

FAFSA is Not Enough:

How Verification Keeps Students from Entering College

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Welcome!



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Today's Panel



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Director of Technical Assistance



Jack Porter

Advocacy Associate



Bill DeBaun

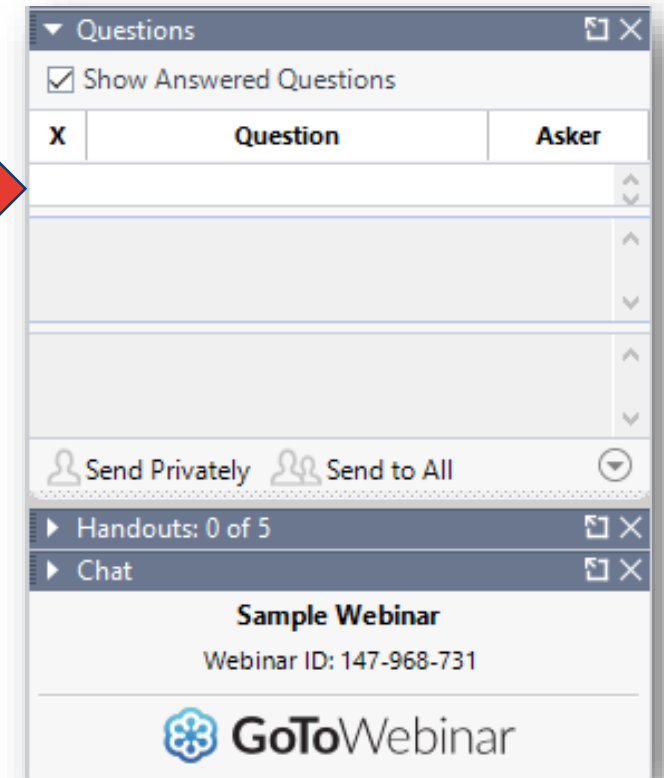
Director of Data and Evaluation

Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions
- Share on social media
 - @FLCollegeAccess
 - #FCAN
 - #FAFSACHallenge
 - #FormYourFuture
 - #FAFSA

NCAN:

@collegeaccess
@formyourfuture_



This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording

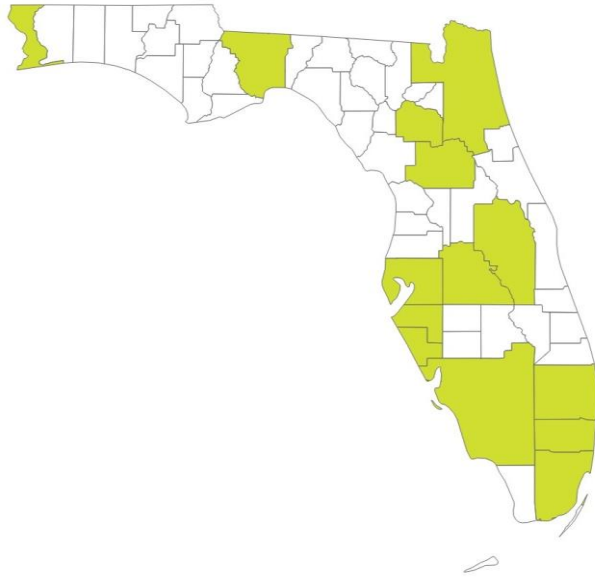
Florida College Access Network

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

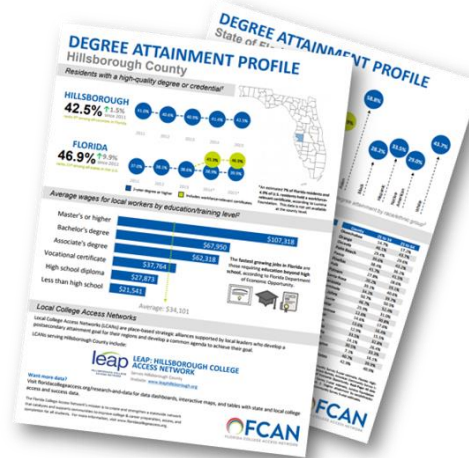
Our vision: At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025

Our Work

Register at www.floridacollegeaccess.org/initiatives



Local College Access
Networks (LCANs)



Research & Policy

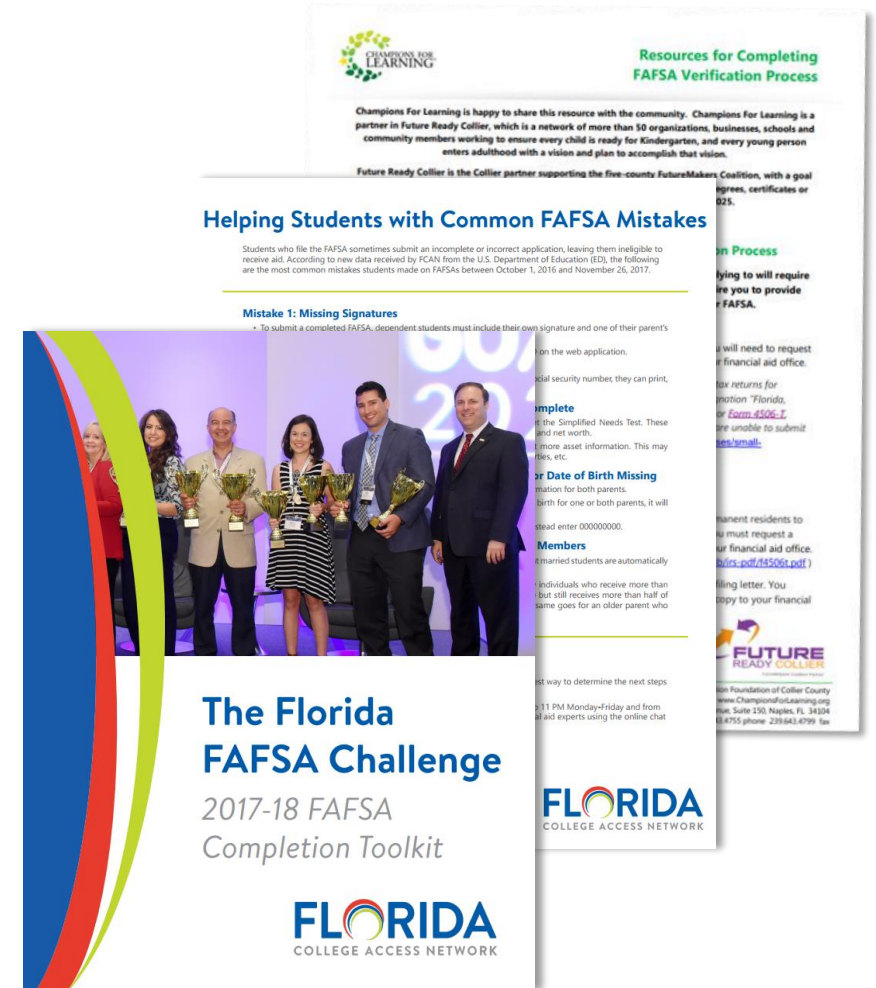


Statewide Initiatives

FAFSA Resources

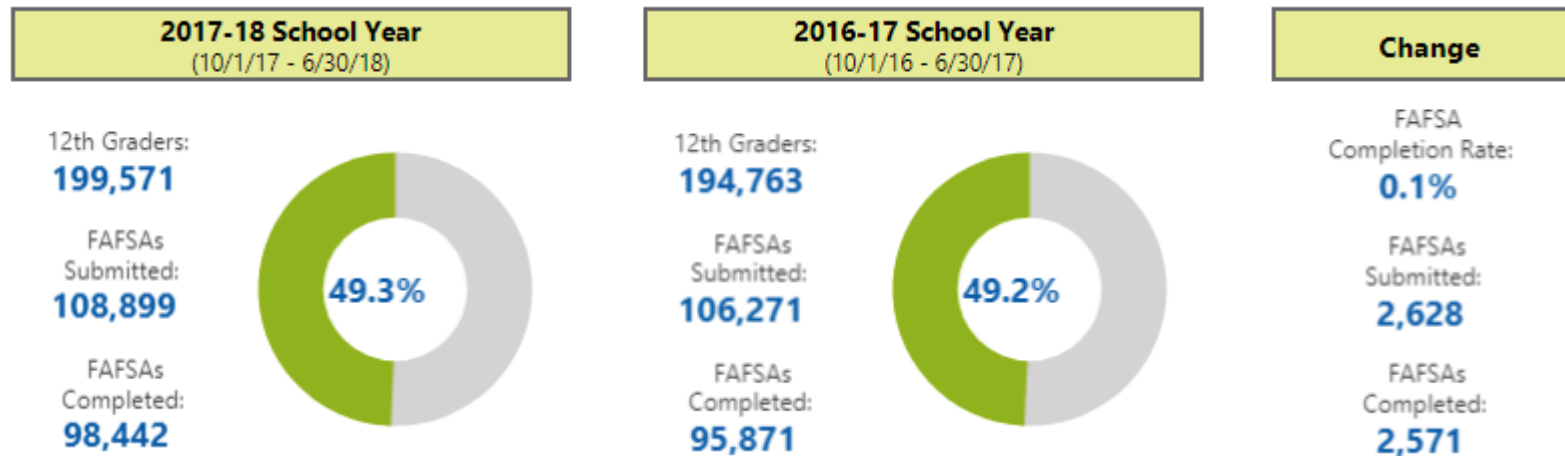
<http://floridacollegeaccess.org/initiatives/florida-fafsa-challenge/>
<http://www.futuremakerscoalition.com/fafsafirst/>

- FAFSA Challenge Toolkit
- Top FAFSA Mistakes Students Make
- FAFSA Challenge Data Dashboard
- FAFSA Story Blog Posts
- FAFSA Verification Handout



FAFSA in Florida

- Florida ranks #4 in the nation for number of students eligible for a Pell Grant, but #36 for FAFSA completion
- By June 30, 2018, fewer than 50% of Florida students had completed the FAFSA



FAFSA is Not Enough

- Nearly 10% of FAFSAs submitted in Florida in 2018 were incomplete or incorrect, making Florida the 12th highest in the nation for FAFSA errors
- If every submitted FAFSA in Florida had been completed, we would have exceeded our 5% goal
- 30% of all FAFSA filers are selected for verification; 50% of low-income students

What is Verification?

- A randomly-selected federal audit to ensure the accuracy of information listed on the FAFSA
- Students must work with each school individually to complete verification
- Students who are selected for verification will have an asterisk* next to their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number on their Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Students selected to verify citizenship will have a C next to their EFC (some students will have both)



VERIFICATION CHALLENGES

- High number of low-income students selected from October-December 2017
- Access methods for tax transcripts
- Non-filing letters
- Varied methods of notification by colleges
- Different processes by different colleges
- Lack of knowledgeable people to assist students



Strategies to Combat Verification

- Track students who have completed the FAFSA
- FAFSA Completion Workshop includes assisting with ordering tax transcripts for students/parents when applicable
- Use the DRT, use the DRT, use the DRT
- Require students to bring SAR to access advisor for review-verification or any other messages
- Track which students were selected



Strategies to Combat Verification

- Keep a tracking document of how colleges notify students regarding verification
- When possible, review verification materials before submitted
- Verify receipt of award letters-no award letter means check with college for missing documents
- Please share strategies from your program



Advocacy Strategy

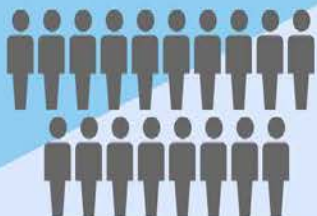
- Education on Origination
 - Improper Payments
- Numbers speak for themselves
 - Recent Increase
- Comparison to tax returns
- Storytelling



Advocacy Strategy

- 1 Pager Stance
- Small rate of change once verified
 - 95% of EFCs remained the same
- DRT
 - #1 cause of improper payments in 2011
 - 21.2 percent used DRT in 2011

OF 1.8 MILLION LOW-INCOME
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



968K WILL SUBMIT
A FAFSA

MORE THAN 45% OF
LOW-INCOME SENIORS
MAY NOT SUBMIT A FAFSA



FALL
WINTER

THE LEAKY FAFSA PIPELINE

PATHWAY OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS
THROUGH THE FAFSA PROCESS

817K WILL COMPLETE
A FAFSA

409K 50% ARE SELECTED
FOR VERIFICATION

90K OR 22% OF THOSE SELECTED FOR
VERIFICATION WILL EXPERIENCE
"VERIFICATION MELT."



SPRING
SUMMER

728K STUDENTS ARE
AWARDED A PELL GRANT



180K OR 25% OF THOSE WHO ARE
AWARDED A PELL GRANT WILL
EXPERIENCE "SUMMER MELT."

TOP REASONS FOR NOT SUBMITTING 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: THE FORM IS TOO COMPLICATED

548K



(1 FIGURE REPRESENTS 100K STUDENTS)

ONLY 31%

OF LOW-INCOME
STUDENTS ENROLL
USING A PELL GRANT

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National: Contact Jack Porter

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FAFSA Stories



Join us for our next webinar

Lost in Translation Part II:
Aligning Business and Education to
Create More Student Internships

Thursday September 6th, 1 pm



Register at FloridaCollegeAccess.org/tag/upcoming-webinar/

Questions



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