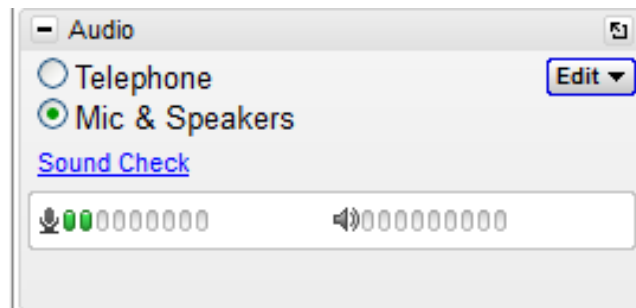


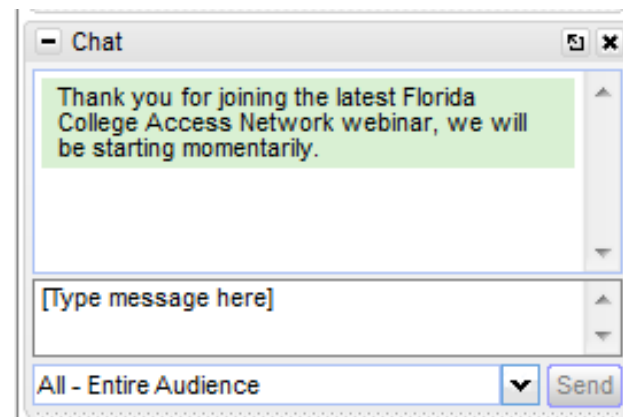
# Thank you for joining us for today's webinar!

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



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



**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!

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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

---



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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

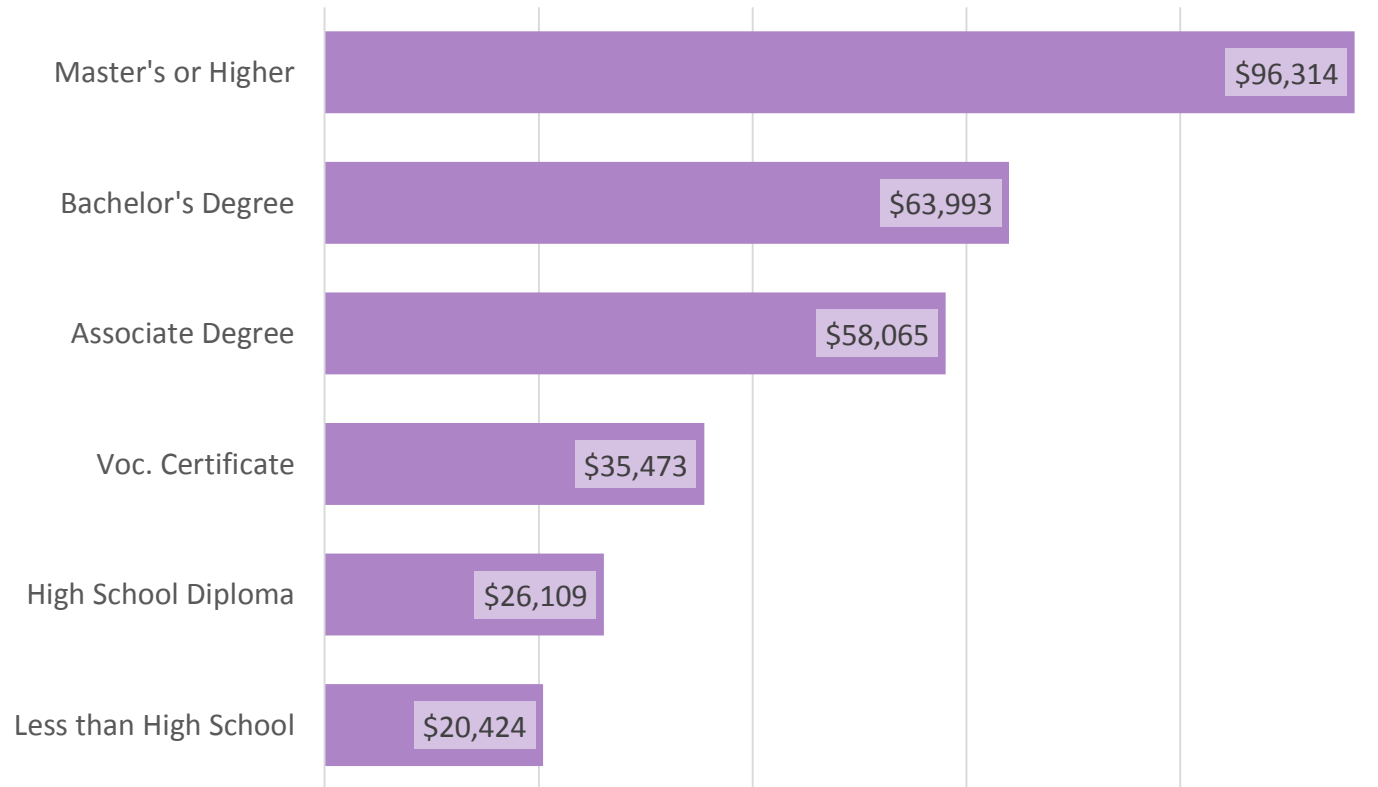
Both the state's and individuals path to upward mobility rests on our ability to increase access to postsecondary education and training opportunities for Florida students.



# Economic Opportunities through Education



Medial Annual Wages in Florida by Education Level (2013)



# Why is FAFSA completion important?

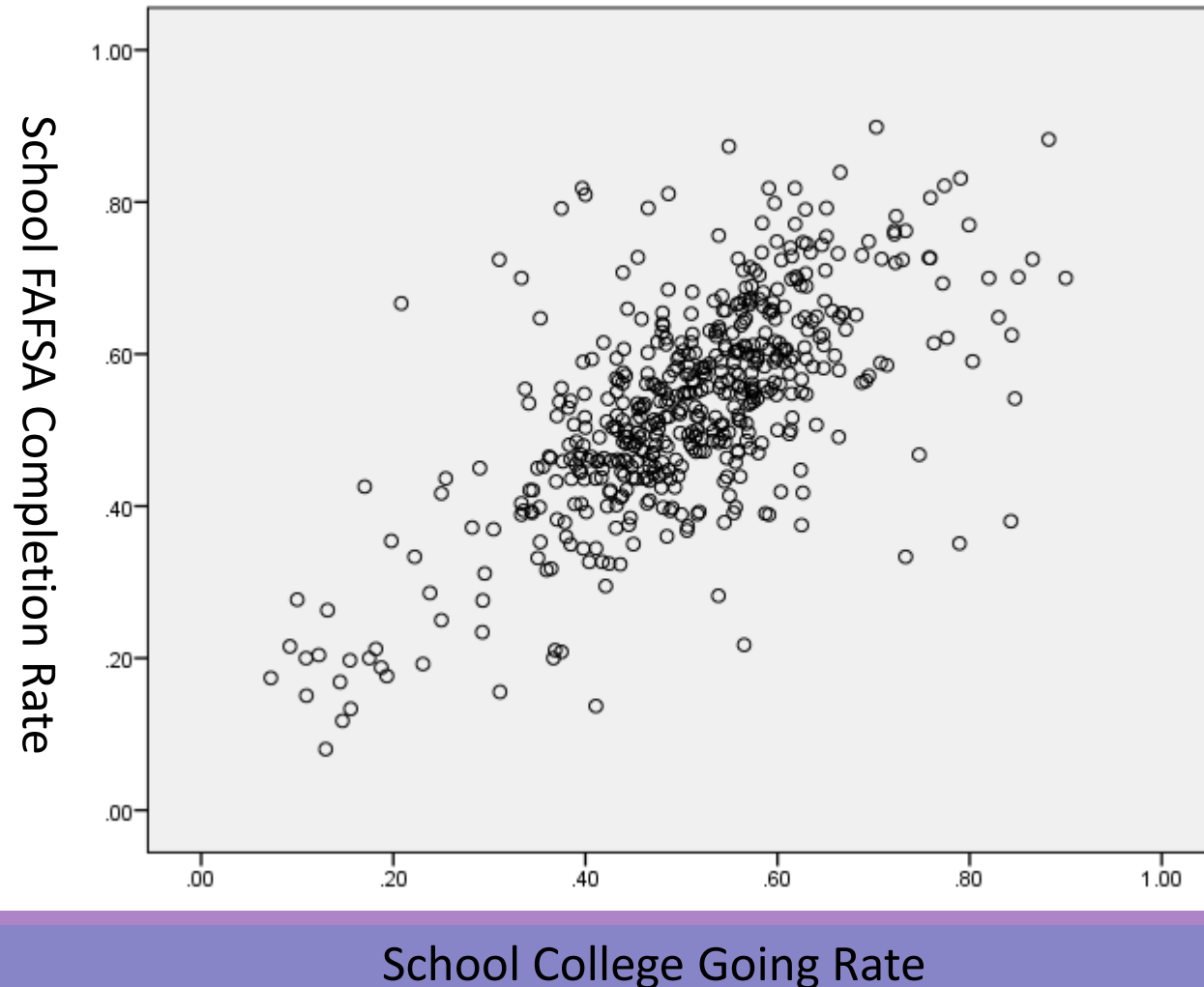
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Access to college is virtually dependent on one's ability to secure financial assistance for college

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?



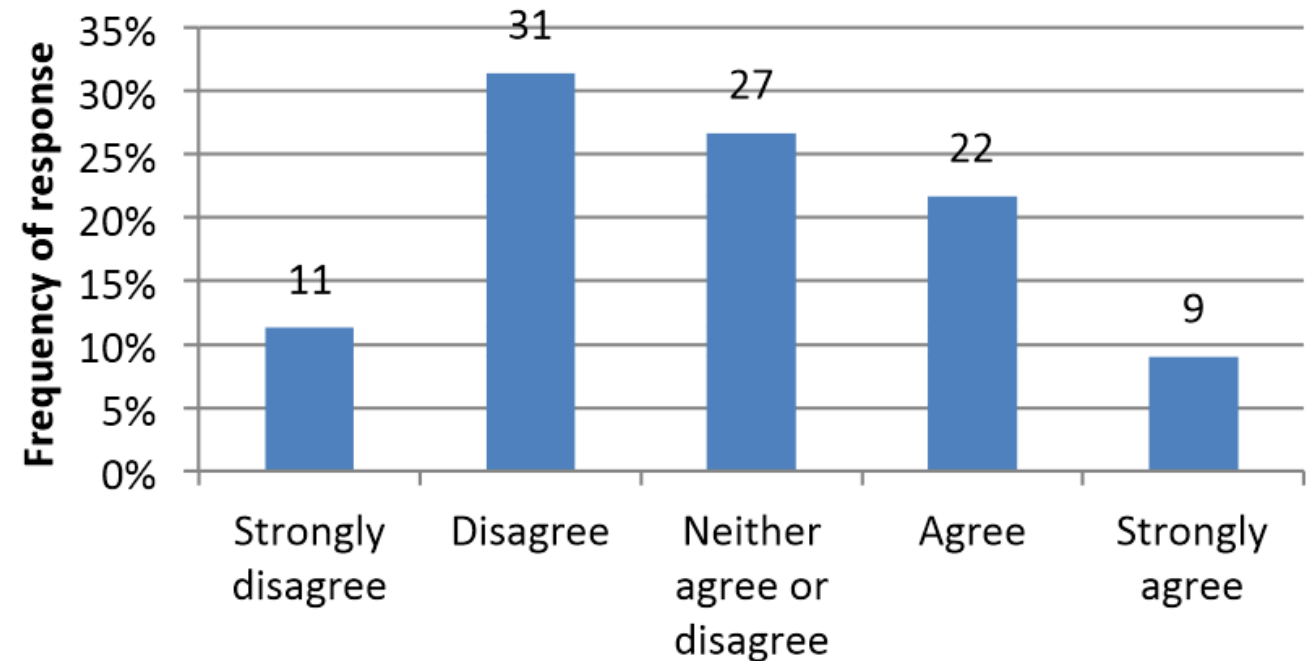
# Why is the FAFSA important?

## 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?

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Based on our estimates...

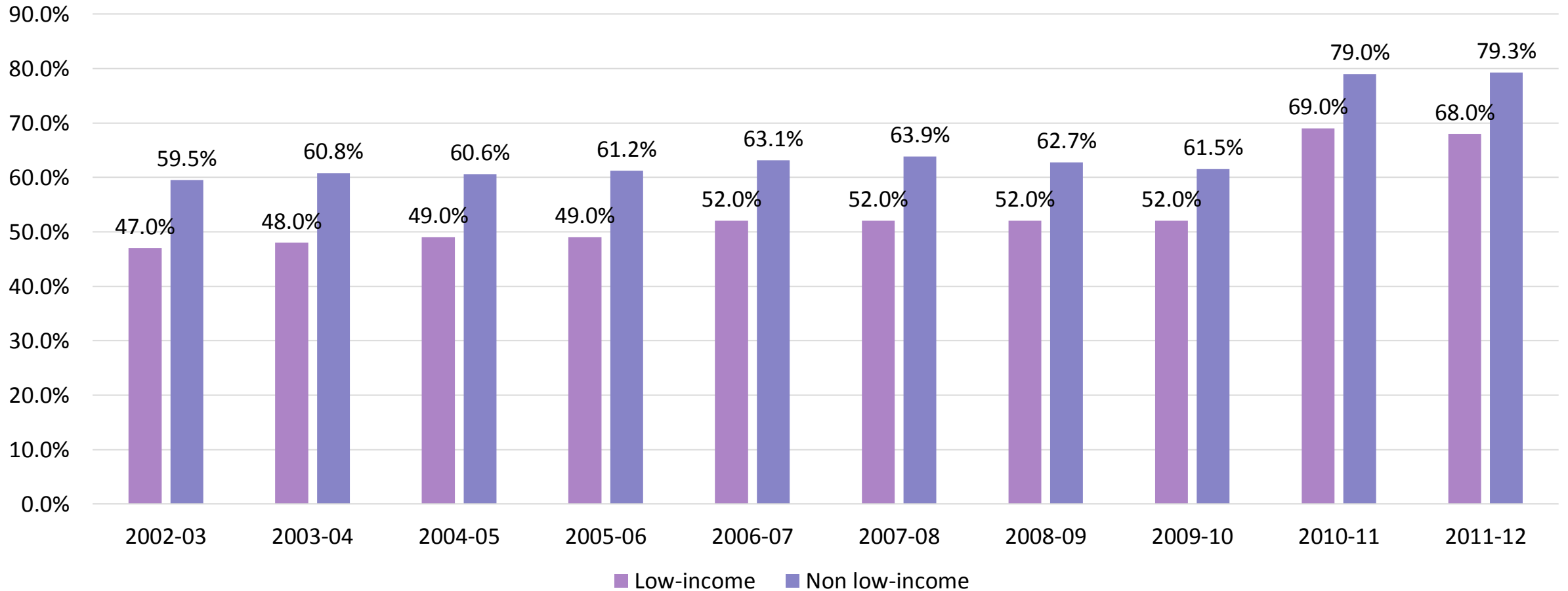
2012-13 graduating high school seniors left behind

**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

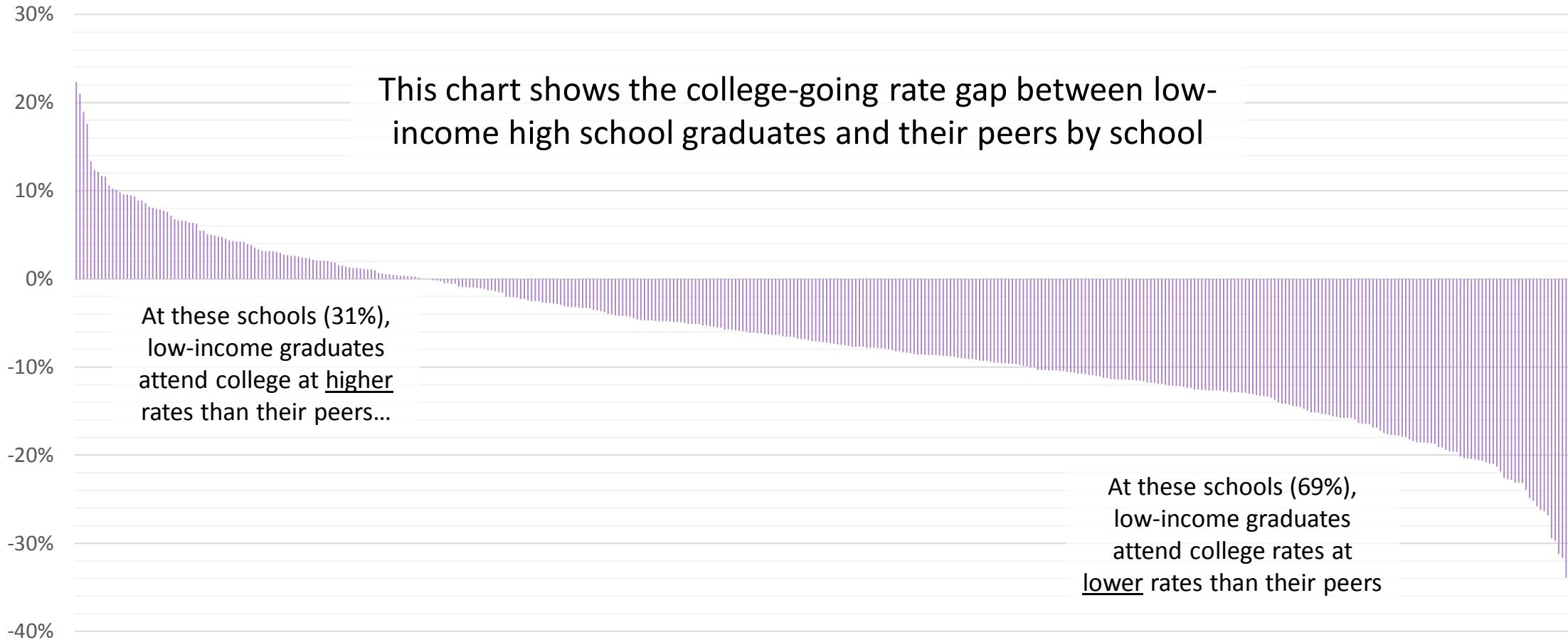
# Florida College-going Rates by income

(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



# 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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

	2012-13 Cycle	2013-14 Cycle	2014-15 Cycle
Florida	50.8%	53.5%	49.6%
United States	54.4%	56.3%	56.1%

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 40<sup>th</sup> among all states in FAFSA completion

# How many are Pell eligible?

	2012-13 Cycle	2013-14 Cycle	2014-15 Cycle
Florida	57%	58%	59%
United States	52%	52%	52%

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

Florida 6<sup>th</sup> 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 FAFSA Finish Line Data Tool



research • communication • advocacy • support

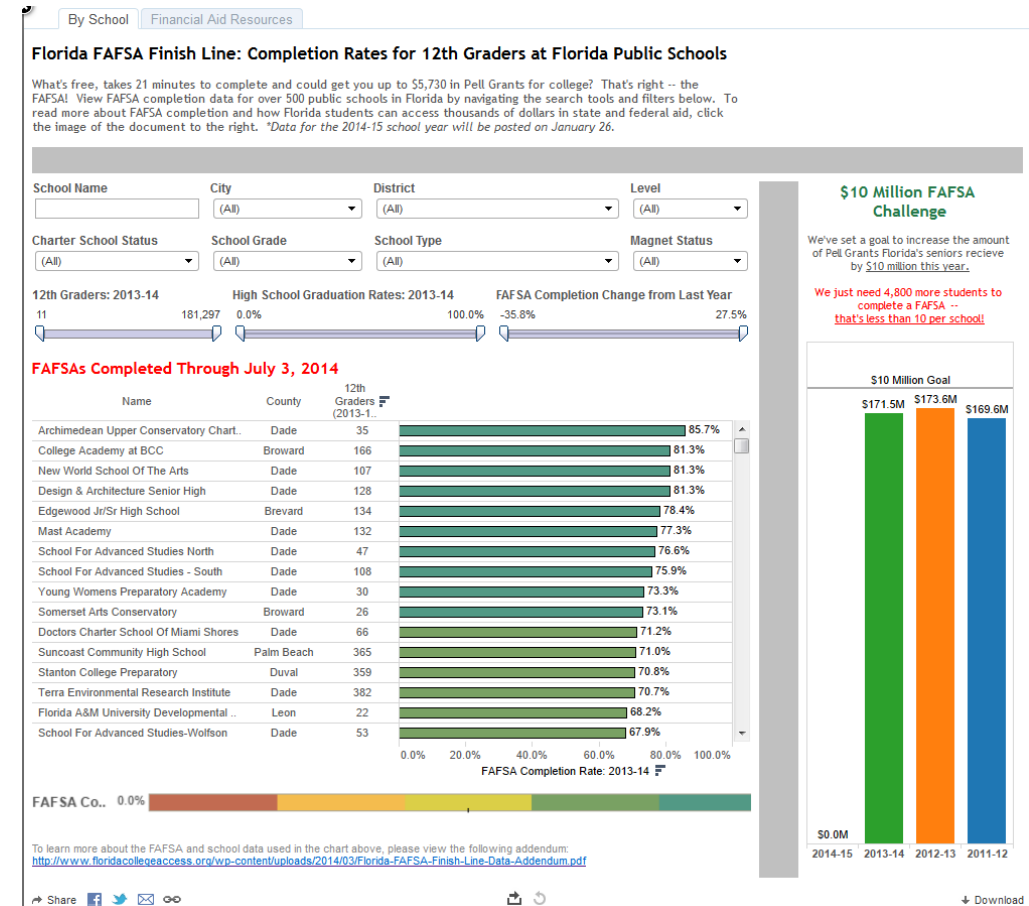
## New data tool launched today!

Features public school data only for 12<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> and will be updated every two weeks

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





# New FAFSA Finish Line Data Tool



research • communication • advocacy • support

## New features:

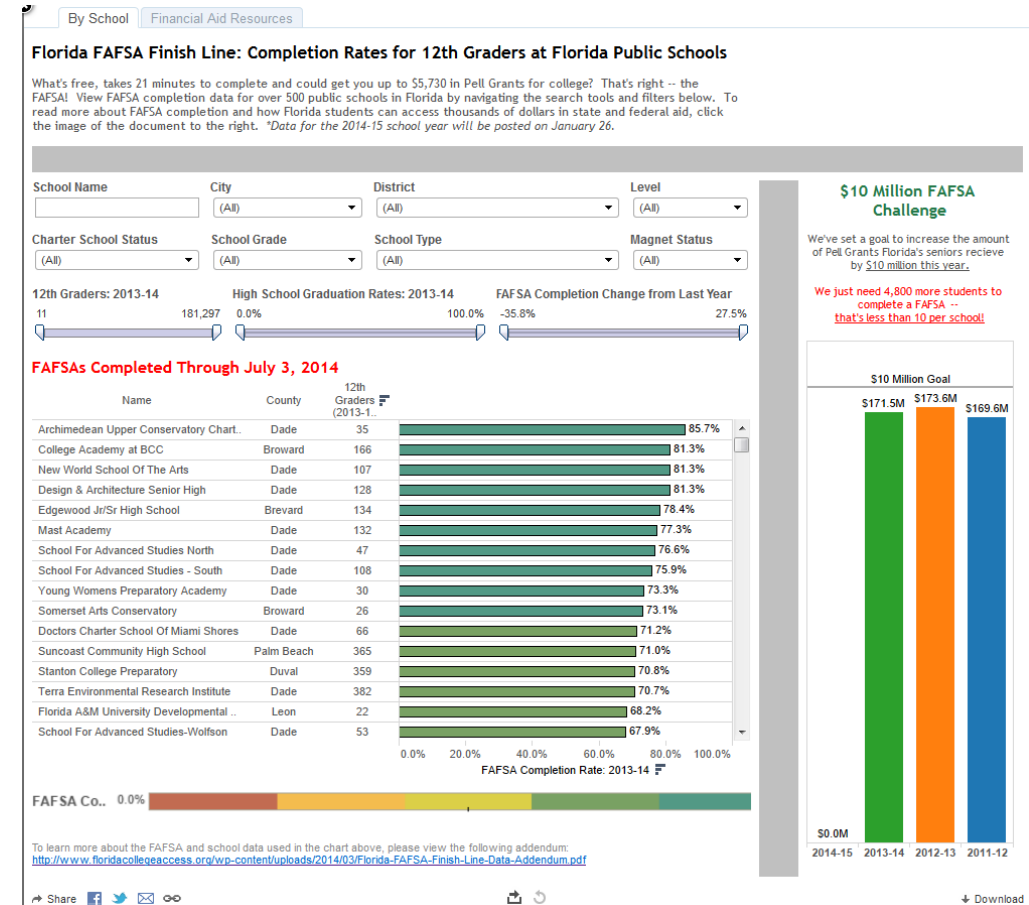
School, county and state level data all in one place

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



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

## High school graduation rates and undocumented students matter

☒ Keep Only    ☐ Exclude    

School Name: **New World School Of The Arts**  
 School City: **Miami**  
 School District: **Dade**

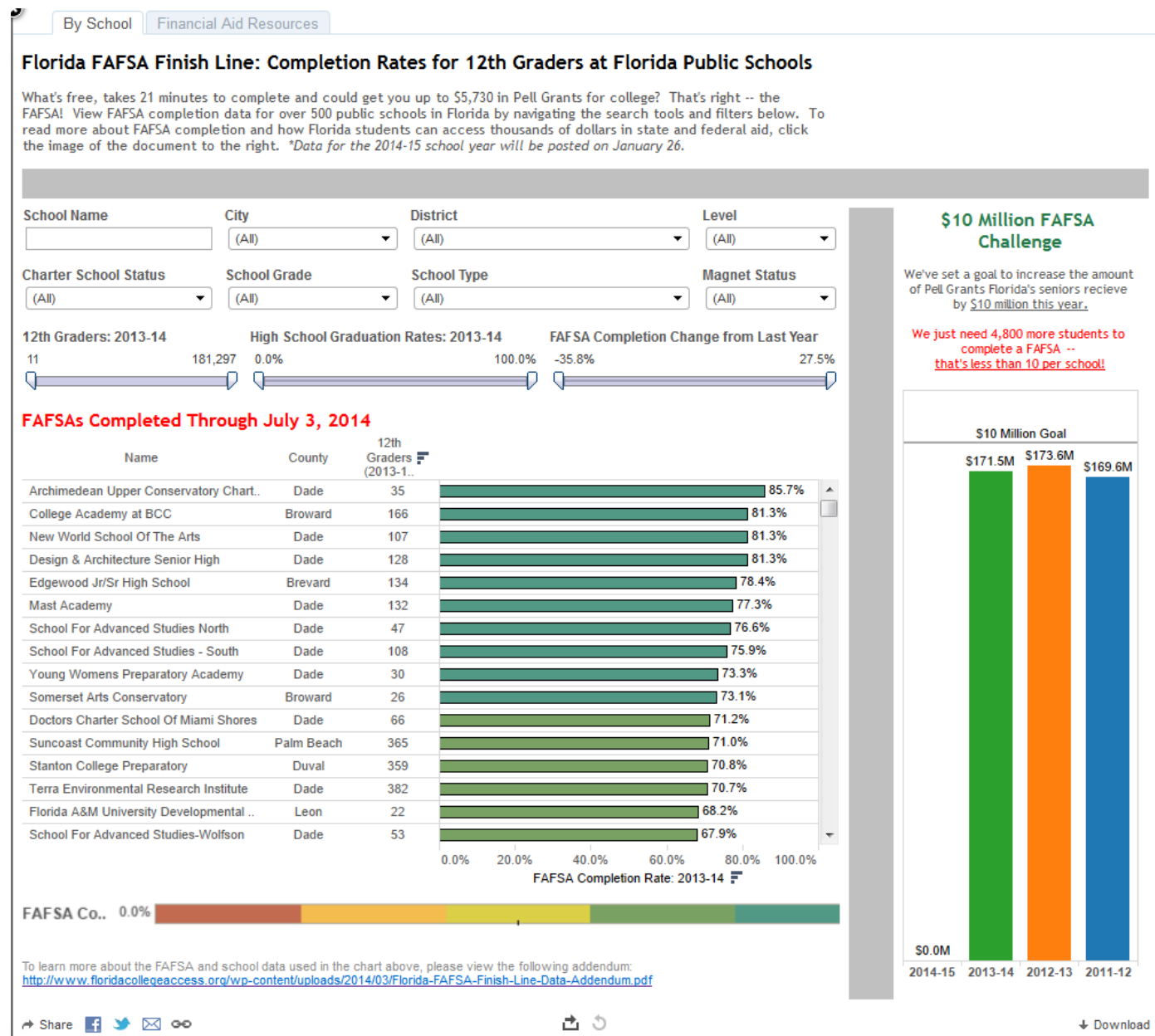
Primary Service Type: **Regular Education**  
 Charter Status: **Not a charter school**  
 Magnet Status: **Magnet School**  
 School Grade: **A**

Free/Reduced Price Lunch Rate (2013-14): *coming soon*  
 High School Graduation Rate (2013-14): **99.1%**  
 College-going Rate (2012): **38.0%**

FAFSAs Completed by July 3, 2014: **87**  
 # of 12th Graders (2013-14): **107**  
 FAFSA Completion Rate as of July 3, 2014: **81.3%**  
 FAFSA Completion Rank: **3**

FAFSA Completion Rate for Previous Year: **79.8%**  
 Annual Change: **1.5%**

[Finish-Line-Data-Addendum.pdf](#)



# \$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

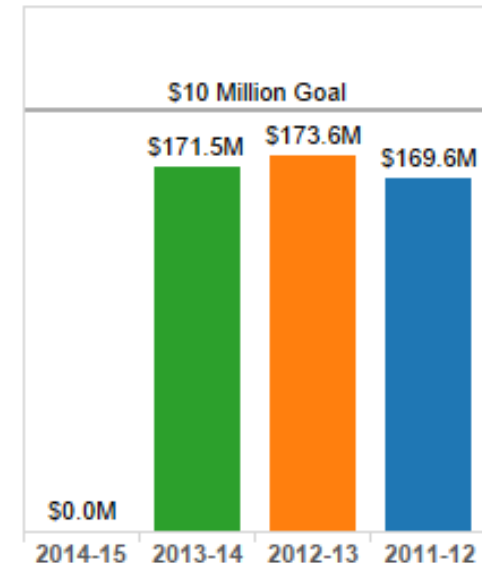
Keep in mind...

30,000 more state aid applications filed than FAFSAs in 2011-12

## \$10 Million FAFSA Challenge

We've set a goal to increase the amount of Pell Grants Florida's seniors receive by \$10 million this year.

We just need 4,800 more students to complete a FAFSA -- that's less than 10 per school!



# Pell Grants aren't the only funds available by completing the FAFSA



research • communication • advocacy • support

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

# 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...?

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Assistance (OSFA), Florida  
Department of Education



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



2015

CGS!Florida





## 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>



## Site Coordinators

- Comprehensive website
  - <http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/SiteCoordinators.aspx>



## Volunteers

- Registration is now OPEN!
- <http://www.navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org/CGS!FLORIDA/Volunteers.aspx>
- 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](#) 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>



## Contact Us

- **Lori Auxier, Director of Outreach Services**
  - [Lori.auxier@fldoe.org](mailto:Lori.auxier@fldoe.org)
  - 561-389-6346
- **Jan Smith, Manager of Outreach Services**
  - [Jan.smith@fldoe.org](mailto:Jan.smith@fldoe.org)
  - 850-245-1822



# How can we get students help with completing the FAFSA...?

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**Ralph Aiello**

Supervisor

School Counseling, BRACE and  
Academic Advisement,  
Department of College and Career  
Readiness

Broward County Public Schools

# Broward's FAFSA Initiative

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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

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## 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...?

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**Bill Mills**

Vice President

Florida Prosperity Partnership



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FLORIDA PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP

# About the Florida Prosperity Partnership

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**Statewide**

**Collaboration**

**All  
community  
sectors**

**Financial  
Stability**

**All Floridians**

**Primarily  
Low-Income**

# About the Florida Prosperity Partnership

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## 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:

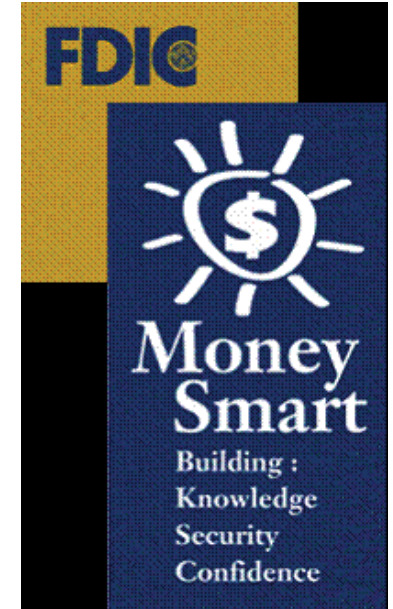
That ALL Floridians have equal opportunities to attain financial stability.

## 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





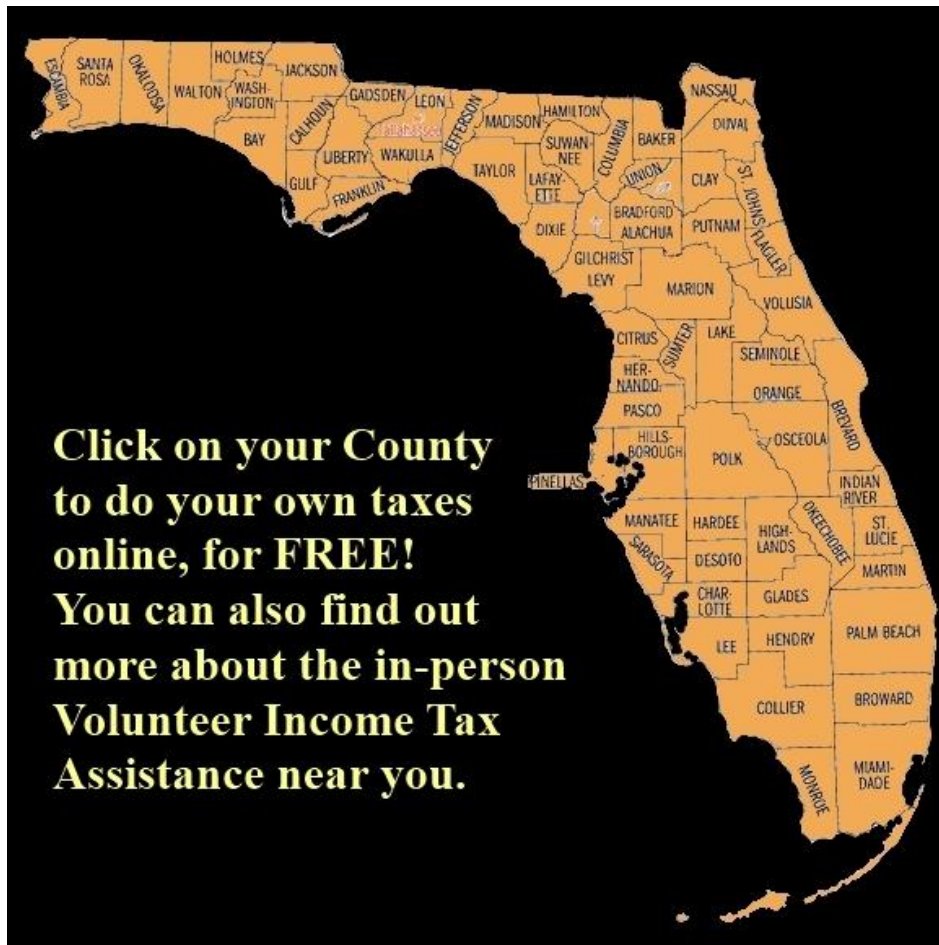
This website is designed to help working Floridians avoid high cost tax preparation and offer resources and services for many things related to this important financial task that can have a great impact on their annual budget.







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



**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.**



# **FREE FLORIDA TAX SITES**

*Where to go to have your taxes prepared for **free**!*

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[WHAT IS VITA?](#)

[FAQ](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[FIND A LOCATION BY COUNTY](#)


[FIND A LOCATION BY ZIP CODE](#)

[RELATED COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES](#)

## 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: 

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#)

### **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.





**FreeFLTaxSites.org**

**FreeFLTaxSites.com**

**FreeFloridaTaxSites.org**

**FreeFloridaTaxSites.com**

# 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



Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND®

Financial Aid Toolkit

[Learn About Financial Aid](#)

[Conduct Outreach](#)

[Get Training](#)

[Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources](#)



**LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID**

Understand the basics of federal student aid, the FAFSA, and loan repayment.



**CONDUCT OUTREACH**

Get tips on hosting events; sample financial aid night PowerPoint presentations; and suggested messages for social media, e-mails, or newsletters.



**GET TRAINING**

Find training or conference opportunities and learn about the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) program.



**SEARCH TOOLS AND RESOURCES**

Search our resource library by content, audience, topic, and time of year.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#) [NEW FSA ID TO REPLACE FEDERAL STUDENT AID PIN](#)

# 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!)





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Broward County Public Schools



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Vice President

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# Q & A

Type in your questions using the CHAT function



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