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
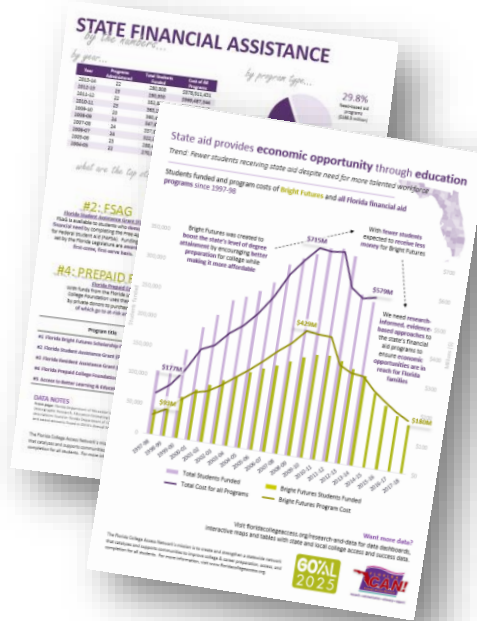
College is for everyone

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

o Register!

o Designate a site coordinator as the primary point person for your event.

o 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.

o 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!
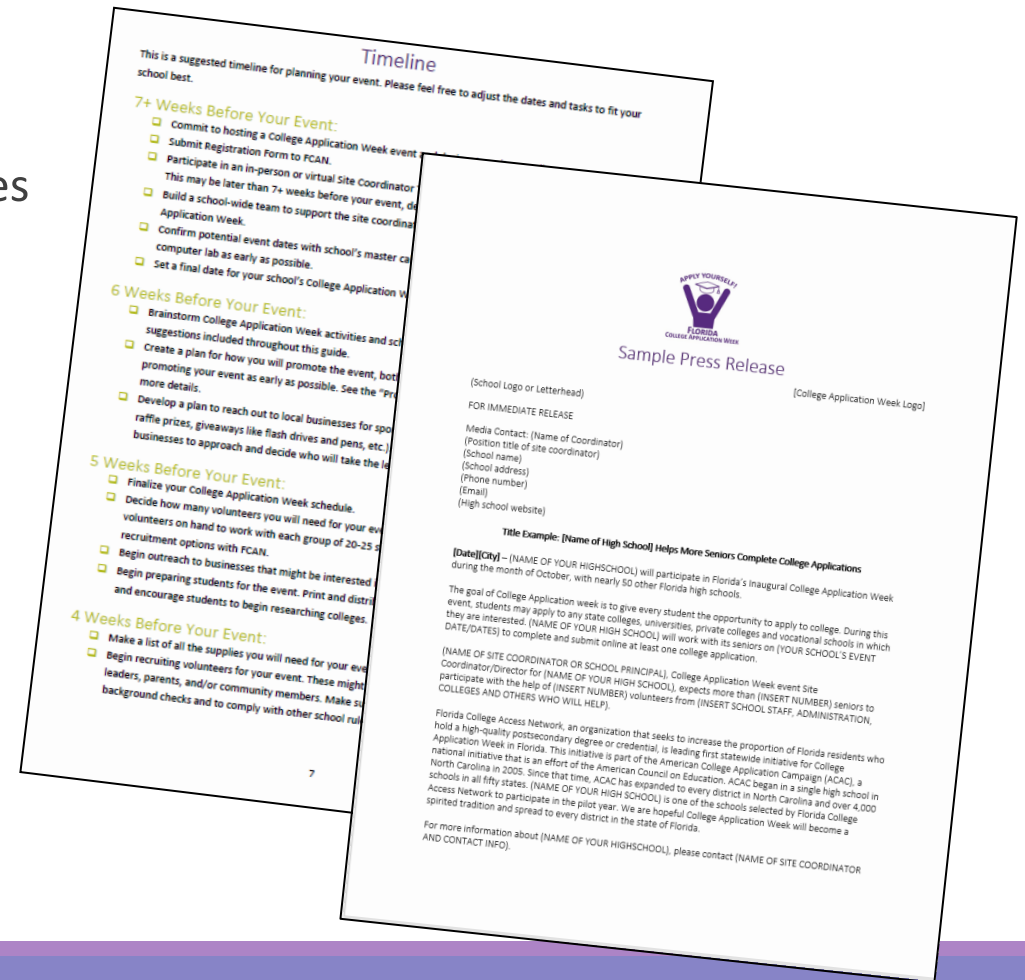
Apply Yourself Florida

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

Fun & Games

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 His/Her 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 His/Her 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
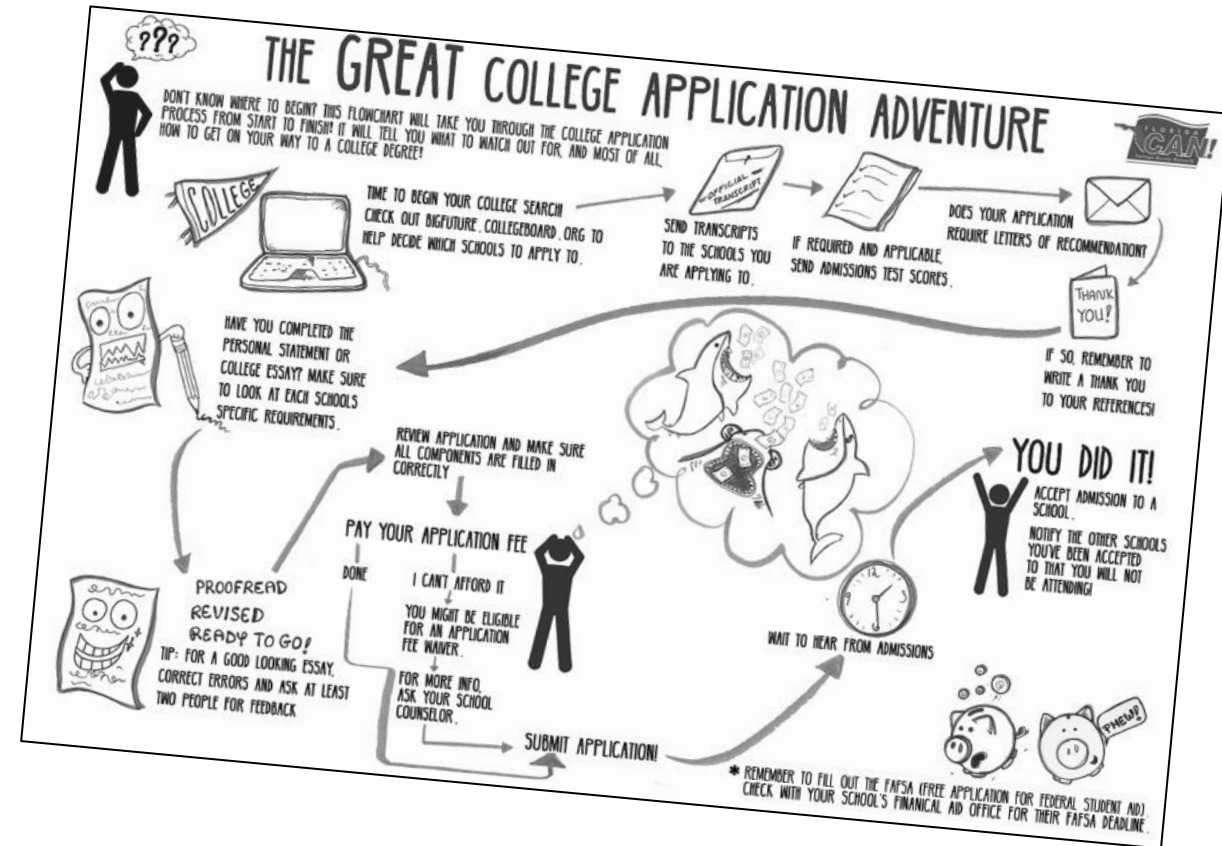
bit.ly/ApplyYourselfFL

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

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

Leaderboard Updated Biweekly!

FLORIDA C.A.N! College Access Network
research • communication • advocacy • support

Florida FAFSA Challenge Leaderboard: January 29, 2016

FLORIDA FAFSA FINISH LINE

"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.

...ge Leaderboard:

...hest FAFSA Completion Rate)
...ols: Between 166 and 415 12th graders ***

City	County	12th Graders (2015-16)	FAFSAs Completed	FAFSA Completion Rate
...y 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%

...chools in Florida and learn more about how Florida CAN calculates FAFSA Completion Rates, visit ...ing data addendum.

...Challenge Leaderboard:

...VP" (Highest FAFSA Completion Rate)
... Small 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%

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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.

o   FAFSA Information Night

o   FAFSA Completion Lab

o   Existing College Goal Sunday (CGS!Florida) events

3) Promote the importance of FAFSA

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

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

o 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

o   Up Next: https://www.whatsupnext.us/
      Free tool promoted through Better Make Room, not FAFSA specific

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

o   Remind: www.remind.com
      Free and already in use at many schools

Text "college"
to 44044
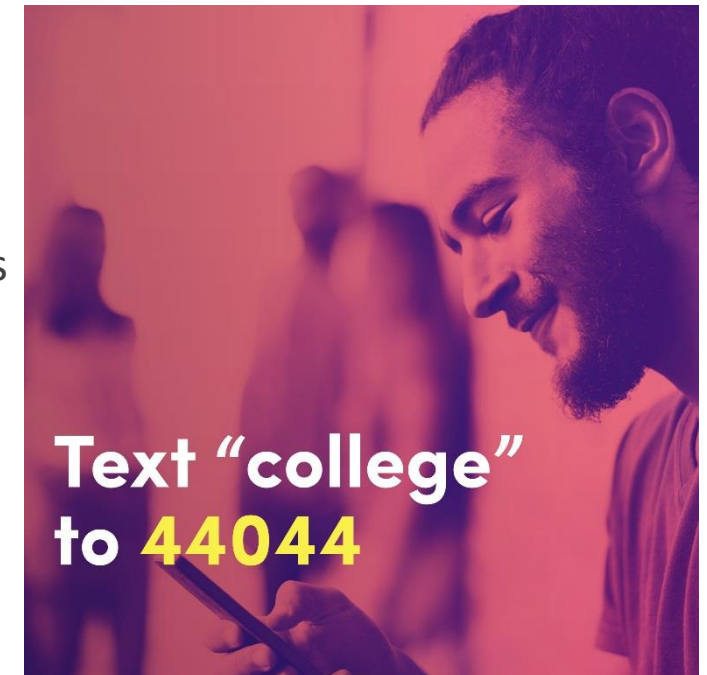
5) Provide incentives and engage in friendly competition

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

o 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.

o 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

o Ask your mayor or city council for a proclamation to celebrate your goal or to adopt a city-wide FAFSA completion goal.

o 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.

o Ask local businesses to donate prizes or food or provide volunteers for a FAFSA event.

o 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
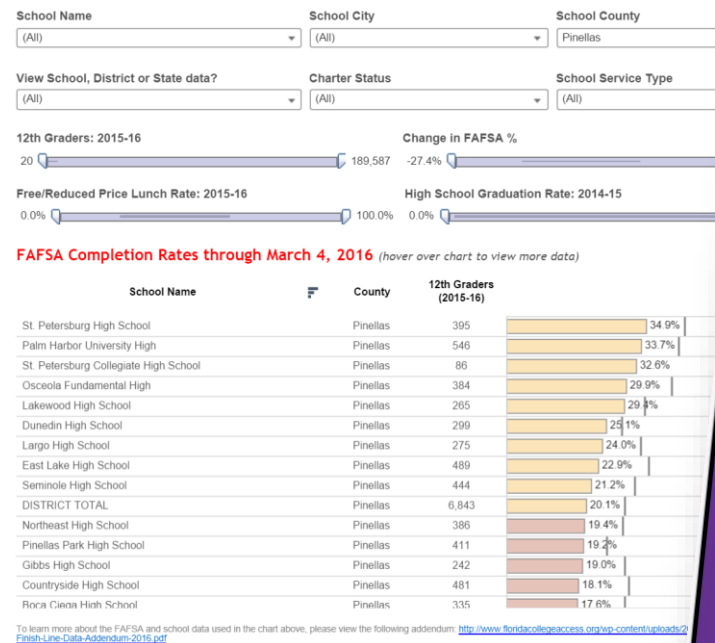
bit.ly/FLFAFSA

Florida College Decision Day

Florida College Decision Day

We encourage schools to:

o Recognize ALL students for their postsecondary plans (2-yr, 4-yr, military, postsecondary certificate)

o Hold recognition in front of the high school's entire student body

o Contact local media – encourage publicity beyond the high school community

o 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

FLORIDA COLLEGE DECISION DAY

Site Coordinator Resource Manual

2016

bit.ly/FLDecisionDay

Contact Us

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