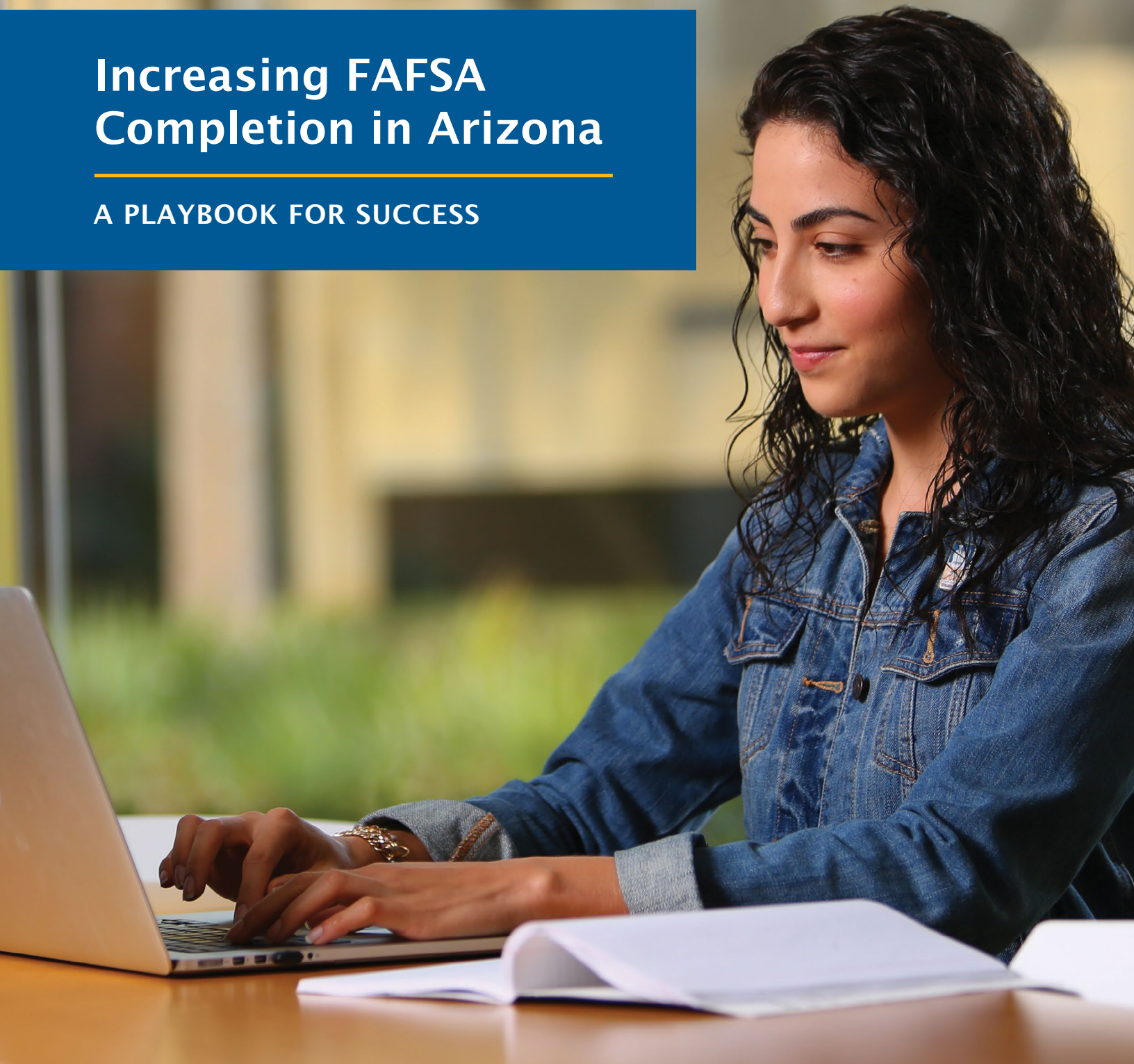


Increasing FAFSA Completion in Arizona

A PLAYBOOK FOR SUCCESS



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ABOUT HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Helios Education Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to achieve a postsecondary education. Our work is driven by our four fundamental beliefs in Community, Equity, Investment, and Partnership, and we invest in initiatives across the full education continuum.

Through our Florida Regional Student Success Initiative, Helios is helping undeserved, minority, and first-generation students from the state's large population centers in Miami, Orlando, and Tampa achieve a postsecondary education.

In Arizona, where Latino students comprise the largest percentage of the K-12 public school population, the Foundation is implementing its Arizona Latino Student Success initiative focused on preparing all students—especially students in high-poverty, underserved Latino communities—for success.

Dear Colleague,

Helios Education Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals in Arizona and Florida by creating opportunities for success in postsecondary education. According to the National College Access Network, high school seniors who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are 63 percent more likely to enroll in postsecondary education than students who do not complete the FAFSA. Helios Education Foundation, along with many organizations throughout Arizona and Florida, has prioritized FAFSA completion as a key strategy to encourage all students – but especially those from first-generation, minority, and low-income communities – to pursue postsecondary education.

This brief, “Increasing FAFSA Completion in Arizona: A Playbook for Success” is the result of a collaborative partnership between Helios and Valley Leadership to help provide valuable information and resources to help support FAFSA completion in Arizona. Ultimately, we hope this document educates community leaders about the importance of the FAFSA and provides tactical information for educators and community members who are helping support students and families in completing the FAFSA.

We appreciate the partnership of Valley Leadership, Expect More Arizona, the Be a Leader Foundation, the Arizona College Access Network, the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, and Valley of the Sun United Way in the creation of this “playbook” and for all of the work they do on behalf of Arizona students.

Sincerely,



Vince Roig
Founding Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Roig".



Paul J. Luna
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Luna".

Helios Education Foundation (Helios) is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to achieve a postsecondary education. Fundamental beliefs in Community, Equity, Investment, and Partnerships drive our work, and we invest in initiatives across the full education continuum. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that every student graduates from high school ready for college and career and goes on to complete a high-quality postsecondary degree or certificate.

One recent project that exemplifies these principles has been our partnership with Valley Leadership. Each year Valley Leadership seeks to empower and mobilize leaders to impact Arizona's most pressing issues. In partnership with Helios and other community leaders, Valley Leadership developed an Education Impact Team that works together to address key education needs. Under its initial "pivot" year of programming, Valley Leadership convened community leaders around education where increasing college-going emerged as a top priority. The development of this FAFSA Playbook was the result of the team's inaugural efforts. The team hopes that the playbook will increase FAFSA completion across Arizona and help communities, regions, neighborhoods, districts, and schools increase postsecondary access. This document and supporting tools are the culmination of the FAFSA playbook work.

This brief has seven main sections. In Part I we describe and detail the economic benefits for increasing the FAFSA completion rates in Arizona. In particular, we identify how increased FAFSA completion rates lead to higher college-going rates which lead to greater state prosperity. Part II examines national trends and policies around FAFSA completion at the state and Federal level. In Part III, we highlight a calendar of important filing dates. In particular, we identify the dates everybody needs to know to maximize award amounts. Parts IV and V examine best practices and incentives for communities/districts/schools to implement FAFSA opportunities. Part VI identifies a set of measurements and baseline data that can be used to monitor FAFSA completion progress. Finally, Part VII is a one-page handout. It is for students and families and contains the most important information they need to know. The one-pager is printed in both English and Spanish so that it can be quickly photocopied and given to multiple students and families.

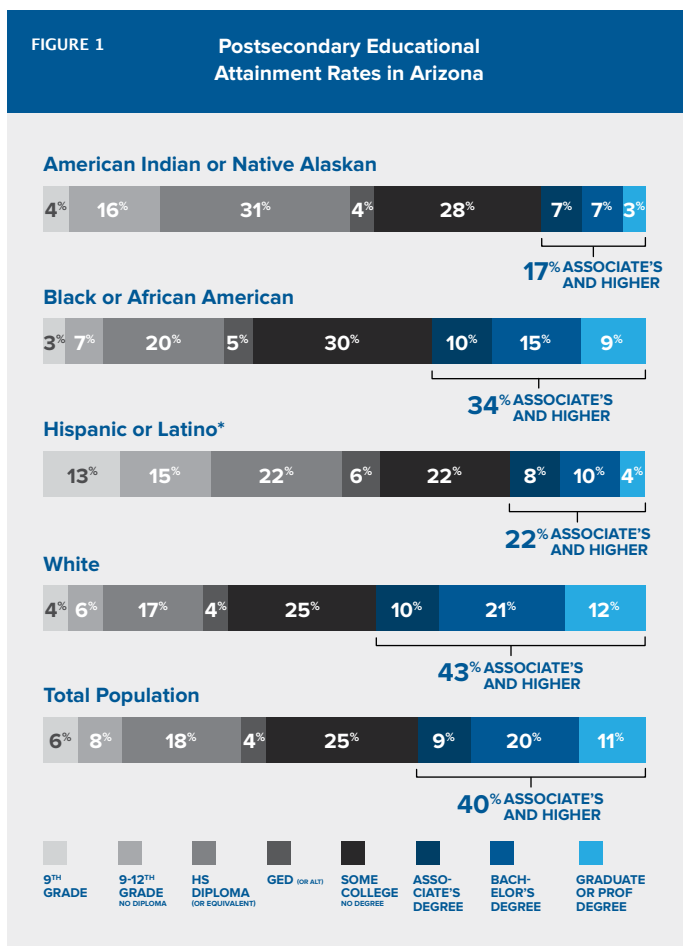
As you work your way through this playbook we want to highlight for the reader that the playbook is meant to be a high level guide for opinion leaders, legislators, school board leaders, teachers, parents and even students. As a further resource, we encourage you to visit

[AZFAFSATOOLKIT.COM](https://www.azfafsatoolkit.com)



Economic Argument for Increased FAFSA Completion

Arizona is at a critical juncture in determining its economic future. Currently, only 40 percent of Arizona's population holds an associate's degree or higher. For the Hispanic population, Arizona's fastest-growing demographic, this proportion is even lower (22 percent) (See Figure 1 below). Yet, according to the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, more than 68 percent of Arizona jobs will require at least some amount of postsecondary education by the year 2020 (Carnevale, 2013). Considering the importance of postsecondary education attainment, a critical question the state must answer is: How can Arizona increase postsecondary opportunities to further economic prosperity and viability?



These data includes population of the ACS between 25 and 64 years old. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American FactFinder PUMS file (<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>).

One of the most obvious ways to increase economic opportunities is to increase the proportion of high school students matriculating to college after graduation. Yet, over the last seven years the college-going rate in Arizona has remained relatively static. For example, in 2017, Arizona's postsecondary enrollment rate was 52.6 percent, while in 2013 the rate was 53.5 percent. Moreover, while postsecondary enrollment rates among Hispanic, Native American, and African American graduates improved between 2013 and 2017, they fell far behind those of Asian, White graduates (ABOR College Enrollment Report, 2018).

One set of strategies that has tremendous potential to increase postsecondary enrollment are those focused on increased FAFSA completion rates. Prior research out of the National Center for Education Statistics shows that roughly 90 percent of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA attend college directly after high school, compared with 55 percent of non-completers. Because of this strong association between FAFSA completion and college-going many organizations and states have implemented FAFSA challenges or completion campaigns to increase the proportion of students going to college directly after high school. For example, the National College Access Network led a 2016–2017 FAFSA completion challenge in 22 cities across the country. Overall, NCAN's grantees increased completion by 10 percent in two years (NCAN Why Invest in Increasing FAFSA).

In Arizona, getting more graduates to attend and complete college has tremendous economic benefits for individuals and the state as a whole. In a recent report by College Success Arizona for example, Clive R. Belfield and Russell W. Rumbeger found that every additional bachelor's degree adds over \$660,000 to the state's economy over an individual's lifetime. For the individual this translates to higher wages and greater financial opportunities. For example, according to the most recently reported data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the median wages for a person in the United States with a high school diploma and no college is \$712 a week. Comparatively, a person with an associate degree makes \$836 a week, while an individual with a bachelor's degree makes \$1,173 a week (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
Median Weekly Earnings by Level of Education

Educational Attainment	Median Usual Weekly Earnings	Unemployment Rate
Doctoral Degree	\$1,743	1.5%
Professional Degree	\$1,836	1.5%
Master's Degree	\$1,401	2.2%
Bachelor's Degree	\$1,173	2.5%
Associate Degree	\$836	3.4%
Some College, No Degree	\$774	4.0%
High School Diploma, No College	\$712	4.6%
< High School Diploma	\$520	6.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.
Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.



Trends in Federal/State Legislation and Policies

While educational leaders have been driving awareness campaigns around the importance of the FAFSA, both Federal and state governments have begun taking more formalized steps to increase completion. This section focuses on two important trends:

- 1 FAFSA Completion Initiative
- 2 FAFSA completion as a requirement for graduation

FAFSA COMPLETION INITIATIVE

In 2014, President Obama announced that the U.S. Department of Education and state student aid agencies would partner to provide necessary data to identify individual students who have not completed their FAFSA. Previously, high schools relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rate, which were often inaccurate. Currently, Federal Student Aid (an office of the U.S. Department of Education) provides state agencies with data about students' FAFSA submissions and completions so that schools can ensure higher rates of completion.

In Arizona, the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education partners with the U.S. Department of Education to carry out both the goals of the FAFSA Completion Initiative and statewide goals from the Governor's Office.

For example they coordinate the College Application Campaign (AzCAC) and College Goal FAFSA (CGF) events; provide student level FAFSA completion level data to schools as part of the FAFSA Completion Initiative; and coordinate opportunities to increase statewide completion to 52 percent as part of the AZ FAFSA Challenge.

FAFSA completion is particularly important in Arizona because under the school's accountability system each school can earn points to improve its letter grade based on the number of students who complete the FAFSA. This is part of each high school's College and Career Readiness Indicator. Unfortunately, not all schools take advantage of accessing this data with the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education. Some schools seek out the data on a regular basis, some schools on an infrequent basis, and some schools not at all. We recommend that all schools regularly collect this data to monitor their FAFSA completion.

FAFSA COMPLETION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

One of the newest trends aimed to increase FAFSA completion has been the decision by some states to require completion as a condition for high school graduation. Beginning in the 2017–18 academic year Louisiana became the first state to require FAFSA completion as a condition for graduation. Under this policy each graduating student has to complete the FAFSA in his/hers senior year of high school or opt out with a non-participation form or waiver.

In its first full year of implementation, the Louisiana Department of Education announced a record number of graduates (25,803) that enrolled in the Fall of 2018. In addition, the state also reported an increase in the graduation rate, as well as an increase in the rate at which students earn early-college credit or state approved industry-valued career credentials. Overall, 57.4 percent of graduates of the class of 2018 enrolled in a postsecondary institution after high school.

Most recently Texas became the second state to require the FAFSA as a condition for high school graduation beginning in 2021. Like Louisiana, the Texas policy will allow students to opt out for good cause. In Texas, students can also satisfy the requirement by completing the Texas application for State Financial Aid. Other states such as Indiana are also currently looking at options for requiring FAFSA completion for graduation.



Calendar of Important Dates

The FAFSA Cycle opens on October 1st each year and runs for 21 months. Since grant money and scholarships are limited most universities and colleges have a FAFSA priority date so that students can take full advantage of available aid. Typically, both a college application and FAFSA application must be completed by the priority date to qualify for the largest financial aid package. Table 2 (below) shows the calendar of important dates for Arizona college students.

TABLE 2
FAFSA Deadlines for 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021

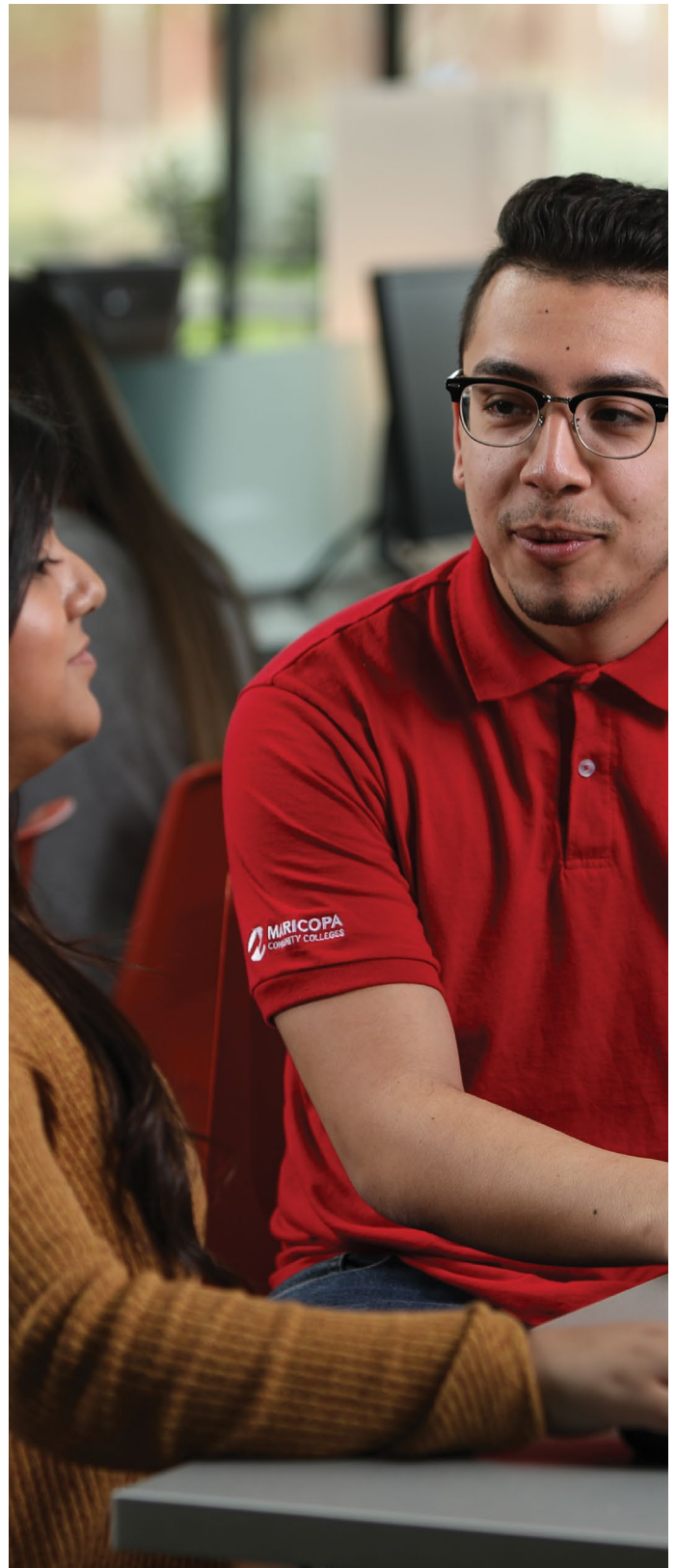
2019 – 2020 Class of 2019		2020 – 2021 Class of 2020	
Opens October 1, 2018		Opens October 1, 2019	
Closes June 30, 2020		Closes June 30, 2021	
University Priority Dates			
Northern Arizona University November 15, 2019	Arizona State University January 15, 2020	University of Arizona March 1, 2020	

Additional information on College Decision Day/College Signing Day can be found at: <https://www.bettermakerroom.org/collegesigningday/>



Creating a Plan and Incorporating Incentives – Tips for Schools

Plan! Plan! Plan! Like all good strategies planning is key in creating successful outcomes. Through a combination of information, reminders, and assistance for students about financial aid, stakeholders can see an improvement in college entry, persistence and ultimately completion. Based on our review of state efforts and existing practices we recommend that those seeking to improve FAFSA completion rates incorporate the following six steps into their work.



1 Have A Goal

ARIZONA FAFSA CHALLENGE

The Arizona FAFSA Challenge is a statewide initiative to increase FAFSA completions among Arizona high school seniors while promoting friendly competition. The goal of the challenge is to increase the FAFSA completion rate to at least 52% for the current 2019–2020 school year and then gradually increasing the rate to 78% by the year 2030. A statewide FAFSA completion dashboard containing over 400 high schools throughout Arizona and a dedicated website to celebrate the accomplishments in FAFSA completion can be found at the following website: <https://fafsachallenge.az.gov/>

Be A Leader Dashboard

<https://www.phoenixunion.org/Page/21486>

High School Completion Data Reports

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>

2 Plan

FAFSA FIESTA

Events centered around students filling out and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the help of volunteers.

<https://www.phoenixunion.org/Page/20010> (This example comes from Carl Hayden High School in the Phoenix Union High School District)

ARIZONA'S COLLEGE GOAL FAFSA

Arizona's College Goal FAFSA is a statewide initiative that provides free information and professional assistance to Arizona students and families seeking college financial aid. High schools statewide are encouraged to host FAFSA events to provide students and families assistance in navigating the student financial aid process. The FAFSA completion events are held during school hours, after school, or in the evening for their seniors and families.

For more information visit:

collegegoal.az.gov/event-information

3 Provide Incentives

Across the country there is wide variation in FAFSA incentives. Some states, for example, offer free tuition when students complete the FAFSA (e.g., free community college in Tennessee), while others offer increased scholarship dollars when students complete early. While Arizona does not provide these types of incentives we offer a number of free and low cost incentives that can be utilized.

FREE INCENTIVES

- Free tickets to school sporting events
- Free prom or homecoming tickets
- Family members present student their diploma at graduation
- Principal/assistant principal dress-up OR do something funny (i.e. karaoke, flash mob w/ teachers, pie throw, etc.)
- Access to principal/teacher parking for 5 days (consecutively or random)
- Detention OR Tardy Removal for referring students who have not completed their FAFSA applications
- Free yearbook OR Individual student recognition in the yearbook
- Movie day at school
- School Fun Day (i.e. dress up, DJ/music @ lunch, carnival games, etc.)

LOW COST INCENTIVES

- Cap & gown vouchers
- Free meals/gift cards (i.e. Starbucks/Dutch Bros/Pizza Hut/McDonalds/Taco Bell/etc.)
- School supplies backpack/gift basket
- Movie tickets/popcorn/drink vouchers
- Ice cream sundae FunDAY
- Field trip (students vote)
- Breakfast (ex. donuts/coffee)
- Bring food truck/coffee truck/vendor to serve the students
- Mystery gift bag
- Water balloon fight
- School store/bookstore certificate (students can buy snacks/t-shirt/etc. at school merchandise store)

4

Have a Deadline

An early filing deadline motivates students to prioritize completing the form. Due to recent federal changes making it possible for families to use prior tax/income year information, the FAFSA is now available on October 1st.

5

Get the Community Involved

Representatives from “Be A Leader” help students complete the FAFSA at least twice a month on high school campuses. For more information visit: bealeaderfoundation.org

Volunteers from Valley of the Sun United Way assist students with their Federal Student Aid applications. For more information visit: volunteer.vsuw.org

6

Participate In Professional Training

Participate in a FAFSA training or webinar.

The Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) and the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education host Free FAFSA training webinars for school counselors, teachers and college access professionals during the fall and spring semesters. For more information visit: fafsachallenge.az.gov

Recruit adult volunteers to help students fill out the forms

Volunteers can register to assist at a FAFSA event within their community: signupgenius.com/go/30e0549abac2fa1fc1-college2

Valley of the Sun United Way works to organize volunteers that can assist with FAFSA completion: vsuw.org/volunteers

Locate other volunteer and non-profit groups who can help with community involvement and other examples of events related to FAFSA.

i FAFSA FACTS

COVERING UNMET NEED

FAFSA completion is required for all participants in the Tennessee Promise program, which covers unmet financial need for students at the state's community colleges. The program was introduced in 2014, and, as a result, FAFSA completions by Tennessee high school graduates jumped from 31,000 to 45,000, where they remained steady in 2016.

i FAFSA FACTS

HOW CAN WE PRIORITIZE FAFSA FOR UNDERSERVED STUDENTS?

NCAN has nine recommendations for increasing FAFSA completion rates among low-income students.

- 1 Make low-income students the center of initiatives.
- 2 Foster as many partnerships as possible.
- 3 Invest in college access professionals.
- 4 Collect data on FAFSA completion to raise accountability for initiatives.
- 5 Design FAFSA completion initiatives according to the needs of the target population.
- 6 Be consistent about FAFSA completion outreach and messaging.
- 7 Start raising awareness about the FAFSA early.
- 8 Provide sufficient and easily accessible resources on organization websites.
- 9 Ensure the state education agency is invested in FAFSA completion.



FAFSA Completion Best Practices

In Arizona there are a number of exemplary high schools implementing FAFSA best practices. The following schools received state recognition for their work and were presented with the monthly Innovative Player Award for the 2018–19 school year. For each school we highlight the types of best practices that have led to their success.

MILLENNIUM HIGH SCHOOL AGUA FRIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (LARGE SCHOOL SIZE 400+ SENIORS)

Collaboration

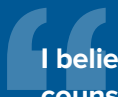
The principal, counselors, and teachers collaborated to create a FAFSA completion campaign.

FSA IDs

Counselors, in groups of two, visited all senior social studies classrooms to help students create FSA IDs. The teachers reminded students in advance to make sure they had their social security numbers when the counselors visited, and sent many reminders to the teachers about what students needed in order to create an FSA ID. During this activity, counselors passed out information about their financial aid night and district FAFSA completion nights. Counselors also passed out bracelets and stickers from College and Career Goal Arizona to hype up their students regarding college and our future events.

Monitor FAFSA Finish Line Data

A designated counselor took the lead in monitoring student FAFSA Finish Line Data, and pulled the data once a week to identify students who met the following criteria: a completed FAFSA application, incomplete/missing signatures or information, and students who are selected for verification.



I believe our success is a direct result of our counseling team working cooperatively with administration and classroom teachers.”

—Jennifer Grumbling,
MHS Counselor

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (MEDIUM SCHOOL SIZE 101–399 SENIORS)

Personalized Communication

The College and Career Specialist at Washington High School, utilizes FAFSA Finish Line data to send personalized e-mails to students regarding their FAFSA completion status. For example: if students are missing a parent signature, she sends an e-mail to the student informing them that their parent signature is needed to complete their application as well as directions on how the parent can submit their signature by using their parent FSA ID or submitting a signature page.

Marketing and Promotion

Their DECA (a club for business, marketing and management students in high school) and marketing students at Washington High School were recruited to create videos that would promote FAFSA and college-going events on campus. The videos are aired during the Monday morning announcements so that all students and staff are aware of the exciting upcoming events.

Family FAFSA Events

Keeping family work schedules in mind, Washington High School organizes FAFSA and college-going campus events after school, and early morning on late start days. Washington High School also provides dinner and childcare at many of their evening events so that students can make it a family experience without their parents having to worry about childcare or planning dinner after the event.



**DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL
DOUGLAS UNIFIED DISTRICT
(MEDIUM SCHOOL SIZE 101–399 SENIORS)**

Partnerships

Cochise College partners with Douglas High School to assist at their on-campus FAFSA events and college-going efforts.

FAFSA Training

Counselors and all senior advisory teachers participated in a FAFSA training workshop given by the Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN). This training was given at the beginning of the school year so that they were prepared to assist students with the FAFSA process when the application became available on October 1st.

Creating a Plan

Counselors, teachers and administrators at Douglas High School create a plan each school year to ensure that their students have access to the assistance needed to pursue their post high school education goals.

Utilizing FAFSA Finish Line Reports

Staff at Douglas High School utilize the FAFSA Finish Line reports frequently throughout the school year. Counselors use the data to follow up with students on their incomplete FAFSA applications during their student enrichment period.

Keeping up the Momentum

FAFSA and college-going events are planned throughout the year. Douglas High School counselors plan FAFSA events in the Fall and Spring in order to ensure that all of their students have the opportunity to complete the FAFSA. Events are held during the day and in the evening to accommodate parent work schedules.

“Our partnership with Cochise College has been essential with all of the support that they have provided for our students.”

—Diego Guerrero, DHS Counselor

**TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL
TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
(LARGE SCHOOL SIZE 400+ SENIORS)**

Ensuring Students Know all of their Postsecondary Education Options

When meeting with students, counselors ensure that students are informed about their post-secondary options including: colleges, universities, certificate programs, trade schools, and military.

“Our goal is to make sure that when our students walk across the stage at graduation, that they know what their plan is”

—Andrea Wolochuk, TUHS Counselor

Hosting FAFSA Events in Fall and Spring with Community Collaboration

Counselors coordinate FAFSA events in October to kick-off FAFSA season and in early spring to catch any students who may not have completed an application in the Fall. They also partner with local businesses to provide food for their FAFSA nights so that students and their parents can have assistance completing their FAFSA application while dinner is provided.

Access and Resources for all Students

All counselors have a laptop in their office so that students can schedule an appointment with their counselor to complete their FAFSA, scholarship and college applications. This has allowed students to get the one-on-one assistance needed.

Partner with Be A Leader Foundation and The Helios Education Foundation

Tolleson Union High School District has partnered with Be A Leader Foundation and The Helios Education Foundation to provide a College Transition Specialist on their campus 1–2 days a week that is dedicated to assist students in completing their FAFSA and college applications. The counselors at TUHS have expressed that their College Transition Specialist Cecilia has played a vital role in assisting with their FAFSA completion efforts.

Dedicated Counseling Department Website

Counselors created a website that provides easily accessible post-secondary resources for their students which includes information about scholarships, FAFSA, colleges and universities.

Evaluating and Planning for the Next School Year

Currently Tolleson is up 12% year to date in FAFSA completions compared to last year. The counselors and administration continuously evaluate their school data throughout the year and set FAFSA completion goals each school year. Setting goals assists in their strategic planning for the upcoming school year so that they can continue to offer innovative best practices that work for their students to promote postsecondary success.

MOON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT (MEDIUM SCHOOL SIZE 101–399 SENIORS)

Hosting Multiple FAFSA Completion Workshops Throughout the School Year

Moon Valley High School has hosted over 12 FAFSA completion workshops for their students and parents to attend. They held 8 in the month of October and continue to work with students to ensure that all seniors complete a FAFSA. They also collaborate with college reps on hosting next steps workshops for admitted students.

Innovative Themes

They created fun themes for their FAFSA events to encourage students to attend, such as “FAFSA and Donuts”. They also created fun posters to display around campus to remind students to complete their FAFSA and market their college-going events.

Communication

Communication is key! Counselors keep parents informed by sending e-mail announcements every two weeks informing them about upcoming FAFSA and college-going events on campus. Counselors also reach out to students individually about completing their FAFSA and remind them about upcoming FAFSA events on campus.

College T-Shirt Day

Once a month MVHS teachers, counselors, staff and students are encouraged to wear their college/university t-shirts to create a college-going atmosphere.

Campus Tours

The Career Center Specialist coordinates college/university campus tours for students to attend. During these tours, students have the opportunity to learn about the different campuses and program offerings. So far they have visited over 5 different college campuses throughout Arizona.

FAFSA Announcements

Social Studies/Government teachers set up a designated bulletin board in their classrooms for all things FAFSA and college and career related announcements.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES AROUND FAFSA COMPLETION

graduatenyc.org

impacttulsa.org/fafsa/

financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources/all.jsp

strivetogogether.org

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56263ab0e4b08b375368ef9b/t/5638b5e5e4b014506dabdb0/1446557157654/FAFSA+Completion+and+Best+Practices.pdf>

<http://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/nosca/nosca-school-counselors-fafsa-completion.pdf>

<http://floridacollegeaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2016-17-FL-FAFSA-Challenge-Toolkit.pdf>

https://www.gearupiowa.gov/sites/default/files/basic-page-documents/C2C%20ACT%20Presentation%202018.pptx_.pdf

forbes.com/sites/civcnation/2018/11/16/how-louisiana-led-the-nation-in-fafsa-completion

“I’ve learned that one-on-one conversations are the most important factor in getting a student to complete his/her FAFSA.”

—Jennifer Emanuel, MVHS Counselor



Baseline Measurements and Impact

Using data can be an effective way to examine a school's current FAFSA completion rate and opportunity for growth. To more fully gauge a school's current FAFSA completion picture we recommend disaggregating data to see how completion rates breakdown by race/ethnicity, gender, and free and reduced lunch status. In this section we examine:

- 1 How to calculate the FAFSA completion rate;
- 2 Where to get the data; and
- 3 Special considerations.

HOW TO CALCULATE THE FAFSA COMPLETION RATE?

At its most basic, FAFSA completion should be very straightforward. When calculating a FAFSA completion rate one would take the total number of students that completed the FAFSA and divide it by the total number of enrolled high school seniors. This number will yield a FAFSA completion rate for a particular high school, district, region, state etc.

WHERE DO WE GET THE DATA?

In the past, high schools often relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rates. Unfortunately, those rates were often inflated and inaccurate. To assist schools and districts, Federal Student Aid now provides high schools with current data about FAFSA submissions and completions so that high schools can track their progress and to help ensure that students can be reminded to complete the FAFSA. In Arizona this data is warehoused at the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education.

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS?

While we have the ability to track FAFSA, we must also identify that it will be difficult to be 100 percent precise. For example, Federal Student Aid doesn't report numbers for schools with less than five students. Therefore, we do lose some data with very small schools. Second, FAFSA is calculated by the number of FAFSA completers by the number of enrolled seniors. Yet, sometimes not all seniors graduate. As a result, sometimes FAFSA completion rates are slightly off. In Arizona we asked stakeholders to dig deeper than aggregate data. Table 3 below shows the data we recommend that each school and/or community collect around FAFSA completion. Third, FAFSA completion is also an indicator of College and Career Readiness for each Arizona school. Increased FAFSA completion therefore, has a direct effect on a school's letter grade for the state. As such, each school should be collecting data from the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education on FAFSA completion.

TABLE 3
Recommended Indicators for FAFSA Completion

Number of Enrolled Seniors
Number of Graduates who Completed FAFSA
Proportion of Students who Completed FAFSA
Proportion of Students who Completed FAFSA by Race/Ethnicity
Proportion of Hispanic students who Completed the FAFSA
Proportion of Students who Completed the FAFSA by Gender
Proportion of First Generation Students who Completed the FAFSA
Proportion of Free/Reduced Lunch Students who Completed the FAFSA



**Please feel free to copy and share the
following page with students and families
in your community.**



FAFSA Para Familias



Identificación de Usuario de Ayuda Federal Para Estudiantes (FSA ID)

Cuando complete una solicitud FAFSA, obtendrá un nombre de usuario FSA (FSA ID, esto provee acceso a su información de FAFSA)

- Para obtener uno, visite: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Los padres y los estudiantes tendrán que usar correos electrónicos únicos (diferentes) para crear un nombre de usuario y contraseña
- Use su nombre legal completo, fecha de nacimiento y número de seguro social para crear un FSA ID
- Verifique su FSA ID con su correo electrónico y / o número de teléfono celular para asegurar su cuenta



Plazos de Prioridad FAFSA

ASU 15 de enero de 2020

NAU 15 de noviembre de 2019

UofA 1 de marzo de 2020

Colegios Comunitarios Maricopa /
Coconino Community College / Pima
Community College: fechas límite continuas



Documentos para coleccionar Antemano

Tenga estos documentos listos:

- Número de seguro social para estudiantes y padres
- Declaración de Impuestos y formularios W-2 de 2018 para estudiantes y padres
- Lista de colegios / universidades que desea que reciban su FAFSA
- Registro de ingresos no declarador (ejemplo: manutención infantil)
- Número de licencia de conducir (si está disponible)



Después de Enviar la FAFSA

Hay algunas cosas a tener en cuenta cuando su solicitud esté completa: Número de seguro social para estudiante y padres

- El Informe de Ayuda Estudiantil (SAR) se enviará por correo electrónico cuando se procese la solicitud
- Es posible que se requiera verificación, haga un seguimiento con su departamento de ayuda financiera del colegio o universidad

FAFSA + Solicitud de admisión universitaria
= Carta de adjudicación



Llenar la FAFSA

Algunos consejos para completar su FAFSA:

- Inicie la sesión con su FSA ID o la información del estudiante
- Estudiantes del grado 12 que se gradúan de la escuela secundaria en el año 2020 deben completar la FAFSA para el año académico 2020-2021
- La aplicación móvil myStudentAid se puede usar en dispositivos móviles para completar la solicitud FAFSA
- Los estudiantes pueden enviar su FAFSA a un máximo de 10 colegios o universidades a la vez



Otra información

¿Sus padres son indocumentados? Mientras que el estudiante sea ciudadano estadounidense o no ciudadano elegible, pueden completar una solicitud FAFSA y calificar para ayuda financiera federal. Esto es lo que hay que hacer:

- El estudiante necesita un nombre de usuario FSA, el padre no
- Use solo los ceros para los padres sin un número de seguro social
- Imprima la página de firma de FAFSA, los padres tendrán que firmar ese documento y enviarlo por correo
- Hable con su colegio o universidad sobre alternativas formas o procesos de ayuda financiera



College Depot Talleres FAFSA

• Martes,
10/1/19, 1-5pm

• Sábado,
10/5/19, 1-4pm

• Miércoles,
10/9/19, 4-6pm

• Viernes,
12/27/19, 1-4pm

FAFSA for Families



FSA ID

When you fill out a FAFSA, you will get an FSA ID (this allows you to access your FAFSA info)

- To get one, visit: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- Parents AND Students will each use unique emails to create a username & password
- Use your legal full-name, date of birth, and social security number to create an FSA ID
- Verify your FSA ID with your email and/or cell phone number to secure your account



Priority FAFSA Deadlines

ASU January 15, 2020

NAU November 15, 2019

UofA March 1, 2020

Maricopa Community Colleges/
Coconino Community College/Pima
Community College: Rolling Deadlines



Documents to Collect Beforehand

Have these documents ready:

- Social Security number for student and parent(s)
- 2018 taxes and W-2s for student and parent(s)
- List of colleges/universities you want to receive your FAFSA
- Record of untaxed income (i.e. child-support)
- Driver's license number (if available)



After the FAFSA is Submitted

There are a few things to look out for once your application is complete: Social Security number for student and parent(s)

- Student Aid Report (SAR) report will be emailed to you once the application is processed
- Verification may be required, follow up with your college or university's financial aid department

FAFSA + College Application = Award Letter



Filling out the FAFSA

A few tips for completing your FAFSA:

- Sign-in with your FSA ID OR Student information
- Seniors graduating High School in 2020 will complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA
- The myStudentAid app can be used on mobile devices to complete the FAFSA application
- Students can send their FAFSA to as many as 10 colleges or universities at a time



Other Information

Are your parents undocumented? As long as the student is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, they can complete a FAFSA and qualify for federal financial aid. Here is what to do:

- Student needs an FSA ID, parent does not
- Use all zeros for parents without a SSN
- Print the FAFSA signature page, parent will physically sign that document and send it in the mail
- Talk to your college or university about alternative forms or processes for financial aid



College Depot FAFSA Workshops

• Tuesday,
10/1/19, 1-5pm

• Saturday,
10/5/19, 1-4pm

• Wednesday,
10/9/19, 4-6pm

• Friday,
12/27/19, 1-4pm



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