

BENDING THE TRENDS: ADDRESSING ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting 2022

9/27/2022



Immediate college enrollment following high school graduation, by percentile of district poverty and FAFSA completion status.



WHY FAFSA COMPLETION MATTERS SO **MUCH**



2016

75%

80%

FAFSA Completion by June and Immediate College Enrollment, High School Classes of 2016 and 2018





FAFSA **COMPLETION IS THE** CANARY IN THE COAL MINE

High School Class	National FAFSA Completion Rate	Year-Over- Year FAFSA % Change	National First Fall Enrollment Rate
2018	57.2%	+1.9%	61.2%
2019	57.0%	-0.5%	60.5%
2020	55.6%	-3.7%	56.5%
2021	53.3%	-4.8%	???





Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Completions, Class of 2022 High School Seniors,







On average, Western states are below average by percentage of seniors completing, but many Western states saw aboveaverage year-overyear changes in their number of completions for the class of 2022.



% of Seniors

Looking at the charts below, it's clear that for the class of 2022 many Western states saw strong year-over-year gains (on the left), but are still largely concentrated on the bottom by percent of seniors completing (on the right). For larger, more readable rankings, visit FormYourFuture.org

Year-overyear percent change in **FAFSA** completions through 9/9/22



Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Co Texas Alabama **New Mexico** California Maine Oregon Montana Delaware Mississippi South Carolina Arizona Kentucky Virginia Puerto Rico Oklahoma Washington Utah Maryland Minnesota Washington, D.C. Florida **New Jersey** Tennessee Louisiana Connecticut Colorado West Virginia Ohio Illinois Idaho Wisconsin Pennsylvania Nevada Arkansas Nebraska Missouri South Dakota North Dakota **New York** Georgia Rhode Island lowa Michigan Kansas Massachusetts New Hampshire Indiana Hawaii Vermont North Carolina Wyoming

Alaska

ompletions Through					
Rank	% Change				
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	20.4% 17.5% 7.6% 7.5% 6.7%				
9 10	5.9% 4.8% 4.7% 4.5% 4.3%				
11 12 13 14 15	4.3% 3.9% 3.9% 3.4% 3.3%				
16 17 18 19 20	3.2% 3.1% 2.8% 2.8% 2.5%				
20 21 22 23 24 25	2.2% 2.1% 2.0% 1.9% 1.9%				
26 27 28 29 30	1.8% 1.5% 1.4% 1.3%				
31 32 33 34 35	1.3% 1.2% 1.2% 1.1% 1.0%				
35 36 37 38 39 40	0.8% 0.7% 0.7% 0.6% 0.4%				
41 42 43 44 45	0.3% 0.3% 0.2% 0.1% -0.3%				
46 47 48 49 50	-0.7% -1.2% -1.3% -2.0% -3.1%				
51	-3.5%				

-4.6%

52

% of seniors completing a **FAFSA through** 9/9/22



	Rank	% of Seniors
	Kank	Completing
Louisiana	1	70.3%
Tennessee	2	69.4%
Washington, D.C.	2 3	68.3%
Mississippi	4	68.1%
Delaware	5	67.4%
Texas	6	66.5%
Illinois	7	65.5%
New York	8	64.3%
Alabama	9	63.7%
New Jersey	10	63.1%
Connecticut	11	62.9%
Rhode Island	12	62.0%
South Carolina	13	61.8%
Georgia	14	60.7%
Massachusetts	15	59.1%
North Carolina	16	59.0%
Kentucky	17	57.7%
West Virginia	18	57.3%
California	19	57.2%
Ohio	20	57.2%
Virginia	21	57.0%
Hawaii	22	55.8%
lowa	23	55.7%
Arkansas	24	55.2%
Maryland	25	55.0%
Pennsylvania	26	54.9%
South Dakota	27	54.0%
North Dakota	28	53.6%
New Mexico	29	52.7%
New Hampshire	30	52.6%
Nebraska	31	52.3%
Missouri	32 33	52.0%
Maine	33	51.9%
Michigan	34	51.7% 51.1%
Vermont	36	50.4%
Kansas	37	50.3%
Wyoming Wisconsin	38	50.0%
Minnesota	39	49.8%
Indiana	40	49.6%
Florida	40	49.4%
Montana	42	48.5%
Oklahoma	43	48.0%
Oregon	44	46.5%
Nevada	45	45.7%
Colorado	46	45.6%
Idaho	47	43.6%
Arizona	48	42.0%
Washington	49	41.4%
Utah	50	38.1%
Alaska	51	32.1%
Alwona	-	52.1%





Year-over-year % Change in FAFSA Completions, by U.S. Census

For the high school class of 2022, Western states saw the second-largest year-over-year gains by U.S. Census region.



Percent of Seniors Completing, by State (Census-designated Western States), Through 9/9/22

Despite those year-overyear (relative) gains, it's clear that **Western states** have a lot of room to grow in terms of absolute FAFSA completion performance.





Unfortunately, this lagging FAFSA completion performance is consistent with a five-year trend.

State Ranks by % of Seniors Completing a FAFSA On or About June 30, 2018-19 to 2022-23 Cycles

State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
Alaska	50	51	51	51	51	51
Arizona	51	48	48	48	49	49
California	30	25	20	27	17	24
Colorado	47	47	47	47	45	47
Hawaii	18	21	19	20	21	20
Idaho	44	46	46	46	47	46
Montana	35	43	45	44	41	42
Nevada	45	41	40	41	46	43
New Mexico	41	35	35	35	39	37
Oregon	39	44	42	45	42	42
Utah	51	50	50	50	50	50
Washington	48	49	49	49	48	49



Class of 2020 enrollment outcomes were grim, and inequitably distributed

The high school class of 2020's immediate **fall postsecondary enrollment fell nearly 7%**, but declines were inequitable. High schools with more students of color and students from low-income backgrounds saw larger decreases.

Percent Change in Immediate Fall Enrollments by High School Characteristics, Classes of 2019 and 2020



Undergraduate enrollment declines were particularly steep at community colleges

Undergraduate	Public 4yr	Men	-3.5%	-3.2%	-6.6%
		Women	-0.5%	-2.5%	-3.0%
		Total	-1.6%	-2.5%	-4.0%
	Private nonprofit 4yr	Men	-2.8%	-0.6%	-3.4%
	4yr	Women	-2.3%	-1.1%	-3.3%
		Total	-2.4%	-0.6%	-3.0%
	Private for-profit 4yr	Men	-2.6%	-7.5%	-9.9%
		Women	-2.2%	-8.8%	-10.8%
		Total	-2.6%	-8.5%	-10.8%
	Public 2yr	Men	-14.4%	-4.8%	-18.6%
		Women	-6.1%	-7.4%	-13.1%
		Total	-9.4%	-6.0%	-14.8%

Source: <u>https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/</u>



Fall 2021 Semester Year-Over-Year Enrollment Changes x Fall 2021 Semester Enrollment, by State





NCAN's State Policy Levers for Postsecondary Pathways Project

- Provision student-level FAFSA completion data to local education agencies
- Use statewide National Student Clearinghouse contracts to provision
 postsecondary outcomes data
- Implement universal FAFSA policies that increase FAFSA completion
- Designate a state-level agency, initiative, or campaign with responsibility for college and career readiness programming
- Shift state financial aid programs toward need-based, rather than merit-based, awards
- Increase the share of states' budgets invested in higher education
- Allow DREAMers to access in-state state tuition and/or state grant aid programs
- Expand dual enrollment policies to increase high school students' early access to college coursework



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HI! I'M GLAD TO BE HERE



Bill DeBaun Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives National College Attainment Network debaunb@ncan.org



NCAN WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

NCAN pursues its mission by building network capacity, advocating for policy solutions, and supporting systems change

Build network capacity Bolster the skills and competencies of college access and success leaders and practitioners through professional development, news from the field, data, and tools

Advocate for policy solutions

> Support systems change

Advocate for equitable college completion rates by amplifying a range of **policy** solutions, mobilizing members, and leveraging student voice

Help school districts, higher education institutions, and other community stakeholders to adopt effective strategies for students

FAFSA COMPLETION AS THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE FOR POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT





Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Completions, Class of 2022 High School Seniors,





% Change in FAFSA Completion Year-Over-Year by Selected Characteristics





AVERAGE SENIOR CLASS FAFSA COMPLETION % BY U.S. CENSUS REGION, DIVISION, THROUGH 9/9/22

Census Region	Avg % Completion	Census Division	Avg % Completion
Midwest	53.5%	East North Central	54.8%
wiiuwest	55.5%	West North Central	52.6%
Northeast	E0 0%	Middle Atlantic	60.8%
	58.0%	New England	56.6%
South		East South Central	64.7%
	60.8%	South Atlantic	59.5%
		West South Central	60.0%
West	16 1%	Mountain	45.8%
	46.1%	Pacific	46.6%







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Year-overyear percent change in **FAFSA** completions through 9/9/22



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51 52	-3.1% -3.5% -4.6%				

Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA

% of seniors completing a **FAFSA through** 9/9/22



Percent of High School Seniors Completing FAFSA Through

Louisiana 1 70.3% Tennessee 2 69.4% Washington, D.C. 3 68.3% Mississippi 4 68.1% Delaware 5 67.4% Texas 6 66.5% Illinois 7 65.5% New York 8 64.3% Alabama 9 63.7% New Jersey 10 63.1% Connecticut 11 62.9% Rhode Island 12 62.0% South Carolina 13 61.8% Georgia 14 60.7% Massachusetts 15 59.0% Kentucky 17 57.7% Massachusetts 15 59.0% Kentucky 17 57.7% Virginia 21 57.0% Iowa 23 55.7% Arkansas 24 55.2% Maryland 25 55.0% Pennsylvania 26 54.9% </th <th></th> <th>Rank</th> <th>% of Seniors Completing</th>		Rank	% of Seniors Completing
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Wyoming 37 50.3% Wisconsin 38 50.0% Minnesota 39 49.8% Indiana 40 49.4% Florida 41 48.7% Montana 42 48.5% Oklahoma 43 48.0% Oregon 44 46.5% Nevada 45 45.7% Colorado 46 45.6% Idaho 47 43.6% Arizona 48 42.0% Washington 49 41.4% Utah 50 38.1%	Kansas		50.4%
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Idaho 47 43.6% Arizona 48 42.0% Washington 49 41.4% Utah 50 38.1%			45.6%
Arizona 48 42.0% Washington 49 41.4% Utah 50 38.1%			
Washington 49 41.4% Utah 50 38.1%			42.0%
Utah 50 38.1%		49	41.4%
Alaska 51 32.1%	Utah		38.1%
	Alaska	51	32.1%



Year-over-year % Change in FAFSA Completions, by U.S. Census Region, 2022-23 Cycle, Through 9/9/22



7.2% For the high school class of 2022, Western states saw the second-largest year-over-year gains by U.S. Census region.

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Western states saw a substantial bounce back for FAFSA completions among low-income high schools (>50% FRPL) for the high school class of 2022, on par with national gains.





Consistent with overall and high school income-level gains year-over-year, Western states saw the second largest increase in FAFSA completions by high school locales in the class of 2022.



Percent of Seniors Completing, by State (Census-designated Western States), Through 9/9/22

Despite those year-overyear (relative) gains, it's clear that **Western states** have a lot of room to grow in terms of absolute FAFSA completion performance.





Unfortunately, this lagging FAFSA completion performance is consistent with a five-year trend.

State Ranks by % of Seniors Completing a FAFSA On or About June 30, 2018-19 to 2022-23 Cycles

State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
Alaska	50	51	51	51	51	51
Arizona	51	48	48	48	49	49
California	30	25	20	27	17	24
Colorado	47	47	47	47	45	47
Hawaii	18	21	19	20	21	20
Idaho	44	46	46	46	47	46
Montana	35	43	45	44	41	42
Nevada	45	41	40	41	46	43
New Mexico	41	35	35	35	39	37
Oregon	39	44	42	45	42	42
Utah	51	50	50	50	50	50
Washington	48	49	49	49	48	49

MOVING ON TO THE ACTUAL GOAL: POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT



Undergraduate enrollments declined considerably in fall 2020 and 2021, especially for male students



Source: https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/

Undergraduate enrollment declines were particularly steep at community colleges

Undergraduate	Public 4yr	Men	-3.5%	-3.2%	-6.6%
		Women	-0.5%	-2.5%	-3.0%
		Total	-1.6%	-2.5%	-4.0%
	Private nonprofit 4yr	Men	-2.8%	-0.6%	-3.4%
	4yr	Women	-2.3%	-1.1%	-3.3%
		Total	-2.4%	-0.6%	-3.0%
	Private for-profit 4yr	Men	-2.6%	-7.5%	-9.9%
		Women	-2.2%	-8.8%	-10.8%
		Total	-2.6%	-8.5%	-10.8%
	Public 2yr	Men	-14.4%	-4.8%	-18.6%
		Women	-6.1%	-7.4%	-13.1%
		Total	-9.4%	-6.0%	-14.8%

Source: <u>https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/</u>



In line with those community college declines, we observe much steeper drops in associate's degrees and undergraduate certificates

Figure 2. Enrollment Changes by Credential Type



Source: https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/

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Percent Change in Enrollment from Previous Year by Institutional Sector: 2018 to 2022



Source: Spring 2022, Current Term Enrollment Estimates, May 26, 2022 <u>https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/</u>



Fall 2021 Semester Year-Over-Year Enrollment Changes x Fall 2021 Semester Enrollment, by State



WHAT IS IN THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE FOR STATE POLICY AND PRACTICE TO SHIFT THESE TRENDS?



NCAN's State Policy Levers for Postsecondary Pathways Project

- Provision student-level FAFSA completion data to local education agencies
- Use statewide National Student Clearinghouse contracts to provision
 postsecondary outcomes data
- Implement universal FAFSA policies that increase FAFSA completion
- Designate a state-level agency, initiative, or campaign with responsibility for college and career readiness programming
- Shift state financial aid programs toward need-based, rather than merit-based, awards
- Increase the share of states' budgets invested in higher education
- Allow DREAMers to access in-state state tuition and/or state grant aid programs
- Expand dual enrollment policies to increase high school students' early access to college coursework



There has been considerable attention on "Universal FAFSA" policies

NCAN Recommends that States:

- •Require FAFSA completion for high school graduation through legislative or other policy vehicles.
- •Include a robust opt-out system for students who are unable to access parental financial information, have undocumented parents, or whose parents allow them to abstain.
- •Provide (at minimum) one full FAFSA cycle from the bill passing, or the item being administratively added to a list of requirements before the actual requirement takes effect.
- •Make the change administratively, if high school graduation requirements do not live in statute.
- •If not already in place, build and provide robust training and support through school counselors and/or college access advisers to ensure students are helped through the process.
- •Provide regular data-sharing on completion to high schools and community-based organizations to allow for better-targeted FAFSA completion efforts.



HS Class of 2022 FAFSA Completion Through 7/1, By State, % Change in FAFSA Completions by % of Seniors Completing (Size Weight: # of FAFSAs Completed)





Year-Over-Year % Change of FAFSA Completion in States Implementing Universal FAFSA vs Nationally, During First Implementation Year



REACH OUT ANY TIME!



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