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PRESS RELEASE

Florida College Access Network

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FCAN Announces 2021 Florida FAFSA Challenge Winners!

Florida seniors qualify for an estimated \$139 million in Pell Grant dollars to help pay for college

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is excited to announce the winners of the [2021 Florida FAFSA Challenge](#), a statewide campaign to increase the proportion of high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

As of March 26, 34.3% of Florida public high school seniors have completed a FAFSA and are one step closer to getting the money needed to pay for education beyond high school. According to an FCAN analysis, this translates to [an estimated \\$139 million in Pell Grant dollars](#).

Through the end of March, [68 schools in 28 Florida](#) counties have increased the percentage of seniors who completed the FAFSA by at least five percentage points over last year.

"We are proud to see so many schools embrace the FAFSA Challenge and exceed the statewide goal," said Charleita M. Richardson, FCAN's Executive Director. The Florida FAFSA Challenge encourages schools and districts to increase FAFSA completion by 5 percentage points compared to the previous year. "Given the negative impact COVID-19 has had on our ability to support students during the FAFSA process, we want to commend every school and district in the state for their work to increase FAFSA completions."

Districts and schools in Miami-Dade, Pinellas, St. Johns, Gulf, Volusia, Hillsborough, and Okeechobee counties won top honors as the highest performers:

MVP (Highest FAFSA completion rate through March 26, 2021)

Large School: Terra Environmental Research Institute, Miami-Dade County

Medium School: Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy, Miami-Dade County

Small School: St. Petersburg Collegiate High School, Pinellas County

Large District: St. Johns County (St. Johns County School District)

Small District: Gulf County (Gulf District Schools)

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Most Improved (Highest increase in FAFSA completion compared to March 2020)

Large School: Deland High School, Volusia County

Medium School: Pinecrest Preparatory Academy Charter High School, Miami-Dade County

Small School: Sports Leadership and Management Academy (Tampa), Hillsborough County

Large District: Volusia County (Volusia County Schools)

Small District: Okeechobee County (Okeechobee County Schools)

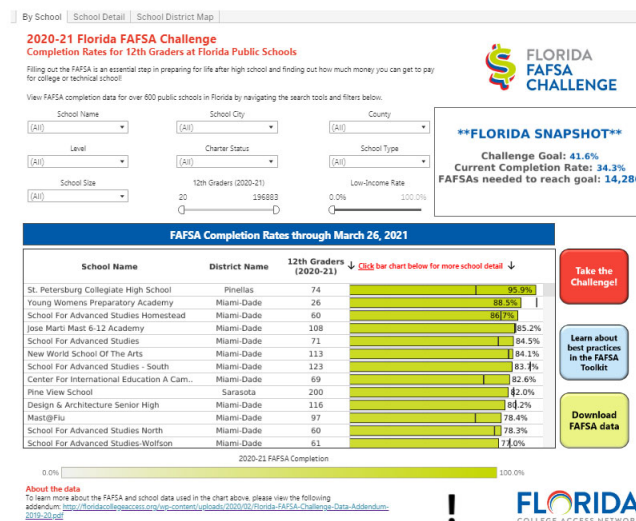
The top five contenders in each of these categories are recognized in the [Florida FAFSA Challenge Leaderboard](#).

How did your school or district do?

Curious about how your school or district fared in the Florida FAFSA Challenge? You can find out on FCAN's [Florida FAFSA Challenge Dashboard](#), which includes data for over 600 public schools in the state.

FAFSA completion data for all schools and districts – including [all those that exceeded the 5% goal](#) – are available. The dashboard allows users to view school, district, and state-level FAFSA completion rates using nine different filters and search options.

Chart: FAFSA completion among 12th graders attending Florida public schools



Click image to view FAFSA completion rate data for all public schools in Florida

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The Florida FAFSA Challenge is part of [College Ready Florida](#), a suite of statewide initiatives designed to build a college-going culture and help all students — especially low-income students — continue their educations beyond high school.

FCAN applauds all schools and districts that committed to helping more graduating high school seniors access financial aid for college and congratulates those that boosted their FAFSA completion rates this year!

The Florida FAFSA Challenge is possible thanks to the generous support of FCAN's cornerstone funder [Helios Education Foundation](#).

About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's first collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and prosper in Florida's dynamic economy. We envision a Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all. For more information, visit floridacollegeaccess.org.

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