FAFSA COMPLETION TRENDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

2018 - 2019

Synergy Conference 2019
April 24 - 25, 2019
FAFSA COMPLETION RATES

- FtF: April, 2018 = 48, April, 2019 = 48
- Non FtF: April, 2018 = 45, April, 2019 = 42
- Statewide: April, 2018 = 47, April, 2019 = 45

We’re with you every step of the way
More than half (51%) of all FAFSAs from dependent students were submitted before January 1, 2018.

Dependent students whose parents reported being in the highest Adjusted Gross Income quintile submitted the highest percentage of FAFSAs between Oct 1, 2017 and Jan 1, 2018.

Dependent students whose parents reported being from the lowest AGI quintile submitted the highest percentage of FAFSAs between April 2018 and October 2018.

The neediest dependent students submitted a higher percentage of FAFSAs later in the year than other EFC groups.

Source: “CampusLogic FAFSA Filing Trends and Facts, March 2019"
WHAT WE’RE HEARING IN NC

• Parents are not attending financial aid/FAFSA completion events

• Students are now less mature at 18 than they were just a few years ago

• Constant testing precludes students from exploring their likes, dislikes, strengths, all necessary for future planning
WHAT WE’RE HEARING IN NC

• Ubiquitous presence of technology overwhelms the pipeline of messaging, especially obligatory messages

• Lack of knowledge about how students/parents view education beyond high school and how to pay for it

• Senior year in high school too late to expect students to plan and prepare
WHAT ARE YOU HEARING/SEEING?
CURRENT STRATEGIES

• FAFSA Day
  – Last Saturday in October; NC campuses offer FAFSA completion assistance

• Be a Friend campaign
  – Connect NC campuses with their local high schools

• Share FAFSA completion rates by high school
  – From US Dept. of Education’s site – every two weeks
CURRENT STRATEGIES

• Connect community to FAFSA completion efforts
  – Businesses, faith-based, YSOs

• FINISH the FAFSA
  – Tracking FAFSA completion status
  – Submissions, completions, errors, verification

• Social media, texting, financial aid nights, C2C
  – Pushing information
FINISH THE FAFSA PROJECT

• Database that shows the FAFSA submission/completion status for each high school senior
  – Student/parent signature
  – Errors and how to correct
  – Chosen for verification
  – Gap between submitted and completed
• School superintendents sign an agreement to participate
• Seniors on DPI rosters by high school are matched with submitted FAFSAs
• As of March, 2019, 368 high schools are participating; just over 77,000 seniors
MAKING CONNECTIONS

• Statewide database that connects all organizations that provide higher education services
WHAT WE’RE NOT DOING

• Asking!
  – What do parents hear when we talk about college/FAFSA?
  – What are students saying about their education?
• Redefining what “learning” really is!
  – Do current education systems support or impede learning?
• Aligning
  – Personal growth, community needs, economic needs, education, well-being
• Collaborative decision-making
  – Policies, theories, practices, outcomes
THE ROLE OF AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

• Where do you contribute?
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CFNC.org
Regional Representatives
https://www.cfnc.org/home/sc/contact_rep.jsp
866-866-2362