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| Title | 12 th Year Campaign, FAFSA Completion Initiative, and Early Outreach |
| Staff lead | Sarah Weiss |
| Position | Associate Director of College Access and Support |
| Email | sarahwe@wsac.wa.gov |
| Phone | 360.753.7630 |
| Synopsis | Beginning this year, both federal and state financial aid applications opened October 1 rather than the previous date of January 1. This is a full three months earlier than previous years. Over the past year, the agency's 12 th Year Campaign and FAFSA Completion Initiative have focused on outreach to high school counselors, students, and community partners about the earlier financial aid application timeline. The Associate Director of College Access and Support will update the Council on outreach efforts, initiatives, and partnerships. |
| Guiding questions | To what extent are Washingtonians aware of financial aid application processes and timelines and are there are additional partnerships that should be explored? |
| Possible council action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Documents and attachments | <input type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other |

It's time to apply.



**College Application Campaign
& College Goal Washington**
October - November, 2016

Let's provide every high school senior with the support and resources they need to complete their college applications and file for financial aid.

The 12th Year Campaign provides schools with resources to help high school seniors apply for college admission and complete the FAFSA or WASFA.

The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of students, especially first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students, who pursue a college degree or other postsecondary credential.

For more information or to sign-up your school, visit www.readysetgrad.org/12thyear.





Washington Student Achievement Council FAFSA Completion Initiative

In partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington Student Achievement Council now offers a FAFSA Completion Portal, making student FAFSA completion data available to schools.

FAFSA completion is a critical indicator of what students plan to do beyond high school. Studies show that over 90 percent of the students who complete the FAFSA enroll at postsecondary institutions within 12 months of graduation.



The FAFSA Completion Portal provides regularly updated FAFSA data for 12th grade students, allowing districts to track whether individual students have filed a FAFSA and whether their FAFSA submission has errors.



Counselors will be able to track student progress and provide individual support and services **to help more students access financial aid.**



In order to begin using the portal, each district **must complete a signed data usage agreement** and designate a district point-person for portal access.



To receive a data usage agreement, or if you have additional questions, contact Christina Winstead, Program Associate of College Access & Support, by phone at 360-753-7856 or by email at christinaw@wsac.wa.gov.

2017-18 FINANCIAL AID FACTS



DID YOU KNOW? Washington is a top state nationally for students receiving undergraduate need-based financial aid. In 2014-15, 157,000 students with financial need received \$1.9 billion in financial assistance. **HOWEVER, TO GET FINANCIAL AID, YOU NEED TO APPLY.**



To qualify for financial aid, you need to apply. In Washington, there are two different applications for financial aid, but you only need to file one.

File the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. File online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

File the WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) if you are not eligible to file the FAFSA due to immigration status. Find information and file online at www.readysetgrad.org/WASFA.

Colleges have their own aid forms and deadlines, too. Check with your financial aid office to stay on-track.



Starting October 1, 2016, students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA or WASFA.

This is a permanent change to the process, allowing students to file for financial aid at the same time that they're completing college applications.

Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA and WASFA, students will report income information from an earlier tax year. This is known as prior-prior year (PPY). Beginning in October, students and families will use their completed 2015 tax information to file for financial aid rather than using estimated income in January and updating it later in the spring as was previously required.



Whether you are planning to attend college for the first time or as a returning student during the 2017-2018 academic year, complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA or WASFA, beginning October 1, 2016.

You must file for financial aid every year you attend school. For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA or WASFA to receive aid for your sophomore year.

You do NOT have to pay to apply for financial aid! Both the FAFSA and WASFA are free.

For more on financial aid and college readiness, visit www.readysetgrad.org, your resource to find, pay for, and complete the educational path that's right for you.

