90% of FAFSA Completers Immediately Enroll in College

According to research, FAFSA completion is strongly associated with postsecondary enrollment. Approximately 90 percent of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA attend college directly from high school, compared to just 55 percent of FAFSA non-completers.

1.6 Million High School Seniors Did not Complete the FAFSA

In 2019, 57% of high school seniors completed the FAFSA which means over 1.6 million high school seniors did not submit a FAFSA last year. To learn about how many students did not complete FAFSA in your state, visit the #FormYourFuture FAFSA Tracker.

Students Need More Information & Supports

- 23 percent of FAFSA non-completers stated that they did not have enough information about how to complete a FAFSA.
- 32 percent of FAFSA non-completers thought that they may be ineligible or that their family may not qualify for financial aid.

$3.4 Billion in Unused Federal Financial Aid

Nationally, 52% of students are eligible for Pell Grants each year, with an average grant award of $4,010. To find out how much federal aid is unclaimed in your state, visit this calculator.

Completion Rates Vary by State

States such as Tennessee and Louisiana have shown that prioritizing FAFSA supports can lead to dramatic increases in completion rates in a short period. With a collaborative effort from K–12 and higher education leaders, states and communities can help millions more students afford postsecondary education and training.