



# FAFSA Completion in Minnesota

## Presentation to the Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership

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# Understanding FAFSA Completion in Minnesota

Minnesota provides \$250 million in state grants plus \$400M in Pell Grants

- Minnesota State Grant – state’s largest financial aid program
  - Centered on targeting resources to the lowest income students (\$0-\$90,000 AGI)
    - Pays 100% of T&F for dependent students with family adjusted gross incomes \$0-\$45,000
  - Smart deadlines (30 days AFTER classes start; other states Feb/March)
  - Pays grants year-round (summer term)
  - Funds both part-time and full-time students at proportional enrollment levels
- Financial aid is de-centralized -- the state does not communicate to individual students about their aid or costs, colleges do
  - Most students aren’t aware the state & feds provides grants and scholarship or how much or that they are likely eligible

# Understanding FAFSA Completion in Minnesota

## FAFSA completion is one step in planning and paying for college

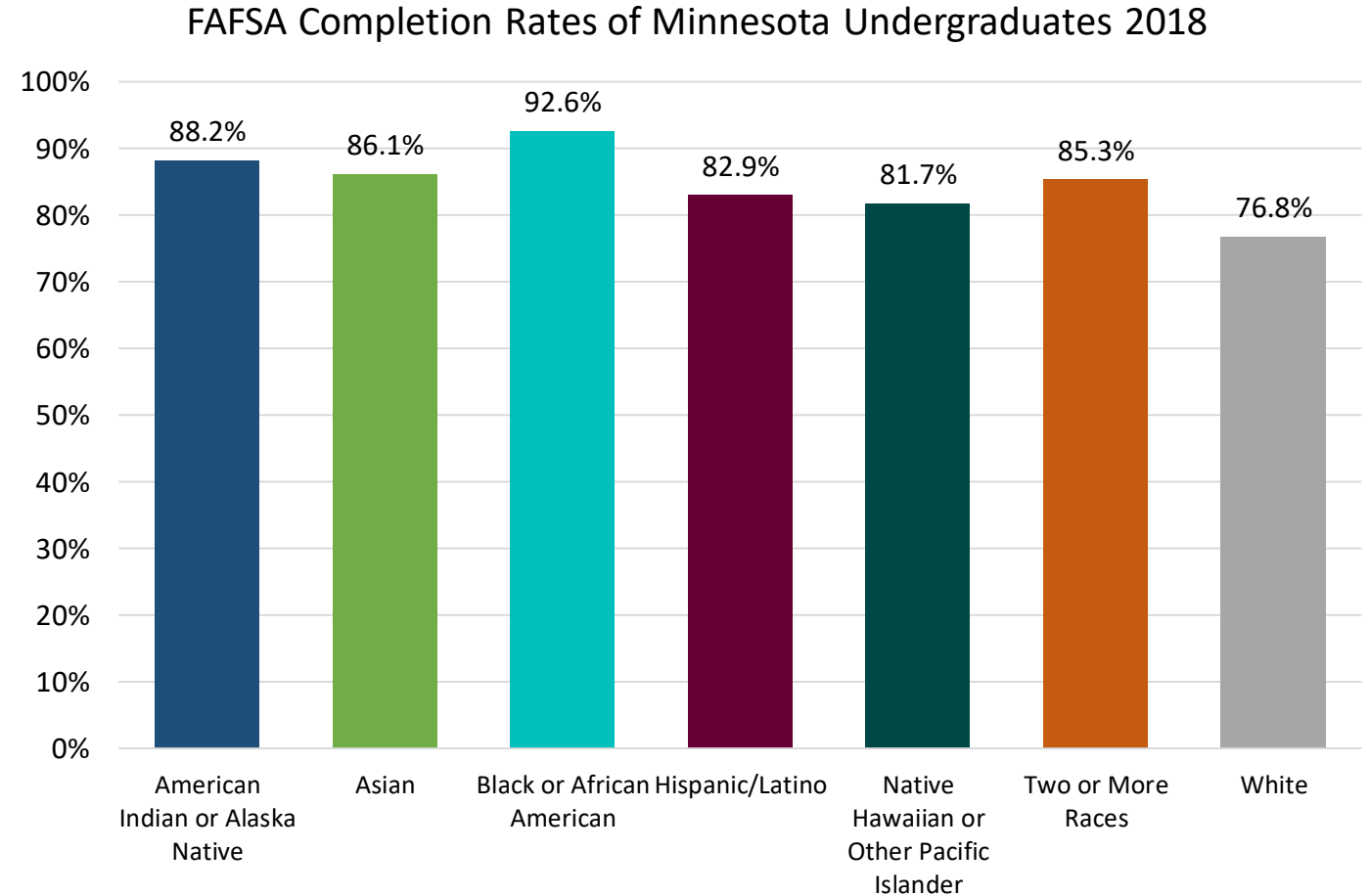
- Students and families still need a financial plan (monthly or annual budget)
- We do a poor job in helping students and families plan for costs
  - Explaining costs on a month-to-month payment basis
  - Explaining which costs are under their control and what their options are
  - Lack adequate first-time buyer programs
- Does not guarantee student success
  - College cost is a socially acceptable reason for dropping out but may mask academic or campus climate issues
- FAFSA completion does not address larger affordability concerns
  - Middle income families required to pay an EFC that is beyond their means
  - Most students work and borrow to fully pay T&F plus living costs while enrolled

# FAFSA Completion for Colleges

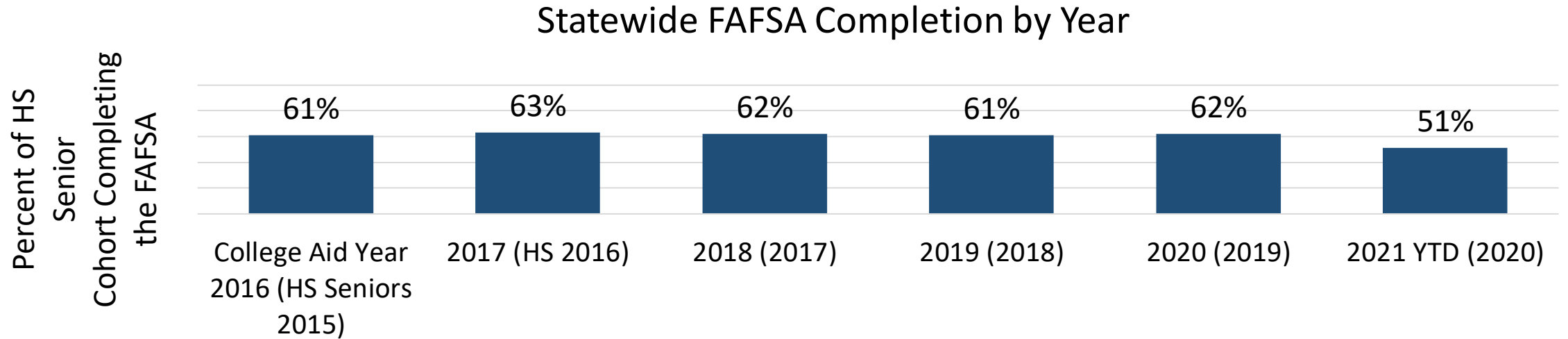
## FAFSA completion for college students

- Used to evaluate outreach, programs
- Black or African American college students complete the FAFSA at the highest rate (92.6%)
- Women 82.5%; Men 86.5%
- All groups have seen an increase in FAFSA filing since 2008

<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/sPages/FAFSAData.cfm>



# FAFSA Completion for High Schools

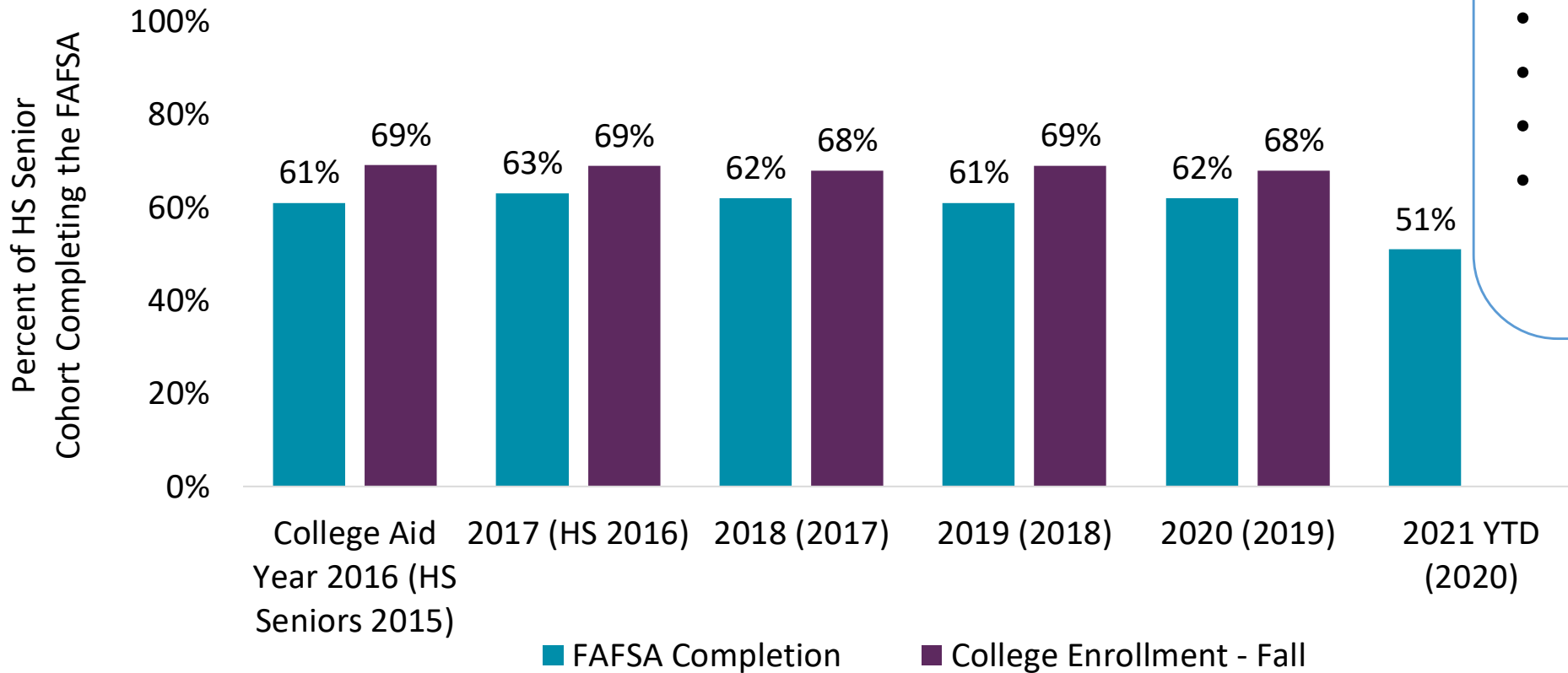


- FAFSA Completion Tracker for High Schools

- Tracks live applications for high school seniors
- FAFSA Completed (Y/N) available for each student to high school counselors if their superintendent/principal signs up; 20 K-12 districts are current signed up (Minneapolis & St Paul)
- Can be used by OHE to target outreach to schools with low FAFSA Completion rates

# FAFSA Completion is tied to College Going

Statewide FAFSA Completion  
Compared to College Enrollment by Year



OHE is worried about  
Fall 2020

- Total applications: **-12%**
- First time students: **-15%**
- Returning students: **-9%**
- Low-income (Pell eligible) students: **-19%**

# FAFSA Completion Goal – new state legislation

## Minnesota Laws 2020 Ch.109

Sec. 6. [136A.096]

### FINANCIAL AID GOALS.

*The legislature directs the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education, in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, to **set an annual goal for the percentage of Minnesota's high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).***

## Process

OHE is drafting a process for accomplishing the work to review with MDE and MASSP

- Timeline, taking into account COVID-19
- Stakeholder engagement
- Public input
- Data
- Outreach needs for schools
- Outreach needs for students

# Current FAFSA Completion Efforts

## Minnesota Goes to College

- Collaborative partnerships between MDE, OHE, colleges
- College planning resources for students and families
- 143 College Knowledge Month (October) Events
- 100 FAFSA Completion Events
- Reached a population of 110,000 students at Minnesota Public High Schools

<https://sites.google.com/view/minnesotagoestocollege/home>



Applying to college is the result of careful exploration and planning. Use this calendar as a guide during and after College Knowledge Month as you prepare your college and financial aid applications!

Online resources on the Minnesota Goes to College website can help you with each step of the process

[bit.ly/mngoestocollege](http://bit.ly/mngoestocollege)

Follow Us on Social Media!

 @mngoestocollege

 @MinnesotaGoesToCollege

# OCTOBER 2019

college knowledge month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FAFSA FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Think about your academic and personal goals. Take and/or review an interest assessment.	2 Talk to your school counselor! They are a great resource for all things college and career related.	3 Explore websites for colleges and careers that interest you.	4 In October, you can start applying for financial aid! Go to <a href="http://FAFSA.ed.gov">FAFSA.ed.gov</a> to learn	5 SAT Test Date Visit <a href="http://sat.collegeboard.org">sat.collegeboard.org</a> for more information.
National College Fair!						
6 If you're going to a community or technical college, schedule your ACCUPLACER exam at the college of your choice.	7 Get organized! Start gathering the information you need to complete applications.	8 Ask your counselor about local college fairs. Talk to your parents or guardian(s) about your plans.	9 Schedule time with college reps visiting your school and/or take virtual campus tours.	10 Check colleges' applications requirements and deadlines.	11 Applying for federal student aid? Create your FSA ID! Visit <a href="http://bit.ly/FSAID">bit.ly/FSAID</a> for more information.	12 Review your academic record. Order official transcripts by following your school guidelines.
13 Use the Graduate Employment Outcomes Tool to see estimated wages based on major and college type. Go to <a href="http://bit.ly/UEDEde">bit.ly/UEDEde</a> .	14 Keep refining the list of colleges you are considering.	15 Prepare your resume and give out requests for letters of recommendation.	16 Start drafting your essay or personal statement.	17 If possible, take this time to visit some of the colleges on your list.	18 Review college costs. Find out if your school is hosting a FAFSA completion event.	19 Have someone proofread your essay or personal statement. Revise it!
MEA Break!						
20 Find an accountability partner! Ask a friend to buddy up with you and keep each other on track with your college applications!	21 Check application fee policies. If you're eligible, request a fee waiver. <a href="http://bit.ly/FREE_apps">bit.ly/FREE_apps</a>	22 Undocumented students can apply for the MN Dream Act to receive in-state tuition. <a href="http://bit.ly/2Hxizne">bit.ly/2Hxizne</a> .	23 Double-check each college's application requirements.	24 Complete and submit applications.	25 Explore financial aid and scholarship opportunities!	26 ACT Test Date Visit <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> for more information.
27 Start your search for scholarships to help you pay for college!	28 Didn't finish all your applications? Set deadlines to keep yourself on track!	29 Send thank you notes to teachers and others who helped you.	30 Keep in touch with us on Instagram for more college info at @mngoestocollege	31 Celebrate your success!		

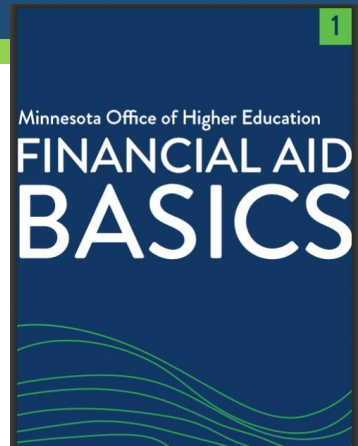




# Current FAFSA Completion Efforts

## OHE-Specific FAFSA Outreach

- 86 presentations (multi-lingual)
- 3800 parents & students
- Partner with schools, colleges, community groups and college access organizations



## THE FAFSA® PROCESS

We provide more than \$120 billion in grants, loans, and work-study funds each year to help pay for college or career school. To apply for this aid, you must

### DID YOU KNOW?

Some schools won't consider you for merit scholarships (scholarships based on academic achievement or other talents or skills) until you've submitted a FAFSA, so complete one even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

### RELAX!

The FAFSA is designed to be simple to fill out. Tips throughout the application help you understand the questions. Most people finish filling out the FAFSA in less than half an hour!

## WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA®?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*.<sup>1</sup> For reporting purposes, "PARENT" means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).