

# **10<sup>th</sup> Annual College Success Forum**

## **PA FAFSA Go!**

**A Campaign to Increase  
FAFSA Completion**



PA FAFSA



Get As to all you



# PA FAFSA GO!



PA FA

GO



PA FAFSA GO!



Prepare for Your Future

FAFSA  
GO!



It starts with the  
FAFSA



OF 1.9 MILLION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
FROM LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS



(1 FIGURE REPRESENTS 100K STUDENTS)

# THE LEAKY FAFSA PIPELINE

PATHWAY THROUGH THE FAFSA PROCESS

1.1M WILL SUBMIT  
A FAFSA

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

40%

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"

265K

ONLY 38%

OF STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS  
ENROLL USING SUBSIDIZED AID\*

\*SUBSIDIZED AID INCLUDES A PELL GRANT OR A SUBSIDIZED STAFFORD LOAN

702K



NATIONAL  
COLLEGE  
ATTAINMENT  
NETWORK

## TOP REASONS

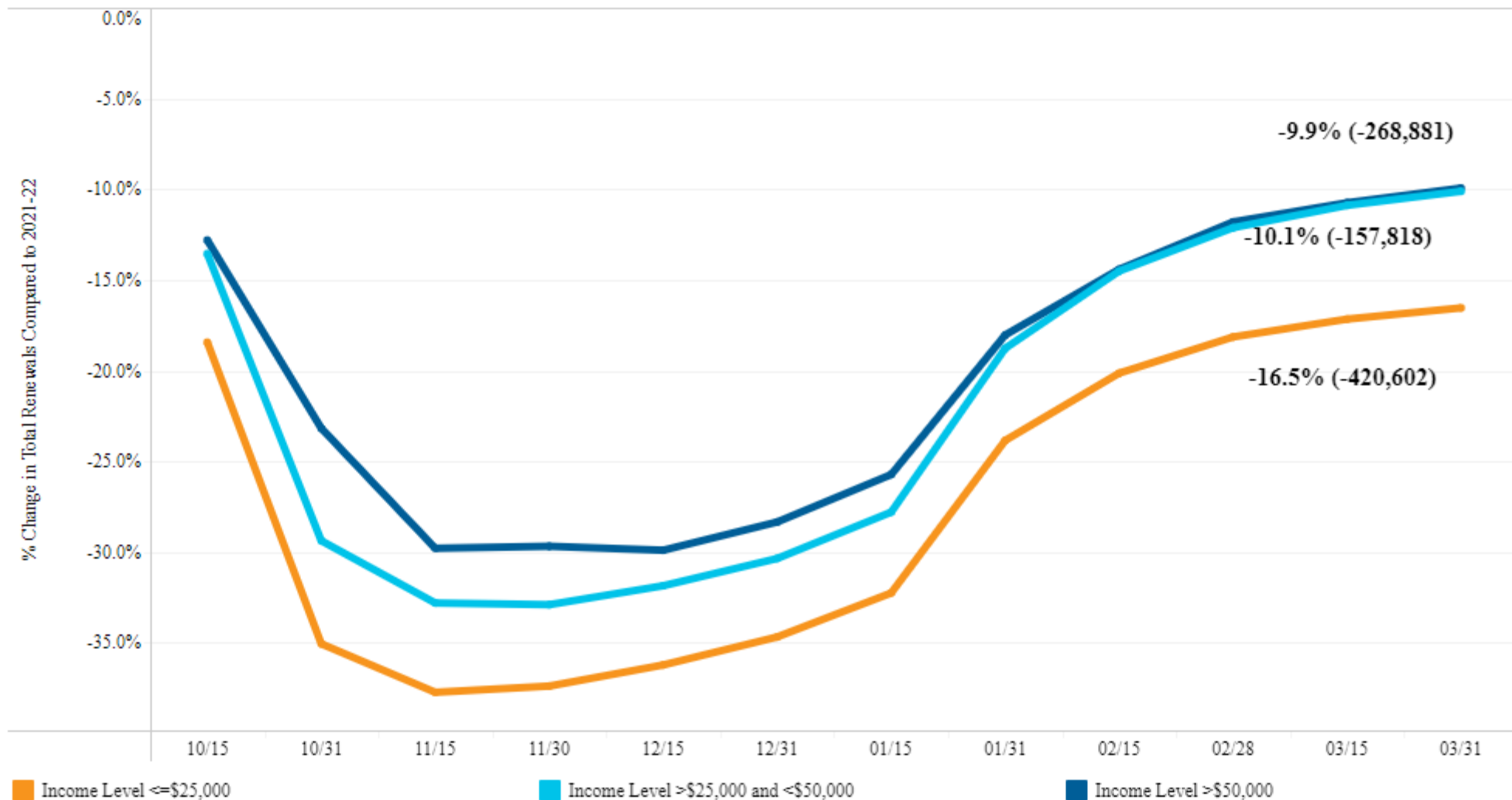
### STUDENTS DO NOT SUBMIT A FAFSA

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

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  $\leq \$25,000$  this FAFSA cycle, a **-16.5% decrease** year-over-year.

*% Change in 2022-23 Cumulative FAFSA Renewals Compared to 2021-22, By Applicant Income Level*





# 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.

# **Building a PA FAFSA Go! Team**

## **FAFSA Intervention for Incoming and Returning Students**





# Creating a Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

## What you need to know...

**What is a Federal Student Aid (FSA) Account?**  
An FSA Account is a username and password that you will use to log into certain U.S. Department of Education websites, and electronically sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

**Who should create an FSA Account?**  
Students interested in receiving federal student aid should create an FSA Account. You AND any parent electronically signing the FAFSA will need their own separate FSA Account.

**When should I create an FSA Account?**  
Due to processing time, we recommend you apply at least 3 days BEFORE filing the FAFSA or attending a FAFSA Completion Event.

**What do I need to create an account?**  
You will need your own mobile phone number and/or email address.

**PA FAFSA GO!**



## FAFSA Tip Sheet

Filing the FAFSA & Getting Financial Aid

**PA FAFSA GO!**



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete in order to qualify for almost all types of financial aid including federal, state, local, and private grants and scholarships.

## How to Apply

Visit [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](http://studentaid.gov/FAFSA) to complete and submit your application for FREE.

FAQs

**I FILED THE FAFSA!**



**PA FAFSA GO!**



Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency



## Scholarship Tips

**PA FAFSA GO!**



Scholarships, unlike student loans, don't have to be repaid and can reduce the cost of college. The more free money, in the form of scholarships and grants, that you find to help pay for college, the less you'll have to finance.

## Eligibility

Students who apply for scholarships must meet specific eligibility requirements and will be competing against other applicants. Scholarship eligibility may be based on any combination of criteria, including:

- Residency (state, county, or town in which the student lives) or clubs
- Affiliation with community or religious organizations
- Extracurricular activities, including community service
- Degree program, major, or field of study
- Financial need
- Essays
- Academic, athletic, or artistic achievement
- Letters of recommendation

## Searching

Many high school students begin searching for scholarships during their junior year. However, there are scholarship opportunities for younger students, as well as current college students. Scholarship information is available from these resources:

- High school website
- High school counselor's office or online portal
- School library
- College or university
- Online scholarship search sites (listed on the back)

## Winning

- Scholarships:
- All eligibility requirements are met.
- All application materials by the deadline.
- Applicants are notified of the results.
- All applicants; others notify only the winners.

## Q&As

**Q. What is a merit scholarship?**

**A.** Colleges are increasingly offering merit scholarships and not just for academic achievement or athletic skill. Schools may offer merit scholarships to attract diverse groups of students from states not highly represented at the school, or students with talents or circumstances that few others at the school have. Check with admissions offices at schools you're applying to and ask if they offer merit aid.

**Q. Should students pay a company to find scholarships?**

**A.** Students and families need to know that some scholarship offers are not what they seem. You can avoid getting scammed by ignoring offers that require you to attend a "free" seminar, pay a "small fee," or provide a credit card number.

**Q. Will scholarships affect other sources of financial aid?**

**A.** Scholarships from outside sources may affect other financial aid. By filling unmet need, scholarships may reduce the amount a family has to pay out-of-pocket or they may reduce loans, work-study, or grant aid. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out how outside scholarships may affect your financial aid package.

**Q. How are winners determined?**

**A.** Although scholarships are competitive, keep in mind that you don't have to be the best student in your class to receive one. You simply need to be the best applicant who meets the qualifications for the scholarship.



## FOCUS on FAFSA

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 **F**acilitating events beginning **O**ctober 1, 2022, by **C**ompiling resources and **U**niting team members at the institution to **S**upport 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](https://pheaa.org/raa)
- Questions can be sent to [highschoolaccess@pheaa.org](mailto: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](https://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](https://PHEAA.org)

Track FAFSA and PA State Grant Form completions through Business Partner Access Management System (BPAMS)

Student's first, middle, and last name	Date FAFSA processed
Date of birth	Flag for additional information
Zip code only	FAFSA status flag
Date FAFSA submitted	Must complete RAA and ASF with PHEAA

2021-22 FAFSA COMPLETION DATA							
08/23/2021							
PAGE: 1							
SCHOOL CODE: 123456							
MAIN CODE :							
SCHOOL NAME: SAMPLE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL							
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	ZIP CODE	DATE SUBMITTED	DATE PROCESSED	SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION	FAFSA COMPLETE	
STUDENT, VICTORIA H	10/17/2001	19046	08/15/2021	08/16/2021	N	Y	
STUDENT, LILLY A	03/19/2003	19046	11/11/2020	11/12/2020	N	Y	
STUDENT, RAMIZ	11/19/2002	19046	02/26/2021	04/19/2021	Y	Y	
ANDERSEN, PARKER R	12/14/2002	19001	01/13/2021	01/14/2021	N	Y	
STUDENT, YIWALO ARSEN	10/21/2002	19006	05/20/2021	06/15/2021	Y	Y	
STUDENT, JADELLE	01/23/2003	19018	10/24/2020	05/09/2021	Y	Y	



# 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](http://Educationplanner.org), [MySmartBorrowing.org](http://MySmartBorrowing.org), [Collegecost.ed.gov](http://Collegecost.ed.gov)
- Prepare for tests & identify key deadliness: 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

# PA FAFSA Go!

## Upping Your FAFSA Game!



Post regular updates on your district's FAFSA completion in newsletters; share with administration.



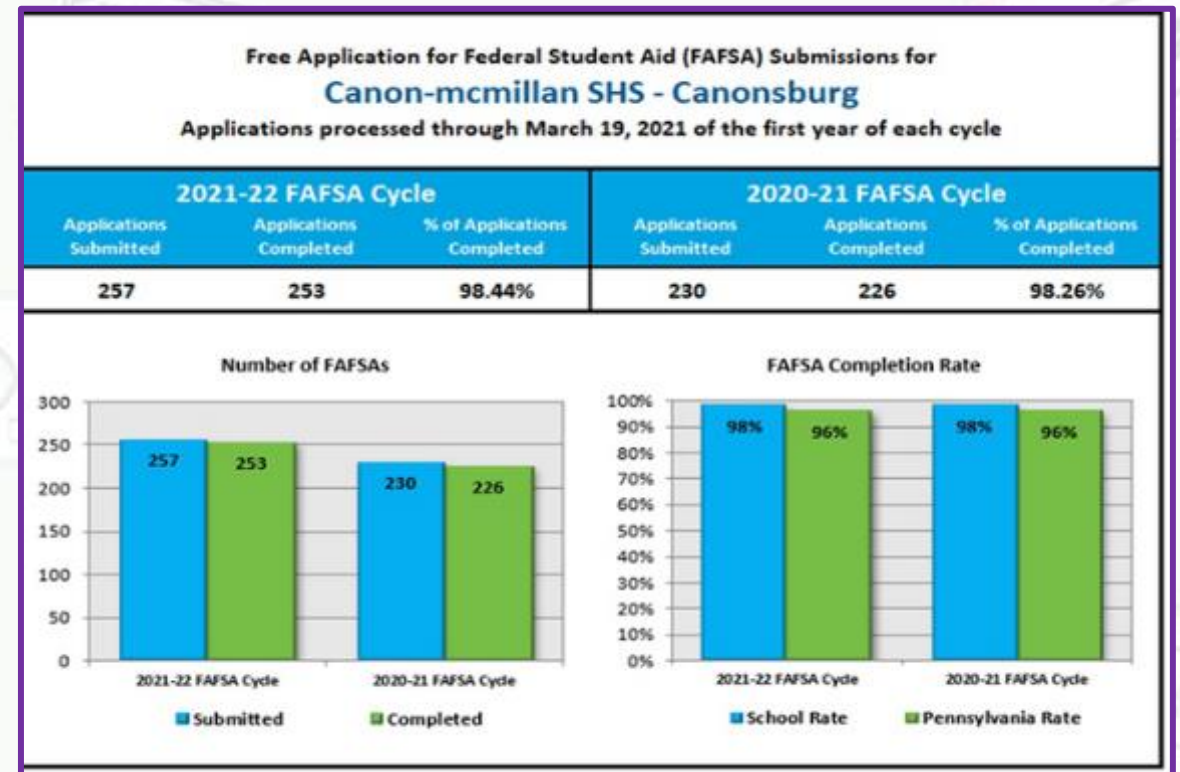
Use provided social media graphics.



Place signage in school common areas.



Offer extra support to independent students.






# Opportunities to Support FAFSA Completion



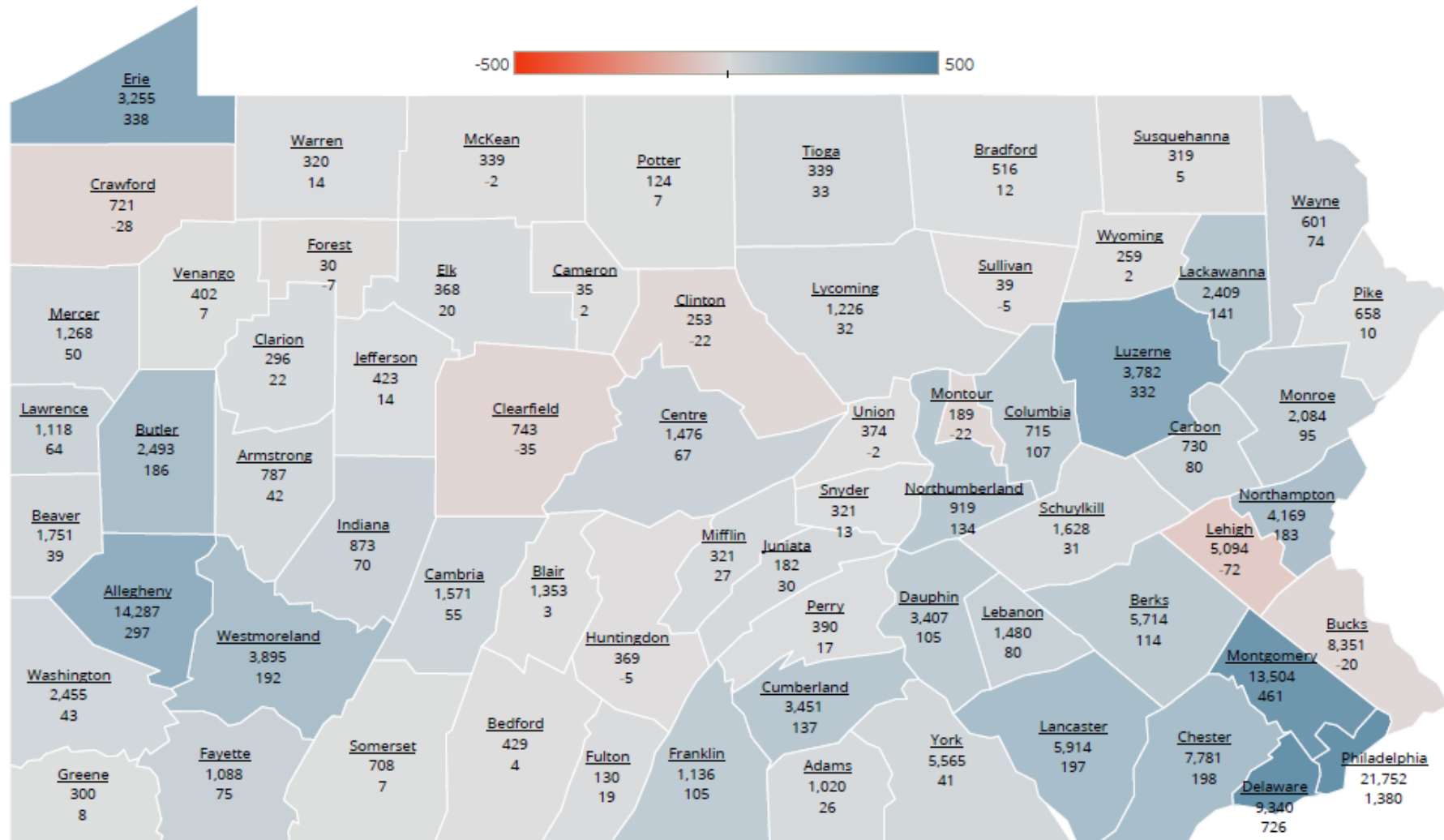
- Normalize talking about money. It's hard. Do it anyway.
- We don't have to be the experts.
- Infuse Financial Aid and Scholarship information into the same conversation and importance space.



# Results and Best Practices...So Far

# Pennsylvania FAFSA Filers

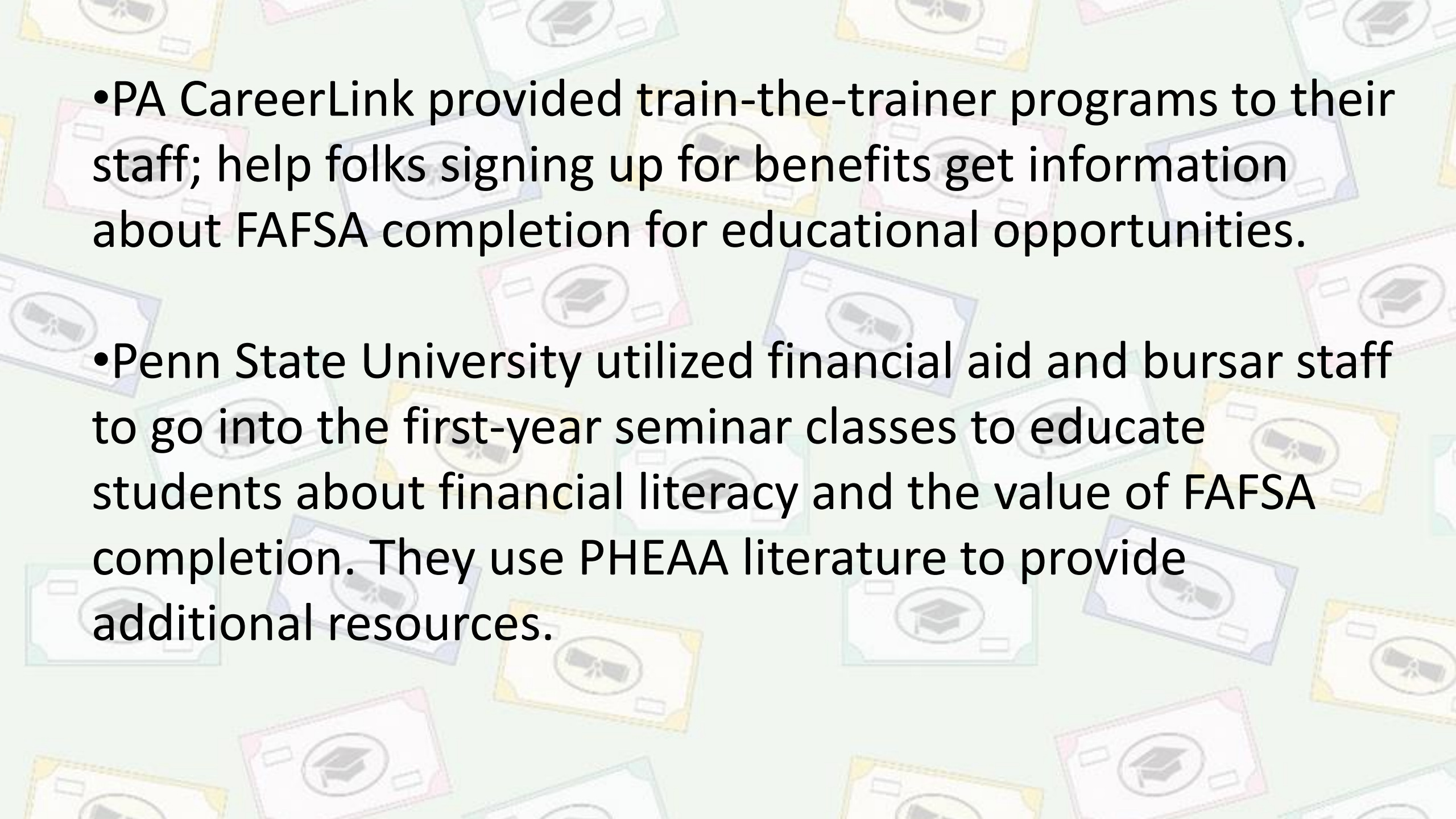
The change in the number of FAFSA filers from 2022-23 to 2023-24, per County



This map represents each county's change in the number of FAFSA filers from 2022-23 to 2023-24, with data through January 6, 2023. For each county, the first value represents the number of 2023-24 FAFSA filers and the second value represents the decrease or increase in the number of FAFSA filers from 2022-23. The number of FAFSA filers, with a valid Pennsylvania county, increased by 6,353 students or 4.15% from 2022-23 to 2023-24.



- 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.

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- 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.







# 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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