

# The Arizona FAF\$A Challenge

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The Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education

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# Arizona Vs. National

## AZ FAFSA Completion Rankings

- 48<sup>th</sup> class of 2020
- 48<sup>th</sup> class of 2019
- 49<sup>th</sup> class of 2018
- National Average **59.5%** of the class of 2020 completed a FAFSA

- **NCAN Class of 2020 FAFSA Rankings**

- #1 Louisiana ----- 79%
- #2 Tennessee -----78%

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- #48 Arizona ----- 47%

Illinois, New Jersey, Texas

Michigan, Indiana, California and the District of Columbia are  
all considering similar laws.

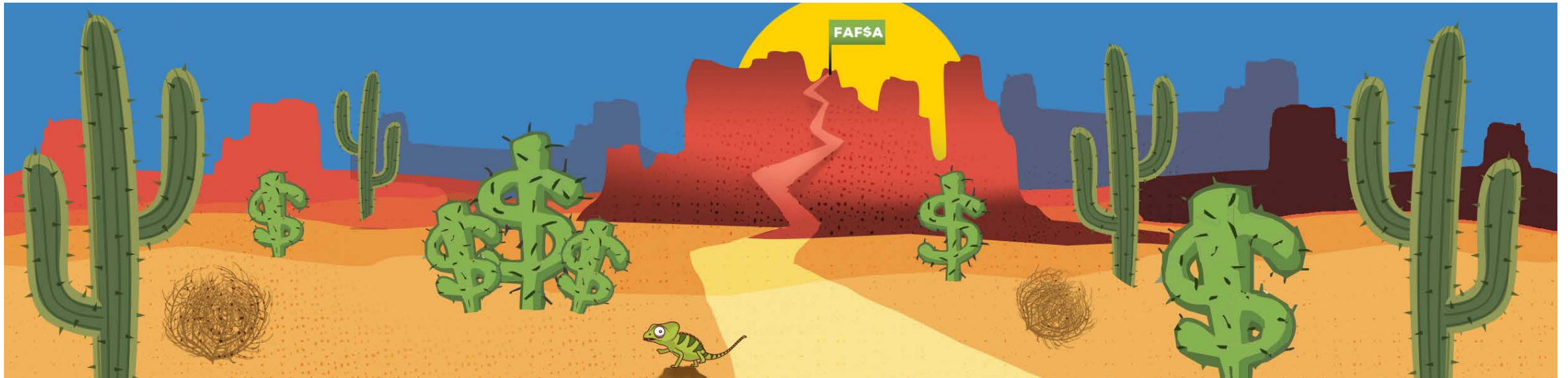


# Arizona FAFSA Challenge

**The Arizona FAFSA Challenge is a statewide initiative that aims to increase FAFSA completion rates for the state while promoting friendly competition among Arizona high schools.**

Established in 2018

The Governor's Office of Education and the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education



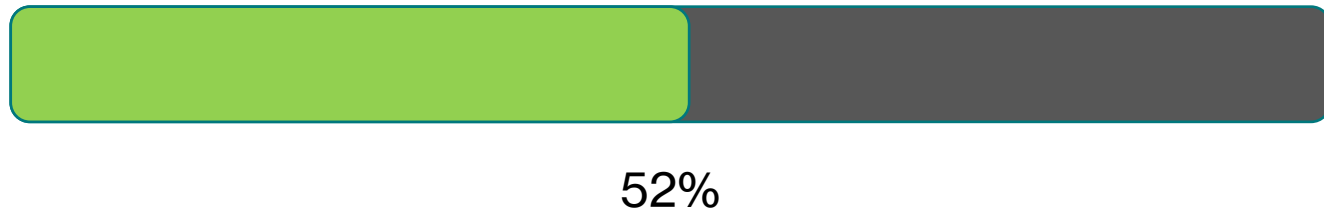
# AZ FAFSA Coalition

Is Comprised of: College Access Partners, Postsecondary Community Partners, AZ Governor's office of Education, Arizona Department of Education :

- Set an annual state FAFSA completion goal for Arizona
- Create statewide FAFSA resources and initiatives to assist student and families with the FAFSA process
- Collaborate on bringing FAFSA resources to Arizona



# State FAFSA Completion Goal



→ Current State Goal to reach a 52% FAFSA Completion Rate Among Arizona High School Seniors



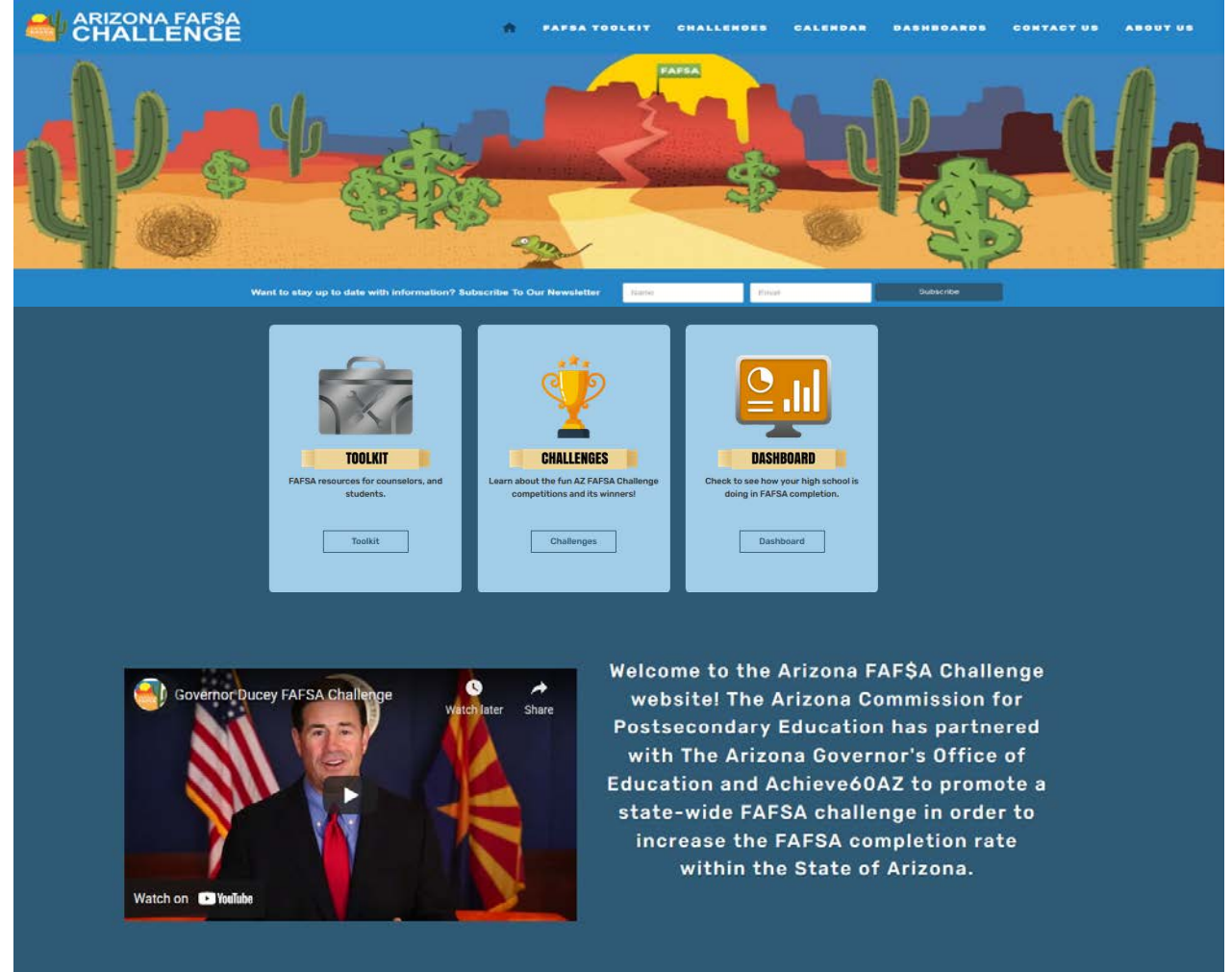
→ Long- Term Goal: To reach a 78% FAFSA Completion Rate Among Arizona High School Seniors by 2030



Research has shown 90% of high school graduates who filed a FAFSA enrolled directly in a postsecondary program.

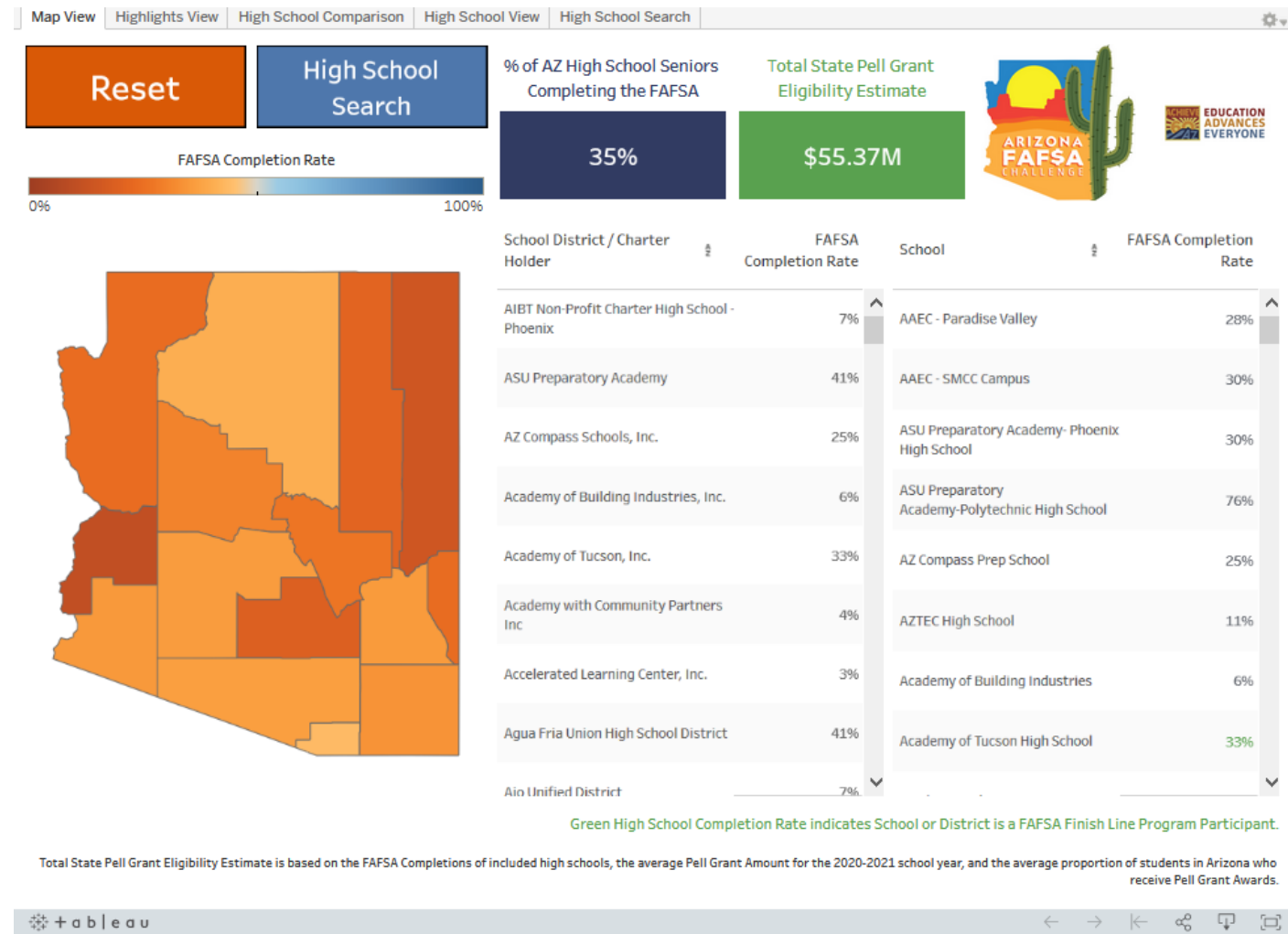
# Arizona FAFSA Challenge Website

FAFSACHallenge.az.gov



# FAFSA Completion Dashboard

- Includes over 400 public/charter high schools
- State, County, District/Charter Holder , High School
- Updated every Friday
- Track's state FAFAS Completion Rate
- Pell Eligibility Estimate
- Benchmarks

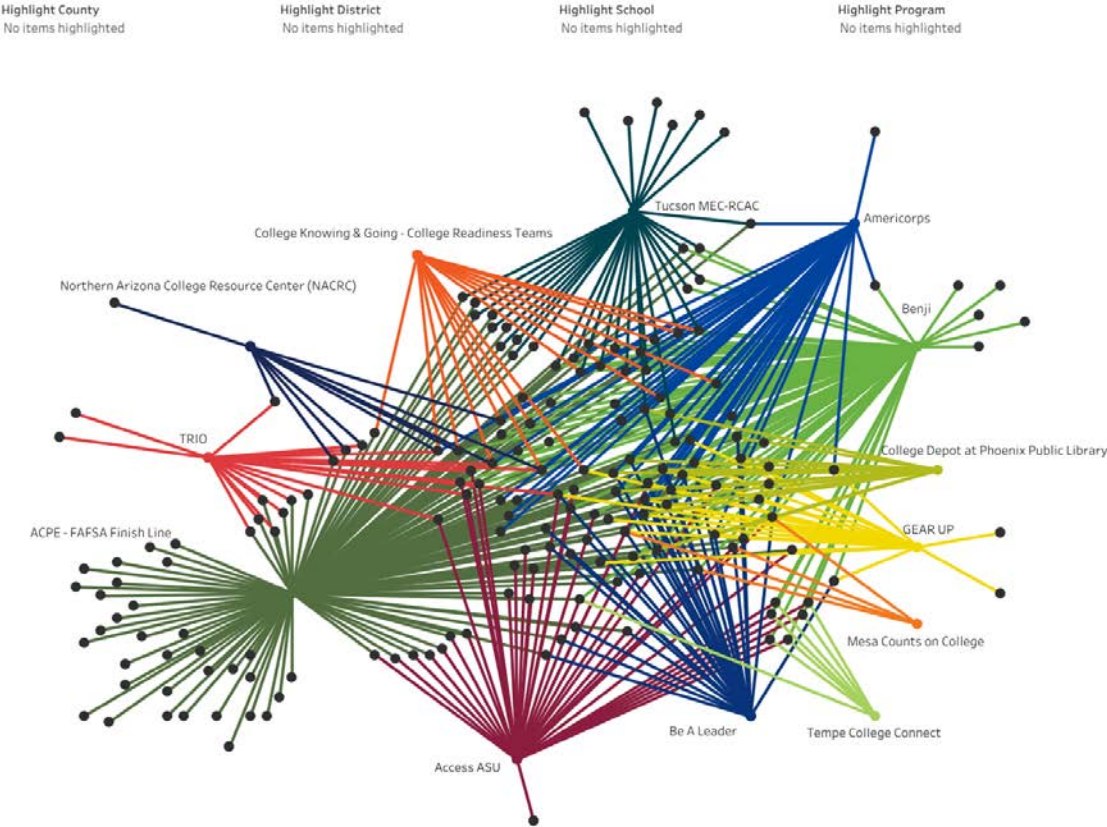




# AZ FAFSA Partner Network Graph

- Identify Existing FAFSA Community Partners FAFSA
- Assist with Building Partnerships
- FAFSA outreach

**Arizona FAFSA Partner Network**  
Use the highlighters below to find specific counties, districts, schools, or programs in the network.  
Each dark grey circle represents a school; hover over a circle to see the school name, current FAFSA completion rate, and partner programs.



**Schools without Partners**  
Hover over a school name in the table to view the current FAFSA completion rate and partner programs available in the county and district.

Filter Schools by FAFSA Completion Rate  
All

County	District	High School
Apache	Red Mesa Unified District	Red Mesa High School
	Sanders Unified District	Valley High School
Cochise	Benson Unified School District	Benson High School
	San Simon Unified School District	San Simon School
	St David Unified District	St David High School
	Tombstone Unified District	Tombstone High School
	Valley Union High School District	Valley Union High School
	Willcox Unified District	Willcox High School
Coconino	Fredonia-Moccasin Unified District	Fredonia High School
	Grand Canyon Unified District	Grand Canyon High School
	Page Unified District	Page High School
Gila	Payson Unified District	Payson Center for Success High School
Graham	Fort Thomas Unified District	Mt. Turnbull Academy
	Safford Unified District	Henry Dunkerson Pathways Academy
		Mt Graham High School



# FAFSA TOOLKIT

Welcome to the Arizona FAFSA Toolkit! This online resource is geared towards counselors, students and families to assist with the FAFSA process. In addition to resources specific to students and counselors, the toolkit also includes a FAFSA 101 section that provides an overview of the FAFSA process and steps on how to complete the FAFSA from beginning to end.

By clicking on the following icons below, users will be able to access FAFSA resources from the following categories:

Counselors, FAFSA 101, or Students



**COUNSELORS**



**FAFSA 101**



**STUDENTS**

# FAFSA Toolkit

- Over 50 FAFSA Resources
  - Links
  - Handouts
  - Webinar Recordings
- And much More!

<b>FSA ID</b>  The FSA ID is a username and password that gives you the unique benefit of logging into your accounts – while removing all personally identifiable information. The FSA ID is your new official Federal Student Aid ID, which you will use to log in to use FSA websites like FAFSA, StudentLoans.gov, and more. The FSA ID acts as your electronic signature when completing the FAFSA. <a href="#">Creating an FSA ID (Video)</a>	<b>Important Documents Needed to Complete a FAFSA</b>  This section provides what information that you will need to bring with you to complete your FAFSA. For dependent students you will need to gather this information for yourself and from your parents as well. <a href="#">Information Needed</a>	<b>What is the FAFSA?</b>  FAFSA is an acronym that stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Colleges and universities use this form to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs. <a href="#">Overview of the Financial Aid Process (video)</a> <a href="#">How to Fill Out the FAFSA- User Guide</a> <a href="#">FREE FAFSA Resources &amp; Assistance</a>
<b>Am I a Dependent or Independent Student on the 2020-2021 FAFSA?</b>  Your dependency status determines whose information you must report on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. <a href="#">FAFSA Checklist- Dependency Status</a> <a href="#">Special Circumstances</a>	<b>Best Practices</b>  In Arizona, there are a number of exemplary high schools implementing FAFSA best practices. The following schools have shared their FAFSA efforts that have encouraged their seniors to complete the FAFSA Virtual Best Practices Webinar Recordings <a href="#">San Luis High School</a> <a href="#">Tanque Verde High School</a> <a href="#">Maricopa High School</a> <a href="#">Sunnyslope High School</a>	<b>FAFSA Finish Line Data</b>  FAFSA Finish Line is a powerful resource that provides individual students' FAFSA application status to in order to empower high school personnel to provide help for a student to complete their application. <a href="#">Data Sharing Agreement</a> <a href="#">Arizona FAFSA Finish Line User Guide</a> <a href="#">ACPE User Agreement</a> <a href="#">FAFSA Finish Line Log-in Portal</a>
<b>FAFSA for Families</b>  This section includes FAFSA advice for students and their families. It's loaded with information that you need right now regarding FAFSA and financial aid, and tips on things you'll want to consider over the next few months, like choosing a major or how to handle finances in college. <a href="#">FAFSA Advice for Students and Families</a>	<b>FAFSA Myths/Facts</b>  There are many myths surrounding the FAFSA. This section debunks those myths so that students and parents are informed with correct information regarding the FAFSA. <a href="#">FAFSA Myths &amp; Facts</a>	<b>FAFSA Quick Guide</b>  This resource provides a quick overview of the FAFSA process in a simple and easy to follow document.
<b>FAFSA Tips and Common Mistakes to Avoid When Applying for Student Aid</b>  This section provides tips and mistakes to avoid when completing the FAFSA. Knowing these tips can make the FAFSA process less stressful for students and parents. <a href="#">12 FAFSA Mistakes to Avoid</a>	<b>FAFSA Webinars</b>  <b>FAFSA Training videos</b> <a href="#">Before the FAFSA</a> - Creating an FSA ID and documents needed to complete the FAFSA <a href="#">FAFSA 101 - The Basics</a> - Outlines steps in the application process, mistakes to avoid, resources <a href="#">FAFSA Finish Line Data</a> -How to up load student-level FAFSA data,utilizing the data, A-F <a href="#">2021 FAFSA Webinar Schedule</a>	<b>Financial Aid and Homeless Youth</b>  This resource provides information on Financial Aid and homeless youth <a href="#">FAFSA Tips for Unaccompanied Youth</a> <a href="#">Federal Student Aid and Homeless Youth-FAQ's</a> <a href="#">Foster Youth- FAFSA FAQ's and AZ Resources</a> <a href="#">Empower- Free online training.</a>
<b>Financial Aid Glossary</b>  This glossary defines the terms and acronyms that are most frequently used in student financial aid. <a href="#">Federal Student Aid Glossary.</a>	<b>How to Engage Parents in FAFSA Completion</b>  Parents are an integral part of a child's life, and having them on board and educated about the financial aid application processes will make it	<b>How to Read an Award Letter</b>  An award letter is the documentation sent from a college or university to the student that details for how much financial support the student is eligible. The award letter is sent following the student's submission of the Free Application for Federal Student

# Communications

- Monthly Statewide FAFSA Newsletter
- Goal update
- FAFSA resource
- FAFSA assistance statewide
- Platform to highlight high schools and their FAFSA completion efforts

## AZ FAF\$A Challenge

March 2021

### Goal Update

As of February 26th, 33% of Arizona high school seniors have completed the FAFSA. Arizona experienced a downward trend in FAFSA completions during the month of February with less than 2,100 high school seniors completing the application that month. This resulted in a 2% increase to the state's average FAFSA completion rate which is the lowest FAFSA increase that we have seen all year. According to the [Arizona FAF\\$A Challenge Dashboard](#), the state is currently down 7% in FAFSA completions compared to this time last year. It is important to note that Arizona is not alone in this downward trend since the vast majority of other states are down in FAFSA completions as well.



With high school graduation right around the corner, continued FAFSA efforts will be key to ensure that more Arizona students have options to pay for their postsecondary education. Here are some socially distant FAFSA efforts that high schools can implement to assist their seniors this spring.

- [Host a FAFSA Drive-In](#) \*
- Host a virtual FAFSA workshop
- Provide virtual one-on-one FAFSA appointments
- Utilize your [FAFSA Finish Line Data](#)
- Collaborate with your college reps to assist with FAFSA's, college applications, verification, and next steps

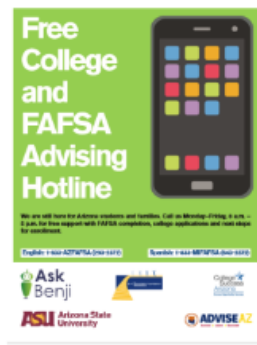


# Statewide FAFSA Collaborations and Support

- Text, phone call, virtual appointments, or in-person using COVID safe protocols



**AZ FAFSA Drive-In**



The hotline is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

English: 1-833-AZ-FAFSA (833-293-2372)

Spanish: 1-833-Mi-FAFSA (833-643-2372)



**Benji, the FAFSA Chatbot** - Students can text their FAFSA questions 24/7 to 602-786-8171, [AskBenji.org](https://askbenji.org)



Be A Leader Foundation is offering virtual appointments to assist students with their FAFSA, college applications, next steps, and college enrollment.

Click on the following link to complete the web form and schedule an appointment:

<https://bit.ly/college-going-support>



College Depot is still providing personal assistance with financial aid, admissions, and all things college. Students can request a virtual appointment with a College Depot Advisor using this link: [bit.ly/2VeM1sF](https://bit.ly/2VeM1sF)



Northern Arizona  
College Resource  
Center

The Northern Arizona College Resource Center (NACRC) is accepting virtual appointments. They have advisors on hand ready to work with students and families individually through email, Zoom, or phone. Anyone needing assistance can reach them by phone at 928-523-1803, as well as via email through [nacrc@nau.edu](mailto:nacrc@nau.edu)



Regional College Access Center in Tucson, AZ is accepting virtual appointments by calling 520-670-0055 or booking online at [www.metedu.org/rcac](https://www.metedu.org/rcac).

# The Impact

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Over 400 high schools have been recognized for their FAFSA completion efforts since 2018



Increased FAFSA efforts at the high school level



FAFSA to the Forefront for AZ initiatives



Collaborative FAFSA support statewide

# Contact Information

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