

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Indiana. The seal contains the text "THE STATE OF INDIANA" at the top and "1816" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a figure of a Native American man in traditional dress, holding a bow and arrow. The seal is surrounded by a decorative border.

Universal FAFSA

Midwest FAFSA Summit

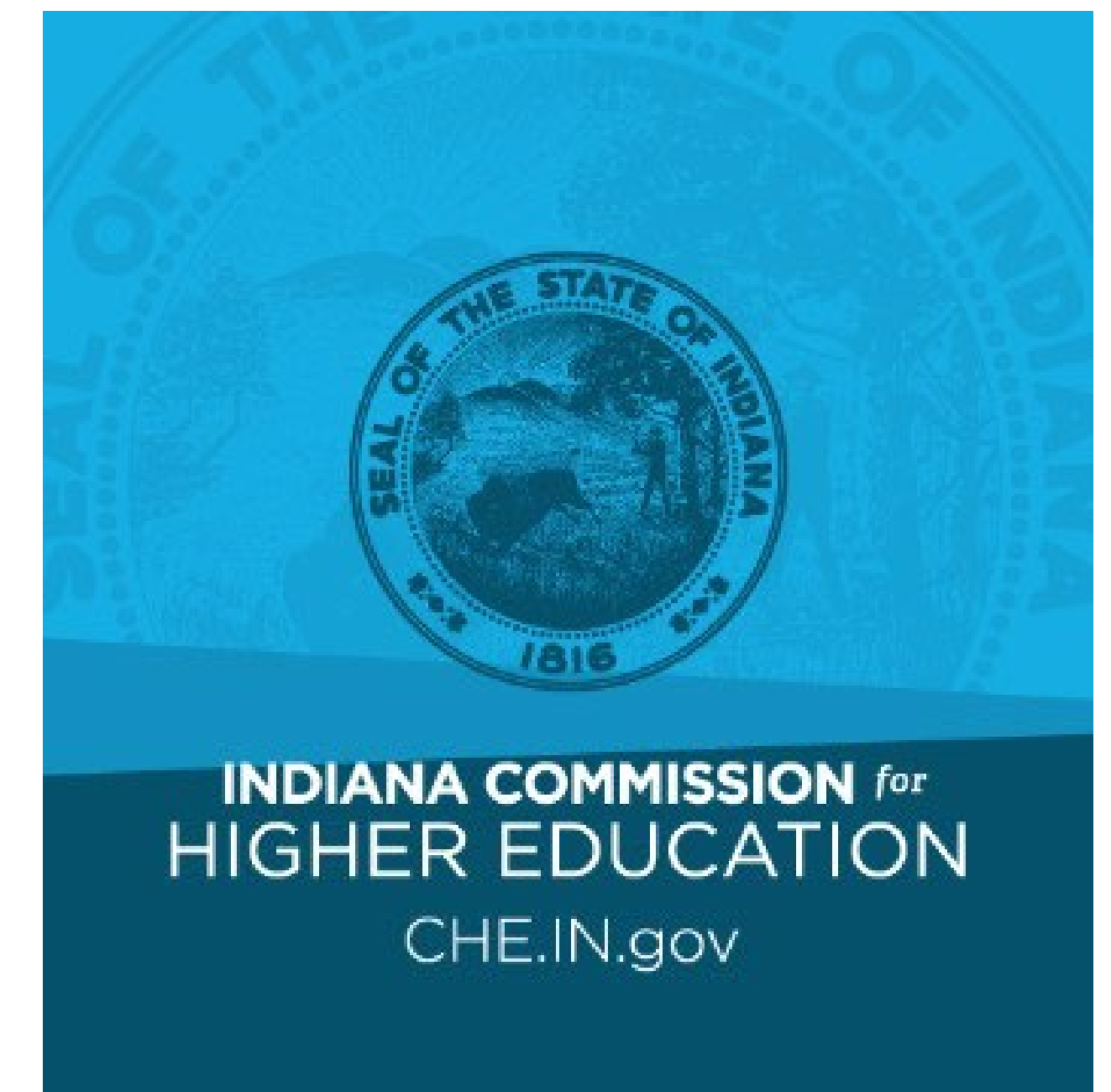
Angel McAllister, Director for State Financial Aid
Kate Marling, Postsecondary Transitions Manager

INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ Created in 1971 by an act of the General Assembly and signed into law by then Governor Edgar Whitcomb, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is now in its fifth decade of service to the State of Indiana
- ▶ The Commission is not a governing board, but a coordinating agency that works closely with Indiana's public and independent colleges. In addition, The Commission has strong working relationships with many other State agencies, including Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Development and the Independent Colleges of Indiana
- ▶ Commissioner Lowery – Four Cabinet Members – 5 Associate Commissioners
- ▶ Teams
 - Academic Affairs
 - Adult Strategy
 - Business Intelligence
 - Finance
 - Financial Aid
 - K-12 Strategy
 - Legislation and Policy
 - Marketing and Communication



THE HOPE AGENDA GOALS

Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education

Indiana's goal is to be Top 10 in the nation by 2030 in the following areas:



Post-high school training and education **going-rates** for youth and adults, across all demographics.



The rate at which Hoosiers successfully **complete their chosen areas of study.**



Retaining talent once someone has graduated.



Postsecondary attainment for veterans, individuals with disabilities and the justice involved.



Measurable distinction of **social and economic mobility and prosperity.**



Utilization of **credit for prior learning.**



As a **recognized state for growing or starting a business** based upon the strength of **human capital.**

UNIVERSAL FAFSA



WHERE WE STARTED

- ▶ FAFSA is the **gateway** to state, federal, and most institutional financial aid.
- ▶ The Commission has an **outreach team** dedicated to helping students and families file the FAFSA and training schools and community partners to provide support.
- ▶ However, Indiana's FAFSA-filing rate has remained **below** target goals set by the Commission.



WHERE WE STARTED

- ▶ According to NCAN, Hoosier students from the class of 2022 left **\$70 million on the table** simply by not completing the FAFSA.
- ▶ Indiana finished **40th nationally** for FAFSA filing for the class of 2022.



WHERE WE STARTED

- ▶ FAFSA percentages across the state have rebounded, but **still trail** pre-pandemic levels.
- ▶ Schools with more free and reduced lunch students, rural schools, and schools that enroll larger populations of students of color have experienced **greater declines** in FAFSA filing.
- ▶ These declines mirror the **decline in postsecondary enrollment** for short-term certificates to four-year degrees.

CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Failure to address this issue will have a **long-term impact** on Indiana's economy.
- ▶ In response, the Commission has strongly supported legislation aimed at making FAFSA filing a **default option** for Indiana students during successive legislative sessions.

CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Prior to the 2023 legislative session, bills centered on creating a FAFSA requirement **passed one chamber** but would fail afterwards in the House or Senate.
- ▶ Progress was made in 2022 with the passage of **Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 82**.
- ▶ The bill originally included FAFSA requirement language, but this information was stricken by an amendment in the House Education Committee.

CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ SEA 82-2022 required the Commission to create a **FAFSA Affirmation Form**.
- ▶ The FAFSA Affirmation Form was built into the Commission's Learn More Indiana webpage and shared with high schools.
- ▶ The form allows students and parents to submit requests to the Commission for assistance with filing the FAFSA.

UNIVERSAL FAFSA PASSES

- ▶ During the 2023 legislative session, universal FAFSA legislation **passed**.
- ▶ SEA 167-2023 makes FAFSA filing a **default option** for high school seniors beginning with the class of 2024.
- ▶ It includes broad **opt-out provisions**:
 - ▶ Parents or emancipated students can opt out of filing.
 - ▶ A high school can waive the requirement after April 15, Indiana's priority deadline for financial aid, if the school has made two reasonable attempts to contact the student and/or parent.

IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

- ▶ The Commission implemented efforts for SEA 167-2023.
 - ▶ Last year, an official form was created for parents or emancipated students to individually opt-out.
 - ▶ Additionally, a widget was made available after April 15 in ScholarTrack, Indiana's one-stop-shop for state financial aid, through which high schools can submit batch uploads of students to opt out of filing the FAFSA after two reasonable attempts have been made to contact them.

LOOKING FORWARD

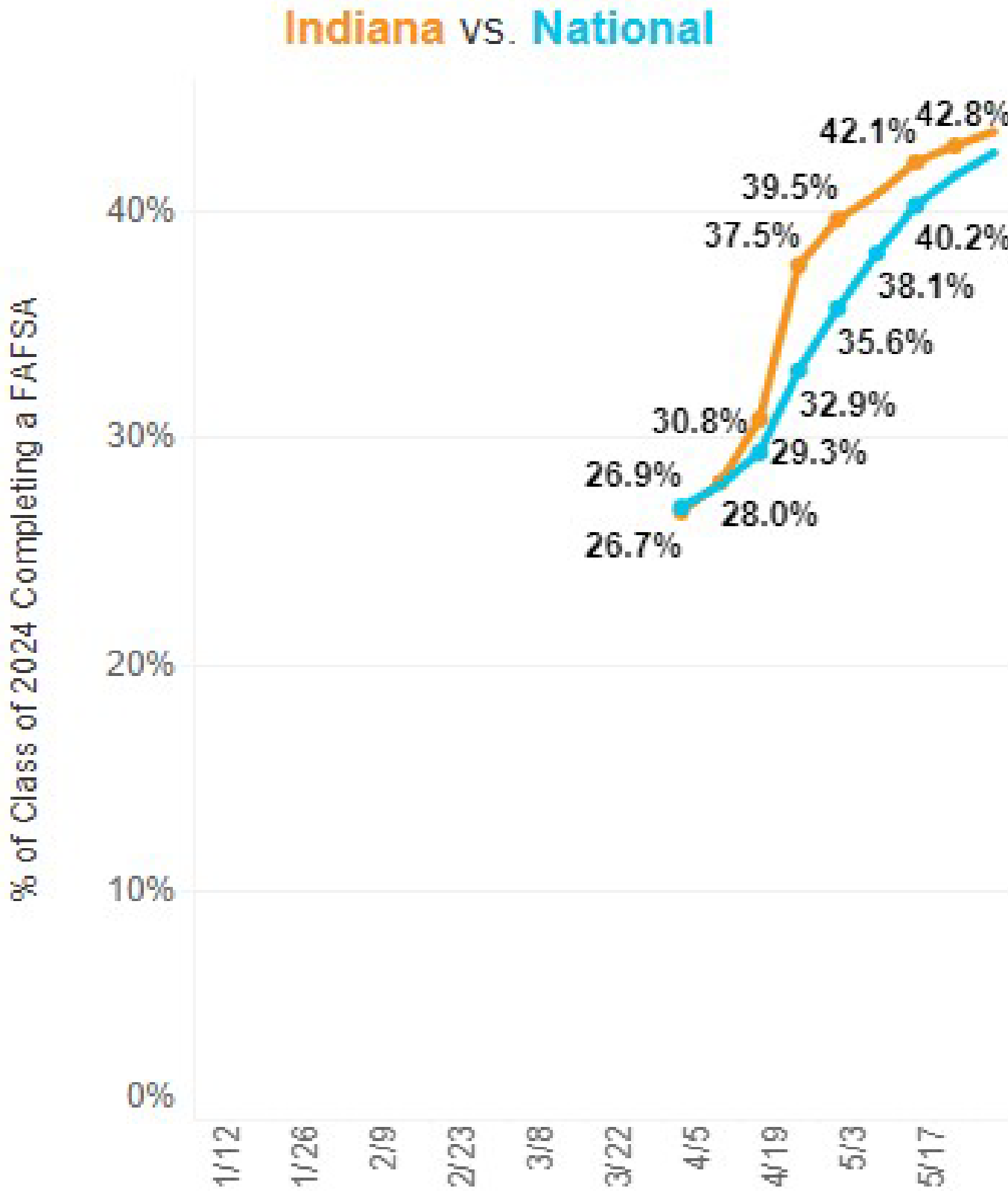
- ▶ There is evidence that SEA 167-2023 will help reverse current FAFSA-filing trends based on results in other states with similar legislation.
- ▶ After the implementation of a universal FAFSA requirement:
 - ▶ Alabama jumped from 34th to 9th and Texas rose from 23rd to 5th nationally for the percent of high school seniors who filed the FAFSA.

WHERE WE ARE

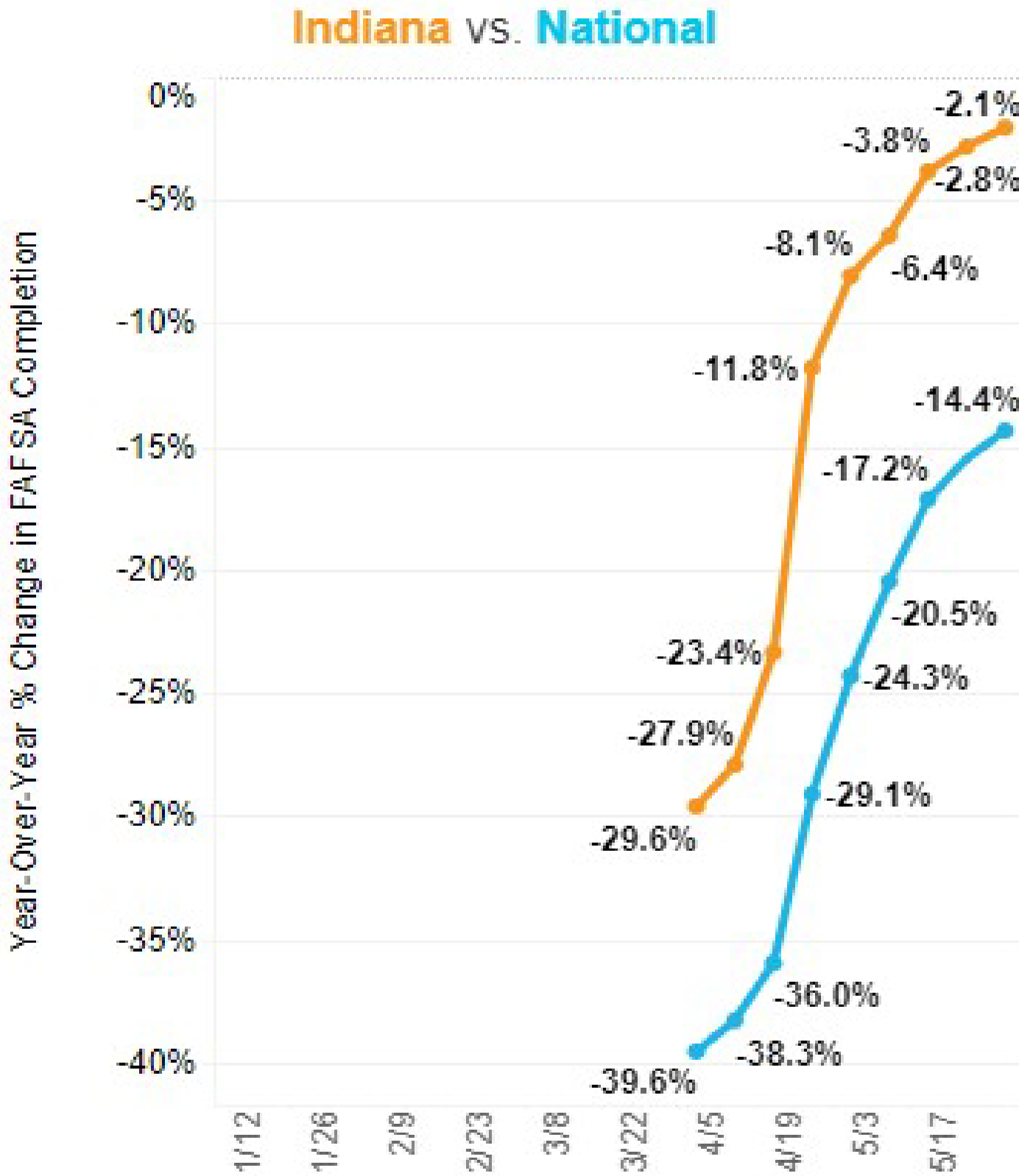


OUR 2024-2025 JOURNEY

Estimated Percent of Seniors Completing a FAFSA



Year-Over-Year % Change in FAFSA Completions



OUR 2024-2025 JOURNEY

JOURNEY TO TOP 10		
State	Current Ranking	Current % Seniors Completed
Tennessee	1	56.0%
Louisiana	2	53.8%
Illinois	3	53.2%
Texas	4	51.3%
Connecticut	5	49.6%
Delaware	6	49.4%
New Jersey	7	47.9%
California	8	47.7%
Rhode Island	9	47.1%
Massachusetts	10	47.1%
Indiana	15	43.4%

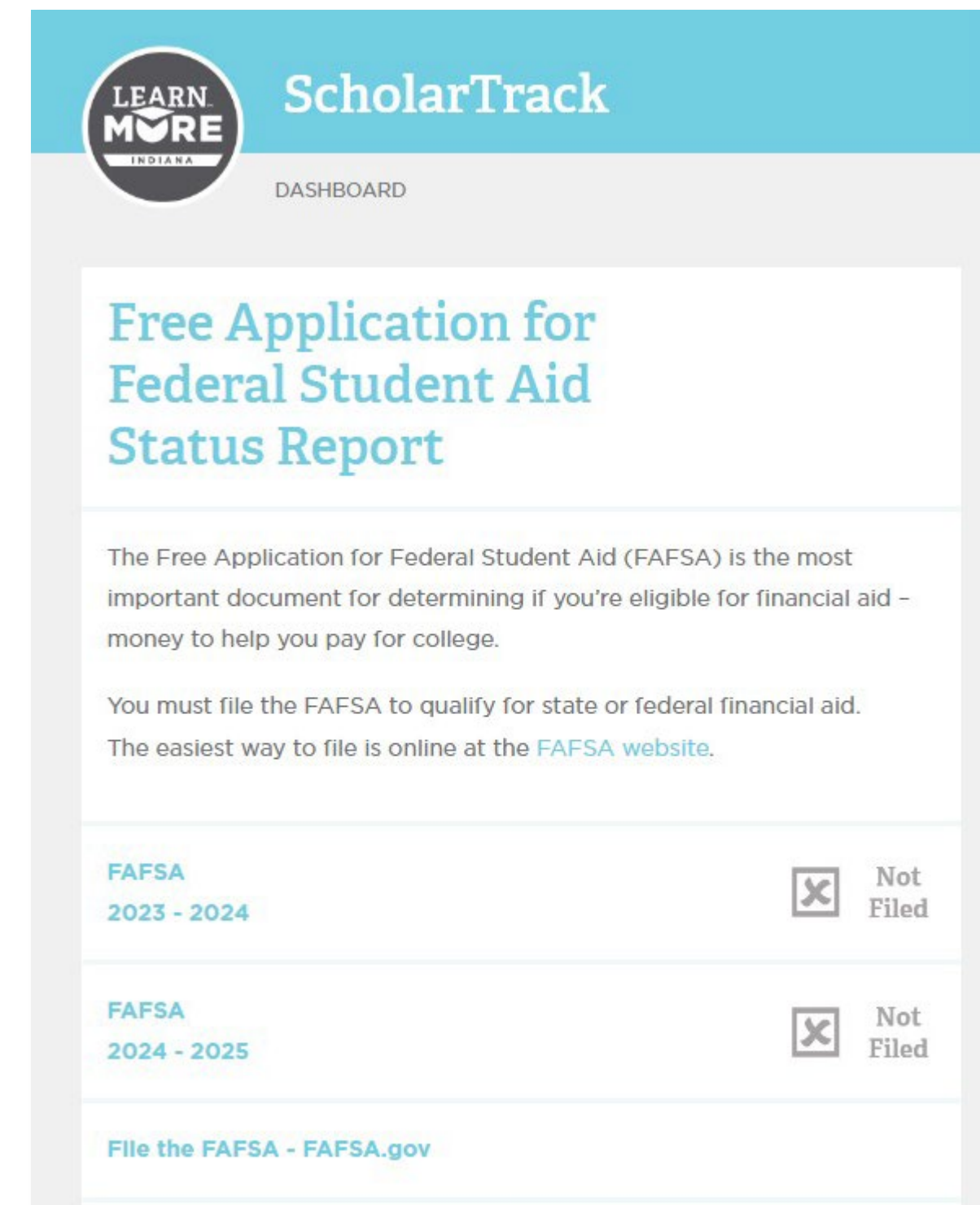
JOURNEY TO TOP 10		
State	Current Ranking	Year/Year % Change for Completions
Indiana	1	-2.1%
North Dakota	2	-7.4%
Minnesota	3	-10.9%
New Hampshire	4	-11.7%
Oregon	5	-11.9%
Virginia	6	-12.4%
New Jersey	7	-12.4%
Ohio	8	-12.6%
California	9	-12.8%
Utah	10	-12.9%

OUR 2024-2025 JOURNEY

FAFSA REQUIREMENT STATES			
State	FAFSA Year Requirement	Current Ranking	Current % Seniors Completed
Louisiana	2017-2018 school year	2	53.8%
Illinois	2020-2021 school year	3	53.2%
Texas	2021-2022 school year	4	51.3%
Connecticut	2023-2024 school year	5	49.6%
California	2022-2023 school year	8	47.7%
New Hampshire	2023-2024 school year	13	43.6%
Indiana	2023-2024 school year	14	43.4%
Alabama	2021-2022 school year	15	43.4%
Maryland	2022-2023 school year	22	41.5%
Nebraska	2024-2025 school year	30	39.1%
Kansas	2027-2028 school year	37	36.9%
Colorado	2021-2022 state fiscal year	41	33.8%
Oklahoma	2024-2025 school year	45	31.4%

SCHOLARTRACK

- ▶ ScholarTrack is the Commission's one-stop shop to providing financial aid:
 - ▶ Students can apply for financial aid program and view their FAFSA status.
 - ▶ College financial aid advisors has access to view, claim, and report financial aid data regarding students are their campuses.
 - ▶ High school guidance counselors can view student data, including the 21st Century Scholarship status and FAFSA filing status for their students.
 - ▶ Community partners can see student data for the schools/organizations that serve.
- ▶ ScholarTrack cost for updating and maintenance:
 - ▶ Bi-weekly sprint meetings to discuss updates and bug-fixes



Graduation Details

High School Diploma Type

Diploma Status: Preliminary

Cumulative GPA

Cumulative SAT: 0

Cumulative GPA Status: Preliminary

FAFSA Opt-Out

- None
- None
- Student Opt Out
- Parent/Guardian Opt Out
- School Opt Out

Cancel Save

FUNDING AND HOW WE USE IT

▶ Richard M. Fairbanks Grant

- *College Matters* seeks to **increase college enrollment rates among Marion County high school seniors**, especially among students from low-income households who are less likely than their higher-income peers to enroll.
- Through grants to **schools, community-based organizations** and the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education**, *College Matters* seeks to connect high school students – and their families – with the support they need to **file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, access financial aid** and **enroll in college**.
- To help add short-term capacity during the initial implementation of Indiana's new FAFSA mandate, *College Matters* awarded \$2.6 million in grants to allow **26 Marion County public high schools within 14 school corporations** to assist students and their families in meeting this new requirement.

FUNDING AND HOW WE USE IT

- ▶ College Success Program Grant
 - ▶ HEA 1001 -2023 appropriated \$5M to be used for college success programs, specifically College Success Coaches, to support 21st Century and First-Generation students
 - ▶ College Success Coaches assist with the following:
 - ▶ Academic Advising
 - ▶ ScholarTrack Support
 - ▶ Financial aid support (FAFSA submission)
 - ▶ Pre-admissions

OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

- ▶ Learn More Indiana supported partner social accounts including INVestEd and the Indiana Latino Institute (ILI).
- ▶ With the help of- both partners, LMI shared FAFSA filing events available to students around the state and filing support contact information.
- ▶ LMI also participated in a total of three Facebook Live events with both ILI and INVestEd.
- ▶ We sent out 20 specific FAFSA filing emails to unique and overlapping populations of students both high school seniors and continuing students.
 - ▶ Learn More Indiana began posting “FAFSA Friday” posts as a part of the #Destinaion FAFSA Campaign
 - ▶ Post topics included opening updates, vocabulary changes, document preparation, and filing event opportunities

The status of your 2024-2025 FAFSA will be one of the following:

- Draft**
Draft: Your section of the FAFSA form is incomplete.
- Action Required**
Action Required: You are missing your consent and approval or signature, or the FAFSA form was processed, but a correction is required.
- In Progress**
In Progress: You provided your consent, approval, and signature to your section of the FAFSA form, but it has not been submitted yet.
- Processed**
Processed: Your application was processed successfully. No further action is needed.
- In Review**
In Review: Your FAFSA form was submitted but hasn't been processed yet.
- Closed**
Closed: Your FAFSA form was never submitted and can no longer be submitted because the federal FAFSA deadline passed.

1. Make sure you have access to a personal email!
(Don't use a school or work email.)
2. Create your FSA ID!
(Complete at least 3 days in advance.)
3. Know who classifies as a contributor!
(Check out studentaid.gov for more information.)
4. Gather necessary documents!
(2022 tax forms, bank statements, and personal identification documents.)
5. Find the location near you!
(Check out our previous post for locations!)

College Goal Sunday
What you need to prep for College Goal Sunday on February 25, 2024!

Destination FAFSA

CHALLENGES

Implementation

- ▶ Operationalizing opt-out provisions
- ▶ Misperceptions of the potential increased workload
- ▶ Challenges of the simplified FAFSA roll out

Outreach

- ▶ Access to school or personal email addresses for students
 - ▶ Firewalls (We are currently working on a campaign to request that our IN.GOV email addresses are safe listed)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Framing is critical
- ▶ Creating partnerships with schools both K-12 and higher education institutions.
- ▶ Community organization partnerships for events and outreach.
- ▶ Communicate how financial aid opportunities from the FAFSA and college enrollment can support each other
- ▶ Reach out to States who have had FAFSA legislation passed

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Indiana. The seal contains the text "SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA" around the top and "1816" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a landscape with a bison, a sheaf of wheat, and a plow.

ANGEL MCALLISTER

Director for State Financial Aid

Email: Amcallister@che.in.gov

KATE MARLING

Postsecondary Transitions Manager

Email: Kmarling@che.in.gov



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION