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PRESS RELEASE Florida College Access Network 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ALN 185 Tampa, FL 33620



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FCAN Announces 2020 Florida FAFSA Challenge Winners!

Florida seniors qualify for an estimated \$155 million in Pell Grant dollars to help pay for college

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is excited to announce the winners of the <u>2020 Florida</u> <u>FAFSA Challenge</u>, a statewide campaign to increase the proportion of high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

As of April 24, 38.7% of Florida public high school seniors completed a FAFSA and are one step closer to getting the money needed to pay for education beyond high school. According to an FCAN analysis, this translates to <u>an estimated \$155 million in Pell Grant dollars</u>.

Through the end of April, <u>153 schools in 50 Florida counties</u> increased the percentage of seniors who completed the FAFSA by at least five percentage points over last year.

Districts and schools in Orange, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Glades, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Osceola counties won top honors as the highest performers:

MVP (Highest FAFSA completion rate through April 24, 2020)

Large School: Suncoast Community High School, Riviera Beach, Palm Beach County **Medium School**: School For Advanced Studies – South, Miami, Miami-Dade County

Small School: Acceleration East, Orlando, Orange County

Large District: Sarasota County SchoolsSmall District: Glades County School District

Most Improved (Compared to last year, through April 24, 2020)

Large School: Tohopekaliga High School, Kissimmee, Osceola County

Medium School: Professional & Technical High School, Kissimmee, Osceola County

Small School: Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School, Punta Gorda, Charlotte County

Large District: Osceola County School District **Small District**: Glades County School District

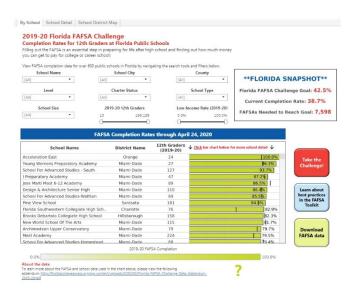
The top five contenders in each of these categories are named in the <u>Florida FAFSA Challenge</u> Leaderboard.

How did your school or district do?

Curious about how your school or district fared in the Florida FAFSA Challenge? You can find out on FCAN's <u>Florida FAFSA Challenge Dashboard</u>, which includes data for over 600 public schools in the state.

FAFSA completion data for all schools and districts — including <u>all those that exceeded the 5% goal</u> — are available. The dashboard allows users to view school, district, and state-level FAFSA completion rates using nine different filters and search options.

Chart: FAFSA completion among 12th graders attending Florida public schools



Click image to view FAFSA completion rate data for all public schools in Florida

The Florida FAFSA Challenge is part of <u>College Ready Florida</u>, a suite of statewide initiatives designed to build a college-going culture and help all students — especially low-income students — continue their educations beyond high school.

FCAN applauds all schools and districts that committed to helping more graduating high school seniors access financial aid for college and congratulates those that boosted their FAFSA completion rates this year!

About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's first collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and prosper in Florida's dynamic economy. Our mission is to create and sustain a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to increase college and career preparation, access, and completion for all Florida students. For more information, visit floridacollegeaccess.org.

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