10th Annual College Success Forum

PA FAFSA Go!
A Campaign to Increase FAFSA Completion
It starts with the FAFSA
OF 1.9 MILLION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS

1.1M WILL SUBMIT A FAFSA
MORE THAN 40% OF THOSE SENIORS MAY NOT SUBMIT A FAFSA

999K WILL COMPLETE A FAFSA
442K 44% ARE SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION
32K OR 7% OF THOSE SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION WILL EXPERIENCE "VERIFICATION MELT"

967K STUDENTS ARE AWARDED SUBSIDIZED AID*
265K OR 26.5% WHO ARE AWARDED SUBSIDIZED AID* WILL EXPERIENCE "SUMMER MELT"

ONLY 38%
OF STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS ENROLL USING SUBSIDIZED AID*
*SUBSIDIZED AID INCLUDES A PELL GRANT OR A SUBSIDIZED STAFFORD LOAN

702K

TOP REASONS STUDENTS DO NOT SUBMIT A FAFSA
1. DO NOT KNOW HOW OR THAT THEY COULD
2. ARE DEBT AVERSE OR THINK CREDIT IS TOO LOW
3. ARE NOT PURSUING COLLEGE
4. BELIEVE THE FORM IS TOO COMPLICATED

Source: NCAN - Why Invest in Increasing FAFSA Completion? - National College Attainment Network (ncan.org)
FAFSA renewals are seeing steep declines across all income groups, but students with the lowest reported incomes have the highest declines. This has implications for Pell Grant receipt.

Through March 31, there are about 420,000 fewer returning applicants of income ≤$25,000 this FAFSA cycle, a -16.5% decrease year-over-year.
Free Money: Grants & Scholarships

- Pell Grant
- PA State Grant
  - PA Special Programs
- Institutional Grants/Merit Scholarships
- Outside Scholarships
- Tuition Remission/Employer Benefits
$115,024,962

PA Pell Dollars left on the table in 2021.

Source: NCAN report NCAN Report: $3.75 Billion in Pell Grants Goes Unclaimed for High School Class of 2021 - National College Attainment Network
Building a PA FAFSA Go! Team

FAFSA Intervention for Incoming and Returning Students
The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) teamed up with the Governor’s office, along with PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), PA Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA), PA Association of College Admission Counselors (PACAC) and PA School Counselors Association (PSCA), to create a PA FAFSA Go! campaign – encouraging students to complete their 2023-24 FAFSA as soon as it becomes available on October 1, 2022.

FOCUS on FAFSA Partners commit to Facilitating events beginning October 1, 2022, by Compiling resources and Uniting team members at the institution to Support students and parents to promote FAFSA completion.
Online High School Access

Track FAFSA Completions

- The school must print and complete the Remote Access Agreement and Authoritative Source Forms available at: PHEAA.org/raa
- Questions can be sent to highschoolaccess@pheaa.org
- Once processed, the Authoritative Source (AS) will be sent a secure email from PHEAA with a username and temporary password
- The AS must access the Business Partner and Access Management System (aessuccess.org/apps/bpams.nsf/home) to change password and grant access to view reports
- Schools access their FAFSA reports via PageCenter through PHEAA.org
ASCA Ethical Standards

• Equitable access to a school counseling program that promotes academic, career and social/emotional development and **improves student outcomes** for all students, including students historically and currently marginalized by the education system.

• Critical, timely information, beginning with pre-K through grade 12, on how college/university, career and technical school, military, workforce and other postsecondary options **can have an impact** on their educational choices and **future opportunities**.

• Equitable access to **school counselors who support students from all backgrounds and circumstances** and who advocate for and affirm all students regardless of but not limited to ethnic/racial identity; nationality; age; social class; economic status; abilities/disabilities; language; immigration status; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender expression; family type; religious/spiritual identity; and living situations, including emancipated minor status, wards of the state, homelessness or incarceration.
How Can Counselors/CBOs Assist?

• Encourage students to prepare throughout High School
  • Educationplanner.org, MySmartBorrowing.org, Collegecost.ed.gov

• Prepare for tests & identify key deadlines: SAT, ACT, ASVAB, school & financial aid deadlines

• Reinforce how choices may affect future/career
  • Course selection, meeting deadlines, social media/behavior

• Self Advocacy

• Reinforce Financial Aid options
Upping Your FAFSA Game!

- Post regular updates on your district’s FAFSA completion in newsletters; share with administration.
- Use provided social media graphics.
- Place signage in school common areas.
- Offer extra support to independent students.
Opportunities to Support FAFSA Completion

• Normalize talking about money. It’s hard. Do it anyway.
• We don’t have to be the experts.
• Infuse Financial Aid and Scholarship information into the same conversation and importance space.
Results and Best Practices...So Far
• Manheim Township School District creates a QR code that links to a Google Drive with all things FAFSA.

• Berwick School District school counselors go into senior English classes to have students complete FSA IDs. Homework: assist one parent or guardian with completing their FSA ID.

• BC3 offers FAFSA workshops through their Continuing Education Program (catalog mailed to community).

• Geneva College utilized the PA FAFSA Go! Toolkit materials from PHEAA and had students fill out the trophy cards to enter for a book voucher at their bookstore.
• PA CareerLink provided train-the-trainer programs to their staff; help folks signing up for benefits get information about FAFSA completion for educational opportunities.

• Penn State University utilized financial aid and bursar staff to go into the first-year seminar classes to educate students about financial literacy and the value of FAFSA completion. They use PHEAA literature to provide additional resources.
Many publications available in Spanish
Resources

- **PA FAFSA Go!** - [https://www.education.pa.gov/Postsecondary-Adult/PAFAFSAGo/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.education.pa.gov/Postsecondary-Adult/PAFAFSAGo/Pages/default.aspx)
- [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)
- [www.ncan.org](http://www.ncan.org)
- [www.formyourfuture.org](http://www.formyourfuture.org)
- [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
Your PA FAFSA Go! Task Force

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