

# Situating the FAFSA within State College and Career Readiness Policies and Initiatives

# Illinois

- There's Got To Be An Easier Way...
- I'm Too Old For This...
- The FAFSA Doesn't Go To College...
- FAFSA Completion Is Not An Extra-Curricular Activity...
- All Together Now....

There's Got to be an  
Easier Way...(2006)



# FAFSA Data Matching:

## ISAC-CPS Pilot in 2006-07

CPS Senior Class	FAFSA Year	% completing
2006	FY07	57.5%
2007	FY08	62.2%
2008	FY09	68.0%
2009	FY10	74.8%
2010	FY11	82.3%
2011	FY12	86.3%

CPS Senior Class	FAFSA Year	% completing
2012	FY13	77.6%
2013	FY14	79.0%
2014	FY15	80.0%
2015	FY16	78.3%
2016	FY17	76.4%
2017	FY18	78.1%
2018	FY19	79.3%
2019	FY20	78.7%
2020	FY21	76.2%
2021	FY22	81.6%
2022	FY23	87.5%

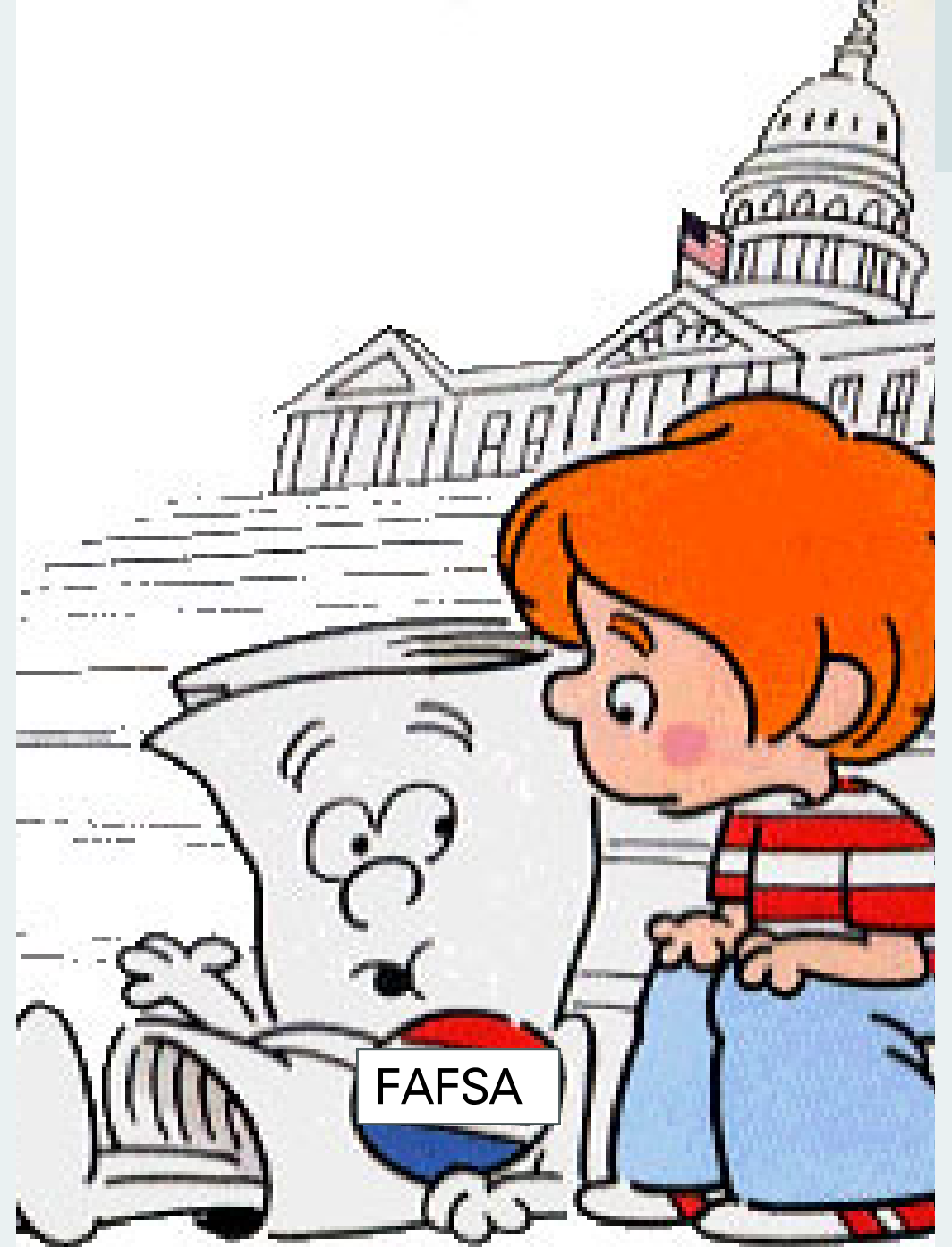
I'm Too Old For  
This...(2008)



# Innovation & Representation: The ISACorps Launched in 2009

- Making use of postsecondary education is an innovation for families without college going experience
- Completing the FAFSA is an innovation for families that have not previously filed for financial aid
- The innovation-decision process: knowledge; persuasion; decision; implementation; confirmation
- Change Agents Vs. Change Aides: Change aides are a bridge between an agency expert and a program recipient, a balance of similarity and difference is required
- Questions: Is it better than what I am doing now? Does it align with my values? Is it too complicated? Can I have a sample before I make a purchase?

# The FAFSA Doesn't Go to College....(2016)



# Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act: Postsecondary and Career Expectations

- The PaCE Framework was developed with feedback from more than 100 stakeholders and adopted by all IL education agencies in 2017
- Standardizes basic college and career readiness benchmarks
- Important counter-balance and context setting for FAFSA completion data





# College Readiness: An Adolescent Development Lens

- A curriculum for middle and early high school students was developed based on the work of Mandy Savitz-Romer in her book *Ready, Willing, and Able*



## IDENTITY

To resolve identity conflicts and form an identity consistent with postsecondary success



## PLANNING

To learn the skills necessary to develop and successfully execute a plan for the desired postsecondary outcome



## SELF-ADVOCACY

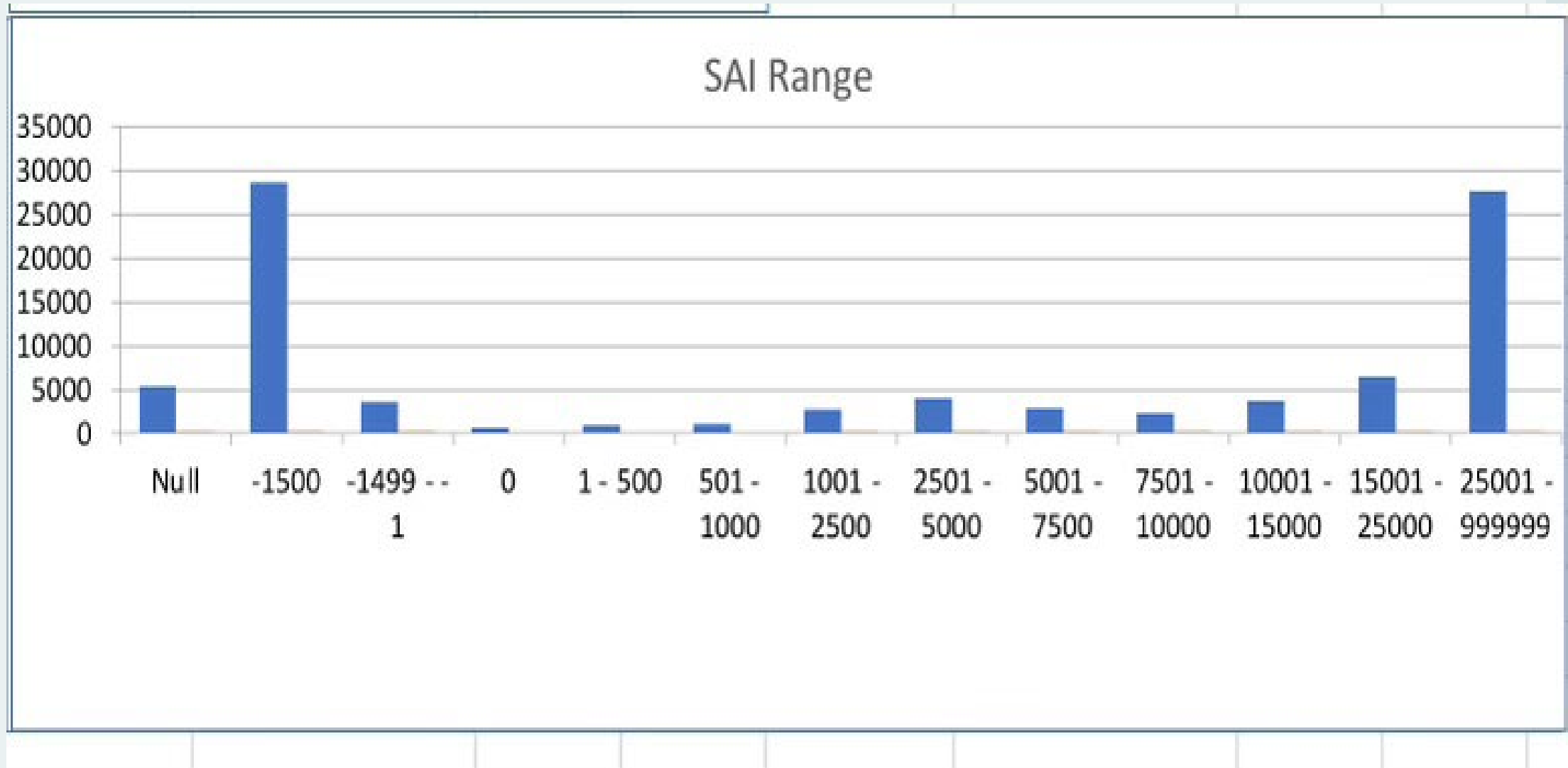
To develop the skills necessary to persist through challenges and to build a strong and supportive social network that can guide a student to and through postsecondary education and into a successful career.

FAFSA Completion is  
Not an Extra-Curricular  
Activity...(2019)



# The FAFSA Mandate: Moving from Optional Innovation

- Standardized tests are needed for college admission.
- **Take college entrance exams during school day!**
- More AP courses are correlated with increased degree attainment.
- **Offer more AP courses in high school schedule!**
- Dual enrollment is correlated with increased degree attainment.
- **Offer more dual enrollment courses!**
- Lack of FAFSA completion is negatively correlated with enrollment.
- **Have a contest and host pizza parties.....!**



All Together Now...(2024)



# PaCE Implementation Mandate

- Signed into law 2022, effective for CPS 2024, effective statewide 2025
- A separate middle school PaCE framework was developed and begins with 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- All education agencies have adopted the expanded framework
- All middle and high schools must adopt and implement the PaCE Framework
- ISAC is offering statewide curriculum training and implementation support



# Current State of Affairs

## CPS FAFSA Completion

- Completion Rate: 80.84%
- 173 High Schools
- 24,277 Seniors

	1	2	3	4	5
	TN	LA	IL	DC	TX
	57.1%	54.4%	53.8%	52.8%	52.1%
	Rank	% of Seniors Completing			
Tennessee	1	57.1%			
Louisiana	2	54.4%			
Illinois	3	53.8%			
Washington, D.C.	4	52.8%			
Texas	5	52.1%			
Connecticut	6	50.3%			
Delaware	7	50.2%			
New Jersey	8	48.8%			
California	9	48.4%			

Thank  
you

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Situating FAFSA within

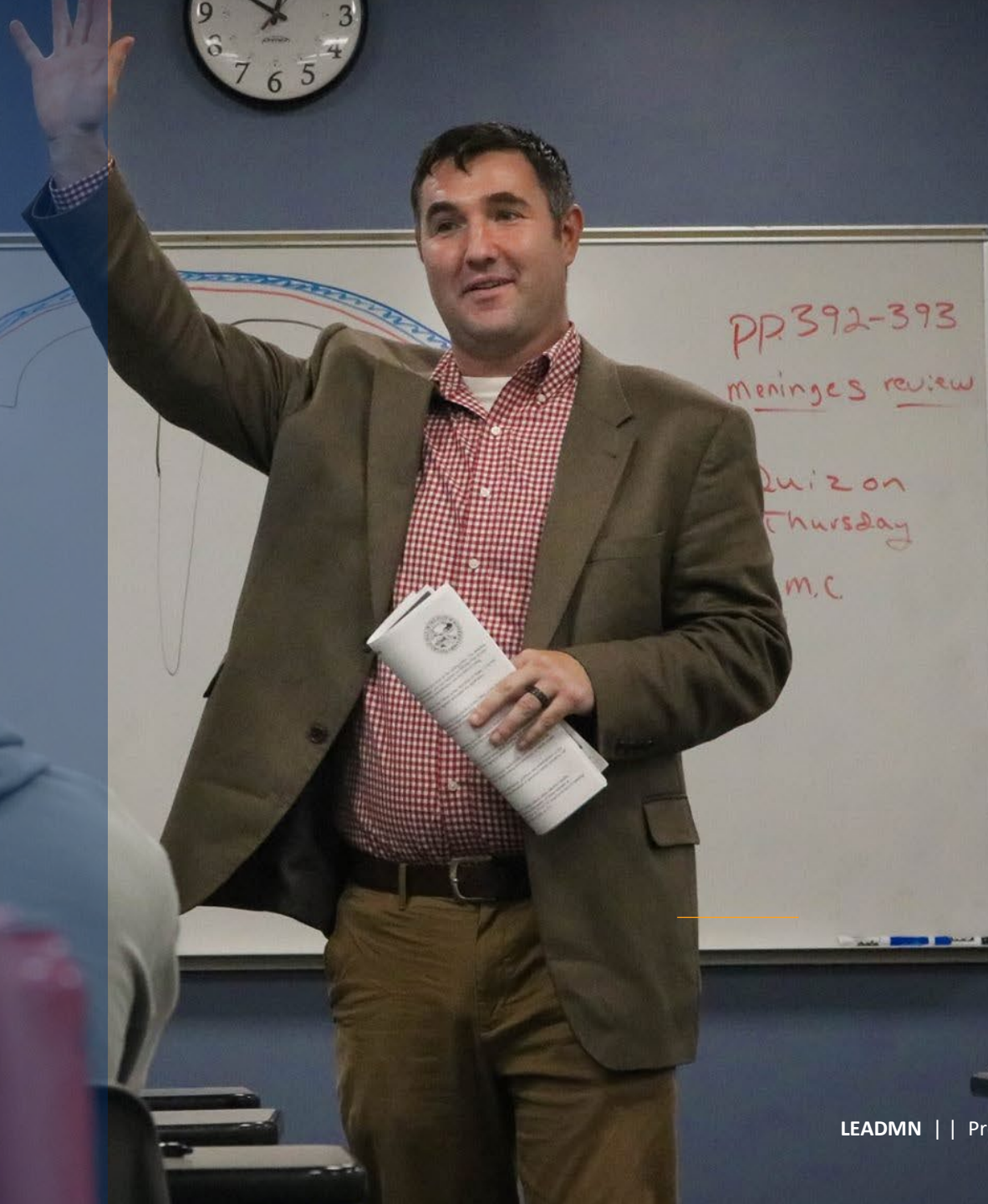
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# State College and Career Readiness Policies and Initiatives



## 20 years experience in Higher Education:

- LeadMN
- SUNY
- Minn State
- University of Minnesota





Centered our work  
around students

- Affordability
- Food insecurity
- Mental Health Support





## FAFSA Opens the Door



*90% of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA attend college directly after graduation, compared to only 55% of those who do not complete the FAFSA.*



And sometimes FAFSA is  
the door out





## Holistic Measures of Student Success

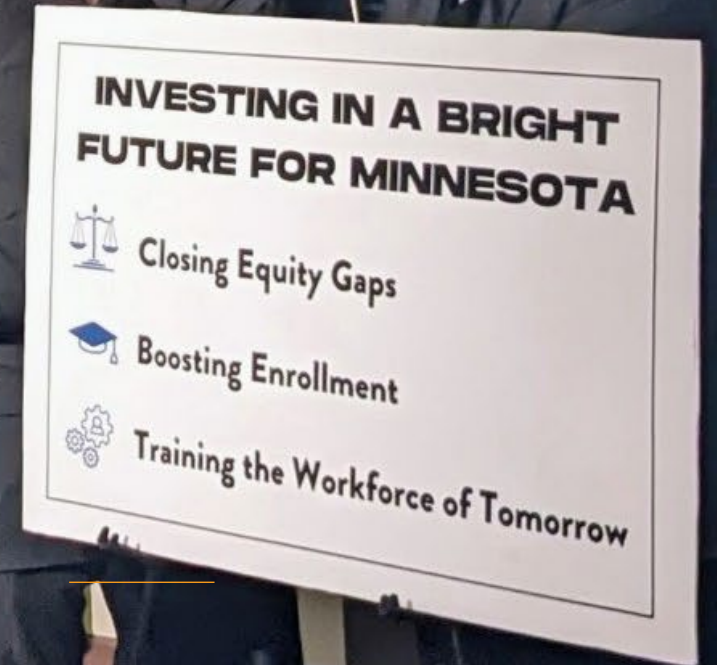


*Think beyond just FAFSA and consider Free College and Direct Admissions as key levers to drive student success in a holistic manner*



## Minnesota's North Star Promise Program

- Last dollar
- Covers tuition and fees
- Pell Plus





# Minnesota Direct Admission Program

**m** OFFICE OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
DIRECT ADMISSIONS



## INTRODUCING DIRECT ADMISSIONS

INFORMATION FOR RISING SENIORS

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Direct Admissions is here to offer you a look at the many postsecondary possibilities that await you. This fall, you will be notified of multiple Minnesota colleges and universities that are offering you Direct Admission to attend their institution in fall 2025.



#### REVIEW YOUR LETTER

You will review your personalized letter that lists the colleges and universities that are offering you Direct Admission. You will receive both a digital and hard copy



#### SELECT YOUR INSTITUTIONS

In your digital letter, select which colleges and universities you would like to receive Direct Admission to. Submit the letter back to your high school, then complete the



#### YOUR NEXT STEPS

Depending on the colleges and universities selected, you will receive your official acceptance letters! In some cases, institutions will request more information, so watch your





# Applications are up 20% at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

● March 27, 2024

## State Support Turns Minnesota's Enrollment Tide

Enrollment at public colleges rose for the first time in a decade. Higher ed leaders credit historic state funding and innovative college access initiatives.

By [Liam Knox](#)



Minneapolis College, part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The system's enrollment grew for the first time in more than a decade this year.

Courtesy of Minnesota State.

**F**or the first time in over a decade, enrollment is up at Minnesota's public colleges and universities, thanks to a record year of state funding and investment in a slew of new college-access initiatives.

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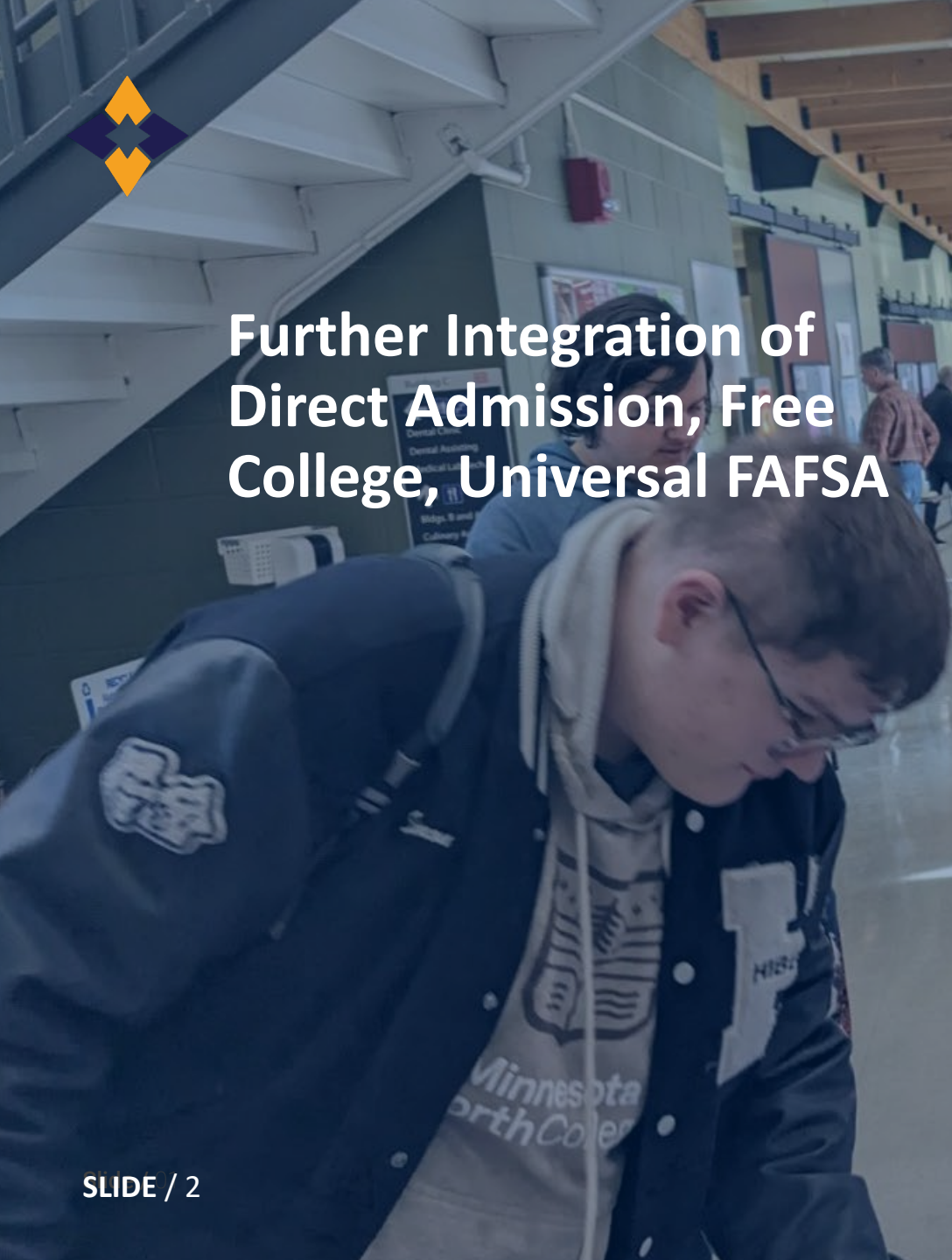
## FAFSA Completions are down 9.8%



- *38<sup>th</sup> in the country for FAFSA completions*
- *17 point gap in FAFSA completions between higher income and lower income schools*
- *12 point gap in FAFSA completions between high minority and low minority school districts*



# Further Integration of Direct Admission, Free College, Universal FAFSA





# Automatic Voter Registration



- *Increased Voter Participation*
- *Enhanced Accuracy and Efficiency*
- *Cost Savings*
- *Improved Accessibility*



## Should we have Guaranteed Aid Program?



- *Eliminate Bureaucratic Hurdles*
- *Utilize Existing Information*



# Questions