Thank you for joining us for today’s webinar!

**Check Audio:** Click “Mic & Speakers” to use computer audio or Telephone to call conference line

![Audio Check](image)

**To Ask Questions:** Use the “Chat” feature in control panel

![Chat Feature](image)

**Note:**
This webinar is being recorded, all webinar registrants will receive a link to view the webinar and slides used.
Webinar:
It’s FAFSA Season – Let the “Funds” Begin!

FLORIDA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK
About the Florida College Access Network

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

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
The College and Career Readiness Movement

New K-12 Florida standards, assessments aligned with college and career readiness

White House’s “Reach Higher” Initiative

Limitations of high school diploma in the 21st Century

Florida-based LeRoy Collins Institute says as Baby Boomers retire and pave the way for new job opportunities, our state’s economic prosperity will rest on our ability to develop the talent level of our future generations.

Both the state’s and individuals path to upward mobility rests on our ability to increase access to postsecondary education and training opportunities for Florida students.
Economic Opportunities through Education

Medial Annual Wages in Florida by Education Level (2013)

- Master's or Higher: $96,314
- Bachelor's Degree: $63,993
- Associate Degree: $58,065
- Voc. Certificate: $35,473
- High School Diploma: $26,109
- Less than High School: $20,424

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics
Why is FAFSA completion important?

Access to college is virtually dependent on one’s ability to secure financial assistance for college

In Florida, 87% of first-year students receive some form of financial aid to pay for college (higher than national average, 83%)

Determining the cost of college is challenging and depends on knowing both what you’re paying for and how you’re paying for it.
FAFSA Completion and College Going Rates in Florida

Correlation
R = .665

“Strong, positive relationship”

In other words, on average, the higher a school’s FAFSA completion rate, the higher it’s college going rate

Why?
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
Why is FAFSA completion important?

Based on our estimates...

2012-13 graduating high school seniors left behind

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

by simply not completing the FAFSA

Money left on the table results in college opportunity gap

for low-income students
Florida College-going Rates by income
(public school graduates enrolling in postsecondary institution w/in 16 months)

Note: 2010-11 and 2012-13 include National Student Clearinghouse Data
Difference in college-going rates for high school graduates by income by school

This chart shows the college-going rate gap between low-income high school graduates and their peers by school.

At these schools (31%), low-income graduates attend college at higher rates than their peers.

At these schools (69%), low-income graduates attend college rates at lower rates than their peers.
Where are we now?

New State-level data from U.S. Department of Education (ED) for 2014/15 FAFSA Cycle for first 6 months of application year

ED adjusted reporting parameters to increase accuracy (12th grade student definition)

State-level high school graduate data based on projections by Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE)

State-level FAFSA completion data based on calculations made by Florida CAN and are estimates based on best data available

This data includes public and private school graduates and FAFSAs completed
## FAFSA Completion Rates for H.S. Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 6.5% gap between Florida and U.S.

- Highest FAFSA completion rate for 2014-15 aid cycle: Washington, D.C (76.1%)

- Lowest FAFSA completion rate for 2014-15 aid cycle: Wyoming (42.4%)

- Florida ranks 40th among all states in FAFSA completion
How many are Pell eligible?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represents percent of Pell eligible applications by graduates who completed a FAFSA

Florida 6th highest state in Pell eligibility

Max Pell Grant award for this year is $5,730

Average Pell Grant award is $3,515 (2012-13)

Compared to other states, FAFSA completions in Florida are very likely to yield free money for college!
New data tool launched today!

Features public school data only for 12th graders at school, district and state level

Current data reflects FAFSAs completed through July 3, 2014 and school enrollments through November 2013

New data for 2015 will be available January 26th and will be updated every two weeks

Link available at FCAN and Troy Miller twitter accounts (@GOAL2025Florida, @TroMiller)

http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/FloridaFAFSAFinishLine/BySchool?%3Aembed=y&%3Adisplay_count=yes&%3AshowVizHome=no
New FAFSA Finish Line Data Tool

New features:

- School, county and state level data all in one place
- Layout makes for easier comparisons
- 11 different chart filters can be used to create meaningful groups
- “Change from last year” filter can show what schools made biggest improvements
- Financial Aid Resources tab at the top
Quick Tips:

View district and state level data by making selection in “Level” filter

Scroll over chart area to reveal school characteristic data

High school graduation rates and undocumented students matter
$10 Million FAFSA Challenge

Goal for this year is to increase Pell grant dollars awarded to Florida graduates by $10 million

It sounds like a lot, but all we need to do is get about 4,800 more FAFSAs completed this year than last.

If every school in the state gets 10 more students to complete the FAFSA, we can meet our goal!

A running total will be provided on the FAFSA Finish Line data tool throughout the school year

Keep in mind...
30,000 more state aid applications filed than FAFSAs in 2011-12
Pell Grants aren’t the only funds available by completing the FAFSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Maximum Award</th>
<th>Average Award</th>
<th>Repayment Required?</th>
<th>FY 2013 Appropriations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Aid Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>$6,845</td>
<td>$3,283</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$35.2 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$620</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$696.2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Work Study</td>
<td>Self-help</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$1,668</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$925.6 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans</td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>Determined by academic grade level</td>
<td>$3,644</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$35.0 billion (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans</td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>$4,006</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>$56.8 billion (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct PLUS Loans</td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>Up to full cost of education amount</td>
<td>$12,575</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20.7 billion (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State Aid Programs</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Student Assistance Grant</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,413</td>
<td>$1,148</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$121.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Generation Matching Grant</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>Determined by need and cost of education</td>
<td>$1,258</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$6.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Work Experience Program</td>
<td>Self-help</td>
<td>Determined by institution</td>
<td>$1,768</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$1.6 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosewood Family Scholarship</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,117</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,973</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship</td>
<td>Grant or Scholarship</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$2,420</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>$321,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How can we get students help with completing the FAFSA...?

Lori Auxier
Director of Outreach Services
Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), Florida Department of Education

Ralph Aiello
Supervisor
School Counseling, BRACE and Academic Advisement, Department of College and Career Readiness
Broward County Public Schools

Bill Mills
Vice President
Florida Prosperity Partnership
How can we get students help with completing the FAFSA...?
About Us

- **CGS!Florida** is a free, on-site program that helps students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the form that is required to apply for federal financial assistance for higher education.
- **CGS!Florida** takes place throughout January and February at multiple locations across the state of Florida. Students receive step-by-step instructions for completing and submitting their FAFSA, along with their Florida Financial Aid Application.
Locations

- 59 locations
  - [http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/Locations.aspx](http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/Locations.aspx)
Site Coordinators

- Comprehensive website
Volunteers

- Registration is now OPEN!
  - Spanish and Creole interpreters are needed in Baker, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lee, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota counties.
  - If you can assist in these areas, contact [Jan Smith](mailto:JanSmith) to be assigned to a location near you.
Partners

- **Partners** contribute in a variety of ways to the ongoing efforts of the program: financial, in-kind, volunteer hours and advisory capacities. **Sponsors** provide valuable financial support to the program and ensure that volunteers have the resources they need to be effective in programming capacities.

- [http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/PartnersAndFriends.aspx](http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/PartnersAndFriends.aspx)
Contact Us

- Lori Auxier, Director of Outreach Services
  - Lori.auxier@fldoe.org
  - 561-389-6346

- Jan Smith, Manager of Outreach Services
  - Jan.smith@fldoe.org
  - 850-245-1822
How can we get students help with completing the FAFSA...?
Broward’s FAFSA Initiative

President Obama request to Superintendent

As of June 2014, BCPS completion rates were around 52%.

Collaboration between:
- High Schools
- ESOL Department
- Broward College
- Broward Education Foundation
- OSFA
- Community Agencies
- Other Local Colleges and Universities

BRACE Advisors
- Over 20 years in existence
- Paraprofessionals
- Support School Counselors
- College Fairs
- SAT/ACT
- College Applications
- FAFSA
- Bright Futures
- Other Scholarships
- Parent Workshops
- Student Presentations
BCPS Action Plan

Broward College’s Success Mentors
- Funded through Dual Enrollment changes
- 5 High Schools
- Tier 1 Support for Annual School Counseling Plan
- Tier 2/3 “Mentoring” interventions for students

Competition
- FAFSA Challenge
- Bi-weekly High School Rankings
- $5,000 BEF Incentive Funds
- District Recognitions

Action Guide
- Superintendent’s “Action Required” Memo
- Events Calendar
- Materials and Resources
- Contact Information
- Professional Development
- Student Signature Brochure

National, State and Local Advocacy
- White House
- OPPAGA
- Superintendent and School Board
How can we get students help with completing the FAFSA...?
About the Florida Prosperity Partnership

Statewide

Collaboration

Financial Stability

All Floridians

All community sectors

Primarily Low-Income
About the
Florida Prosperity Partnership

OUR PURPOSE:

To convene individuals and organizations with the desire to leverage their talent, resources, and passion to improve the prosperity of Florida’s families.

OUR VISION:

That ALL Floridians have equal opportunities to attain financial stability.

OUR MISSION:

To engage, through a statewide collaboration of organizations that are holistically focused, in providing life-enhancing services to Floridians.
Initiatives & Partnerships of the Florida Prosperity Partnership

FREE FLORIDA TAX SITES
Where to go to have your taxes prepared for free!

Oh the places we’ll go!
7TH ANNUAL FPP STATE TRAINING CONFERENCE

Florida Information Network

Florida Council On Economic Education
Train One, Teach Thousands

BankOnFlorida
Everyone is Welcome

FDIC
Money Smart
Building: Knowledge Security Confidence
This website is designed to help working Floridians avoid high cost tax preparation and offer resources and services for many things related to this important financial task that can have a great impact on their annual budget.
Click on your County to do your own taxes online, for FREE! You can also find out more about the in-person Volunteer Income Tax Assistance near you.
County List

Below is a list of VITA tax sites in each county listed alphabetically.
In the left column are the in-person sites. The right column are links for you to complete your taxes for free, online.

To find an AARP tax site near you, click here: [AARP](https://www.aarp.org)

### Alachua
- Click here for a VITA site
- Click here to do your own taxes online

### Baker
- Click here for a VITA site
- Click here to do your own taxes online

### Bay
- Click here for a VITA site
- Click here to do your own taxes online

### Bradford
- Click here for a VITA site
- Click here to do your own taxes online
Eligibility
Among other qualifying factors, you must have:
Earned income in 2014
A valid Social Security number
No more than $3,200 in investment income
Joint tax-filing status, if married
U.S. citizenship or resident alien status for the past year (in most cases)

Maximum refunds for tax year 2014:
$496 with no qualifying children
$3,305 with one qualifying child
$5,460 with two qualifying children
$6,143 with three or more qualifying children

Income guidelines for tax year 2014:
Individuals:
$14,590 with no qualifying children
$38,511 with one qualifying child
$43,756 with two qualifying children
$46,997 with three or more qualifying children

Married couples filing jointly:
$20,020 with no qualifying children
$43,941 with one qualifying child
$49,186 with two qualifying children
$52,427 with three or more qualifying children
FREE for individuals or families with a combined household income of $60,000 or less in 2014

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free, individualized tax preparation for low-to moderate-income taxpayers - especially those 60 and older - at more than 5,000 locations nationwide.
Other helpful resources

1. FutureMakers in Southwest Florida
2. Going to College Texting Project
3. Florida School Counselor Association launched College and Career Readiness Committee
4. Duval County Public Schools partnering with UNF and OSFA to raise FAFSA completion rates from 40 to 75%
5. Previous FCAN webinar on Summer Melt, STAR Students Enroll project
6. Chicago Potholes Study
7. H&R Block Experiment
8. U.S. Department of Education’s FAFSA Completion Bibliography
9. FSA Financial Aid Toolkit
First Lady FAFSA Completion Challenge

FAFSA Completion Commencement Video Challenge

Winning school can get commencement speech delivered by First Lady Michelle Obama

Students, principals, teachers, school counselors and administrators have until March 16, 2015 to submit application and video

Learn more at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher/fafsa-commencement

President Obama and the First Lady’s visit to Coral Reef Senior High School in March 2014 (73 FAFSAs Completed during/after visit!)
Q & A
Type in your questions using the CHAT function
Our work is possible thanks to the generous contributions of our funding partners

Helios Education Foundation
University of South Florida
Join the Goal 2025 Movement!
floridacollegeaccess.org
Twitter: @GOAL2025FLORIDA