

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH FAFSA COMPLETION: A MULTI-STATE STUDY



DATA-INFORMED APPROACHES TO INCREASE FAFSA COMPLETION AND ENROLL MORE STUDENTS FROM HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED IDENTITIES

THE CHALLENGE

Too many students continue to miss the opportunity to attend college because of incomplete FAFSA forms—or because they are unaware that completing the FAFSA can actually make college an affordable option for them. Even for students who see themselves as college-bound, the FAFSA can be a complex and intimidating form.




The Bottomline: As a result of these challenges, many eligible students do not complete the FAFSA and *miss out on an estimated \$24 billion* in financial aid each year.

THE OPPORTUNITY

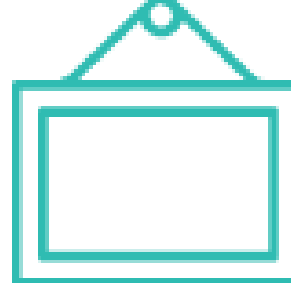


Completing a FAFSA is a critical step in the college enrollment process for high school students—particularly those from historically marginalized backgrounds. Research reveals that *data-based approaches show early promise of identifying these students and increasing their FAFSA completion rates*—thus opening up the promise of college and making it more affordable.

THE PROPOSAL

HEI PROPOSES A MULTI-STATE STUDY TO:

-  Identify what's working for schools using data-informed approaches to increase FAFSA completion.
-  Understand the unique contexts of successful approaches.
-  Set the foundation for new and bolstered efforts to raise college access via FAFSA completion for more students across the country.

HEI WOULD SHARE THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY IN SEVERAL USER-FRIENDLY FORMATS:

-  Public report framed for practitioners
-  Toolkit to assist school districts in applying the lessons learned
-  A dynamic, virtual event to bring together practitioners in shared learning and community