

Plan, Prepare, Pay...A Three Prong Approach to College Attainment

**Effective FAFSA Completion Initiative Implementation
and Student Support**

Presented by:

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Agenda

- **Michigan FAFSA Completion Initiatives**
- **Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiatives**
- **Kentucky FAFSA Completion Initiatives**
- **Open Discussion & Questions**



Michigan Association of
Secondary School Principals



MICHIGAN PROMISE ZONES
ASSOCIATION



Michigan's Approach to Plan, Prepare, Pay

Proactive preparation and support strategy

July 2023, NCAN

Certified FAFSA Specialist Training

Collective Responsibility and Unified Messaging (Higher Eds, MASSP, LCANs, Media)

Timely and Relevant Materials and Supports

Student and Family Facing Materials (Arabic, Spanish)

Counselor Materials (Slideshows, Glitches and Fixes, FAFSA Friday)

FAFSA Specialist Region and County List

Higher Education Communications

Weekly Data Reporting (principals, counselors)

Higher Education Dates and Deadlines

Funding

Michigan Department of Education: FAFSA Challenge Grant

Department of MiLEAP (government): Reach for the Pie Challenge

Mini Grants

FAFSA Action Plan Grants

FAFSA 15 Challenge

Summer Planning

Retired Educator FAFSA Specialists

Summer Melt Programming

With the anticipation of the delayed opening, changes in the form process and potential glitches, MCAN designed a proactive support strategy.

July 2023

- MCAN invited to attend NCAN **national FAFSA training** in Washington, D.C.
- MCAN convened and **hosted a state team** to attend and support statewide strategy.

Sept. 2023

- MCAN launched **new Certified FAFSA Specialist** Program.
- Partnered with **uAspire** to host *BetterFAFSA* training series. Over **750 sign up**, over **600 in trainings**.
- Assisted MDE in development and execution of the FAFSA Challenge Grant including strategy development, all HS outreach and support.

Oct 2023 -
Jan 2024

- **Hosted Certified FAFSA Specialist** Training Series

Feb. 2024

- Created and shared **FAFSA Support list** aimed to provide additional staffing support for FAFSA completion efforts
- Created **Evolving FAFSA higher ed doc** to provide updates to the field on higher ed timelines and flexibility
- Working locally with LCANs and orgs to **develop strategies**.

Mar. 2024

- Launched **social media and joint higher ed support strategy**, “Don’t push pause...”
- **Launched FAFSA 15 Challenge** aligned with National FAFSA Week of Action
- Provided Innovation Lab **FAFSA strategy session** workshops

April-May
2024

- **Requested by DOE** to present on Michigan’s strategy for an FSA press call
- **Launched Retired Educator FAFSA Specialists (REFS)** - Focused on FAFSA completion, career counseling, college enrollment (until November 2024)
- Applied through ECMC for USDOE Acceleration Grant to launch **Summer Educator FAFSA Specialists (SEFS)** - \$500,000 request with a match of \$500,000 from MILEAP.

Certified FAFSA Specialists

“I’m thrilled to announce that I’ve officially become an MCAN Certified FAFSA Specialist! As a first-generation student, I know firsthand how confusing and overwhelming financial aid can be, which became especially apparent in my time working as a college financial aid officer. From completing the FAFSA to understanding grants, scholarships, and loans, it’s a lot to take in.

I’m dedicated to helping students and families navigate this complex process, ensuring they have access to the resources they need for a successful college journey. If you or someone you know needs assistance with financial aid, I’m here to help! Let’s make the path to higher education a little less daunting.”



Need FAFSA help?

Caitlynn Upton is a
CERTIFIED FAFSA SPECIALIST



u·aspire

//MCAN
MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

FAFSA SPECIALIST LIST



This is a list of MCAN and uAspire Certified FAFSA Specialists who are dedicated to assisting you in supporting your students and families across various locations throughout the state. This all-hands-on-deck approach is particularly vital with the release of BetterFAFSA and the accelerated timeline this year.

If you do not see a representative for your region, please reach out to Jeneen at jeneen@micollegeaccess.org. **It's important to note that this list is continually updated and is NOT intended for direct use by students and families. Instead, it serves as a valuable resource for individuals supporting students who need additional capacity and expertise.**

First and Last Name	Email Address	Organization	Support Location	In-person Support	Virtual Support	Language Support	Summer Support
Lori Kosarue	lkosarue@adrian.edu	Adrian College	Adrian	X	X		
Amy Vos Dillinger	amyvosdillinger@ferris.edu	Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State	Alcona	X	X		Yes
Amy Vos Dillinger	amyvosdillinger@ferris.edu	Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State	Alger	X	X		Yes
Haley Rhoades	hrhoades@maresa.org	Marquette-Alger RESA	Alger	X	X		
Sara Reed	reedsara@gvsu.edu	Grand Valley State University	Allegan	X	X		Yes
Anthony Perez	anthony.s.perez@wmich.edu	Western Michigan University	Allegan	X	X		Yes
Peter Thompson	peter.h.thompson@wmich.edu	Western Michigan University	Allegan	X	X		Yes
Hollie Papist	papisth@michiganworks.com	Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!	Alma	X	X		
Jeri Hurst	hurstj@michiganworks.com	Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!	Alma	X	X		
Kelly Miller	millerke@charemid.org	Charlevoix Emmet Intermediate School District	Antrim	X	X		Yes
Amy Derrer	aderrer@cisnwmi.org	Communities In Schools of Northwest Michigan	Antrim	X			Yes
Amy Vos Dillinger	amyvosdillinger@ferris.edu	Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State	Antrim	X	X		Yes
Amy Vos Dillinger	amyvosdillinger@ferris.edu	Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State	Arenac	X	X		Yes
Heather Rick	rickh@baycityacademy.com	Bay City Academy	Arenac	X	X		Yes

Unified Messaging to Students

Don't Push Pause on Your Education

As you may have heard, the 2024-25 FAFSA, also known as "Better FAFSA," has been updated to simplify its completion process and allow to adjust data used in the Student Aid Index calculation, to account for inflation. These improvements have caused some delays. As a result, the Federal Student Aid office has released a new timeline that will impact when students receive college financial aid award packages. Filing out a FAFSA is key to understanding your eligibility for financial aid, which includes grants, scholarships, and student loans that can open many doors to higher education and will help you meet your goals.

Hang in there! We understand these delays can be frustrating and confusing. College officials are gathering with K-12 educators, school counselors, and college access professionals from across the state to ensure we provide the best support for new and current students during this time of transition. We are here for you! The decision to pursue a postsecondary education is an important one, and we want to make sure you feel supported with all the tools and resources necessary to make the best decision.

The good news is that the FAFSA changes mean there will be more money to go around. The U.S. Department of Education is working diligently to correct calculation errors – this fix will lead to an additional \$2.8 billion in federal aid. More students should qualify for aid and many students will qualify for higher amounts of aid.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR STUDENTS

Do:

- File a 2024-25 FAFSA as soon as possible. The sooner you file, the sooner you will receive a financial aid offer.
- Schedule college visits and explore campuses to make sure you have all the information necessary to make your final decisions, and current students should enroll in classes for next semester as soon as registration opens.
- Confirm your interest in enrollment if you know where you are attending. Check if your college has required an enrollment deposit, housing deposit, and/or orientation.
- Sign up for orientation. Check to see how your desired college offers an orientation (virtual, in-person, etc.).
- Use the SAR Estimator to understand how much aid you should expect to receive for the 2024-25 academic year.
- Use net price calculators to gain a general understanding of college costs.
- Research and apply for scholarships: use this [list](#) to find scholarships that you may qualify for. They have varying requirements so you may qualify.
- Use school counselors, admissions counselors, financial aid counselors, academic advisors, college success coaches, and faculty as resources if you have questions about your educational future.

Don't:

- Be afraid to ask for help. No matter what stage you are in, there are resources available!
- Assume you know whether you will or will not qualify for financial aid based on past results.
- Wait to apply to college or schedule classes until your financial aid is available.



REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

While official financial aid offers won't be available until later in the spring, you have access to resources and tools, as well as individuals who can help inform your postsecondary decision-making. The Better FAFSA will provide a simplified application process that unlocks more money overall. Financial aid awards might take longer to arrive this year due to nationwide delays from the FAFSA simplification process, but they will not impact your eligibility to receive financial aid. You can trust that college admissions and financial aid offices are doing everything they can to send the most accurate information to students, as soon as possible, so they can make the most informed college decisions. Check out these additional tips:

- Use the live chat and/or email (customerservice@studentaid.gov) for assistance with completing the FAFSA. If you receive an error message, it's helpful to provide screen captures of the error messages.
- Pay attention to and attend webinars or updates your college may be providing.

The FAFSA delays should not be a reason to push pause on your next steps, whether that be continued enrollment, new student orientation, or new registrations. Don't let the Better FAFSA delays slow down your future!



Evolving FAFSA (Higher Ed Deadlines)



Updated: May 1, 2024

Below, you will find the most up-to-date financial aid information from all Michigan institutions (as they submit data). Given the Better FAFSA delays, current high school seniors and their families understandably hesitate to make crucial economic decisions without all the necessary information at hand. We will continue to update information as it becomes available or changes over the next several months.

Please contact jstorey@micollegeaccess.org to flag any errors or updates to the information shared in this document.

Information for institutions across the nation, including Michigan institutions, can be found [HERE](#).

Institution	Deadline to confirm enrollment	Enrollment deposit deadline	Housing deposit deadline	Deposit refunds	Deferred deposit options	Anticipated start date for the dissemination of financial aid packages
Adrian College	First day of classes	First day of classes	August 15, 2024	Refundable until June 1st	No	Late March
Albion College	June 1, 2024	June 1, 2024	N/A	June 1, 2024	In special circumstances	Late March
Alma College	We have rolling admissions.	The refund deadline has been extended from May 1 to June 1 this year. Continued evaluation will occur.	No deadline	Typically the deadline is May 1 for a refund on the enrollment deposit. At this point the deadline has extended to June 1 but will continue to evaluate it based on when we receive the FAFSA data.	Yes. Students can pay their deposit and defer enrollment to a later semester. They must communicate with their admissions counselor.	As soon as we get the FAFSA information from the government. We are hoping late March/early April.
Baker College	June 7, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 7, 2024	Non refundable	Yes. Enrollment can be deferred up to one-year.	April 2024

Social Media Campaigns

Don't push pause on your education



File your FAFSA as soon as possible and start applying to colleges now



Cash for college is available, don't let it get away

File your FAFSA as soon as possible and start applying to colleges now





FAFSA Friday

April 5, 2024

Let's focus on what we can control.
Push through, don't push pause!

FAFSA Shout Outs

These schools are rockin'!

Battle Creek Academy
Clare High School
Clinton High School
Coopersville High School
East Jordan High School
Ithaca High School
Pinconning High School
Unionville- Sebewaing High School
UPrep Math and Science Academy (Detroit)
Washtenaw International High School (Ypsilanti)
Wayne Memorial High School

FAFSA Updates

Students are still not able to make corrections on their submitted FAFSAs. This is expected to open mid April. Colleges are aiming to get financial aid packages to students in late April or early May.

Spring Break did not help our push. Michigan went from #28 to #30 nationally.

Student data is now beginning to show up on the MISSG Portal!

Look up your school's data at tinyurl.com/mifafsa2024

Michigan Department of Education



Supported MDE with New FAFSA Challenge Grant

- Supported Michigan Department of Education with new grant rollout provided strategies and outreach
- Round 1 based on senior count to incent FAFSA support and completion efforts (Opened September)
- Round 2 based on senior completion count (April-June)

Statewide Scholarship/Campaigns

IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO WAIT FOR PIZZA DELIVERY, MICHIGAN GRADS CAN ENTER TO WIN A YEAR OF FREE PIZZA!*

TODAY 11:01 A.M.

JUST FILL OUT THE FAFSA



Then text **FAFSA** to **844-34-PIZZA** by **June 30**.
100 students will win!

Enter the Reach for the Pie Contest today!

SEEN TODAY 11:02 A.M.



REACH FOR THE PIE

www.REACHFORTHEPIE.org

*Visit URL for complete rules

MICHIGAN
ACHIEVEMENT
SCHOLARSHIP



GRADUATING SENIORS

Unlock up to \$27,500 with the Michigan Achievement Scholarship!



MI STUDENT AID • MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

What is next?

Summer Support (REFS, Summer Melt)

Review and Retool for 2024-2025

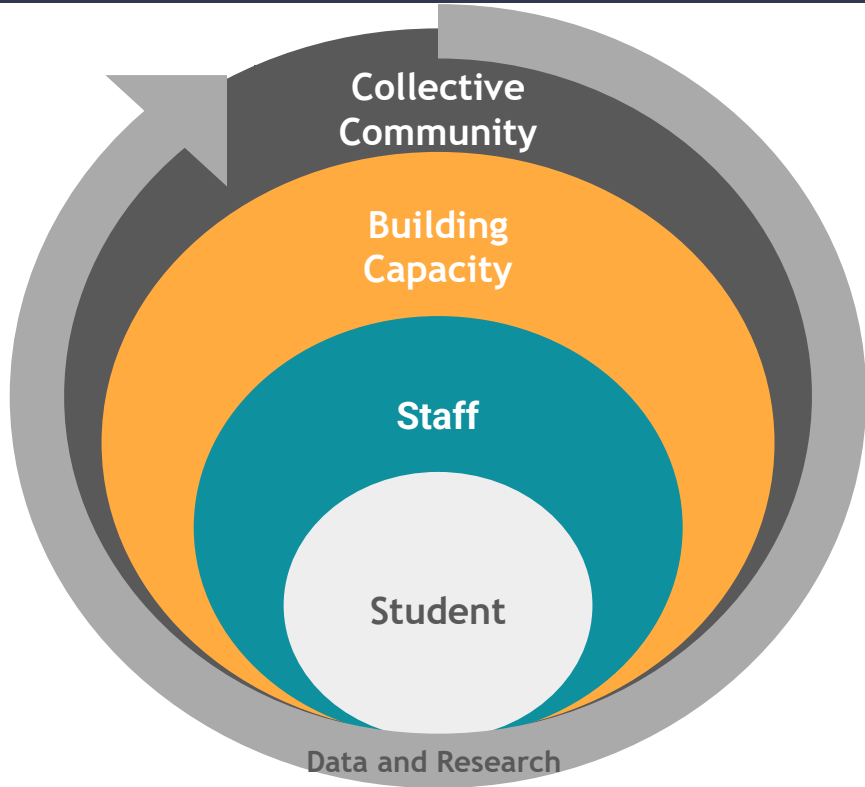
Continue Certified FAFSA Specialists

Engage School Leaders

Analyze Return on Investment (time and funding)

Iowa

Community Engagement Ecosystem



Building evidence & capacity with a statewide collaborative network of wrap around supports for students, schools and communities.

Community to Student

LCANS

A collective framework, community grants and technical assistance to build a network across the state to increase college attainment rates

ACADEMY

Professional development to support college access and success professionals in building and sustaining equitable postsecondary opportunities for all students

COURSE TO COLLEGE

Supporting schools across the state to implement the 5 steps to college access by providing support, data, publications, and resources

GEAR UP IOWA

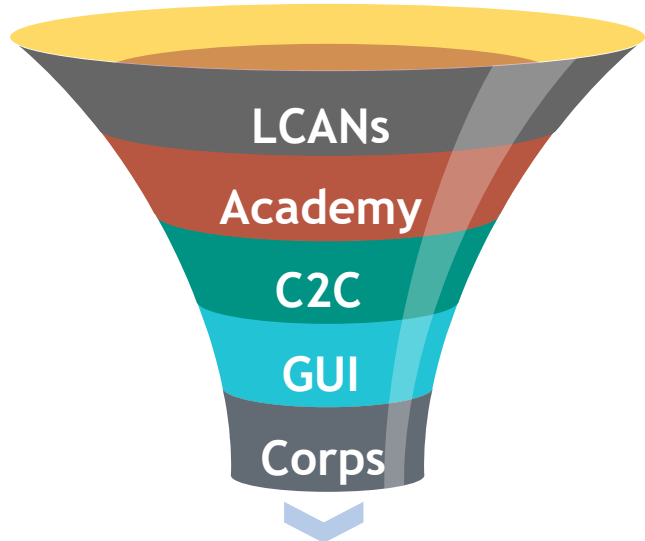
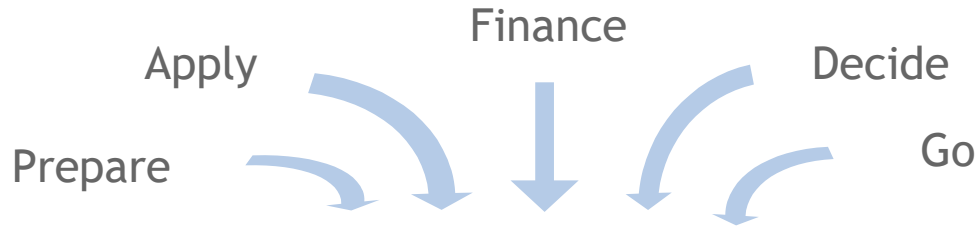
12 low-income school districts and 9 colleges and universities across the state working to build comprehensive support, programming and a body of evidence for college access and success

COURSE TO COLLEGE COACHING

A comprehensive advising and support Corps across the state to support schools, colleges and students with the 5 steps to college

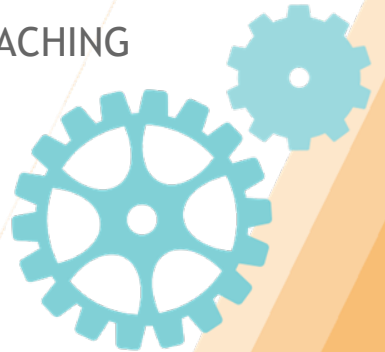


Course to College Framework



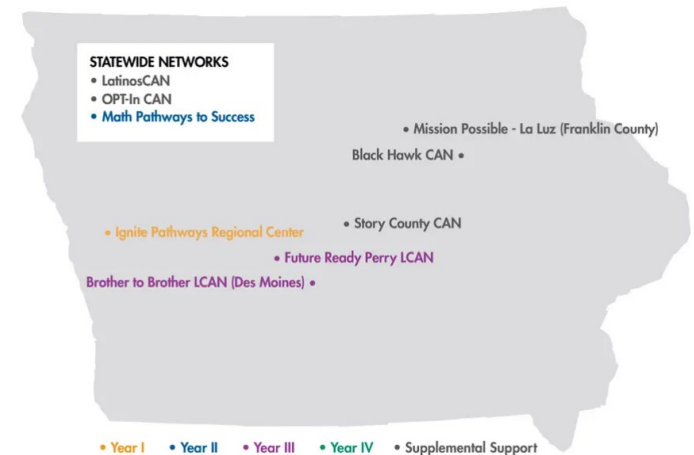
- 1 Local College Access Networks
 - 2 Iowa CCR Academy
 - 3 Course to College
 - 4 GEAR UP Iowa
 - 5 CtC COACHING
- ↓

Access, Success and Completion



FAFSA Completion Initiatives – Community

- Local College Access Networks (LCAN):
 - Aim to increase college attainment using a framework known as Collective Impact within their communities
 - Each LCAN must have a FAFSA completion component/plan



FAFSA Completion Initiatives – Counselors

- Course to College Network
 - Statewide network of school counselors dedicated to increasing the college-going culture in their schools
 - We provide: weekly network calls, resources & tools, incentives, & assistance with events
 - We encourage each partner school to set FAFSA goal
- FAFSA Certification training provided by Iowa College Access Network(ICAN)
 - Provide FAFSA training to all partner schools
- Texting
 - Offer 1:1 texting to counselors with college info, deadlines, changes, reminders & ability to ask questions

FAFSA Completion Initiatives – Counselors

- Access to AmeriCorps Members:
 - Student Leaders
 - College Coaches
 - Summer Transition Associates
- Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy
 - Suite of Iowa-specific online courses for college access and success professionals
- FAFSA Simplification Toolkit
 - Provided content, images, & timeline materials
- Automated, weekly FAFSA completion reports sent to schools
 - Expanded availability to offer these reports to more authorized personnel throughout the summer

FAFSA Completion Initiatives – Students & Families

- AmeriCorps Student Leaders
 - Work with peers to encourage FAFSA completion
 - Assist with school events
- AmeriCorps College Coaches
 - 1:1 virtual appointments throughout the state
 - FSA ID creation
 - FAFSA completion
 - FAFSA corrections
 - Evening & weekend hours offered
- AmeriCorps Summer Transition Associates
 - Serve throughout the summer to assist students through college steps

FAFSA Completion Initiatives – Students & Families

- FAFSA Completion Events
 - Partner with schools to host completion events
 - Provide materials & expertise
- Fall Back on Track Week with ICAN
 - Grade-level college prep - each day focusing on a different grade level
 - Twice a Day FSA ID Creation Workshops throughout the week
- Virtual Coach Texting Program
 - 1:1 assistance through the college-going steps
 - Access to a “live” person

Program Highlight – FAFSA Completion Reports

Automated, weekly reports sent to each high school in the state

- Provides school completion rate, with previous year comparisons for goal tracking
- Lists not filed students
- Lists not completed students with error description
- Includes students selected for verification

FAFSA Summary Report: 01/17/2024

Muscatine High School (4581-109)

Student Status	Number of Students	Percent of Students
Completed	184	48.94%
Not Completed	5	1.33%
Not Filed	187	49.73%
Total	376	100.00%

Student Discrepancies: Do you have a student that completed their FAFSA but still showing on the report? Fill out the [Student Discrepancy Form](#) & Iowa College Aid will investigate.

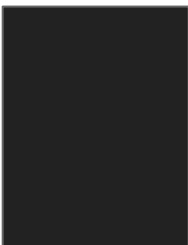
Not Completed

Students who have filled out the FAFSA but are missing a component for completion

Student: Correct taxes paid or AGI | Correct parents taxes paid or AGI
& Student: Provide cash, savings, checking, real estate, and investment farm net
& untaxed income | Parent 1 & 2: Correct SSN, Last Name, or DOB | Correct parents marital
members | Missing parent signature
Missing parent signature
Parent 2: Correct DOB | Missing parent signature
Parent & Student: Provide cash, savings, checking, real estate, and investment farm net
worth | Provide taxed & untaxed income | Parent 1 & 2: Correct SSN, Last Name, or DOB | Correct parents marital
status and # of family members | Missing parent signature

Not Filed

Students who have not started the FAFSA application



Iowa's FAFSA Dashboard

fafsa.iowa.gov

FAFSA Completion by Iowa High Schools



Date Last Updated:

Jun 6, 2024

State FAFSA Completion Rate

46.2%

Class of 2023-2024

State FAFSA Completion Rate

50.2%

Class of 2022-2023 from same time last year

Point Difference

-4.1%

from same time last year

Filter report by:

School Name ▼

School District ▼




AEA Name ▼

Scroll through this table by using the scroll button at the right of this page

Class of 2023-2024 **Class of 2022-2023**

Rank	School Name	School District	AEA Name	Class Size	Goals	FAFSA Completed	FAFSA Started, Not Completed	FAFSA Not Filed	FAFSA Completed Final	Point Difference vs. Last Year
1	Don Bosco High School	Waterloo Comm School District	Central Rivers AEA	11-29	0	93%	0%	7%	88%	5
2	Marquette Catholic High School	Bellevue Comm School District	Mississippi Bend AEA	11-29	0	90%	0%	10%	82%	8
3	Louisa-Muscatine JR/SR High School	Louisa-Muscatine Comm School District	Mississippi Bend AEA	42-53	80	87%	0%	13%	70%	17
4	St Marys High School - RSM	Remsen-Union Comm School District	Northwest AEA	11-29	0	83%	0%	17%	0	0
5	Treynor High School	Treynor Comm School District	AEA 13 Green Hills AEA	54-68	0	83%	5%	13%	70%	13
6	North Union High School	North Union Comm School District	Prairie Lakes AEA	42-53	75	81%	0%	19%	67%	13
7	H-L-V Junior-Senior High School	H-L-V Comm School District	Grant Wood AEA	11-29	40	80%	0%	20%	70%	10
7	Ruthven-Ayrshire High School	Ruthven-Ayrshire Comm School District	Prairie Lakes AEA	11-29	0	80%	0%	20%	71%	9

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority



Casi Benedict
Keith Ritchie



Kentucky Goes to College

Kentucky Goes to College offers resources for schools and organizations interested in enhancing their college-going culture through initiatives like Kentucky College Application Campaign, Decision Day and the FAFSA Completion Challenge. This site offers the necessary tools to help school counselors, community leaders or college access providers implement one or more of these programs, as well as resources for students who are going through the college application and financial aid process.

College App Day

Decision Day

FAFSA Completion
Challenge

Coming
Soon...

PLAN

- **Begin in middle school**
- **Presentations for each age level**
 - **College Match Day pilot**

PREPARE

- **College Application Campaign**
 - **Parent nights**
 - **Social Media Campaigns**
 - **Texting nudges**

PAY

- **FAFSA Completion Workshops/1-on-1's**
- **FAFSA Completion Challenge**
- **FAFSA Completion Scholarship**



Initiatives



Implementation



Summer Office Hours

KHEAA and college access partners across the state are hosting FAFSA specific hours every Wednesday in the month of June.



FAFSA Bootcamp

We will be hosting two in person trainings for high school counselors and college access members to promote FAFSA completion.



FAFSA Tailgates

Tailgating events will be held around the state to promote and assist in FAFSA completion.

Social Media



Resources

Implementation guides, including how to host an event and data components for each of our KY Goes to College campaigns can be found on our website.

KYGoestoCollege.com

KYGoestoCollege.com is also home to our Better FAFSA, Better Future

Training Center which includes our Quick Reference Guide, FSA ID creation template, FAFSA Completion Guide, up-to-date training webinars, and social media toolkits. This resource can be found [here](#).

KHEAA hosts monthly [Facebook](#) Live events and Live [Twitter](#) Chats; posts on

Instagram, [YouTube](#), hosts bi-monthly webinars, and shares updates on our Coffee with KHEAA podcast. Our June scheduled events can be found [here](#).

Resources

New to Kentucky FAFSA completion efforts, is kyfafsa.org where you can find a step by step guide on completing the FAFSA. Included in this guide are "How To" videos for creating FSA IDs and line by line 24/25 FAFSA completion.

For more information on FAFSA completion efforts, please visit [KHEAA.com](https://kheaa.com)

Questions & Discussion