51.6%	70.3%	<b>18.7%</b>
<u>Frostproof</u> Middle/Sr. High	<u>Frostproof</u>	Polk	116	69.8%	75.6%	17.1%	34.5%	<b>17.4%</b>



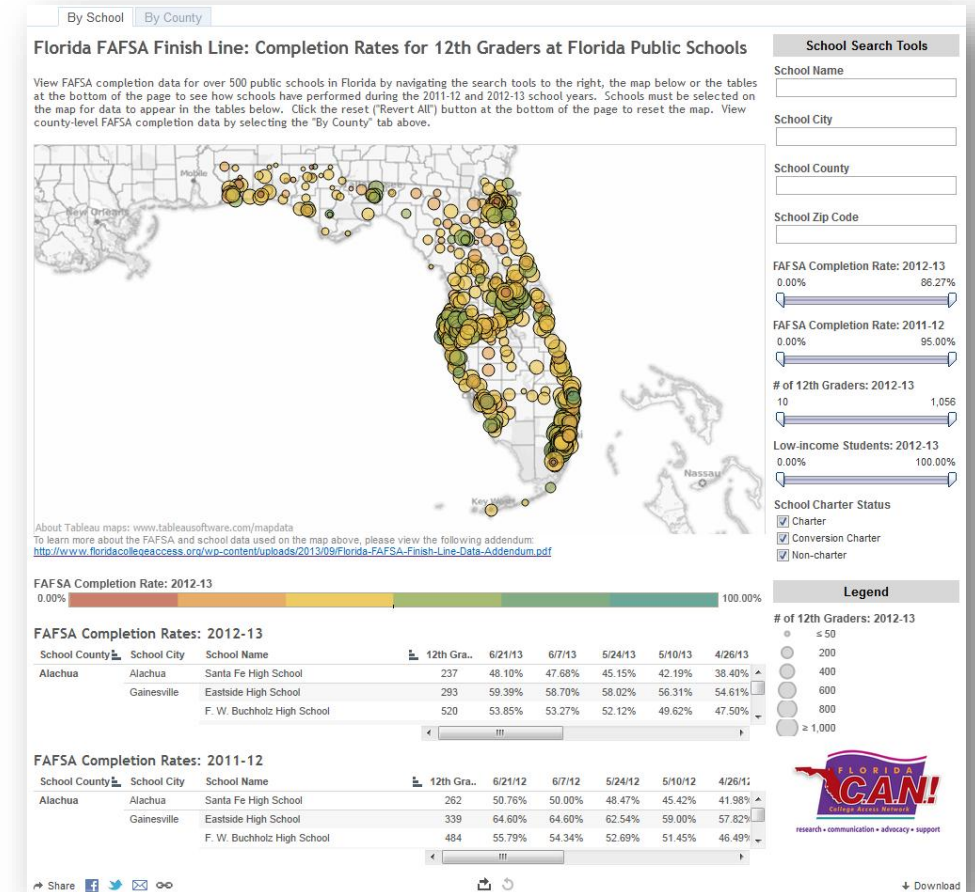
School's FRPL Rate (2012-13)



School's FAFSA Completion Rate (2012-13)

# Florida FAFSA Finish Line

Interactive data tool allows user to search FAFSA completion rates for over 500 public schools using different indicators







Lori Auxier

Director of Outreach Services  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Department of Education

Why is the Office of Student Financial Assistance concerned with FAFSA completion?



Lori Auxier

Director of Outreach Services  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Department of Education

How is OSFA involved with increasing FAFSA completion  
among high school seniors in Florida?





Lori Auxier

Director of Outreach Services  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Department of Education

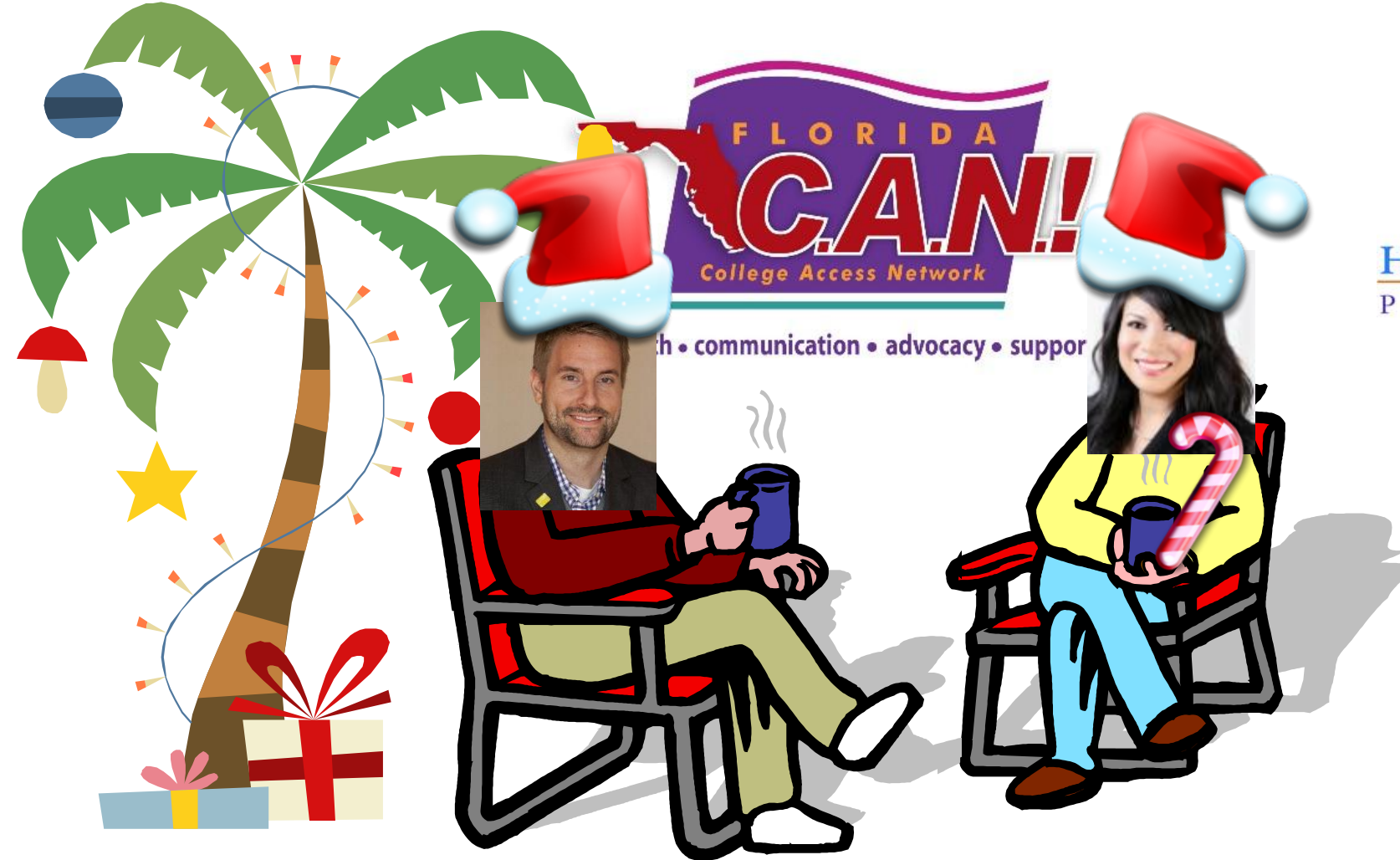
How can I get involved with a College Goal Sunday event in my community?



Lori Auxier

Director of Outreach Services  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Department of Education

If my area does not have a CGS Florida site this year, what can I do?



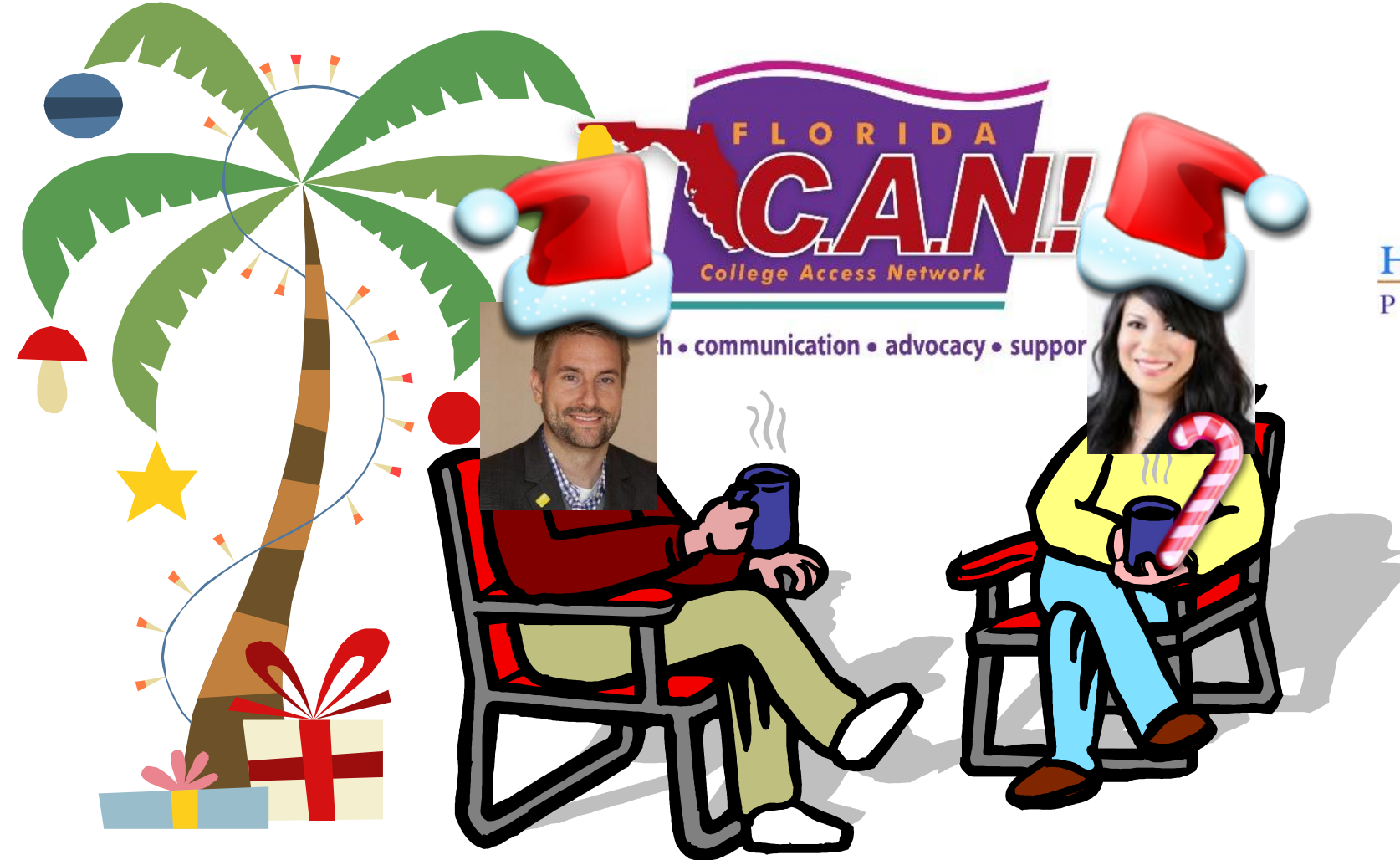
Araseli Martinez-Peña

District Bilingual School Counselor,  
Hillsborough County Public Schools

Director-at-Large,  
Florida School Counselor Association

School counselors play a significant role in helping students prepare for college and careers. From your experience, what activities seem to be most effective in getting students to complete the FAFSA?



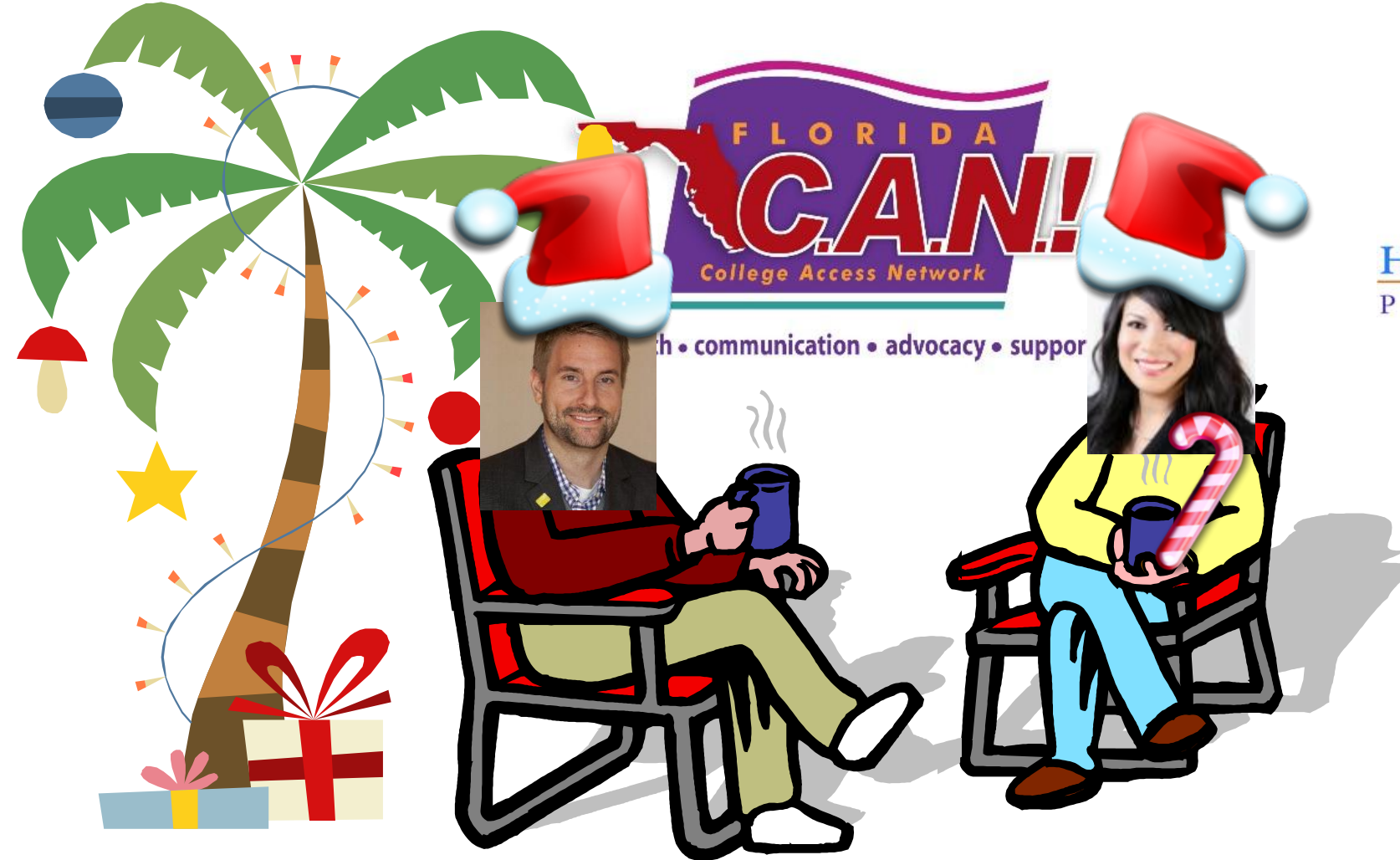


Araseli Martinez-Peña

District Bilingual School Counselor,  
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Director-at-Large,  
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You have been involved with FAFSA completion programs targeting English Language Learners, what advice can you give us in regards to helping these students?

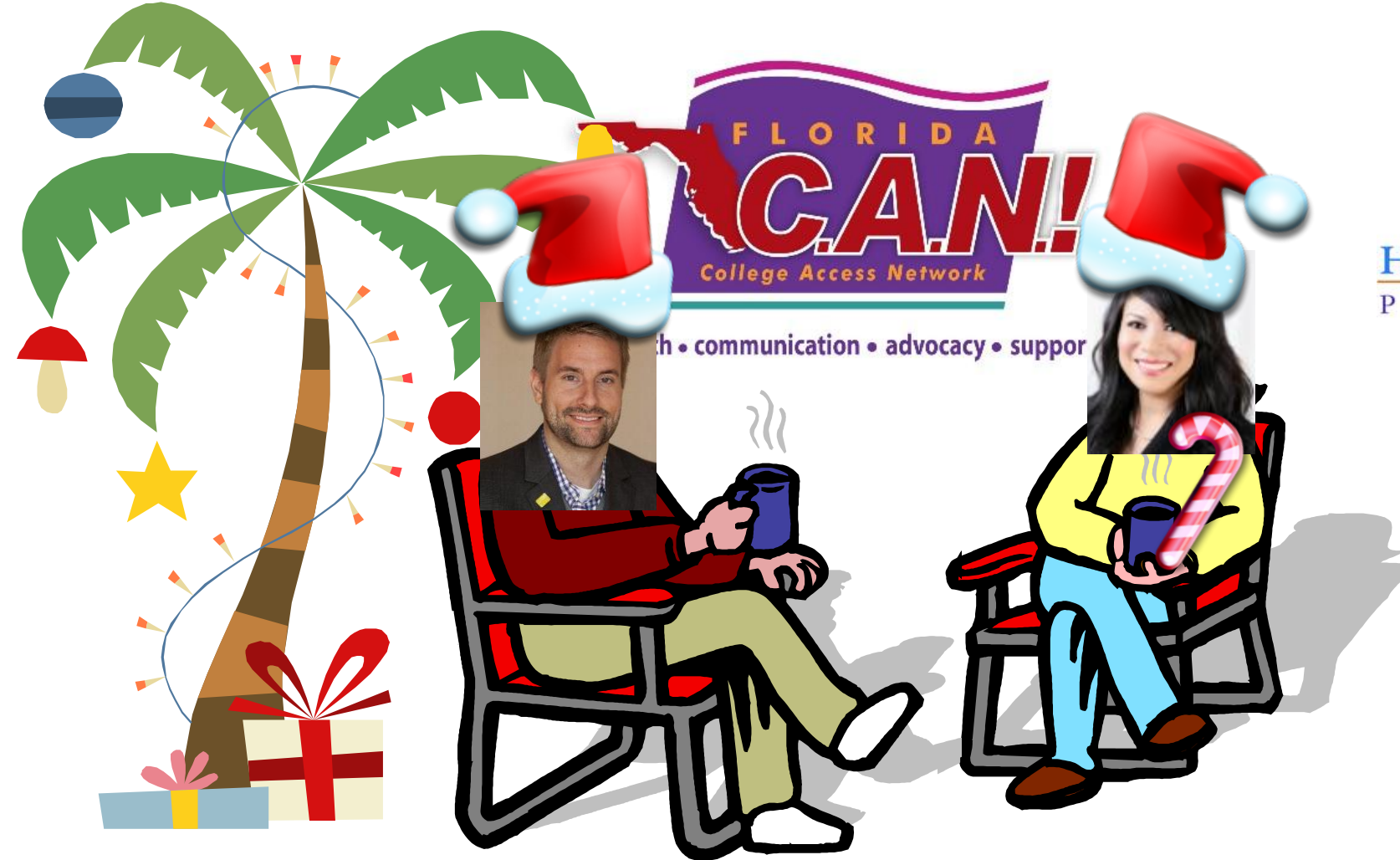


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Florida School Counselor Association

What about undocumented students?



Araseli Martinez-Peña

District Bilingual School Counselor,  
Hillsborough County Public Schools

Director-at-Large,  
Florida School Counselor Association



You've had the chance to work with many students, do you have any stories of how helping a student with the FAFSA impacted them?





Lisa Church

Vice President of Strategic  
Initiatives

The Education Foundation –  
Champions for Learning

What compelled Champions for Learning to target FAFSA completion?



Lisa Church

Vice President of Strategic  
Initiatives

The Education Foundation –  
Champions for Learning



How was the connection with your local school established?





Lisa Church

Vice President of Strategic  
Initiatives

The Education Foundation –  
Champions for Learning



Tell us about what happened last year – and what are your plans for this year?



Sarah Owen

President and CEO  
Southwest Florida  
Community Foundation

What compelled you to target FAFSA completion as an area of emphasis at SFCF?



Sarah Owen

President and CEO  
Southwest Florida  
Community Foundation



There are obviously many schools in southwest Florida, talk about how your foundation used data to choose which schools to target?





Sarah Owen

President and CEO  
Southwest Florida  
Community Foundation



What are your partners in southwest Florida learning from one another as a result of your FAFSA completion efforts?



**Lori Auxier**

Director of Outreach Services  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Florida Department of Education



**Araseli Martinez-Peña**

District Bilingual School Counselor,  
Hillsborough County Public Schools

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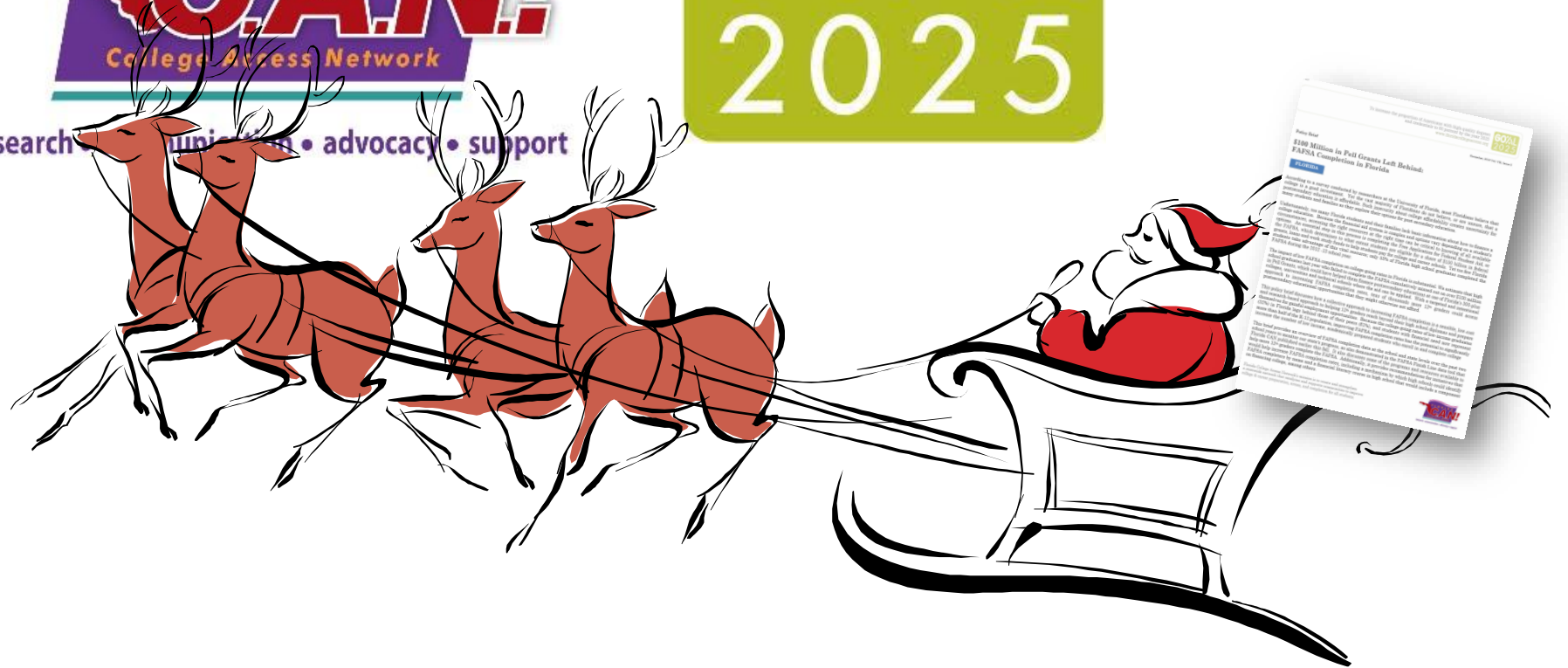
President and CEO  
Southwest Florida  
Community Foundation

Q & A

Type in your questions using the CHAT function



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# Watch out for policy brief next week!

Send email to [caseysanchez@floridacollegeaccess.org](mailto:caseysanchez@floridacollegeaccess.org) to stay connected to Florida CAN



Helios Education  
Foundation



University of South  
Florida

Our work is possible thanks to the generous contributions of our funding partners



# Join the Goal 2025 Movement!

[floridacollegeaccess.org](http://floridacollegeaccess.org)

Twitter: @GOAL2025FLORIDA