



A UNIVERSE OF OPPORTUNITIES



CONNECTICUT
Education

2024-2025

The State of FAFSA Completion

September 26, 2024

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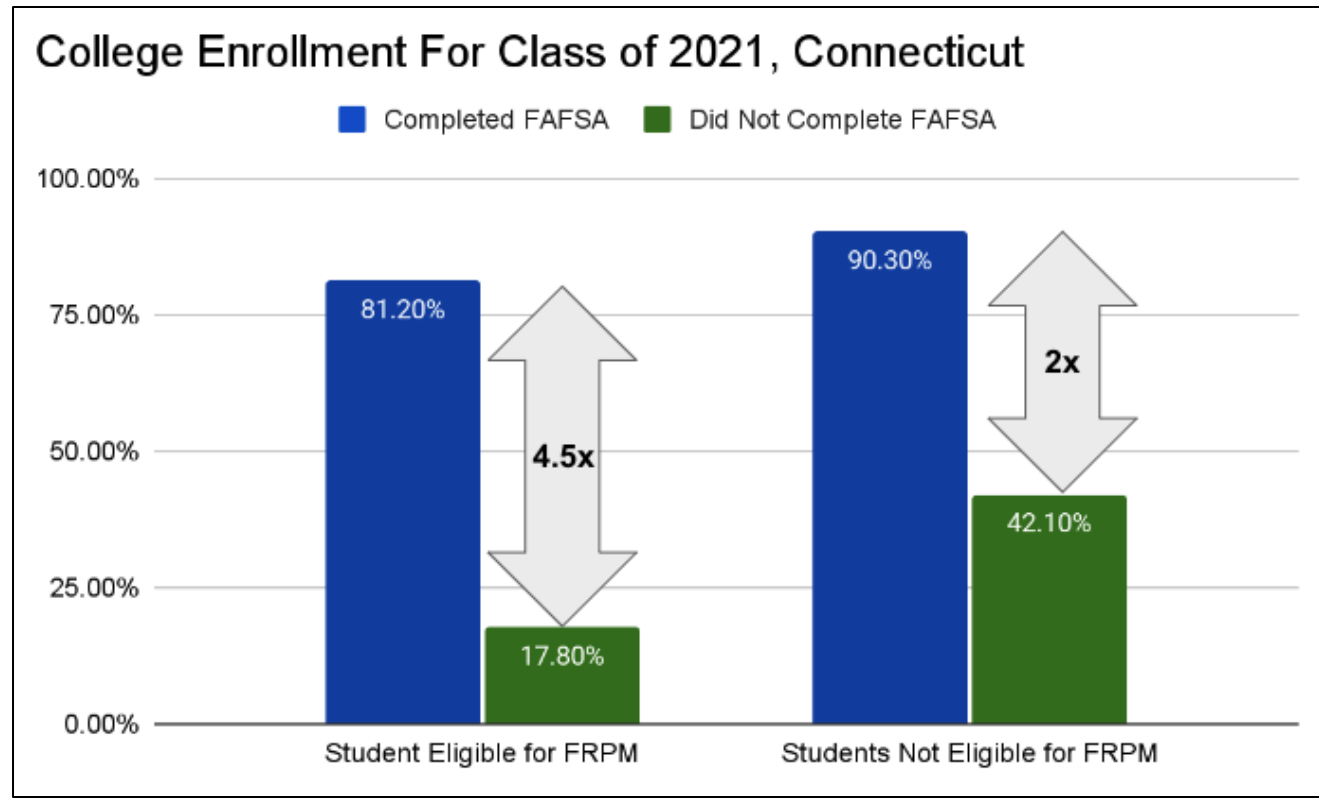
Connecticut State
Department of Education



Why do we care about the FAFSA (1/3)?

1

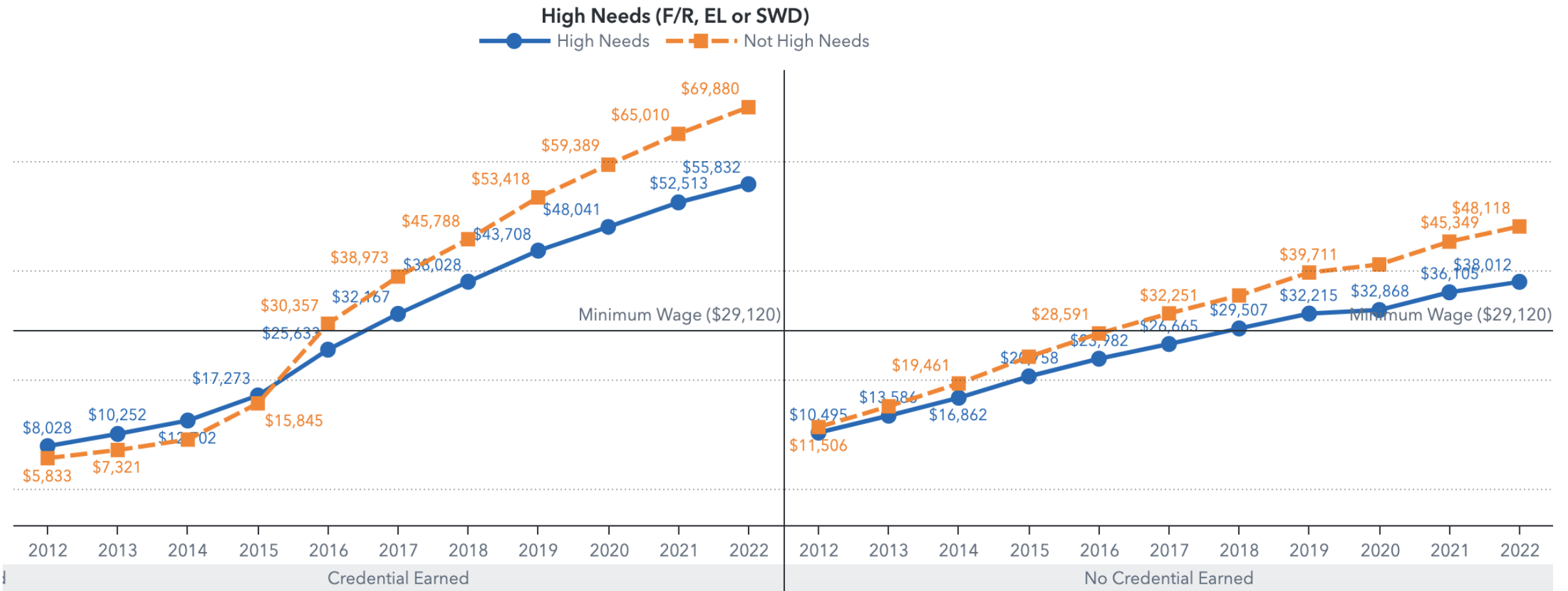
In Connecticut, FAFSA completion is strongly correlated with postsecondary enrollment, particularly for students eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals.





Why do we care about the FAFSA (2/3)?

High school graduates identified as having high needs earn more than their peers without a postsecondary credential, regardless of their high-needs status.





Why do we care about the FAFSA (3/3)?

2

The FAFSA (and AACTUS) unlocks multiple streams of federal, state, and institutional aid for students, including grants, loans, and work study.



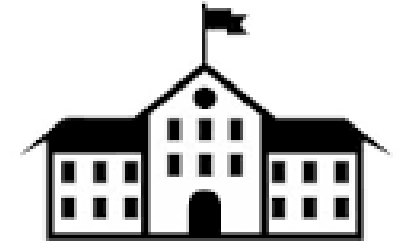
Federal Sources of Aid:

- **Pell Grant** (Up to \$7,395 per year)
- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant** (Up to \$4,000 a year)
- **Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant** (Up to \$7,395 per year)
- **TEACH Grant** (Up to \$4,000 per year)



State Sources of Aid:

- **Roberta B. Willis Scholarship – Merit** (Up to \$5,250 a year)
- **Roberta B. Willis Scholarship – Need** (Up to \$4,500 a year)
- **CT Minority Teacher Incentive Grant** (Up to \$5,000)

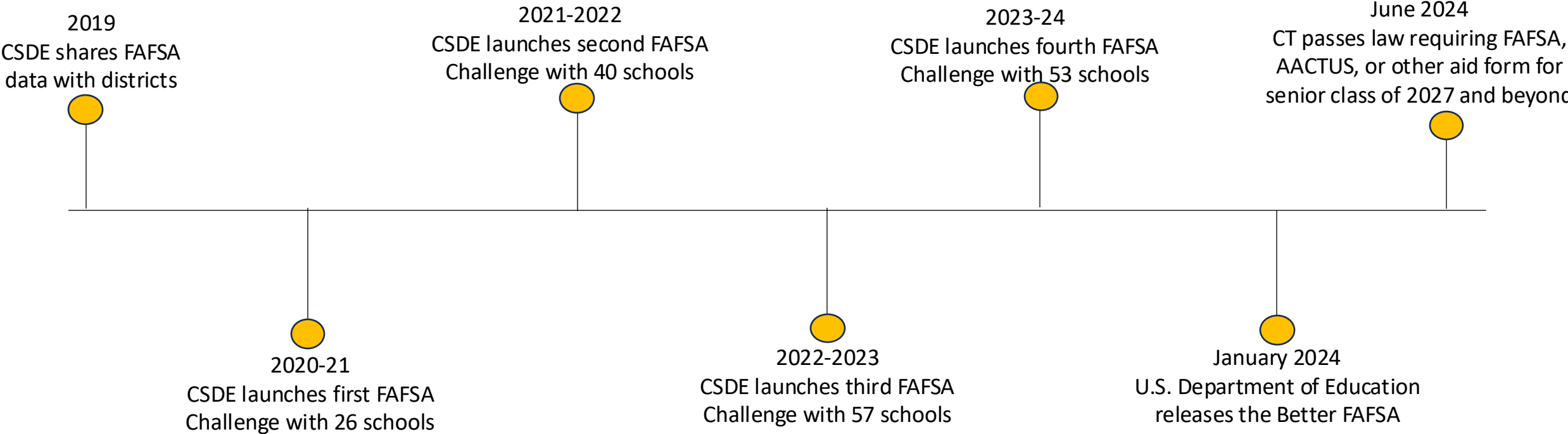


Institutional Sources of Aid:

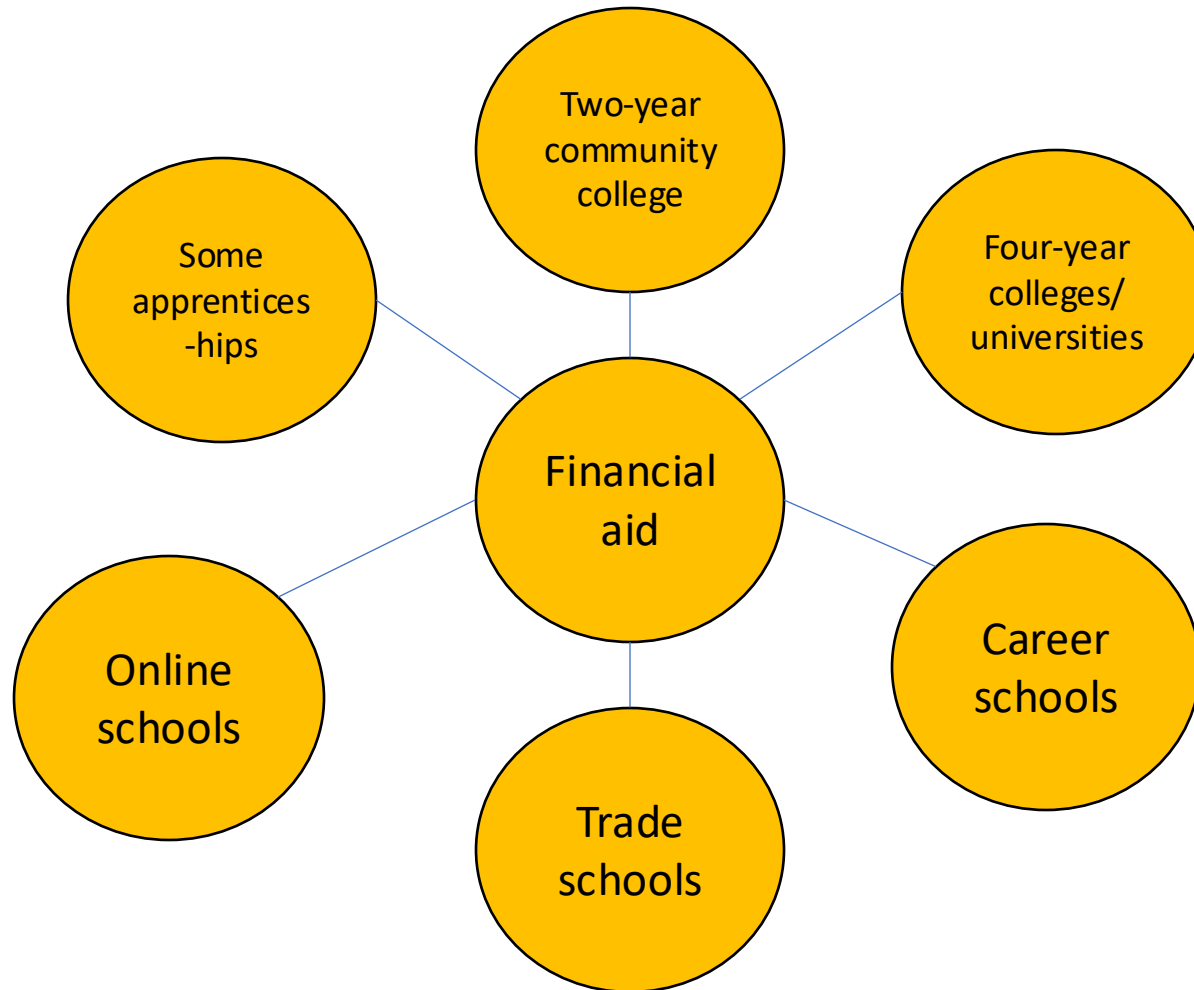
- **Scholarships and grants** specific to each institution



Evolution of FAFSA in Connecticut



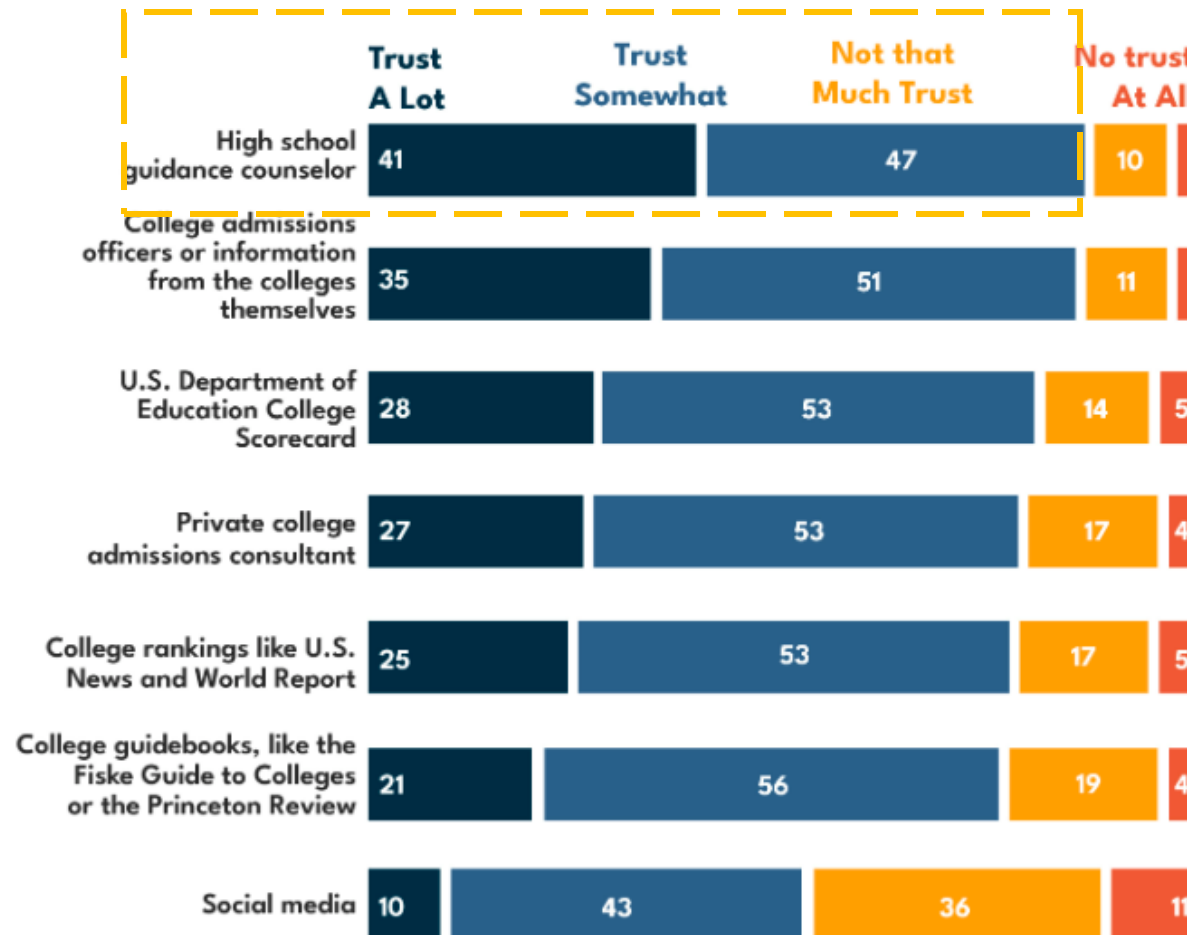
Why do we care about the FAFSA?





Deep Student Trust in School Counselors

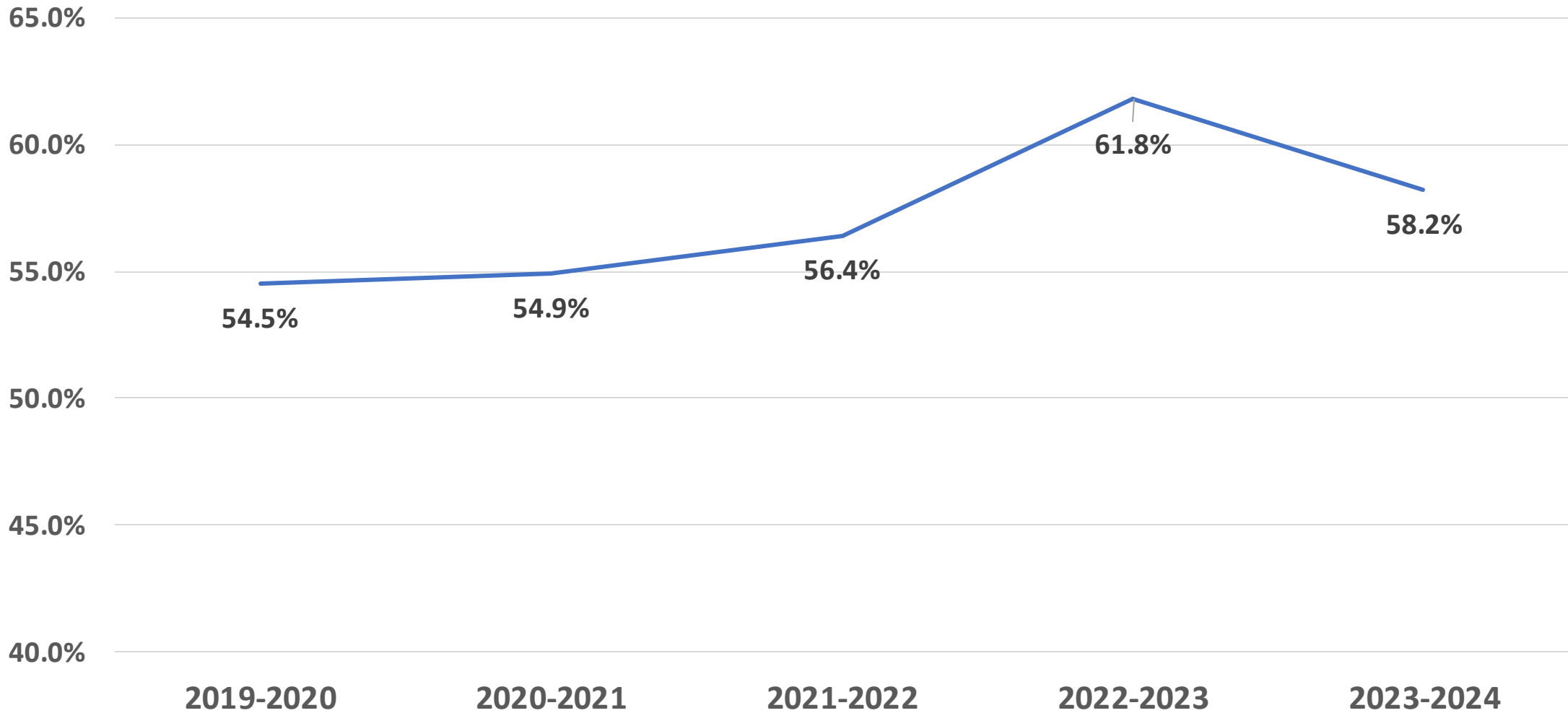
How much trust do you have in each of the following as a source of information about higher education institutions?



Source: Third Way, August 2024

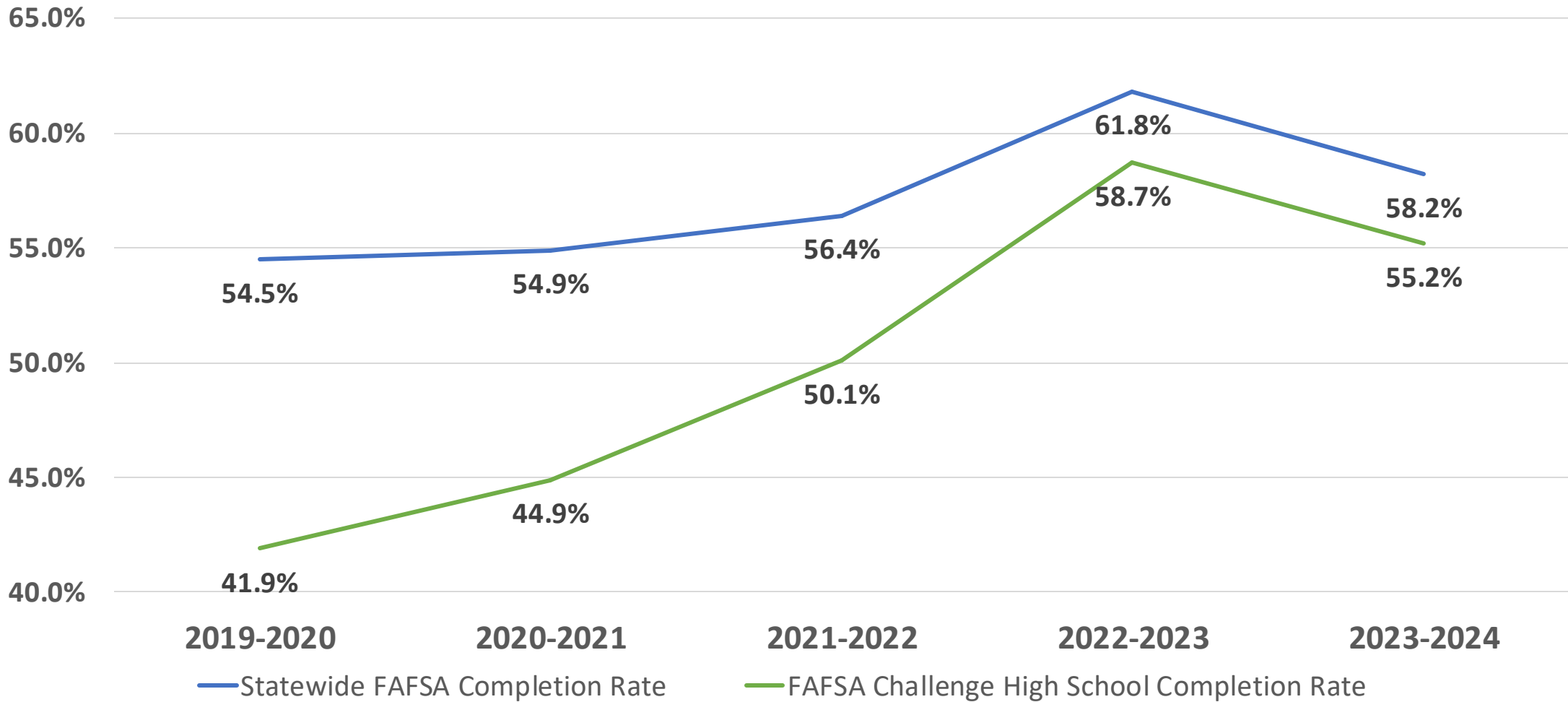


Statewide FAFSA Completion Rate





FAFSA Completion Rate State vs. FAFSA Challenge High Schools



🚀 This year will be even better 🚀



Stefany Barbagallo, School Counselor
Plainville High School





Creative Strategies Across Connecticut

"We have students who are FAFSA Ambassadors who help get the word out about the importance of FAFSA to our school community." *New Britain High School*

"Appointments with our community partner from CONNTAC has been really impactful."
Middletown High School

"Our FAFSA luncheon was a big success again this year. Seniors were very motivated to complete the FAFSA so that they could attend this "VIP" event." *Brien McMahon High School*

"Teaming up with local colleges for a FAFSA & Food Night was a huge success." *Plainville High School*



We've Got Your Back

- 1 2024-25 Connecticut FAFSA Challenge.** CSDE welcomes back 50 high schools to the Challenge!
- 2 Connecticut FAFSA Summit for Challenge Schools.** In person convening on Friday, October 25th in Hartford!
- 3 Statewide virtual FAFSA Trainings with uAspire.** Stay tuned for dates later this year!
- 4 Better FAFSA Guide.** CSDE will be sharing English and Spanish copies with all school counselors.
- 5 CSDE Postsecondary Marketing Campaign.** A multi-media campaign to bring greater attention to postsecondary resources available to families.



Contact Us!



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Learn more at portal.ct.gov/sde/performance/fafsa-completion