

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

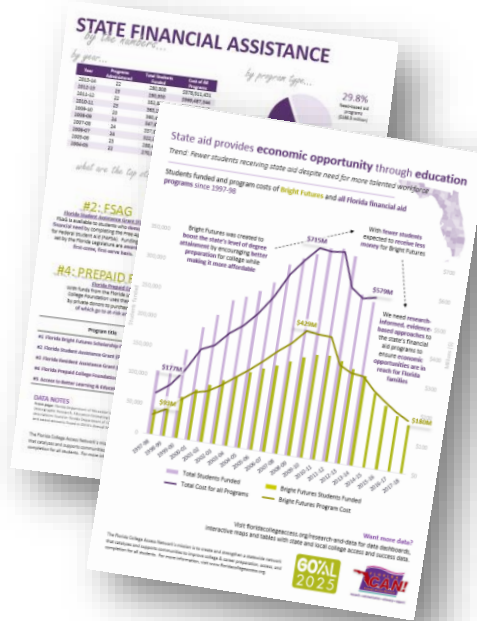
Reaching Goal 2025 will require collective action



What We Do



LCANs



Research & Policy



Statewide Initiatives



Apply Yourself Florida

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



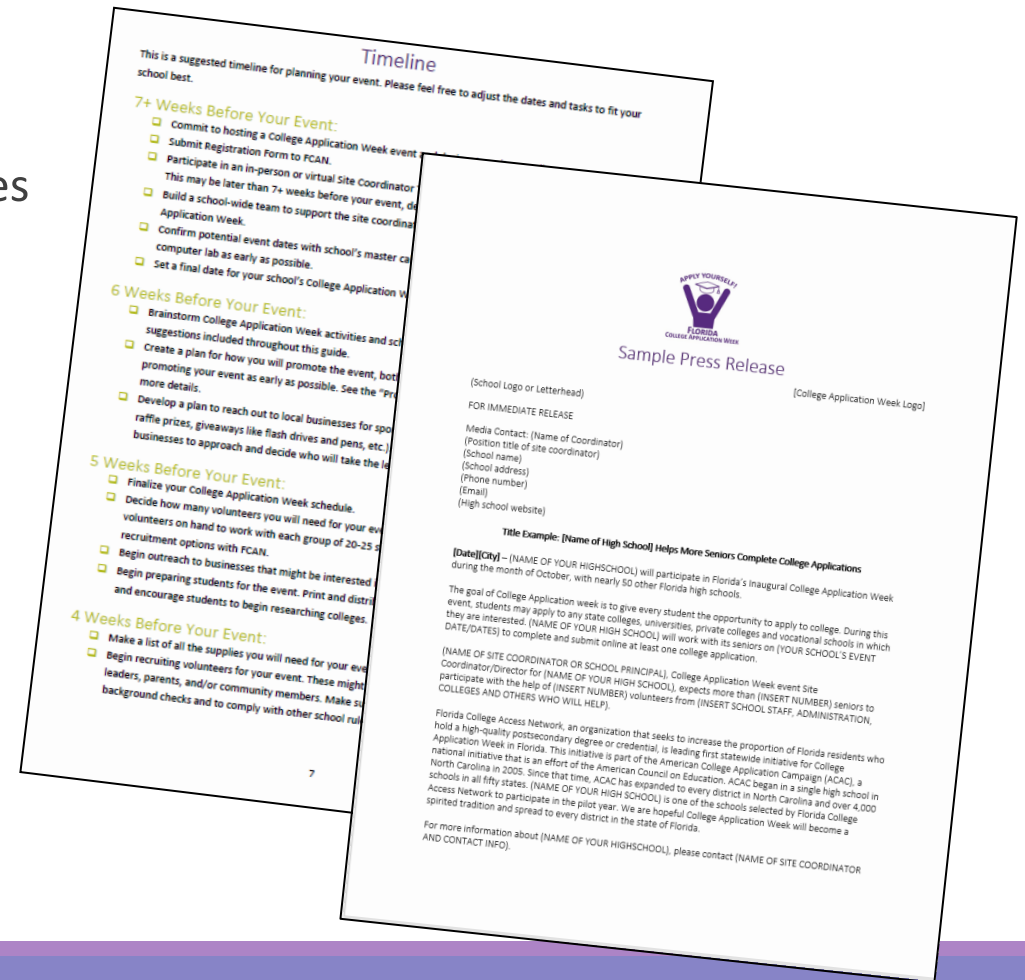
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Site Coordinator Guide

- 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



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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

College Fit, Match & Cost

Complete this form for each college you are considering using the BigFuture College Search tool at bigfuture.collegeboard.org.

Name of College: _____

FIT

Location of College (City, State): _____

Size of College: _____

4-year or 2-year? _____

Public or Private? _____

Do they offer my major? _____

% Students that return sophomore year: _____

What services are available on campus? _____

How does the college fit your preferences? _____

MATCH

How selective is this college? _____

Have I taken the required high school courses? _____

How does my GPA compare with the average? _____

How do my test scores compare with the average? _____

Comparing my academic record to the college's requirements: _____

COST

Total estimated cost to attend: \$ _____

% freshmen with need who received aid: _____

% of need met through scholarships/grants: _____

My calculated net price: \$ _____

Does the cost seem reasonable? _____

I plan on applying to _____

College Application Worksheet

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal Name: _____

Any Other Names Used: (for transcripts, etc): _____

Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____

Place of Birth: _____

If you are not a citizen, what type of visa do you hold, or if you are a permanent resident, what is your alien registration number? _____

**If you are a permanent resident, you will need to attach a copy of your visa or alien registration card to the application.

Gender: ☐ M ☐ F Race/Ethnicity: _____

Are you an active duty service member? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you a veteran? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you a dependent who is eligible for benefits? ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Type of Application: _____ Term: _____

Planned Major: _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School: _____

City: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

(3) YOU DID IT! Now what?

Next steps after you've applied to college.

Congratulations—you've applied to college!! You've taken the first step in going to college, but you're not done yet. Here are some tips and reminders for what to do once you've filled out the application:

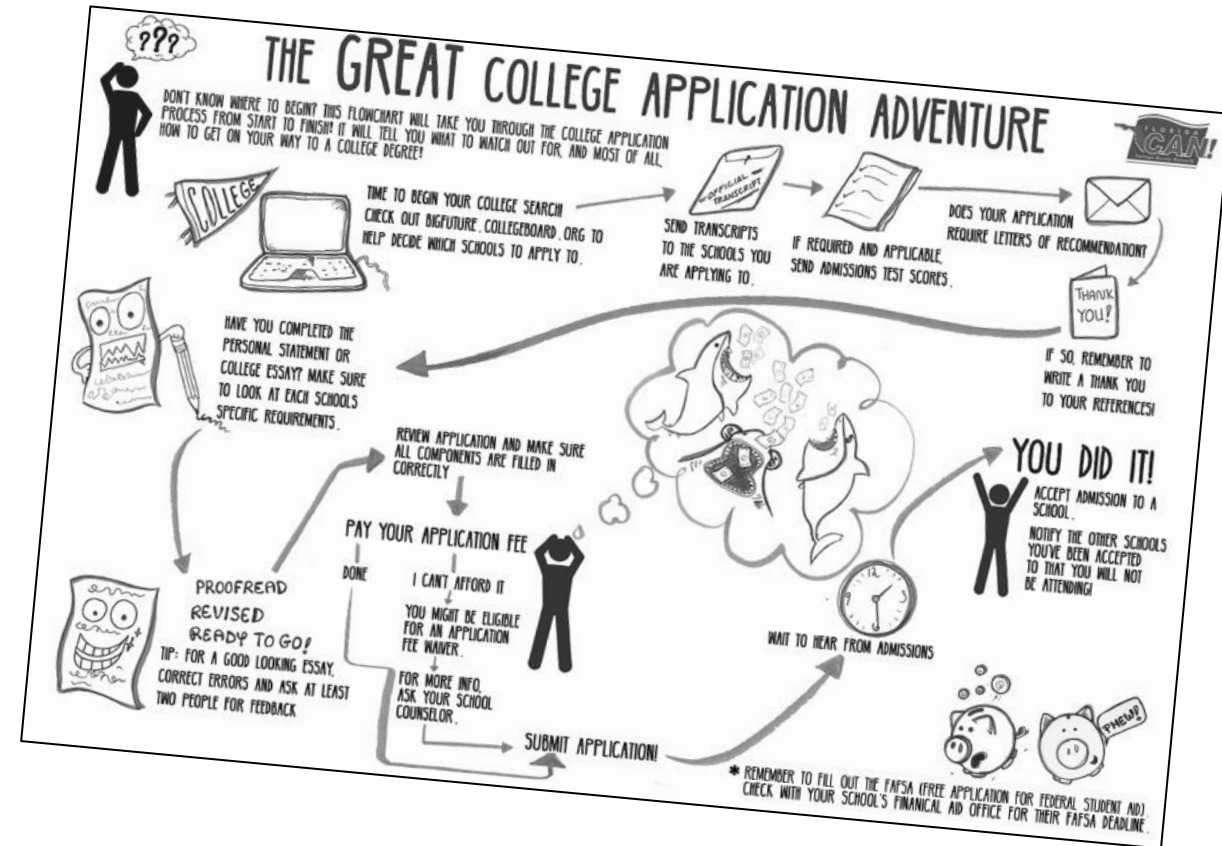
- ✓ **Make sure your application fee has been paid.** If you completed an online application, you likely paid your application fee using a credit card when you submitted the application. If you submitted a paper application, make sure you sent in a check to cover your application fee. Some schools don't require an application fee. Keep track of what institutions you paid a fee to as well as the method of payment and delivery. If you are using a fee waiver, make sure that you submitted it according to the college's procedures.
- ✓ **Make sure your transcripts have been sent.** Follow up with the colleges where you have applied to ensure they received your transcript and all the necessary documents that went along with your application.
- ✓ **Create a PIN for your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** Students will need a "FSA ID," which consists of a user-created username and password, to apply for federal financial aid. Do this early—you'll need it every year you apply! To create a FSA ID, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ✓ **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** You CAN afford to go to college—fill out the FAFSA to unlock thousands of dollars in grants and loans. At some Florida colleges, the deadline to receive some forms of aid is March 1, so get your application in early. However, be sure to complete the form even if you don't meet your school's deadline, as you might still qualify for federal aid. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your application, or ask your school counselor for assistance. Some communities offer programs, such as College Goal Sunday and financial aid nights, to help students and their families with the financial aid application process.
- ✓ **Apply for Florida state grants and scholarships.** In addition to the grants and loans available through the federal government, the State of Florida offers a variety of merit- and need-based scholarship and grant programs. These include Bright Futures, First Generation Matching Grant, and Florida Student Assistance Grant. Learn more at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org.
- ✓ **Apply for scholarships.** There are thousands of scholarship dollars available, based on both need and merit. Contact your local community foundation, local education foundation, ask your school counselor, and research local scholarships available in your community and national scholarships.

Fun & Games



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B	I	N	G	O
Attended a 4-Year College	Lived at Home While Attending College	Worked Full-Time While Attending College	Is Still Close Friends with <u>His/Her</u> College Roommate	Studied Abroad While in College
Attended a College in Florida	Went to College on a Scholarship	Changed Majors 2 or More Times	Attended a 2-Year College	Majored in Math
Majored in Science	Attended an Out-of-State College	FREE SPACE	Worked for the School Newspaper, TV Station, or Radio Station in College	Met <u>His/Her</u> Partner in College
Lived on Campus	Is Currently Enrolled in a College Program or Course	Had a Mentor or Other Close Advisor in College	Was President or Leader of a School Club	Has Completed Graduate School
Attended 2 or More Colleges	Wishes They Were Still in College	Ate Ramen Noodles Several Times a Week While in College	Played Sports in College	Took Out Student Loans to Pay for College



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Florida FAFSA Challenge

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.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

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

By School School Detail

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

Did you know Florida's high school graduates leave behind over \$100 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

Level (School, District, State) Charter Status School Type

12th Graders (2015-16) Low-income Students (2015-16) Graduation Rate (2014-15)

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

School Name	County	12th Graders (2015-16)	FAFSA Completion Rate: 2015-16
Design & Architecture Senior High	Dade	118	74.6%
Stanton College Preparatory	Duval	318	72.3%
Doctors Charter School Of Miami Shores	Dade	61	72.1%
Mater Academy Lakes High School	Dade	236	71.6%
I Preparatory Academy	Dade	62	71.0%
New World School Of The Arts	Dade	121	69.4%
Osceola County School For The Arts	Osceola	138	68.8%
Terra Environmental Research Institute	Dade	451	68.5%
Oasis Charter High School	Lee	152	68.4%
Orlando Science Middle High Charter	Orange	38	68.4%
Alexander W Dreyfoos Junior School Of The Arts	Palm Beach	313	68.1%
Young Men'S Preparatory Academy	Dade	21	66.7%
Suncoast Community High School	Palm Beach	346	66.5%
Edgewood Jr/Sr High School	Brevard	119	66.4%

To learn more about the FAFSA and school data used in the chart above, please view the following addendum: <http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Florida-FAFSA-Finish-Line-Data-Addendum-2016.pdf>

DOWNLOAD ALL DATA



By School School Detail

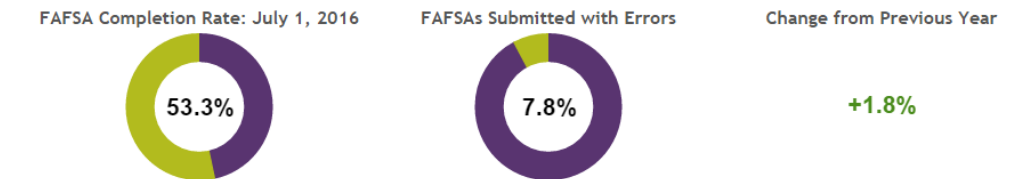
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County School Name

Nova High School
City: **Davie** - District: **Broward** - 12th Graders (2015-16): **512**
County: **Broward** - School Type: **K-12 General Education**
Charter Status: **Not a charter school** - Magnet Status: **Not a magnet**
Graduation Rate (2014-15): **95.1%** - Low-income Rate (2014-15): **59.7%**



Nova High School

FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-1-16	53.3%
FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-1-15	51.5%
FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-3-14	56.0%

DISTRICT TOTAL (Broward)

FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-1-16	33.9%
FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-1-15	36.6%
FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-3-14	38.9%

STATE TOTAL

FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-1-16	37.2%
FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-1-15	39.5%
FAFSA Completion Rate: 7-3-14	40.2%

To learn more about the FAFSA and school data used in the chart above, please view the following addendum: <http://www.floridacollegeaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Florida-FAFSA-Finish-Line-Data-Addendum-2016.pdf>

DOWNLOAD ALL DATA



Leaderboard Updated Biweekly!



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Florida FAFSA Challenge Leaderboard: January 29, 2016



"MVP" (Highest FAFSA Completion Rate)

*** Large schools: More than 416 12th graders ***

Rank	School	City	County	12th Graders (2015-16)	FAFSAs Completed	FAFSA Completion Rate
1.	Terra Environmental Research Institute	Miami	Dade	451	119	26.4%
2.	Coral Gables Senior High School	Coral Gables	Dade	816	176	21.6%
3.	Coral Reef Senior High School	Miami	Dade	702	139	19.8%
4.	Nova High School	Davie	Broward	512	100	19.5%
5.	Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High	Miami	Dade	535	103	19.3%
6.	Cypress Bay High School	Weston	Broward	1,117	200	17.9%
7.	Riverview High School	Sarasota	Sarasota	554	98	17.7%
8.	Wellington High School	Wellington	Palm Beach	545	93	17.1%
9.	Palm Harbor University High	Palm Harbor	Pinellas	546	90	16.5%
10.	Hialeah Gardens Senior High School	Hialeah Gardens	Dade	689	113	16.4%

Notes: To view FAFSA completion data for all public schools in Florida and learn more about how Florida CAN calculates FAFSA Completion Rates, visit the [FAFSA Finish Line data dashboard](#) and accompanying [data addendum](#).

Large Leaderboard:



Highest FAFSA Completion Rate)

Schools: Between 166 and 415 12th graders ***

City	County	12th Graders (2015-16)	FAFSAs Completed	FAFSA Completion Rate
Bay Biscayne	Dade	170	67	39.4%
Davie	Broward	176	67	38.1%
Osprey	Sarasota	195	59	30.3%
Viera Beach	Palm Beach	346	104	30.1%
West Palm Beach	Palm Beach	313	91	29.1%
Doral	Dade	330	94	28.5%
Pompano Beach	Broward	270	71	26.3%
Hialeah	Dade	236	61	25.8%
Miami Lakes	Dade	360	91	25.3%
Coral Springs	Broward	220	52	23.6%

Schools in Florida and learn more about how Florida CAN calculates FAFSA Completion Rates, visit the [data addendum](#).

Small School Challenge Leaderboard:



"MVP" (Highest FAFSA Completion Rate)

Schools: Fewer than 166 12th graders ***

City	County	12th Graders (2015-16)	FAFSAs Completed	FAFSA Completion Rate
Miami	Dade	45	25	55.6%
Miami	Dade	58	32	55.2%
Miami	Dade	111	50	45.0%
Miami	Dade	55	24	43.6%
Miami	Dade	62	25	40.3%
Homestead	Dade	61	22	36.1%
Miami	Dade	121	39	32.2%
Miami	Dade	118	35	29.7%
Doral	Dade	134	39	29.1%
Miami Shores	Dade	61	17	27.9%

all public schools in Florida and learn more about how Florida CAN calculates FAFSA Completion Rates, visit the [data addendum](#).

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



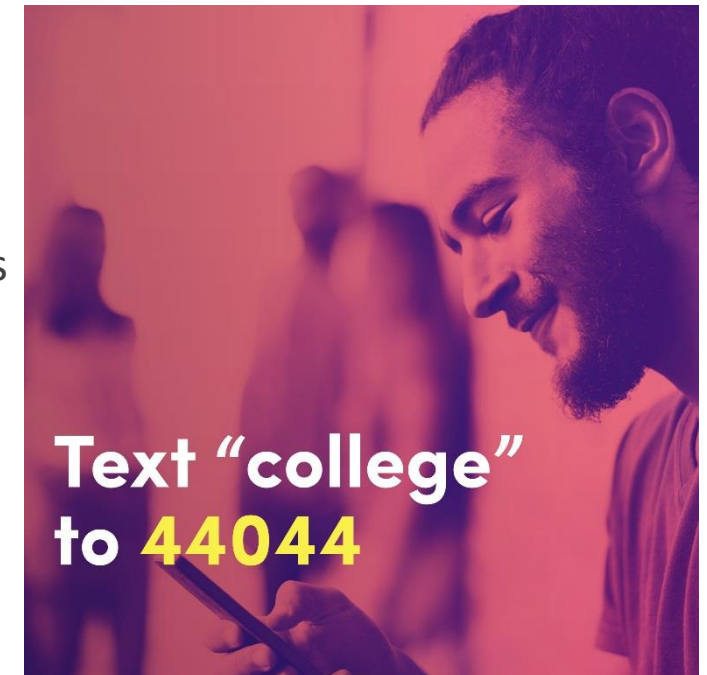
- Promote FAFSA completion through all channels available: morning announcements, posters and flyers, social media, letters home, newsletters, etc.
- Stress the importance of FAFSA completion, address common misconceptions, build excitement around your goal, and provide helpful tips on completion to students and families.
- Many links to great resources in the toolkit, including 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/>
Free tool promoted through Better Make Room, not FAFSA specific
- Signal Vine: <https://www.signalvine.com/>
A robust tool, available at a discounted rate to National College Access Network (NCAN) partners
- Remind: 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.



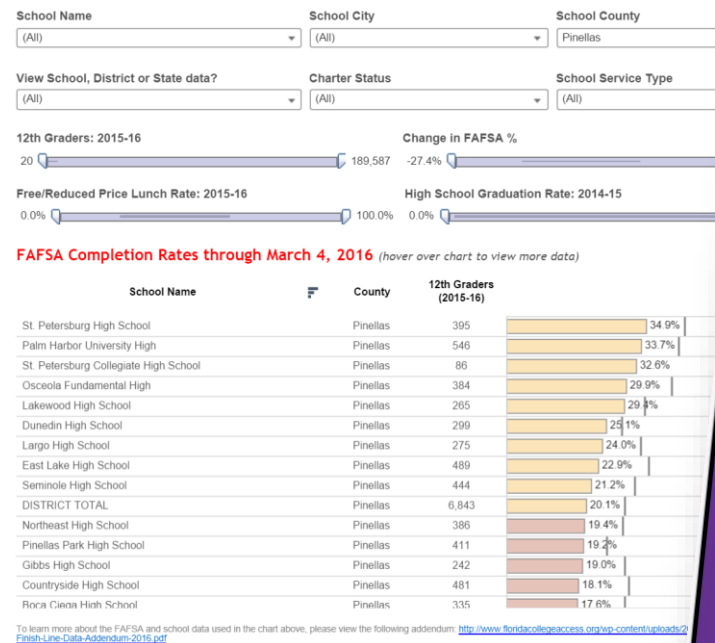
6) Collaborate with community partners and champions



- 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



bit.ly/FLFAFSA

**FLORIDA
COLLEGE
DECISION
DAY**

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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