

FAFSAS IN FREEFALL: 2024-25 AWARD YEAR TRENDS AND CHANGES

Midwest FAFSA Summit

June 12, 2024

HI, IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE!

PLEASE REACH OUT IF WE CAN HELP!



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NCAN WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

The **National College Attainment Network (NCAN)** pursues its mission by building network capacity, advocating for policy solutions, and supporting systems change

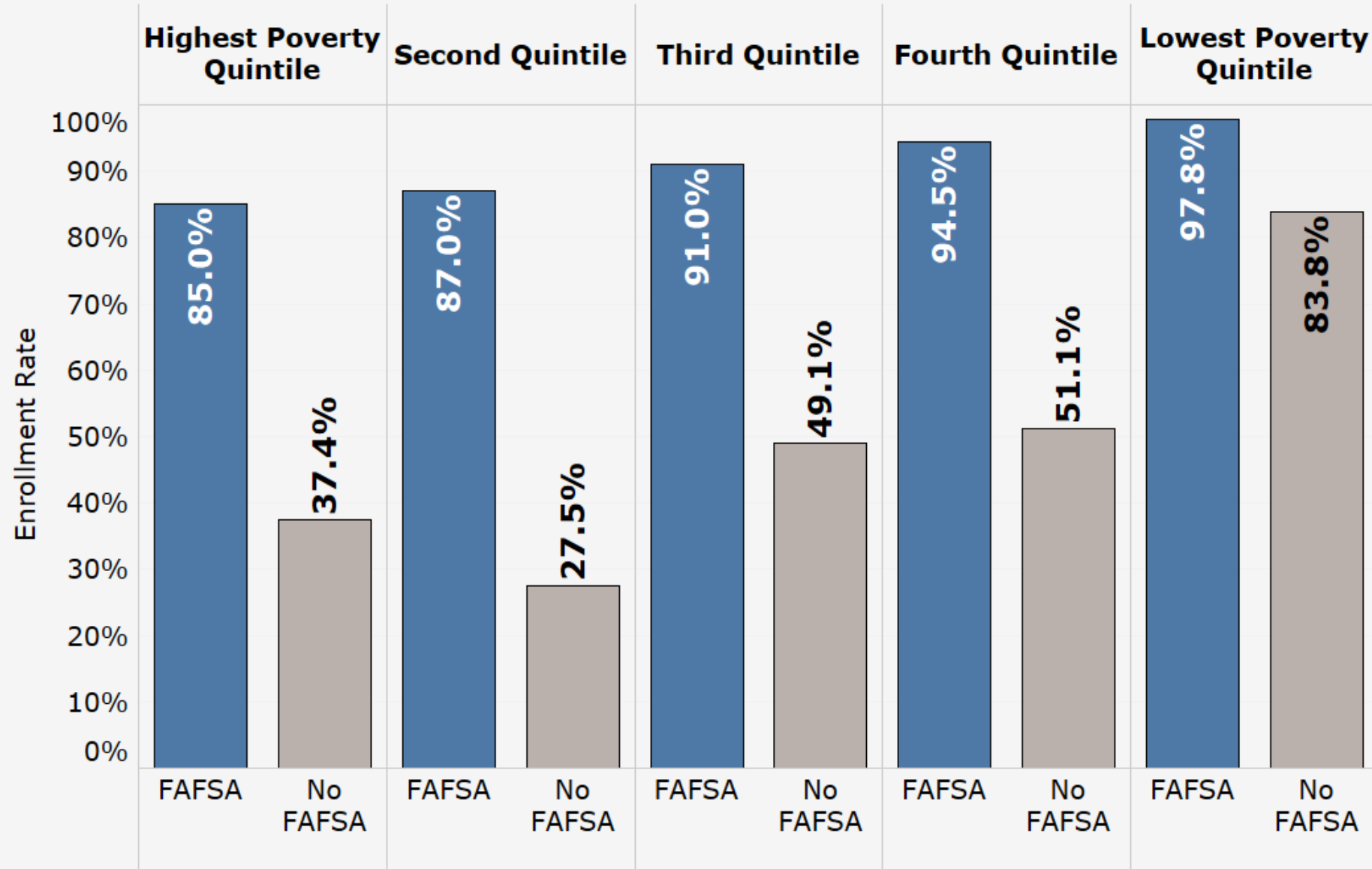
Build field capacity

Advocate for policy solutions

Increase alignment & collaboration

FAFSA

Immediate college enrollment following high school graduation, by percentile of district poverty and FAFSA completion status.



**WHY
FAFSA
COMPLETION
MATTERS
SO
MUCH**

Source: NCAN analysis of High School Longitudinal Study: 2009 data

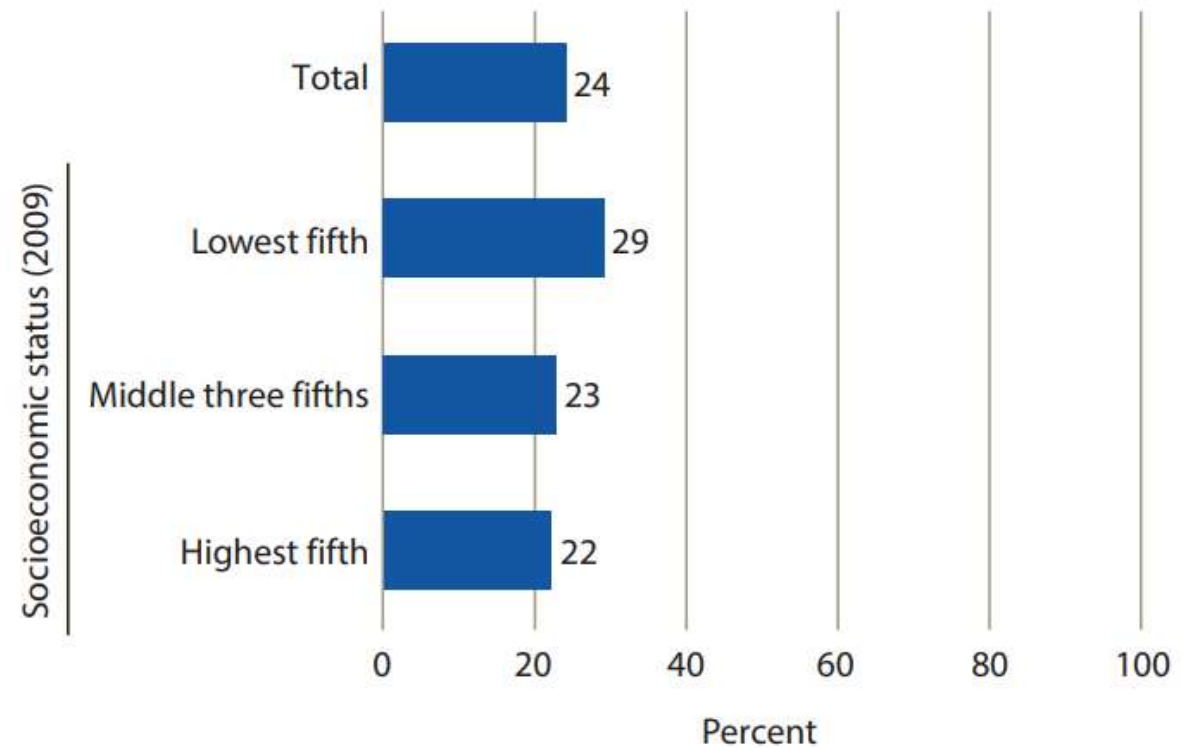
WHY FAFSA COMPLETION MATTERS SO MUCH

June 30 FAFSA Completion % by Immediate College Enrollment Rate of High School Seniors



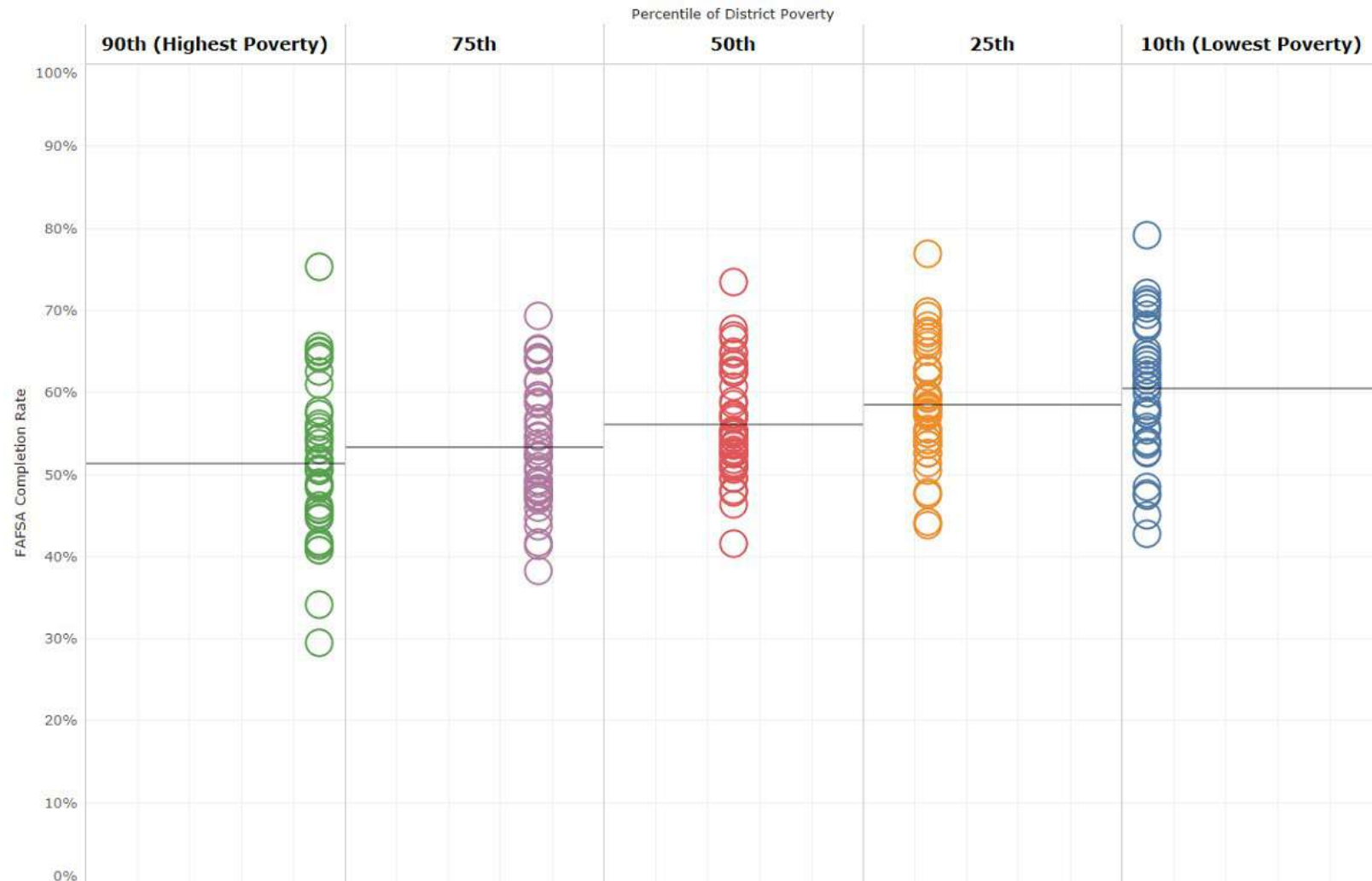
FAFSA COMPLETION IS OFTEN DEEPLY INEQUITABLE (PT. 1)

Percentage of fall 2009 ninth-graders who did not complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), by socioeconomic status: 2013



FAFSA COMPLETION IS OFTEN DEEPLY INEQUITABLE (PT. 2)

Average FAFSA Completion Rate by Percentile of District Poverty



Source: NCAN, "Students in Higher-Poverty School Districts Are Less Likely to Apply for Financial Aid"

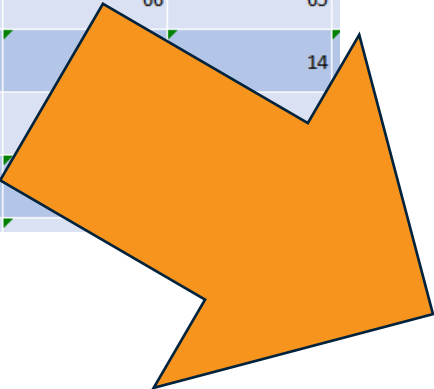
FAFSA COMPLETION CAN BE THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE

Source: NCAN FAFSA Tracker, NSCRC HS Benchmarks Reports

High School Class	National FAFSA Completion Rate	Year-Over-Year FAFSA % Change	National First Fall Enrollment Rate
2018	54.0%	+1.9%	64%
2019	53.8%	-0.5% ↓	62.9% ↓
2020	52.0%	-3.7% ↓	59.9% ↓
2021	49.9%	-4.8% ↓	58.8% ↓
2022	52.1%	+4.6% ↑	60.0% ↑
2023	53.4%	+1.3% ↑	???
2024	33.7%	-29.1% ↓	???

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submissions by High School
Applications processed through January 5 of the first 15 months of each cycle

	City	State	2024/ 2025 Cycle			
			Through January 5, 2024		Through January 5, 2023	
			Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5	9	9
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5	<5	<5
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5	33	31
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5	<5	<5
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5	49	42
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5	66	65
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5		14
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5		
	ANCHORAGE	AK	<5	<5		



NCAN’s FAFSA Tracker transforms publicly-available, high school-level data into national, state, and local insights on FAFSA completion trends within and across years

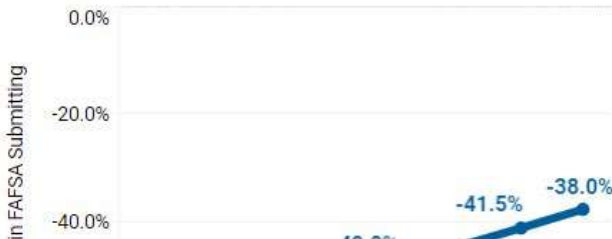


Through **February 23, 2024**, **26.4%** of the **high school class of 2024** has submitted a FAFSA. There have been **1,095,852** submissions nationally, a **-38.0%** change compared to last academic year.

Estimated Percent of Seniors Submitting a FAFSA



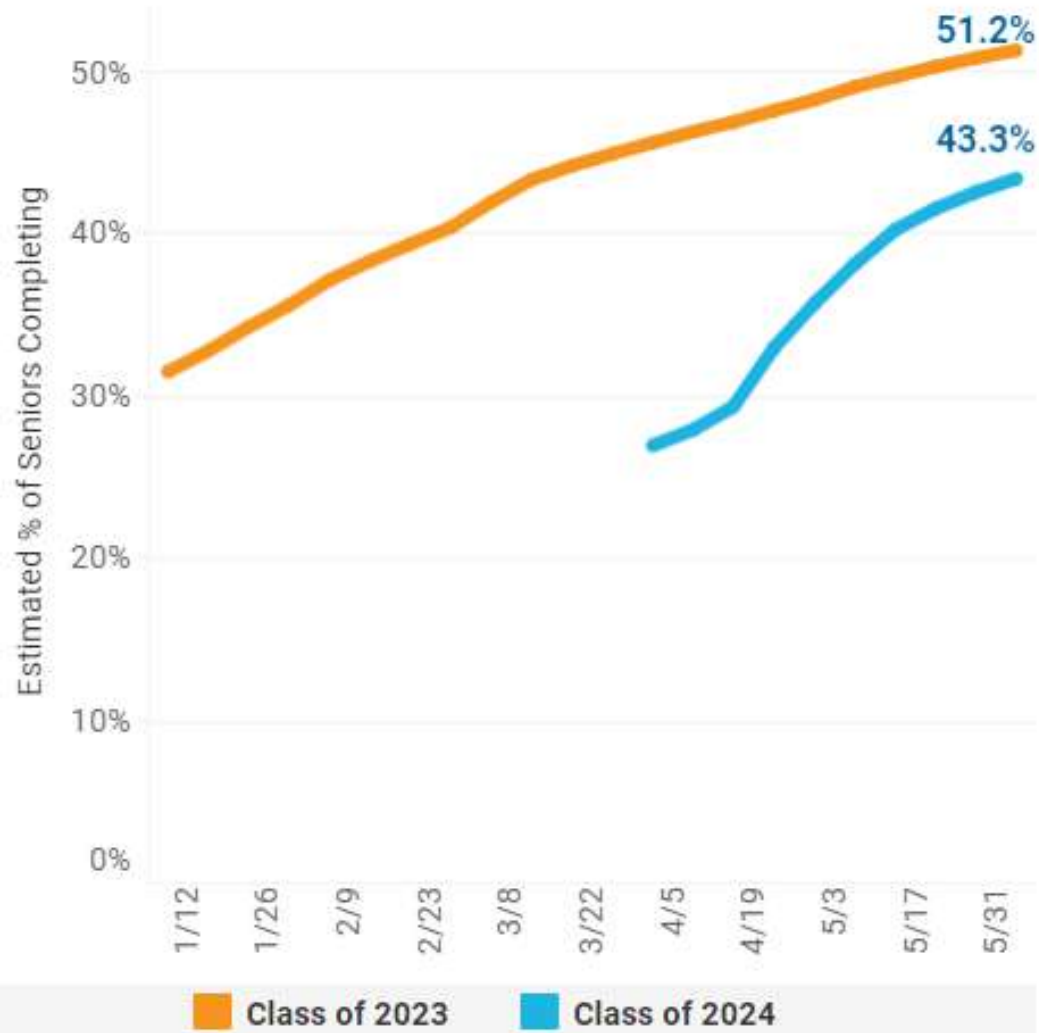
Year-Over-Year % Change in FAFSA Submissions



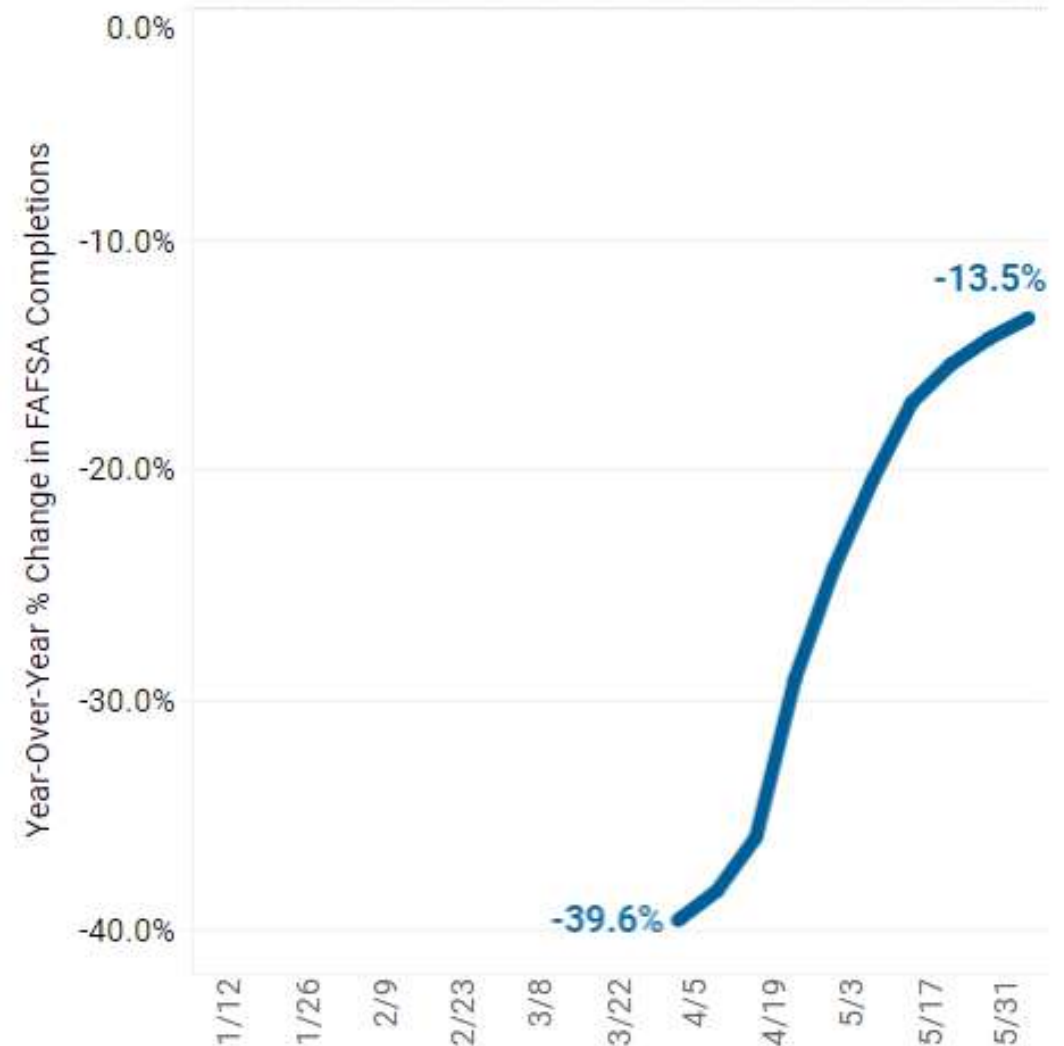
**HOW IS THE CLASS
OF 2024 DOING?**

CLASS OF 2024 FAFSA COMPLETION METRICS THROUGH MAY 31

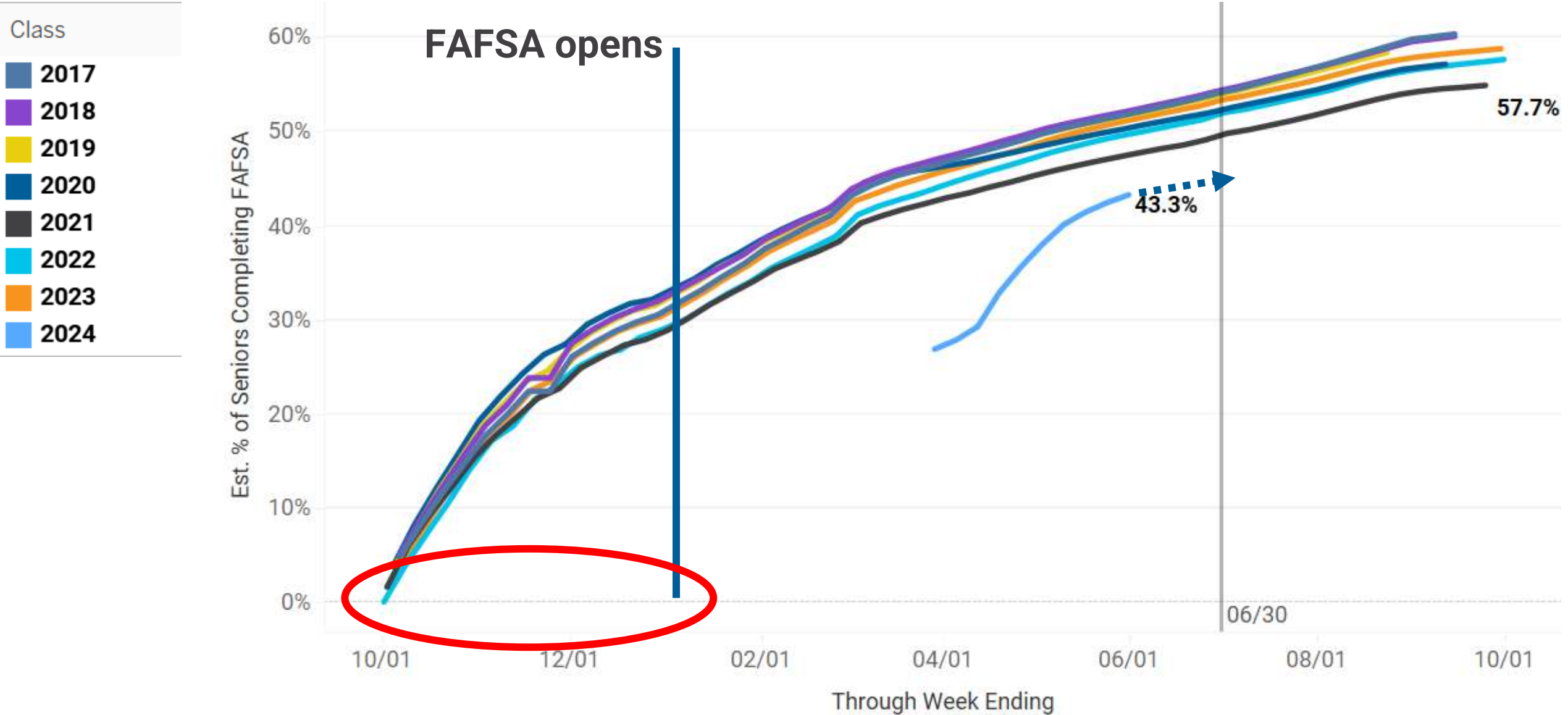
Estimated Percent of Seniors Completing a FAFSA



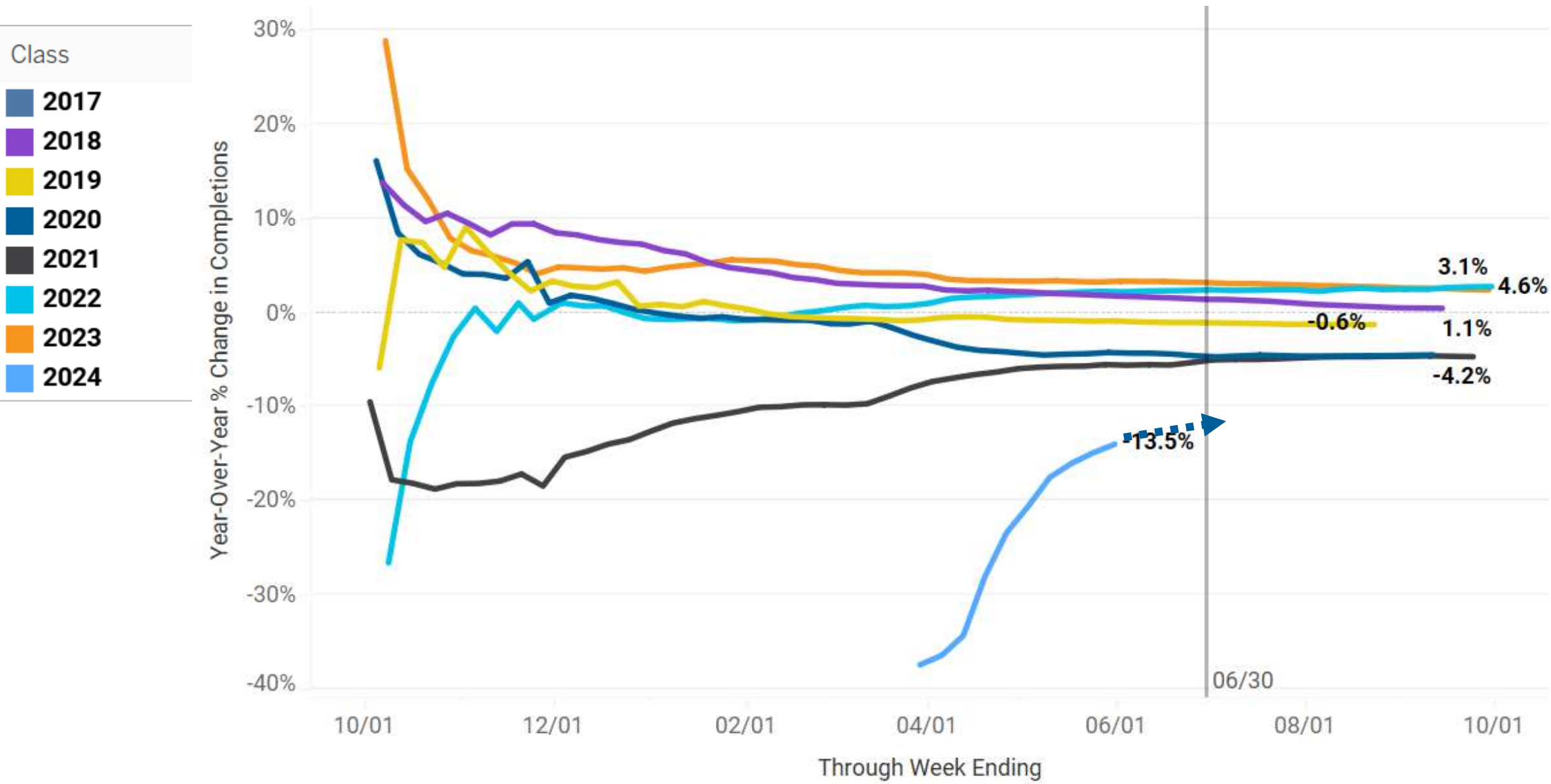
Year-Over-Year % Change in FAFSA Completions

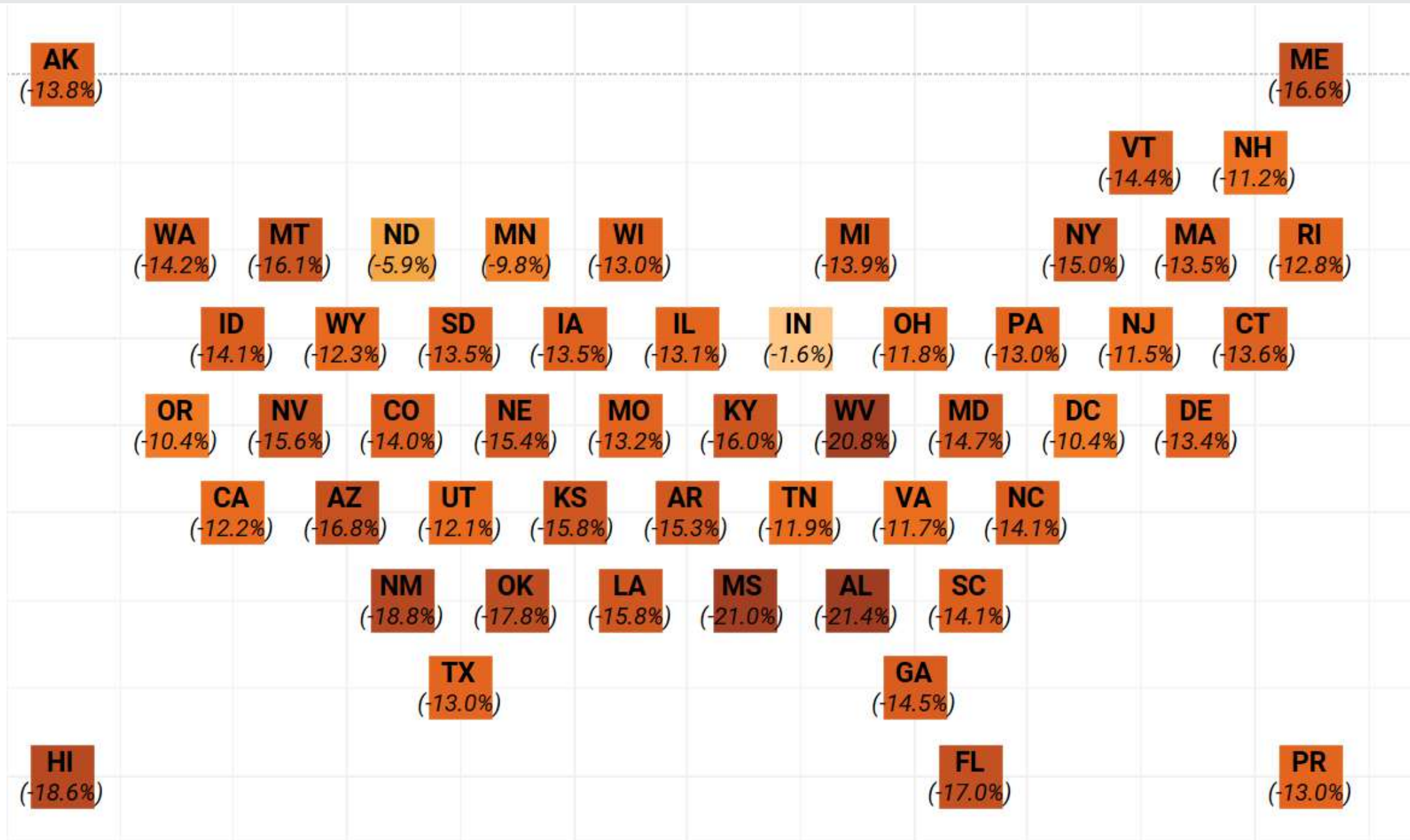


ESTIMATED % OF SENIORS COMPLETING, CLASSES OF 2017-2024

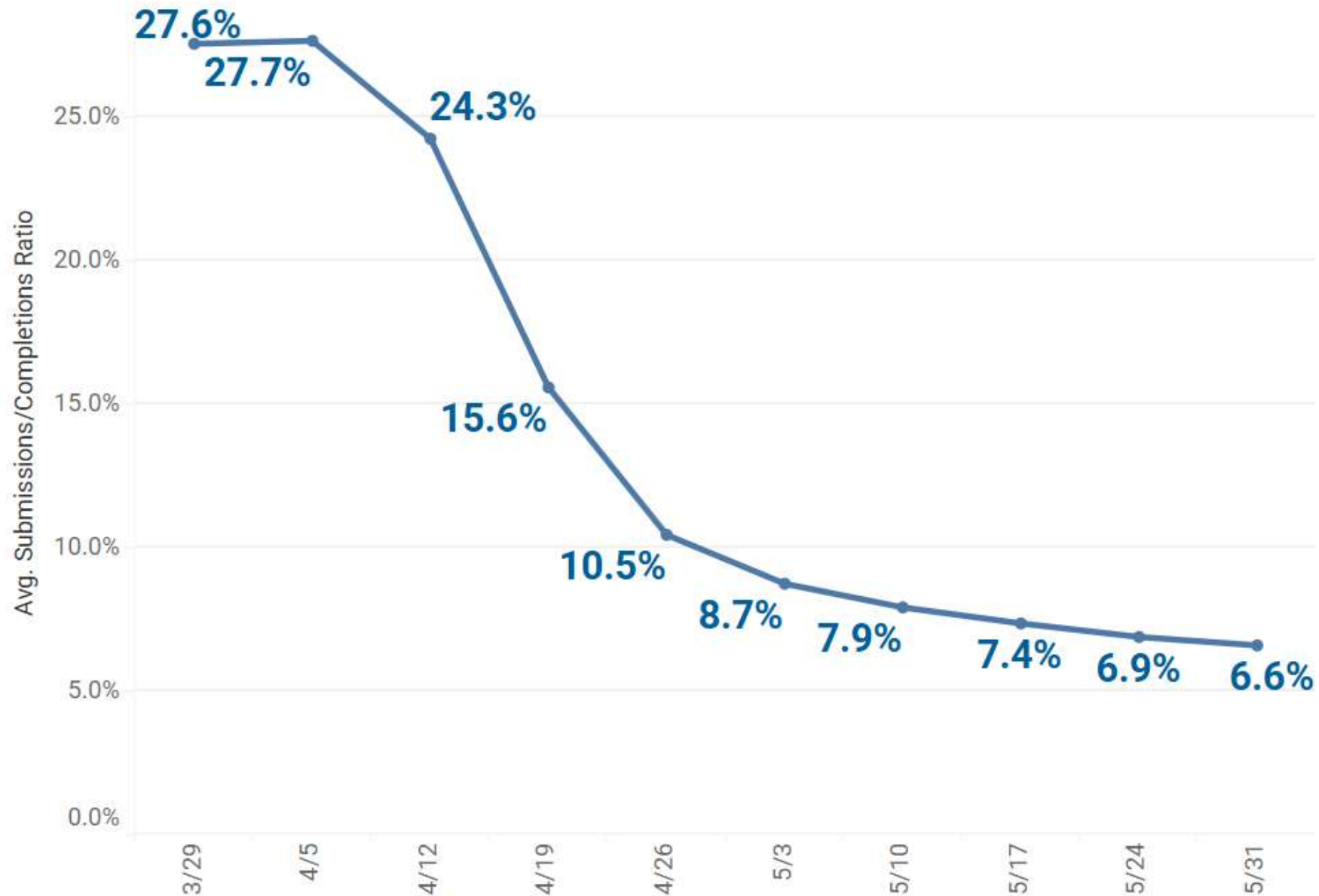


YEAR-OVER-YEAR % CHANGE IN FAFSA COMPLETIONS, BY HS CLASS



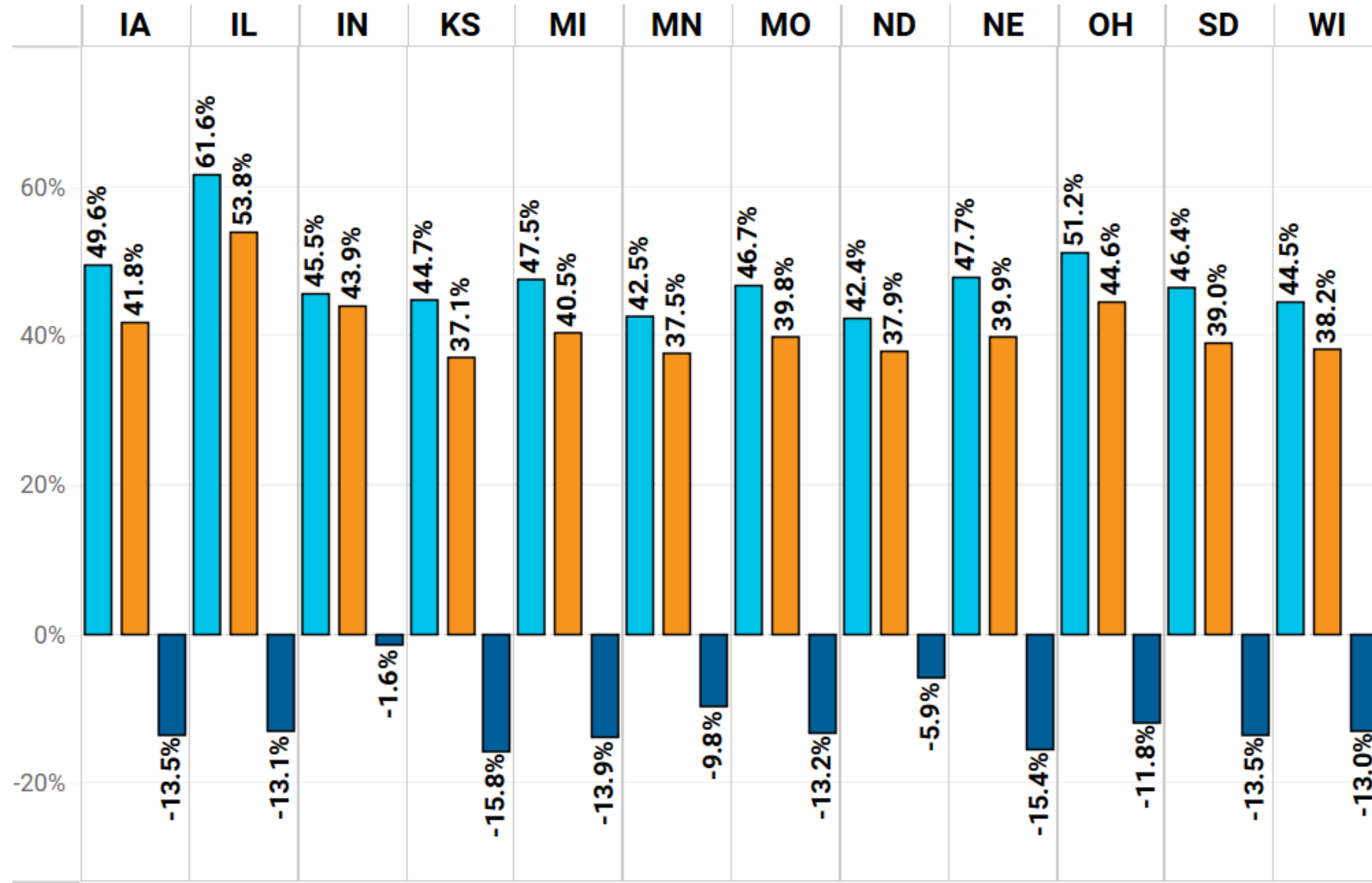


Ratio of FAFSA Submissions to Completions, U.S. High School Seniors, Through May 31

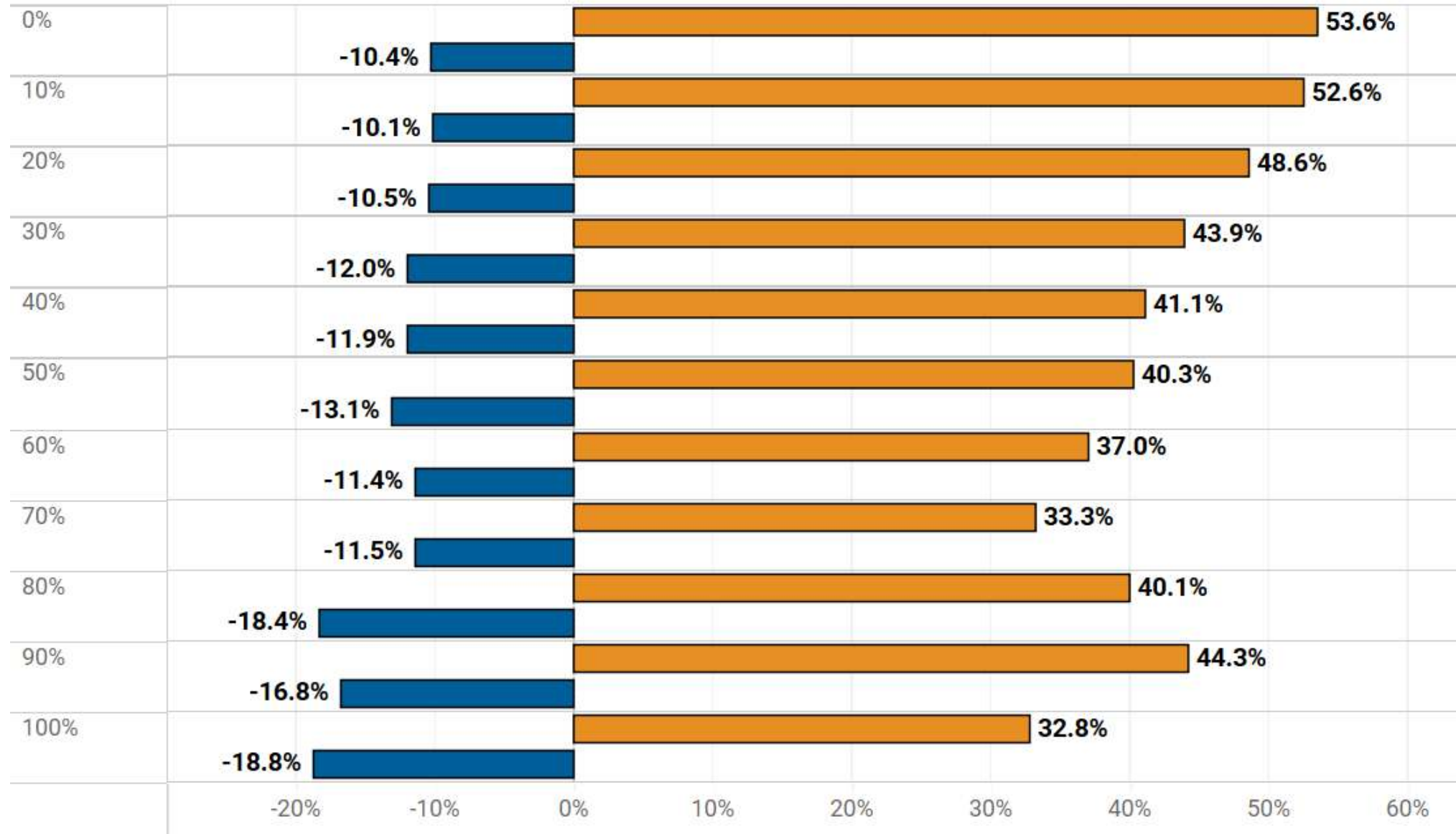


**WHAT ABOUT
MHEC STATES?**

Class of 2023 and 2024 FAFSA Completion Rates & Year-Over-Year % Change in FAFSA Completion, MHEC States, Through May 31



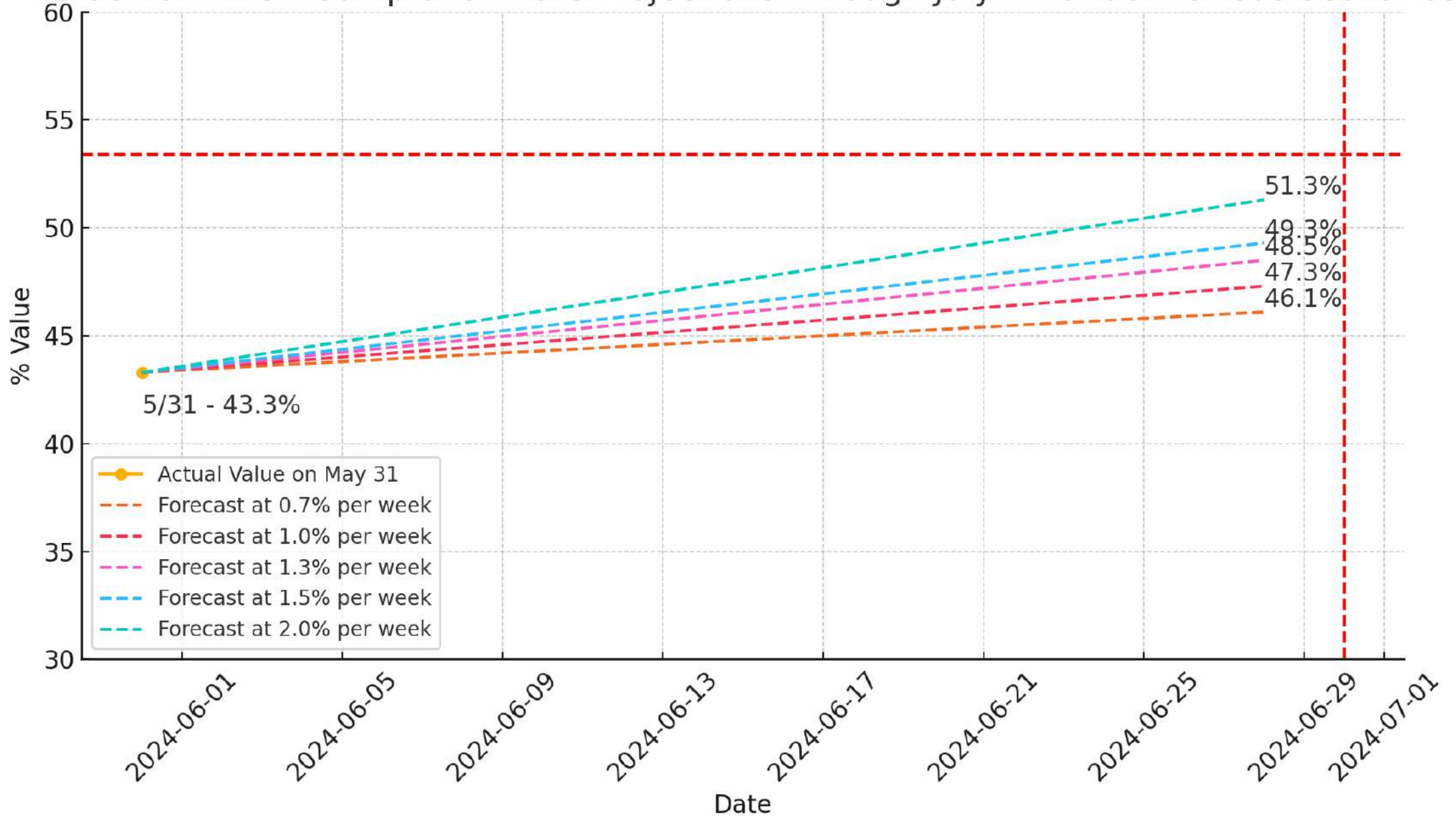
Year-Over-Year % Change in FAFSA Completion and Average School-Level FAFSA Completion Rate, by % FRPL Decile, MHEC States, Through May 31



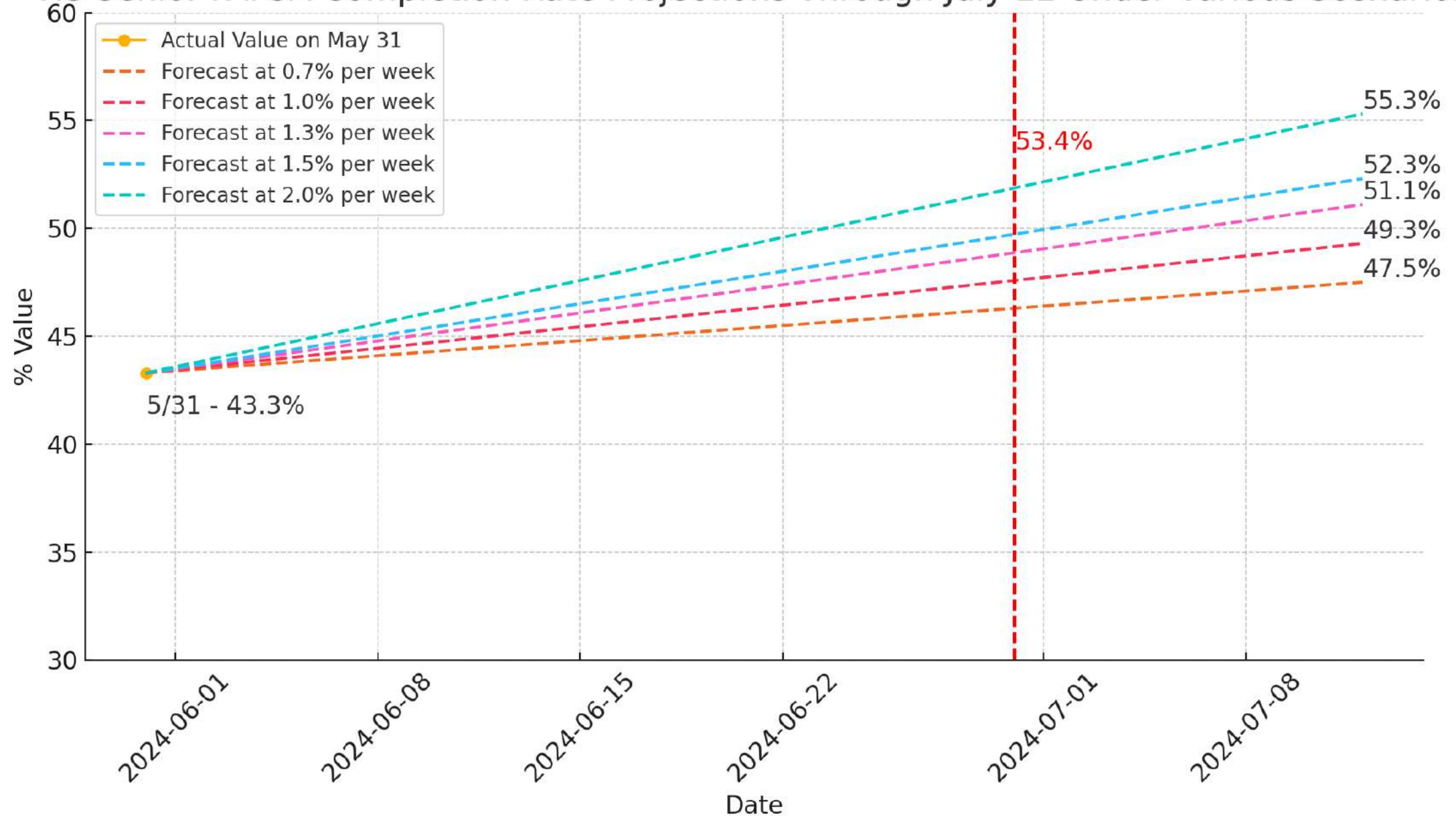
**WHERE MIGHT WE
END UP?**

P.P. Gained Per Week	Completion Difference by June 30	2024 Completion Rate by June 30	P.P. Difference	Y/Y % Decline
0.7%	305,251	46.1%	-7.3%	-13.7%
1.0%	242,938	47.3%	-6.1%	-11.4%
1.3%	180,625	48.5%	-4.9%	-9.2%
1.5%	139,083	49.3%	-4.1%	-7.7%
2.0%	35,227	51.3%	-2.1%	-3.9%

HS Senior FAFSA Completion Rate Projections Through July 12 Under Various Scenarios



HS Senior FAFSA Completion Rate Projections Through July 12 Under Various Scenarios



“If you’re going through hell, **keep going.**”
– **SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**

DIVING INTO THE 2024-25 AWARD YEAR CHANGES



MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE BETTER FAFSA

Every contributor needing an FSA ID to access the online FAFSA

Being required to report business/farm net value

FAFSA delayed opening date with several technical issues

Lots of new vocabulary to learn

Contributor invites requiring exact matches to FSA ID info

People without an SSN denied access to the form for months

Number in college not considered when calculating SAI

Paper forms available but still not processed

MAJOR CHANGES/IMPACTS

- FSA ID creation processed for those without an SSN that blocked access to the form
- Delayed opening; delayed processing; delayed corrections option; delayed award notifications; delayed enrollment decisions
- Having to stand up a “Known Issues” page for all processing challenges
- FAFSA technical issues resulted in hundreds of thousands of incomplete forms and hundreds of thousands that needed reprocessed
- FAFSA Submission Summaries not processed until mid to late March and students never notified the form was processed

MAJOR CHANGES/IMPACTS

- SAI formula changes that resulted in higher SAIs for those with siblings in college and those with business/farm assets
- No access to make corrections to the form until mid-April
- Colleges that received multiple ISIRs and confusion about which one to use to create financial aid packages
- Major confusion with requesting unsubsidized loan only question-required major corrections if incorrectly answered
- Contributors without SSN initially denied access to the system for months-paused FSA ID verification process late April

MAJOR CHANGES/IMPACTS

- Inviting a contributor process posed many challenges and caused multiple attempts to access and complete a form
- FSA information call center was not able to handle the volume of calls, have highly trained people to assist, lacked translators and gave out wrong information
- As of today, students are still not being notified when their form is processed
- End results-less FAFSAs filed, students making uninformed choices, potential drop in enrollment

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2025-2026 FAFSA

- Need a confirmed timeline from FSA for form and resource availability
- Will it open on October 1?
- Need for a revised/enhanced FSA ID system that allows for a smooth and efficient identity verification process that includes a portal to upload sensitive identity documents
- Need all technical glitches resolved, enhancements to some questions and instructions
- Need a fully staffed, well trained call center staff equipped to handle an extremely high volume of calls

POTENTIAL ADVOCACY TOPICS

- Adjusting the SAI formula to bring back multiple siblings in college as a factor
- Address the need to include business/farm assets
- Modify the definition for when to use single or two parents Poverty Tables
- Adjust Pell eligibility criteria to eliminate “Pellionaires”

YOUR TURN!
QUESTIONS,
COMMENTS,
IDEAS
REQUESTS?

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