



ARE YOU READY TO FUEL THE FAFSA IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

Be sure to check out these pointers for preliminary planning and tips for implementation:

Questions to Consider

If you are interested in utilizing the FAFSA strategies to boost awareness and completion rates, consider these questions before beginning:

- What specific factors are hindering FAFSA completion in your community and which strategies/initiatives were done in the past? How might adopting fresh strategies create a new result?
- What local community partnerships might provide sponsorships, in-kind donations, volunteers, etc., that can be leveraged to have cross-sector participation in supporting strategies to increase FAFSA completion?
- How do you plan to use public school-level FAFSA data to share with educators and assist with tracking your initiatives? Would you want to expand to student-level data, if so how you can get your state to join the federal FAFSA completion project?



FAFSA

Practical Advice

- Embrace the new FAFSA submission calendar realizing that FAFSA promotion begins in the fall and continues for the entire high school senior school year; it is no longer a spring semester activity. October to December is the new optimum submission period!
- Identify your "coalition of the willing"- which high schools in your community would be willing to adopt a new way of working with students and families to increase FAFSA completion. They can become your local influencers to others.
- Begin with the universal premise that all students should attempt to complete a FAFSA form early in their senior year. Postsecondary application deadlines tend to be after the optimum FAFSA submission window. Students' post-graduation plans may evolve during their senior year. By completing a FAFSA early they can have a range of options.