



Washington Student Achievement Council FAFSA Data Portal Fact Sheet

What populates the FAFSA Completion Portal?

The FAFSA Completion Portal is populated by a weekly match of senior class registrations from Washington public high school seniors and FAFSA data. The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is the state record holder of FAFSA data for students living in Washington and receives registration records from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) via a data sharing agreement. OSPI's enrollment records reflect data received from districts via their CEDARS reporting.

How is WSAC able to share these data? Do the students know?

In an effort to assist students with FAFSA completion, the US Department of Education allows for FAFSA completion status information to be shared with school officials and/or college access program staff with whom the student works. No information that the student puts on the FAFSA is shared (i.e. family income information), merely their status.

When does the match occur?

The weekly match occurs every Monday morning. On October 1, 2016, the portal switched to reporting data for the senior class of 2017 who filed the 2017-18 FAFSA.

In the secure sections of the portal that high school staff can access, why might I see students no longer enrolled at my school or why might I not see students who are?

The data sent to WSAC by OSPI is fed by district reporting via CEDARS. If a district or school sees additional students or is missing students on their list, they should first confirm data are being reported correctly via CEDARS. It may take several weeks for updates to reach WSAC via this process. If staff still see discrepancies and have questions, they should email fafsa@wsac.wa.gov.

Are WASFA data reflected in the FAFSA Completion Portal?

Not currently. The WASFA application is structured differently than the FAFSA. Additionally, because of the nature of the WASFA and possible implications of defining why a student would complete one, WSAC staff are cautious to share student-level WASFA data. The portal may be re-tooled in the future.

What statuses are visible in the data?

- **Unmatched:** The student has not submitted a FAFSA.
- **Processed:** The student successfully submitted and completed their FAFSA.
- **Submitted, missing signatures:** The student submitted a FAFSA but the student and/or parent did not sign using an FSA ID. Students/parents can sign and complete the FAFSA via www.fafsa.gov.
- **Submitted, has errors:** The student submitted a FAFSA but there is another error with their FAFSA. The student should log back into their FAFSA and make the necessary adjustments or contact one of the financial aid offices they sent their FAFSA to for assistance with determining the error.

How does my district get access to the FAFSA Completion Portal?

Districts must return a data usage agreement to access this section of the Portal. In that agreement, the Superintendent will designate a data receiver at the district. This person can then create accounts for other district and/or school users. If you have questions about your district's data receiver or accessing your district's student-level data, please email fafsa@wsac.wa.gov.

Where can I access aggregate data?

Aggregate district data: <http://bit.do/FAFSACompletionData>
Interactive Map by ESD: <http://bit.do/WA-FAFSA-Completion>