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**New Report: FCAN Releases 2026 State of College Access and Student Success in Florida**

*Record graduation rates, a persistent FAFSA gap,*
*and four years left to meet the state's 60% attainment goal*

TAMPA, FL — The Florida College Access Network (FCAN) today released the 2026 State of College Access and Student Success in Florida, an annual report tracking key indicators of college readiness, enrollment, completion, and attainment across the state. The report finds Florida is making measurable gains in high school graduation and postsecondary completion rates but falling short on the upstream conditions — FAFSA completion and college enrollment — that determine whether those gains translate into a more credentialed workforce.

Florida's high school graduation rate reached a record 92.2% for the class of 2025, and the state ranks first nationally in two-year and four-year graduation rates within 150% of normal time. Yet only 44.4% of the class of 2025 completed a FAFSA, ranking Florida 39th in the nation and nearly 10 percentage points below the national average. Postsecondary enrollment slipped from 54.2% to 53.9% for the class of 2024, a decline that reflects a falling college-going rate even as the raw number of enrollees grew.

"Florida's economic growth and prosperity depend on the opportunities provided to all learners to access and succeed in postsecondary education," said Braulio Colón, FCAN's executive director. "The opportunity before us is making sure more make it on a path toward a rewarding career. This report gives us insight on where we can do better."

The report also documents wide geographic variation in college access across the state. County-level postsecondary enrollment rates range from 24.1% to 66.6%, a 42-point spread that reflects differences in economic conditions and college-going culture.

The stakes extend beyond education. Florida's GDP per capita ranks 34th nationally, in part because its economy remains heavily dependent on tourism, hospitality, and services. However, Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce projects that 64% of Florida jobs by 2031 will require some form of postsecondary training. Florida workers with a bachelor's degree currently earn 64% more annually than those with only a high school diploma, a premium that compounds to more than $1 million in additional individual lifetime earnings. Florida's current postsecondary attainment rate stands at 54.8%, two percentage points above where it was in 2019. The state's SAIL to 60 goal of 60% of working-age Floridians holding a degree or high-value credential by 2030 requires accelerated gains across the talent pipeline.

The new report is a companion to FCAN's interactive **State of College Access Key Metrics**

**Dashboard**, which allows users to explore data at the state, regional, and county level. Both are available at FloridaCollegeAccess.org.

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**About Florida College Access Network**

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) leads the statewide collaborative movement to strengthen Florida by ensuring every Floridian attains education beyond high school toward a rewarding career. We envision a thriving Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility and a prosperous economy for all.

FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies, and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org.

*FCAN is a statewide independent organization hosted by the University of South Florida (USF). The statements and positions presented are those of FCAN and are not made on behalf of the USF Board of Trustees or intended in any way to be representative of USF.*