College Ready Florida

FLORIDA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK
SEPTEMBER 2016
Florida College Access Network: Who We Are

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
What We Do

- LCANs
- Research & Policy
- Statewide Initiatives
Apply Yourself Florida

**The Essentials**

- Register!
- Designate a site coordinator as the primary point person for your event.
- Dedicate time and space (such as the school computer lab) during normal school hours in which all graduating seniors will have the opportunity to successfully submit at least one application to the school of their choice.
- Keep a record of the number of students who completed applications and how many each student completed, and report key data to FCAN.
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Additional Components of Successful Programs

- Identify a school-wide team to support the site coordinator in implementing the event. This may include school staff as well as community volunteers.
- Engage families and the community.
- Create a college-going culture for all students through activities leading up to the event.
- Ensure students are prepared to participate prior to the event.
- Follow up with students after the event to ensure that applications are complete.
Apply Yourself Florida

- Planning Resources: Planning guide, templates
- Student Resources
- Training
- Promotional Materials
- Technical Assistance
Apply Yourself Florida

Site Coordinator Guide

- Planning timeline
- Suggested college-going culture activities & templates
- Resources to help prepare students
- Student/family letter templates
- Volunteer recruitment tips & templates
- Business outreach tips & templates
- Sample press releases
- Flyers
- ... & more!
Apply Yourself Florida

Apply Yourself Guide
- Fit, Match & Cost Worksheet
- Top 4 Colleges Worksheet
- College Application Checklist
- Mock College Application
- College Essay Tips
- Residency Information
- Fee Waiver Information
- Next Steps

Congratulations! You’ve applied to college! Now you’re ready to take your next steps:

1. **Checklist:** This is your personal checklist. Make sure you have completed all the necessary steps.
2. **Application Information:**
   - Type of Application: [ ] Online [ ] Paper
   - Application Fee: [ ] Paid [ ] Waived
   - Application Due Date: [ ]

3. **High School Information:**
   - Name: [ ]
   - City: [ ]
   - Expected Graduation Date: [ ]

Next steps after you’ve applied to college:

- Make sure your application has been received. Check if your application has been accepted and confirmed by the college.
- Review your application form and make sure all the necessary documents are included.
- Submit any required test scores and transcripts.
- Check the college’s website for any additional requirements.

Create a PIN for your Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. Your PIN will help you access your account and track your progress.

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can also apply for state-specific aid programs and private scholarships.

For Florida state grants and scholarships, contact the Financial Aid Office or the Florida Student Assistance Center. Learn more at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org).

Apply for scholarships. There are thousands of scholarships available, based on both need and merit. Contact your local community foundation, state education foundation, or your school counselor for more information.
Fun & Games
bit.ly/ApplyYourselfFL
**CHANGES TO THE FAFSA® PROCESS FOR 2017-18**

**Submit a FAFSA Earlier:** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016-17 FAFSA will become available January 1, 2016.)

**Use Earlier Income Information:** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information. The following table provides a summary of key dates as we transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If You Plan to Attend College From</th>
<th>You Can Submit the FAFSA From</th>
<th>Using Tax Information From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Federal Student Aid
An Office of the U.S. Department of Education

StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes
Florida FAFSA Challenge

1) Set a goal
2) Let us know
3) Win a trophy!
   - “MVP” (Highest FAFSA completion rate)
   - “Most Improved” (Greatest year-to-year improvement)
   - “Biggest Boost” (Largest week to week improvement)
1) Set a goal and track your data

- Find your baseline using FCAN’s Florida FAFSA Finish Line Data Dashboard, then set a goal that’s bold, but attainable. This may depend on the size of your school and unique characteristics of your school’s population. In general, we recommend a 5% goal.

- Make this goal public, rallying the school around your FAFSA goal. For example, track your progress on a large poster at the front of the school, coloring it in as you go.

- Track your progress throughout FAFSA season!
New 2016 FAFSA Finish Line

Florida FAFSA Finish Line: Completion Rates for 12th Graders at Florida Public Schools

Did you know Florida's high school graduates leave behind over $900 million each year in Pell Grants? Did you know that FAFSA completion is a strong indicator of college attendance? Filling out the FAFSA is an essential step in preparing for life after high school and finding out how much money you can get to pay for college or career school.

View FAFSA completion data for over 600 public schools in Florida by navigating the search tools and filters below.

School Name | School City | School County | School Type
--- | --- | --- | ---
Design & Architecture Senior High | Dale | Dale | Charter
Florida College Preparatory | Dunedin | Dunedin | Charter
Deforia Charter School Of Visual Arts | DeBary | DeBary | Charter
Material Academy Lakes High School | Dale | Dale | Charter
Future Forward Prep Academy | Delray Beach | Delray Beach | Charter
Miami World School K 8 Arts | Delray Beach | Delray Beach | Charter
Osceola County School For The Arts | Doral | Doral | Charter
Tua Environmental Research Institute | Doral | Doral | Charter
Cape Charter High School | Laser | Laser | Charter
Orange Science Middle High Charter | Laser | Laser | Charter
Alexander W Dreyfoos Jr School Of The Arts | Palm Beach | Palm Beach | Charter
Youth Employees Prescriptive Academy | Doral | Doral | Charter
Sarasota Community High School | Palm Beach | Palm Beach | Charter
Edward Hart High School | Doral | Doral | Charter

FAFSA Completion Rates through July 1, 2016 (move over chart to view more data)

Novo High School
Charter Status: Not a charter school - Magnet Status: Not a magnet
Graduation Rate (2014-15): 86.8% - Low Income Rate (2014-15): 49.3%

FAFSA Completion Rate: July 1, 2016
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 71-100%: 53.3%
- FAFSA Submission Rate: 71-100%: 51.5%
- FAFSA Submission Rate: 70-74: 46.0%

DISTRICT TOTAL (Broward)
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 71-100%: 33.9%
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 70-74: 36.6%
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 70-74: 38.9%

STATE TOTAL
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 71-100%: 37.2%
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 70-74: 39.6%
- FAFSA Completion Rate: 70-74: 40.2%

To learn more about the FAFSA and school data used in the chart above, please view the following collaboration: http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/

http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/
Leaderboard Updated Biweekly!

Florida FAFSA Challenge Leaderboard:
January 29, 2016

"MVP" (Highest FAFSA Completion Rate)
*** Large schools: More than 476 12th graders ***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>12th Graders (2015-16)</th>
<th>FAFSA Completed</th>
<th>FAFSA Completion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Park Vista Senior High School</td>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coral Glades Senior High School</td>
<td>Coral Glades</td>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Coral Springs High School</td>
<td>Coral Springs</td>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pinecrest High School</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Miami High School</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>North Miami Senior High School</td>
<td>North Miami</td>
<td>Dade</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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Florida FAFSA Challenge Leaderboard:
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"MVP" (Highest FAFSA Completion Rate)
*** Small schools: Fewer than 165 12th graders ***

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2) Hold a FAFSA event

There are a number of possibilities if you’re interested in hosting a FAFSA event, and a number of resources available in the toolkit to support your efforts.

- FAFSA Information Night
- FAFSA Completion Lab
- Existing College Goal Sunday (CGS!Florida) events
3) Promote the importance of FAFSA

- Promote FAFSA completion through all channels available: morning announcements, posters and flyers, social media, letters home, newsletters, etc.

- Stress the importance of FAFSA completion, address common misconceptions, build excitement around your goal, and provide helpful tips on completion to students and families.

- Many links to great resources in the toolkit, including flyers, posters, modules and YouTube videos on the FAFSA and financial aid.
4) Text students with reminders

A proven way to improve FAFSA completion

- Up Next: [https://www.whatsupnext.us/](https://www.whatsupnext.us/)
  Free tool promoted through Better Make Room, not FAFSA specific

- Signal Vine: [https://www.signalvine.com/](https://www.signalvine.com/)
  A robust tool, available at a discounted rate to National College Access Network (NCAN) partners

- Remind: [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)
  Free and already in use at many schools
5) Provide incentives and engage in friendly competition

- Create an incentive for students who complete the FAFSA. Door prizes, raffles, and food (like pizza at a FAFSA night) are great examples.

- Districts can host a challenge among their high schools with awards and prizes. Post weekly data updates in a public place where school counselors, teachers and administrators can see it.

- Some schools require eligible students to complete the FAFSA in order to buy prom tickets, or offer a discount on tickets to FAFSA completers.
6) Collaborate with community partners and champions

- Ask your mayor or city council for a proclamation to celebrate your goal or to adopt a city-wide FAFSA completion goal.
- Partner with the financial aid office at a local college or university to provide expertise, resources, and volunteers for a FAFSA information night or a FAFSA completion lab.
- Ask local businesses to donate prizes or food or provide volunteers for a FAFSA event.
- Check with your local education foundation. Many education foundations support or lead college access programs in their districts.
Florida FAFSA Challenge

- Data Dashboard
- Leaderboard
- FAFSA Completion Toolkit
- Biweekly Coordinator Emails
- Technical Support
Florida College Decision Day
Florida College Decision Day

We encourage schools to:

- Recognize ALL students for their postsecondary plans (2-yr, 4-yr, military, postsecondary certificate)
- Hold recognition in front of the high school’s entire student body
- Contact local media – encourage publicity beyond the high school community
- Have fun!
Florida College Decision Day

Decision Day Manual

- Planning Checklist & Budget Template
- Event Inspiration
- Student Checklists
- Student/Family Letters
- College-Going Culture Activities & Templates
- Media Outreach Ideas & Templates
- Guidance on Volunteer Management
- Business Outreach Ideas & Templates
bit.ly/FLDecisionDay
Contact Us

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813-974-6429

For questions regarding FAFSA data:
Troy Miller, Associate Director for Research & Policy
tmiller@floridacollegeaccess.org
813-974-2462

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