

Driving FAFSA Completion in Your County

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About FCAN

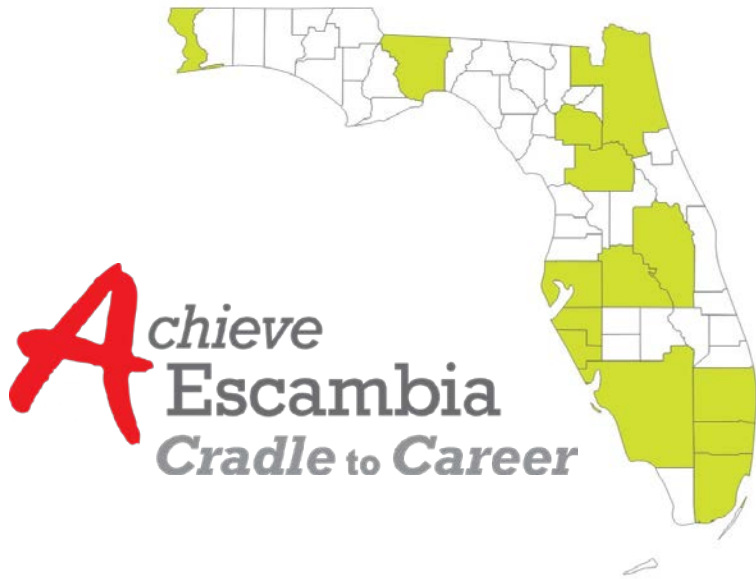
Our Mission

- To create and sustain a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to increase college and career preparation, access, and completion for all Florida students.

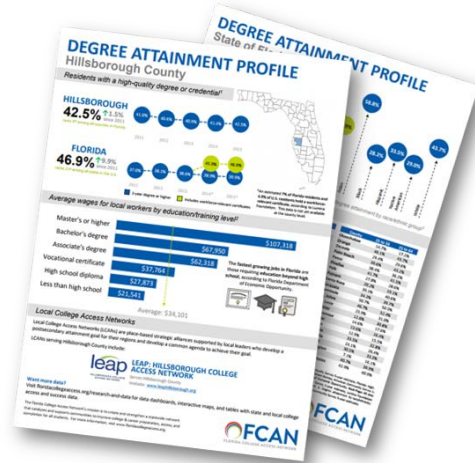
Our Vision

- At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality post-secondary degree or credential by the year 2025.

Our Work



Local College Access
Networks (LCANs)



Research & Policy



Statewide Initiatives

Overview

- Financial aid/FAFSA overview and terminology
- What does Florida's and Escambia's FAFSA data look like?
- What is the Florida FAFSA Challenge?
- What strategies can Achieve Escambia use to improve FAFSA completion?

Financial Aid Terms to Know

FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FSA ID	Online identifier parents and students must use to complete FAFSA
Pell	Grant for low-income students to attend college
DRT	Data Retrieval Tool
SAR	Student Aid Report
EFC	Expected Family Contribution
OSFA	Office of Student Financial Assistance
Submitted vs Completed	Submitted FAFSAs are incomplete or contain errors
Verification	Students selected for verification must complete an income auditing process

FAFSA in Florida

- Florida is **#3** in the nation for Pell-eligible students
- Out of 50 states and DC, Florida ranks **31st** for FAFSA completion
- Almost **10%** of all FAFSAs submitted in Florida were incomplete/incorrect

FAFSA in Escambia

- Out of 67 counties, Escambia ranks **42nd** for FAFSA completion
- If Escambia increased FAFSA completion by 5%, students would qualify for more in Pell grants

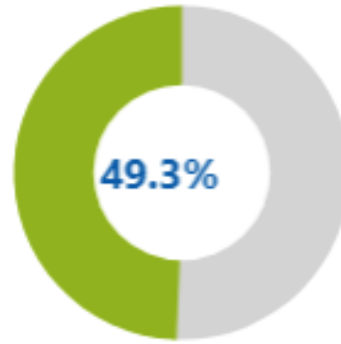
Florida

2017-18 School Year
(10/1/17 - 6/30/18)

12th Graders:
199,571

FAFSAs
Submitted:
108,899

FAFSAs
Completed:
98,442

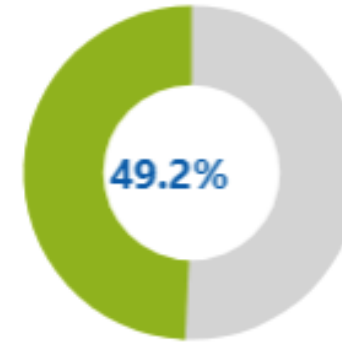


2016-17 School Year
(10/1/16 - 6/30/17)

12th Graders:
194,763

FAFSAs
Submitted:
106,271

FAFSAs
Completed:
95,871



Change

FAFSA
Completion Rate:
0.1%

FAFSAs
Submitted:
2,628

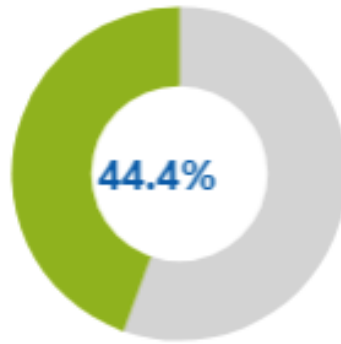
FAFSAs
Completed:
2,571

2017-18 School Year
(10/1/17 - 6/30/18)

12th Graders:
2,324

FAFSAs
Submitted:
1,173

FAFSAs
Completed:
1,032

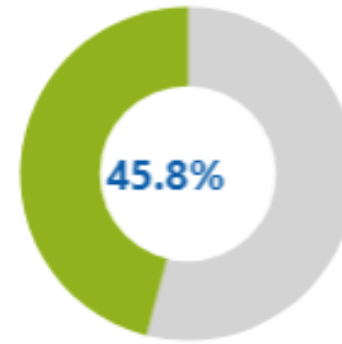


2016-17 School Year
(10/1/16 - 6/30/17)

12th Graders:
2,422

FAFSAs
Submitted:
1,250

FAFSAs
Completed:
1,110



Change

FAFSA
Completion Rate:
-1.4%

FAFSAs
Submitted:
-77

FAFSAs
Completed:
-78

Escambia

What is the Florida FAFSA Challenge?

- Friendly competition between schools, districts, and communities
- Registered schools/communities take on the goal of improving FAFSA completion by 5%
- FCAN creates the [FAFSA Challenge Data Dashboard](#) to help schools track their progress

FAFSA Challenge Categories

- MVP
- Most Improved
- FAFSA Champion
- ***New*** FAFSA Innovator



How Can LCANs Boost FAFSA Completion?

- Volunteers
 - Recruiting volunteers
 - Training volunteers
 - Connecting volunteers to where they are needed
- Partners
 - Identifying and connecting organizations that can work together on FAFSA
- FAFSA events
 - Supporting existing FAFSA events
 - Hosting FAFSA Events








What does a FAFSA event need?

- Students who need to complete the FAFSA (and their parents!)
- Volunteers who can assist with FAFSA completion
- A knowledgeable financial aid professional*
 - Financial aid officers from local state colleges/universities
 - Working with OSFA
- Incentives/prizes
 - Raffles, scholarships
 - Refreshments/dinner

How do you get students to a FAFSA event?

- Narrowing focus to specific schools
- Geotargeting
- Targeting based on grades, test scores
- Reaching out directly to parents of college-ready students

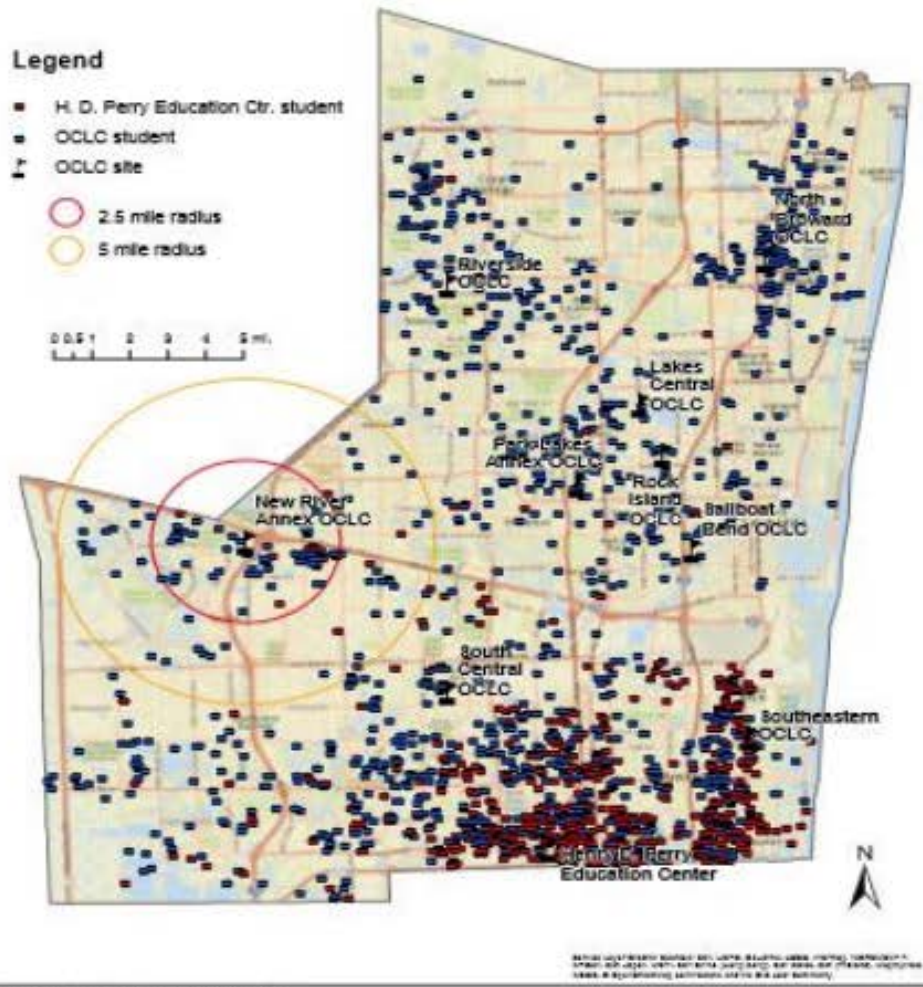
FAFSA Completion Rates through June 30, 2018

School Name	County	12th Graders (2017-18)	↓ Click bar chart below for more school detail ↓
Pensacola High School	Escambia	292	 57.9%
West Florida High School/Technical	Escambia	274	 56.9%
Northview High School	Escambia	86	 50.0%
Washington Senior High School	Escambia	386	 46.4%
J. M. Tate Senior High School	Escambia	502	 45.2%
Pine Forest High School	Escambia	288	 41.7%
Escambia High School	Escambia	346	 39.9%

Locations of Students Attending either H. D. Perry Education Center or Off Campus Learning Center in 2016/17, with Off Campus Learning Center Sites

Legend

- H. D. Perry Education Ctr. student
- OCLC student
- OCLC site
- 2.5 mile radius
- 5 mile radius



Demographic & Student Assignments Department



Who is a FAFSA volunteer?

- Parents
- College students
- Seniors in service
- Financial services professionals
- VITA volunteers (United Way)

What does a FAFSA volunteer do?

- Promote event to parents and students
- Assist parents/students with creating FSA ID
- Assist with basic aspects of the FAFSA completion process

The Process

1. Create an FSA ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
 - Parents and students need their own FSA IDs and must use separate email addresses
 - Must include DOB, SSN, and first and last name
2. Complete the FAFSA: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - Encourage parents to use the DRT; otherwise, they will need their 2017 tax returns
 - Other necessary material may include cash, savings, checking account balances, records of untaxed income, and investments
3. Order tax transcripts: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>
 - This will make verification easier if the student is selected

Top FAFSA Mistakes

- Missing Signatures
- Incomplete income and asset information
- Parent SSN, Last Name, or DOB missing
- Missing marital status/number of family members

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)

Learning More About FAFSA

- Use the demo: <http://fafsademotest.ed.gov/>
 - user name: eddemo ; password: fafsatest
- Complete the FAFSA! <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Review

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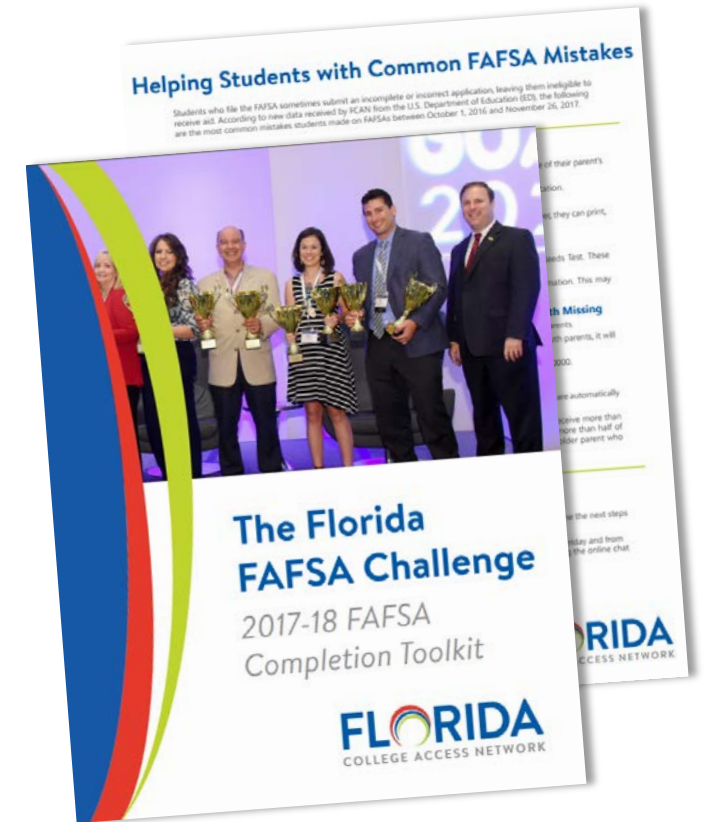
FAFSA Resources

<http://floridacollegeaccess.org/initiatives/florida-fafsa-challenge/>

<http://www.futuremakerscoalition.com/fafsafirst/>

<https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources.jsp>

- FAFSA Challenge Toolkit
- Top FAFSA Mistakes Students Make
- FAFSA Verification Handout
- Webinar: FAFSA is Not Enough
- FAFSA Challenge Data Dashboard
- FAFSA Story Blog Posts



Questions?



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