Connecticut State Department of Education

Successfully Navigating FAFSA Completion during COVID

September 30, 2020

Welcome!
Meet the Facilitators

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CT State Department of Education
Commissioner's Office
Director of Innovation & Partnerships

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Founder/Executive Director
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CCAN State Coordinator

Agenda

- Welcome

- Overview and Context of Webinar

- Understanding EdSight Secure

- FAFSA Updates

- FAFSA Completion Strategies

- What's next with FAFSA Completion in CT
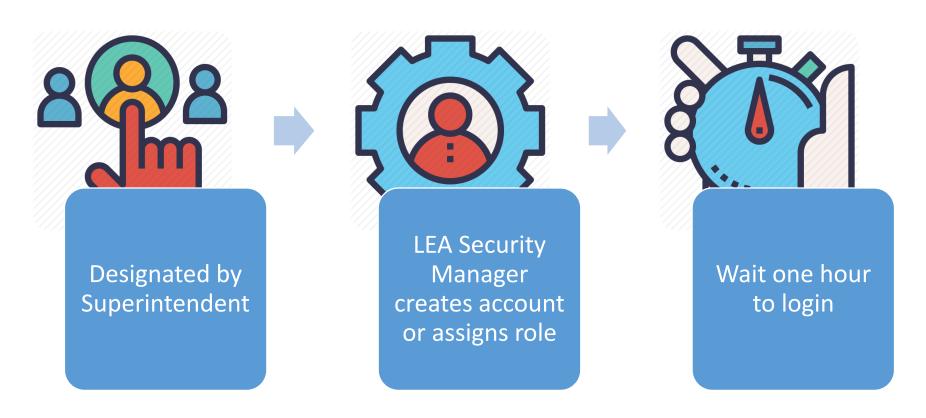
- Upcoming Events

- Questions

What is **EdSight Secure**?

EdSight Secure

- Secure Online Data Portal
- For Designated LEA Staff
- Access Student-level Data
- View Charts and Tables
  - Filter and Disaggregate
  - Export

CSDE

How do I gain access?

Designated by Superintendent

→

LEA Security Manager creates account or assigns role

→

Wait one hour to login

Find your LEA Security Manager at:
https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Performance/Data-Collection/Help-Sites/Directory-Manager//-/media/SDE/Performance/Data-Collection/Help-Sites/Directory-Manager/LEASecurityManagerContactList.pdf

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What reports are available?

Students

- Early Indication Tool (EIT)
- EIT for Teachers
- FAFSA Completion
- Student Summary

Educators

- Educators with Active Endorsements

Performance

- CMT/CAPT Science
- Connecticut School Day SAT
- Achievement and Growth
  - Smarter Balanced
  - LAS Links
- NGSS Assessment

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FAFSA COMPLETION REPORT

FAFSA COMPLETION REPORT

OVERVIEW

This report provides authorized users in districts that have executed a data use agreement with **secure access to the FAFSA Completion Status for currently enrolled Grade 12 students**.

THE DATA TAB

FAFSA COMPLETION REPORT

THE RESOURCES TAB

↰ | FAFSA Completion

FAFSA Completion Data | Resources

Resources

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

Why Invest in Increasing FAFSA Completion?

Research Projects: FAFSA Experiments

How-To Documents

How to Use the FAFSA Completion Report

Edsight Secure Reports_Understanding and Creating Charts

EdSight Secure Introduction/FAQs

FAFSA COMPLETION REPORT

NOTE: The data tab of the report is blank for any district from which CSDE has not received a signed data sharing agreement form.

Click here to view the FAFSA Completion Data memo to superintendents and to access the data sharing agreement

Improvement in FAFSA Completion Numbers

- **Increased buy-in** from districts, schools, and families
  - 96% of high school seniors in Connecticut public schools were included in the FAFSA Completion report
  - More than 60% of Connecticut's high school seniors completed FAFSA before May 1
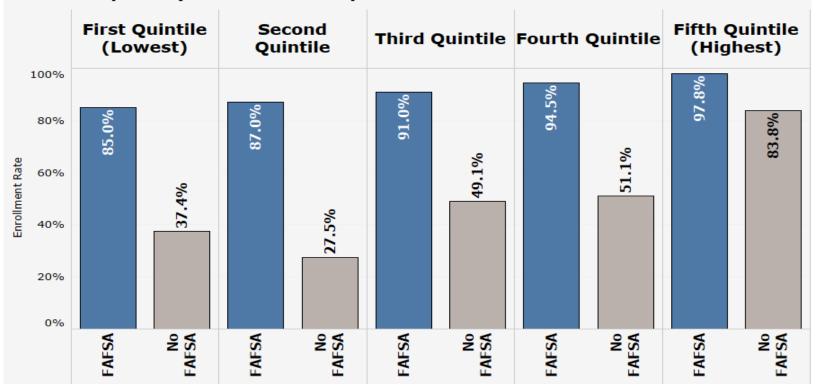
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Key Findings of FAFSA Completion

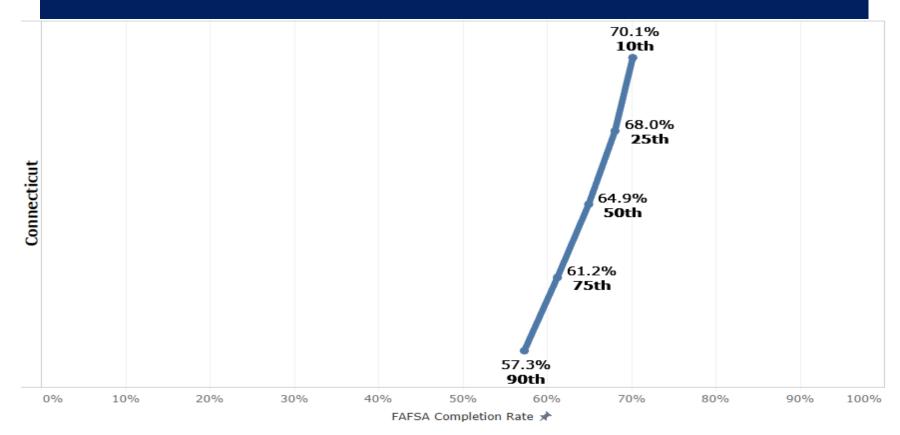# FAFSA Completion Associates Strongly with Postsecondary Enrollment

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

First Quintile (Lowest)		Second Quintile		Third Quintile		Fourth Quintile		Fifth Quintile (Highest)	
FAFSA	No FAFSA	FAFSA	No FAFSA	FAFSA	No FAFSA	FAFSA	No FAFSA	FAFSA	No FAFSA
85.0%	37.4%	87.0%	27.5%	91.0%	49.1%	94.5%	51.1%	97.8%	83.8%

Enrollment Rate

Source: https://collegeaccess.org/news/456025/Survey-Data-Strengthen-Association-Between-FAFSA-Completion-and-Enrollment.htm

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In Connecticut, FAFSA completion rates in the highest income districts are 13 percentage points higher than those in the lowest income districts.

Source: Forthcoming NCAN report on FAFSA completion by school district poverty percentile

31% of Connecticut's class of 2018 did not complete a FAFSA. They left:

$17.6 million

in Pell Grant funding on the table

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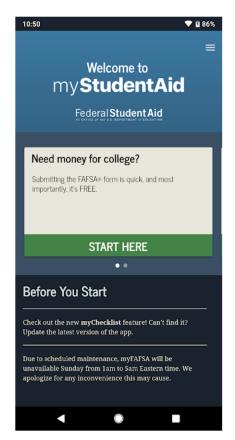
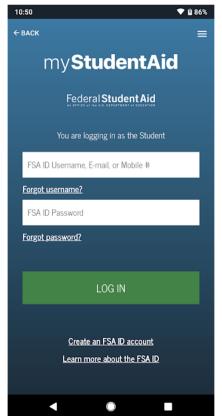# *Key Changes to the 2020-2021 FAFSA Form*

The 2021–22 FAFSA changes

- The income threshold for an automatic zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) increased from $26,000 to $27,000 for the 2021–22 award year.

- When students and parents use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), the IRS DRT will now transfer information about whether they filed a Schedule 1. The answer will be based on all current exceptions for filing a Schedule 1. The transferred data for the Schedule 1 fields will be masked.

- For students and parents who don't use the IRS DRT, the Schedule 1 help topics will be updated to include all current exceptions for filing a Schedule 1. "Capital Gains" has been removed as an exception and "Virtual Currency" has been added as an exception.

- Many FAFSA help topics referencing financial forms now feature images of those forms with relevant line numbers highlighted.

The 2021–22 FAFSA changes

NEW! - FAFSA Mobile App

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Best Practices for FAFSA Completion

Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs
(statewide college access organization)

School Day Initiatives

- FAFSA Labs (CONNTAC)

- Naviance

- Student Success Plans

- Summer Mailings to Seniors

- Senior Welcome Back Assembly

- Required Parent Senior Meetings

How to Motivate Parents

- **Start the process before 12th grade**
  - Middle School "Financial Planning Seminars"
- **Communicate consistently and with a variety of touchpoints**
  - Email, text, social media
- **Understand your community**
  - Translate printed information into the language(s) spoken by local parents. Schedule events during the evening and on the weekends. Provide transportation or vouchers. Offer child care and food.

Rename your events:

- "Financial Aid Workshop" to "CA$H Labs"
- "Scholarship Night" to "Pizza for Dollar$"
- Workshops that focus on "Credit and Debt Management for Parents" - early on

Outreach When Families are "Stuck"

Connecticut Resources:

- CONNTAC - EOC

- FAFSA Helpline

- CSDE

Next FAFSA Steps at CSDE

- **The CT College & Career Readiness Alliance is exploring a 2020-21 strategy to help improve FAFSA Completion Rates for launch before December.**

- **Using EdSight Secure FAFSA data to give targeted support to school districts with low-completion rates, understand best practices happening in certain districts to share statewide.**

Upcoming Events

Connecticut FAFSA Days

(in collaboration with New Haven Promise & Higher Heights Youth Empowerment)

Dates:

- October 7, 6:30–8 p.m. (Open to all, virtual)
- October 21, 6:30–8 p.m. (Open to all, virtual)
- November 7, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (New Haven FAFSA Day, in person, location to be determined)
- November 18, 6:30–8 p.m. (Open to all, virtual)
- December 16, 6:30–8 p.m. (Open to all, virtual)

Register: https://newhavenpromise.wufoo.com/forms/zqcswzh190ynoe/

Connecticut FAFSA Days are a collaborative series of workshops designed to connect students with trained facilitators in order to complete the FAFSA.

College Readiness for High School Seniors

NACAC Virtual College Fairs

Dates:

- Monday, October 12, 1–9 p.m. (or download PDF version) See which colleges will be there.
- Sunday, October 18, 12–8 p.m. (or download PDF version) See which colleges will be there.
- Sunday, November 8, 2–10 p.m. (or download PDF version) See which colleges will be there.

Log in on these fair dates to meet with 600+ colleges and universities. They'll be online to talk with high school juniors and seniors. Each virtual fair is a free, one-day event. Attend as often as you like. Parents are invited, too. Simply sign up at virtualcollegefairs.org now and register for one or more fairs. On the event date, use your phone or computer to log in. Learn, connect, ask questions, and discover your best college fit!

College Readiness for High School Seniors

Connecticut College Application Day

(in collaboration with Higher Heights Youth Empowerment and NECBAC—Northeast Consortium Bridging Access to College)

Date:
October 24, 2020
10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Register:
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7115186443656669966

Connecticut College Application Day is an opportunity for high school seniors to receive expert assistance in completing their college applications with the intent to increase college enrollment for Connecticut students. This event will bring together professionals from Colleges and Universities around New England to help students achieve their postsecondary dreams.

There will be a total of nine workshops, each 25 minutes with three-minute transitions.

EdSight Postsecondary Deep Dive

Last spring, COVID-19 upended 12th grade for thousands of students and their postsecondary aspirations. Educators and stakeholders alike must be armed with relevant data to give students sound guidance and make informed policy decisions, particularly as they plan their postsecondary careers. EdSight serves as the public portal for CT State Department of Education data. This session will focus primarily on Postsecondary data and cover a variety of topics that will orient participants to critical information on EdSight allowing them to better serve students.

Topics:

- EdSight college enrollment and persistence reports
- National Student Clearinghouse — progress to postsecondary graduation, state and High School data
- Next Generation Accountability Indicators 5, 6, and 10
- Early Indication Tool (EIT) College & Career Readiness measures (on EdSight Secure)
- FAFSA completion data (on EdSight Secure)
- P20WIN reports
    - Credit attainment, remediation at CT public colleges
    - Earnings and employment of CT HS grads

Presenters:

David Alexandro, Ph.D, CSDE Performance Office

Chuck Martie, Ph.D, CSDE Performance Office

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Time: 2–3 p.m.

Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8865906922858156304
(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.)

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Questions?

Thank You!

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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