

FAFSA Challenge Buddy List

The Governor’s Office and Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) highly encourage high schools to partner with an outside organization, such as a community-based organization with experience supporting students pursue postsecondary education, an institution of higher education, or another organization, as a means of augmenting a school’s capacity and expertise in helping students complete the FAFSA.

The design, responsibilities, and meeting cadence of the partnership is completely up to the school and partner organizations to decide, but example activities may include:

- Develop trainings/tools for school counselors who may be unfamiliar with the FAFSA;
- Hold FAFSA nights at high school or at organization site;
- Host virtual guidance sessions with seniors and their families on FAFSA completion;
- Supplement schools with additional incentives for students who complete the FAFSA.

Below is a list of community-based organizations and institutions of higher education that are eager and willing to collaborate with high schools for the duration of the FAFSA Challenge. High schools are encouraged to identify and reach out to a community-based organization or institution of higher education on this list prior to the application deadline. Please note that inclusion of these organizations does not constitute an endorsement of or approval by the Governor’s Office or the State Department of Education.

Organization	Contact Name	Contact Email	Community(ies) Served
Albertus Magnus College	Michelle Cochran	mcochran@albertus.edu	New Haven
Central Connecticut State University	Gladys Colon	colon_gla@ccsu.edu	New Britain
Connecticut State Community College (all campuses)	Tamika Davis	tdavis@commnet.edu	Statewide
CONNTAC- Educational Opportunity Center	Cecilia Nugent	cnugent@conntacinc.org	Statewide
Eastern Connecticut State University	Chris Dorsey	dorseyc@easternct.edu	Greater Windham area
Fairfield University	Diana M Draper	ddraper@fairfield.edu	Statewide
Goodwin University	Bonnie Soltz-Knowlton	BKnowlton@goodwin.edu	East Hartford
Hartford Promise	Yahaira Escribano	yescribano@hartfordpromise.org	Hartford

Organization	Contact Name	Contact Email	Community(ies) Served
Higher Edge	Katie Hallisey	katie@higheredge.org	New London, Willimantic, Windham
Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs, Inc.	Aliyah Brogdon	aliyah@higherheightsyouth.org	Greater New Haven, Fairfield County, Hartford
Middlesex Community College	Irene Martin	imartin@mxcc.edu	Middletown, Meriden, Region 13, Region 4, Portland, Wallingford
New Haven Promise	Jorgieliz Casanova	jorgieliz@newhavenpromise.org	Greater New Haven
Quinnipiac University	Vikki Hampton McNeil	victoria.mcneil@qu.edu	Hamden, North Haven
Southern Connecticut State University	Nilvio Perez	perezn18@southernct.edu	New Haven
Trinity College	Ashley Dutton	ashley.dutton@trincoll.edu	Hartford
University of Connecticut	Danyelle Rossetti	danyelle.rossetti@uconn.edu	Statewide
University of Bridgeport	Kristen Piscioneri	kpiscion@bridgeport.edu	Bridgeport
University of Hartford	Katherine Deacon	deacon@hartford.edu	Hartford, West Hartford, Bloomfield, Rocky Hill
University of New Haven	Corinne Merjave	cmerjave@newhaven.edu	New Haven, West Haven
University of Saint Joseph	Stacy Downing	sdowning@usj.edu	West Hartford, Bristol, Manchester, Hartford
Waterbury Bridge to Success	Akia Callum	communications@waterburybridgetosuccess.org	Waterbury
Western Connecticut State University	Melissa M. Stephens	stephensm@wcsu.edu	Danbury
Yale University	Claudia Merson	claudia.merson@yale.edu	New Haven