



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA Challenge 2021-2022

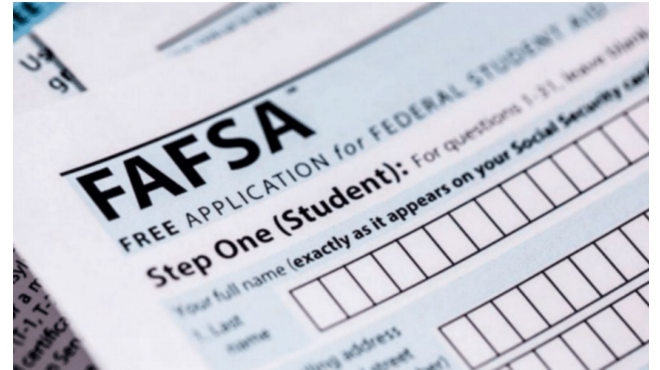
Connecticut's Plan to Raise FAFSA Completion Rates

Governor's Council on Women and Girls Presentation

January 11, 2022

Overview of The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

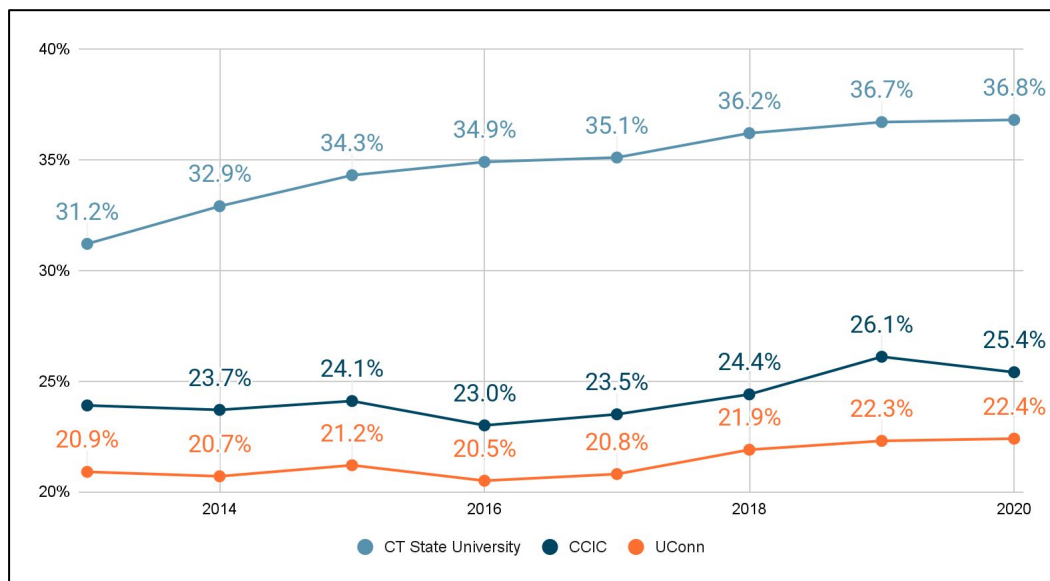
- The FAFSA is administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid; **CT students can receive up to ~\$20,000 in aid in federal and state aid**
- **In order to be eligible for financial aid, students must fill out the FAFSA** -- this includes federal grants (Pell Grants, work-study, loans), most college-based aid, and state grants like Roberta Willis Scholarship Program
- Per the National College Attainment Network, there is **an 84% increase in likelihood of postsecondary enrollment associated with FAFSA completion.**



Why is the FAFSA so important for Connecticut students?

A growing share of Connecticut students rely on Pell Grants, or federal grants reserved for students who display exceptional financial need, to finance their higher education.

Percentage of Undergraduates Awarded Pell Grants at CT 4-year Institutions, by Sector

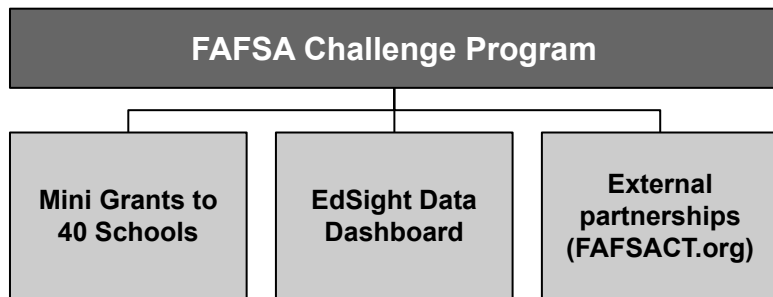


Source: IPEDS

And there are likely more who could benefit. [Research](#) shows that **one-third of the students who do not file a FAFSA would have been eligible for a Pell grant** and other need-based aid.

2021-2022 Connecticut FAFSA Challenge

Vision



Mini Grants: Each school receives between \$5,000 - \$12,000 to implement innovative strategies and incentives for students to submit a FAFSA

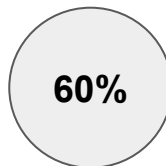
Data Dashboard: CSDE posts FAFSA weekly completion rates on a district, school, and, through a secure portal, individual level

External Partnerships: CSDE established partnerships with the RISE Network, CTCollegeBound, and the College Advising Corps to expand capacity for and deepen knowledge of FAFSA completion strategies in high-need schools.

What success looks like



90% of Challenge schools (up to 36 schools) will increase their FAFSA completion rates by 5 percentage points or more



A statewide completion goal of 60%, or an increase of roughly 5 points from June 2021

Connecticut's FAFSA Completion Rate Goal: 60% by June 2022

FAFSA Completion Progress

