



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Commissioner's Roundtable for  
Family & Community Engagement in Education

January 23, 2020

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Performance/FAFSA-Completion>



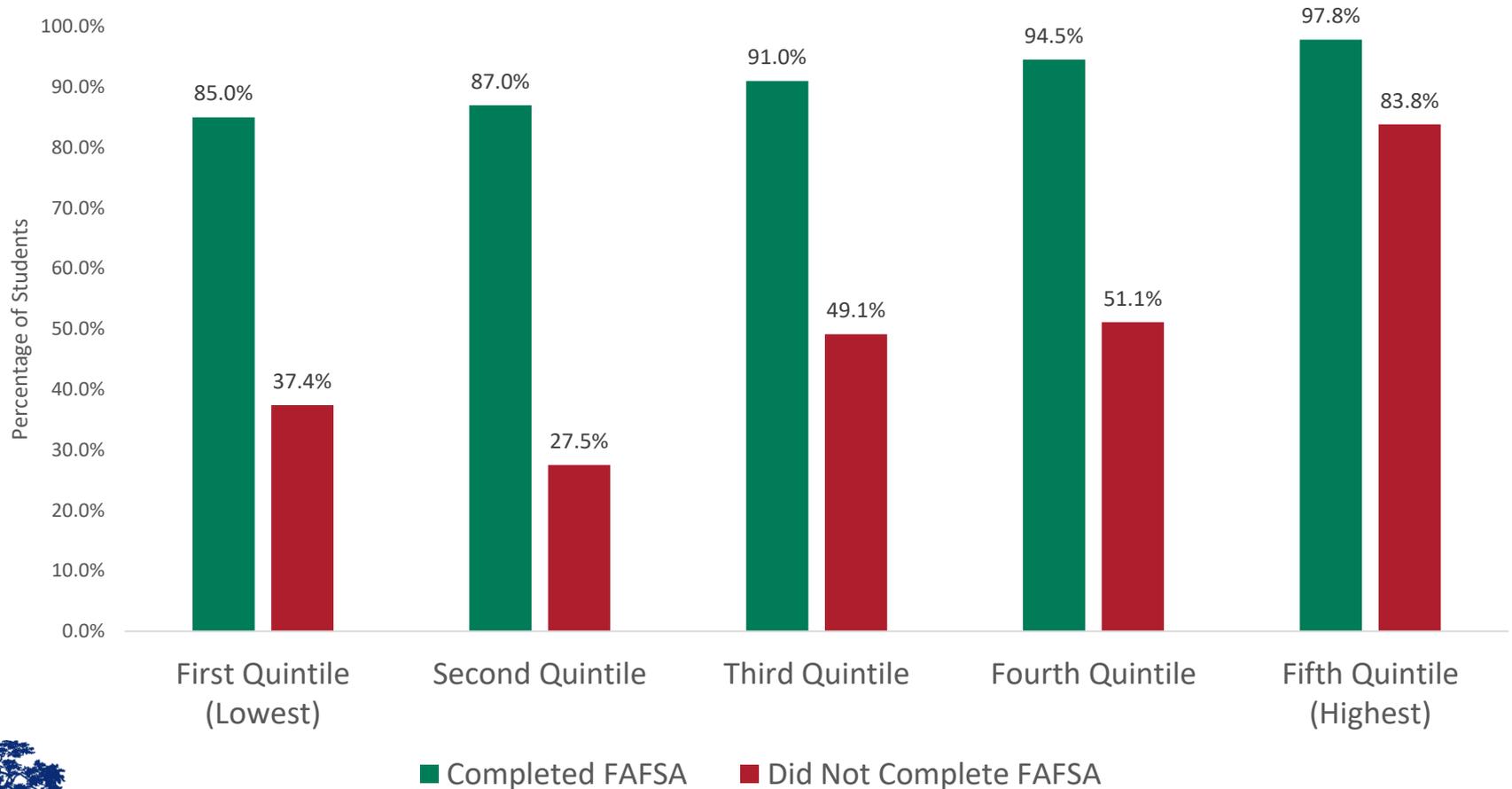
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# Why FAFSA Completion

Immediate College Enrollment Following High School Graduation  
By Percentile of District Poverty and FAFSA Completion Status  
(HLS Study, Class of 2013)





# #FormYourFuture FAFSA Tracker



Through January 10, what percent of your state's seniors had completed a FAFSA? What is your state's change year-over-year?

Cho...



	Rank as of January 10, 2019	% of Class Completed FAFSA	'20-'21 Completers	12th Grade Enrollment
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		<b>37.0%</b>	<b>1,381,088</b>	<b>3,734,721</b>
Tennessee	1	52.8%	37,451	70,997
Illinois	2	50.9%	77,083	151,411
Washington, D.C.	3	50.4%	2,330	4,624
Kentucky	4	48.2%	21,988	45,626
Massachusetts	5	47.9%	35,946	75,068
New Jersey	6	47.4%	48,605	102,643
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>19,697</b>	<b>41,954</b>
Rhode Island	8	45.0%	5,342	11,877
Louisiana	9	43.6%	20,771	47,669
Delaware	10	42.4%	4,240	9,998
New York	11	42.2%	90,252	213,629
Maine	12	41.7%	6,337	15,187
Iowa	13	41.6%	16,165	38,814
Ohio	14	41.0%	49,226	120,115
Hawaii	15	40.5%	5,662	13,997

<https://formyourfuture.org/fafsa-tracker/>



Estimated 5,025 Pell Grant eligible high school graduates did NOT complete FAFSA in Connecticut's class of 2018. They left approximately...

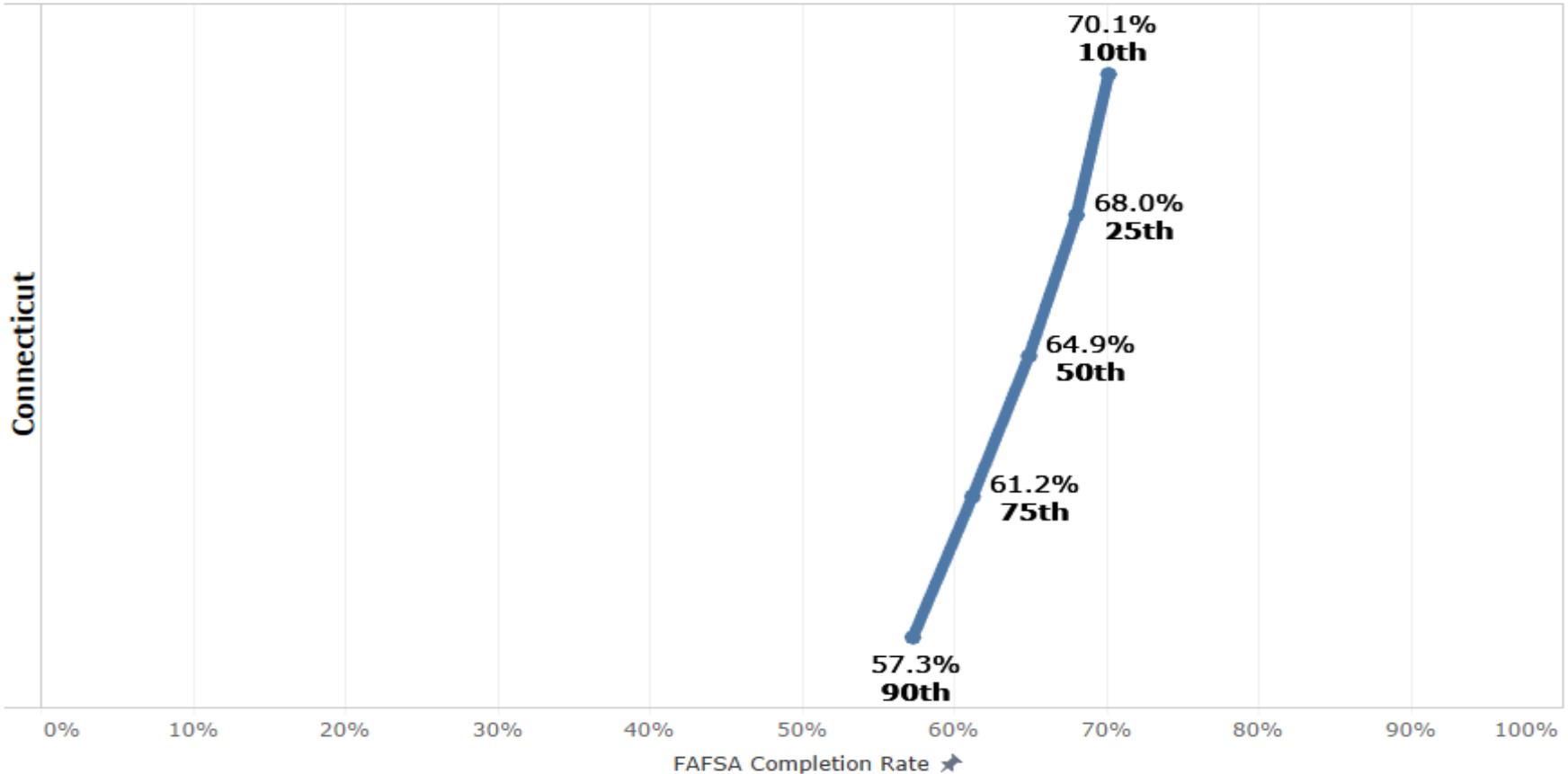
**\$17.6 million**

in Pell Grant funding on the table

Source: <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/2018-fafsa-study/>



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



Source: [NCAN website](#)



# 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



# New in 2019: FAFSA Completion Status 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

The screenshot shows the 'FAFSA Completion' report interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'FAFSA Completion Data' and 'Resources'. Below this, the report is for 'Sample School District'. There are filter boxes for 'School/Program' and 'FAFSA Completion Status', with a 'Filters' label pointing to them. A 'Student Search' label points to search fields for 'SASID Search' and 'Name Search'. A table lists student data with columns for SASID, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, FAFSA Completed Status, School Name, and a set of icons for view options. A 'Hover here to view options to maximize, save, and export' label points to these icons. A 'FAFSA Completion Status' label points to the status column in the table.

SASID	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	FAFSA Completed Status	School Name	View Options
0123456789	SEAN	J	BAM	Not Submitted	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	MAYA	L	GILLIS	Not Submitted	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	ELISABETH	W	HENDERSON	Incomplete	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	ROCCO	L	KING	Not Submitted	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	ISABEL	E	LEWIS	Not Submitted	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	CELIA	P	MOODY	Complete	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	ROBERT	D	NICHOLS	Complete	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	YANA	C	VELEZ	Complete	Sample High School	Sample School District
0123456789	CHRIS	R	WILKERSON	Not Submitted	Sample High School	Sample School District



# Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT)

The image shows a screenshot of the PACT website. At the top left is the 'CSCU pact' logo. To the right are links for 'How to Qualify' and 'Find a College'. The main heading reads 'CONNECTICUT'S PROGRAM FOR FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'. Below this, a paragraph explains that Connecticut community colleges are making it possible for all residents to achieve a degree or certificate without debt. A 'Join our mailing list' button is visible. A navigation bar at the bottom of the main content area has 'HOW TO QUALIFY?' and 'FIND A COLLEGE?' buttons. A modal window titled 'HOW DO I QUALIFY?' is open on the right, listing six qualification criteria. A 'COUNSELOR FAQ' box is in the bottom right corner.

**CSCU pact**      [How to Qualify](#)   [Find a College](#)

## CONNECTICUT'S PROGRAM FOR FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connecticut community colleges are making it possible for all Connecticut residents who qualify to achieve a degree or certificate regardless of their ability to pay, and without taking on debt. PACT will launch in early 2020, to support students who are entering the Fall 2020 semester.

[HOW TO QUALIFY? →](#)   [FIND A COLLEGE →](#)

**HOW DO I QUALIFY?** CLOSE

- Be a Connecticut High School Graduate  
GED and home schooled students qualify
- Be attending college for the first time
- **Fill out FAFSA and accept all awards**
- Attend community college full-time  
[Apply and register at your college](#) of choice by July 15, 2020 for priority consideration
- Once Enrolled, remain in good academic standing

### Why PACT?

PACT is our Pledge to Advance Connecticut through a unified, consistent community college system that is accessible, inclusive, and affordable-while maintaining excellence in education. We invite Connecticut residents to gain a degree or certificate towards reaching full potential, and creating a future filled with opportunity and achievement. An investment in education pays off not only for individuals, but for our state as a whole.

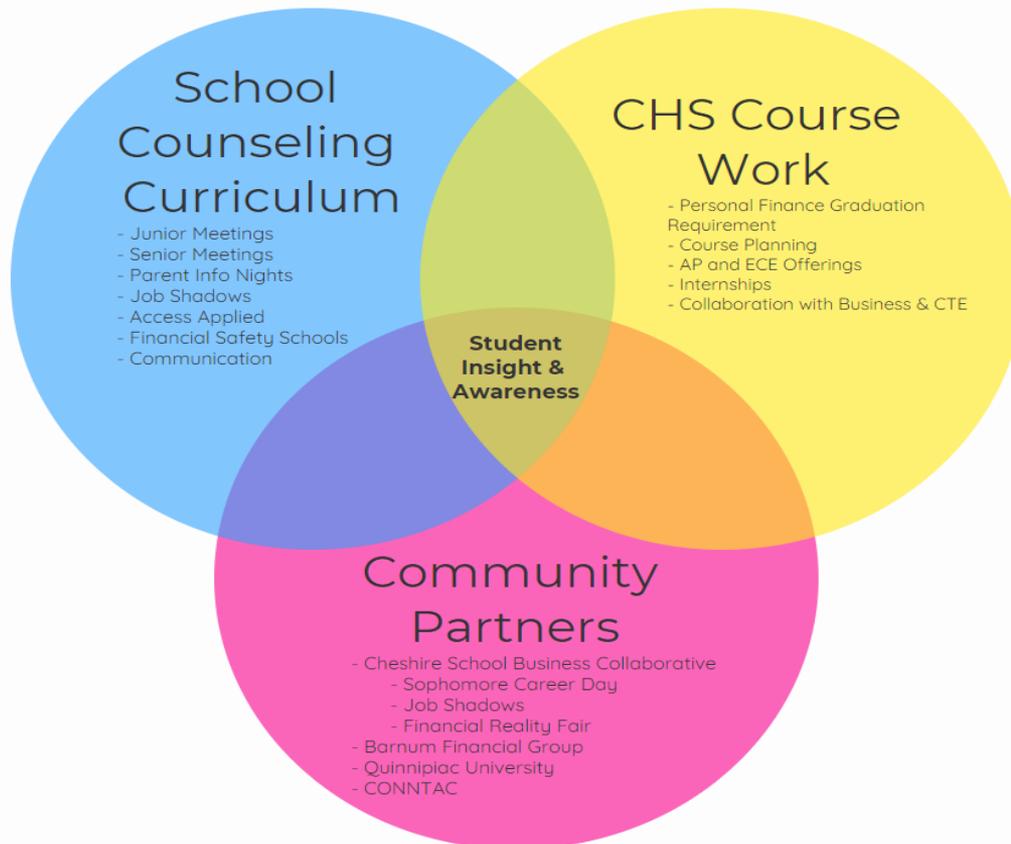
PACT is our pledge to support the state's advancement - with productive citizens and skilled workers who can fill the many jobs developed by our innovative business community. PACT is our pledge to advance the unity of our communities, working together to ensure Connecticut maintains its competitive edge; holding high standards and strengthening its entrepreneurial, innovative, and inventive spirit.

**Counselor FAQ**  
**Forthcoming**



# Examples: Cheshire

A collaborate effort in Cheshire Public Schools to help students and families understand a student's financial future



Source: Michelle Catucci, Director of School Counseling  
Cheshire Public Schools



# College Application Campaign *kickoff* SENIORS ONLY

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>



**Start Your College Applications Today!**

Log in to Naviance to add and track your application today.

## Workshops:

- » College Planning
- » Completing the Common Application
- » Starting the FAFSA Application
- » Apprenticeships
- » Military
- » Resume Writing
- » College Essays

Special Workshops Presented by:  
University of Connecticut  
CT Department of Labor

**Windsor High School**

50 Sage Park Road, Windsor, CT 06095

(860) 298-7049 | Learn more at [whs.windsorct.org/academics/school-counseling](http://whs.windsorct.org/academics/school-counseling)

# Community Partnerships

## FAFSA Day Connecticut

***Need help filling out your 2020-2021 FAFSA?***

Find a "FAFSA Day CT" event near you

Please register at <https://www.capfaa.org/fafsa-day/> We are looking forward to seeing you!

This is a nationwide volunteer-driven effort to assist students and their families in accessing funding for post-secondary education. Event participants will receive free, hands-on assistance in completing the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid **FAFSA**, in a comfortable, local setting.

The **FAFSA** is required for consideration of most sources of financial aid assistance. There is a wide variety of financial aid programs available to help families from all income levels, including many grants and scholarships.

**Algunas de las localizaciones ofrecen ayuda en español!**

### What to bring

- Your **FSA ID** and your parents' **FSA ID** (if dependent)  
We recommend applying for it before the event at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)
- Social Security Number
- Driver's License Number (if applicable)
- 2018 Federal Tax Return
- 2018 W-2 or Year-End Pay Stub
- 2018 Untaxed Income Records
- Current Bank Statement(s)
- Current Business and Investment Records
- Permanent Residence Card (if not a U.S. Citizen)



The Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (CAPFAA) is an organization of professionals within postsecondary educational institutions, government agencies, and private & community organizations concerned with the support and administration of student financial aid.

# 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

Source: Dr. Chaka Felder-McEntire  
Supervisor of Counseling (Windsor Public Schools)

# Other Approaches to Improving FAFSA Completion

- Proven strategies
  - Intensive 1:1 consultation for families
  - Small group strategies
- FAFSA Challenge
- Louisiana: Required for high school graduation

