



# Financial Aid Application Completion Mandate: Public Act 101 -180

# Welcome

In the chat tell us:

- Your organization or school
- What town you're joining us from
- A popular restaurant in your area

# Agenda

1. Financial Aid Applications
2. Public Act 101-0180 (FAFSA Graduation Requirement)
3. FAFSA Completion Initiative Overview
4. FAFSA Completion Initiative User Guide
5. Resources to Support Financial Aid Completion

# Financial Aid Applications



# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- The FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process for most students
- It is used to apply for **state** and **federal** financial aid programs
  - Pathway for most students to apply for the IL MAP Grant
- Generates an Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
  - Used to calculate financial aid eligibility
- Most colleges use it to award institutional aid
- The application is available at **no cost**

# The Big Grants

- Maximum award amounts for 2021 -22



**MAP Grant**  
Up to \$5,496 (est.)

**Pell Grant**  
Up to \$6,495

- Total = \$11,991

# Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative App)

- Provides a pathway for **eligible undocumented students** and **transgender students** who are disqualified from federal student aid to apply for the MAP Grant

**Note:** Although Selective Service registration is no longer required to qualify for federal financial aid, there is still a federal law requiring Selective Service registration for those who are under 26 and assigned a male gender at birth. This federal requirement continues to apply to both citizens and noncitizens.

# Alternative Application Process

- Pre-screening questions available to first time applicants
- An ISAC ID number is assigned once the applicant creates a Student Profile
- The Alternative Application is patterned after the FAFSA
  - Uses the same EFC formula to determine MAP eligibility
- Students and parents must sign the application electronically using PINs provided by ISAC
  - PINs are e-mailed to the e -mail addresses provided on the application



# Financial Aid Applications

## WHEN

- As soon as possible after October 1<sup>st</sup>

## WHO

- High school seniors and college students

## HOW

- FAFSA: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or
- Alternative App: [www.isac.org/alternativeapp](http://www.isac.org/alternativeapp)

## WHY

- Determine eligibility for federal and state aid programs
- Some institutions use these to award institutional aid

# Public Act 101 -0180 (FAFSA Graduation Requirement)

# FAFSA Graduation Requirement

- Beginning with the 2020 -2021 school year, in addition to all other graduation requirements, a high school senior enrolled in an Illinois public high school must meet one of the following requirements in order to receive a diploma:
  - File a FAFSA; or
  - File an application for state financial aid; or
  - File a waiver/opt -out form with the school district

# FAFSA Graduation Requirement Continued

- School districts must:
  1. Require each high school student to comply
  2. Provide to each high school student and, if applicable, his or her parent or guardian any support or assistance necessary to comply
  3. Award a high school diploma to a student who is unable to meet the requirements of subsection (a) due to extenuating circumstances, as determined by the school district, if
    - i. The student has met all other graduation requirements under the School Code, AND
    - ii. The principal attests that the school district has made a good faith effort to assist the student or, if applicable, his or her parent or guardian in filing an application or waiver


# FAFSA/Alternative Application Nonparticipation Form

- Created by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
  - Must be filed with the school district
  - Indicates the parent or guardian or, if applicable, the student understands what the FAFSA and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid are and has chosen not to file an application
    - Must use the ISBE waiver form
    - Available in English and Spanish
  - For non-financial aid questions or questions about the waiver/opt-out form, you can email ISBE at [fafsa@isbe.net](mailto:fafsa@isbe.net)

# FAFSA/Alternative Application Nonparticipation Form Continued

- Information requested (p.1)
  - Student information
  - School information
  - Parent/guardian information
- Certification of financial aid application knowledge
- Parent/guardian or student signature

Use your "Mouse" or "Tab" key to move through the fields and check boxes. After completing last field, save document to hard drive to make future updates or click print button.

 **Illinois**  
State Board of Education

**FY22 FAFSA Nonparticipation Form**

Starting in school year 2020-21, to receive a diploma from a public high school a student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)<sup>1</sup> or, if applicable, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid<sup>2</sup>. Local school district staff must provide support and assistance to students and parents/guardians in the application process. Additional assistance with completing an application is available from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission<sup>3</sup>.

Alternatively, a parent/guardian must file a waiver if they choose to opt a child out of this graduation requirement by completing this Nonparticipation form; students who are at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated may complete the form themselves. If you wish to opt yourself or your student out of the Financial Aid Application graduation requirement, please complete this form and return it to your local high school counselor by the date established at your local school district.

School Name:	
School District Name:	
Student Name:	Birth Date:
Parent or Legal Guardian Name:	
Home Address:	City, State, & Zip:
Phone Number:	Email:

I have read the information on the reverse, I understand what the FAFSA and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid are, and I choose not to submit a completed financial aid application. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student listed above, or I am the student and I am either at least 18 years of age, or a legally emancipated minor.

Please check here if you agree to the statement in bold above: Yes

Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	

<sup>1</sup> Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/22-83)  
<sup>2</sup> Most students should file the FAFSA ([fafsa.gov](https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act)). For details on who is eligible to file the Alternative Application, see <https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/retention-of-illinois-rise-act/>  
<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.isac.org/students/> for more resources

Page 1 of 2 [Print](#) [Reset Form](#)

# FAFSA/Alternative Application Nonparticipation Form Continued

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (p.2)
  - What is the FAFSA?
- Information on this page must be read to certify that the student will opt out of completing a financial aid application

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**"What is the FAFSA?"** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the online application that allows a student to apply simultaneously for federal student aid (including the Pell Grant, work-study opportunities, and federal student loans) and the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant. Many colleges and universities use it for their aid programs, too. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is a similar application that provides a path for some students who do not qualify for federal aid to apply for state and school-funded assistance. The maximum state MAP grant for the 2021-22 school year is \$5,496. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is \$6,495 for the 21-22 award year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). The amount is not yet set for the 22-23 academic year.

**"Isn't the application too long and difficult to complete?"** Most applicants complete the FAFSA in about 30 minutes. If you have questions, talk to your school counselor. Help is also available for FREE from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission ([studentportal.isac.org](https://studentportal.isac.org)).

**"If I want to learn a trade, can the FAFSA still be of assistance to me?"** The FAFSA isn't just for associate's or bachelor's degree programs! Students can receive need-based Pell grants, federal student loans, and other federal student aid for technical, trade, and vocational programs at community colleges and at many other schools and training programs. Students can check with the school they want to attend or use the federal government's online College Navigator tool to find out which institutions participate in the programs: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

**"Does my family make too much money to benefit from the FAFSA?"** Financial aid is left on the table every year by students who didn't apply because they erroneously thought they were ineligible. You really don't know until you apply! Income and assets are factors in determining your eligibility, but so are things like the number of students in the family who are in school and the age of the parent(s). For students from families that do make too much to qualify for need-based grant aid, the FAFSA can still be helpful, since it's needed for work-study, an AIM HIGH grant from one of our public universities, or a federal student loan (usually at competitive rates and with more borrower protections than private loans, including options for income-based repayment and forgiveness programs for some careers). Your college may offer aid based on your FAFSA info too, and your eligibility may be different depending on your school. Additionally, some scholarship programs use information from the FAFSA as part of the application process. As most financial aid is awarded in date order based on FAFSA filing date, it is a very good idea to complete the FAFSA as early as possible. This "place in line" can be used for opportunities that come up later, and also can be used if family financial circumstances suddenly change.

**"What if I don't want a student loan?"** Filing the application doesn't commit you to anything. You'll just find out whether you might be eligible for aid!

**"How is FAFSA data protected?"** I don't want my information sold, and I don't want my school to have it." By law, your personally identifiable information (PII) in the FAFSA can only be used in furtherance of administering financial aid, including research. Although your high school will know whether you completed the FAFSA, it will not have access to the information that you provide on your FAFSA.

**"If I choose to file an application, how will I know that my application is complete?"** Once you submit the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, you will receive a confirmation of receipt at the email address you provided in the application. This will allow you to demonstrate that you've met the requirement of filing an application even if there are circumstances that will need to be addressed with the college/university's financial aid office later.

# FAFSA Completion Initiative Overview



# Financial Aid Application Completion Tool

- ISAC offers the Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative to assist public and private high schools in identifying students who have not completed a FAFSA/Alternative Application
- It is a resource for Illinois high schools to keep track of their students' financial aid application completion
- Helps schools identify students who may need assistance with the financial aid process
- Can be used to document compliance with the ISBE FAFSA graduation requirement

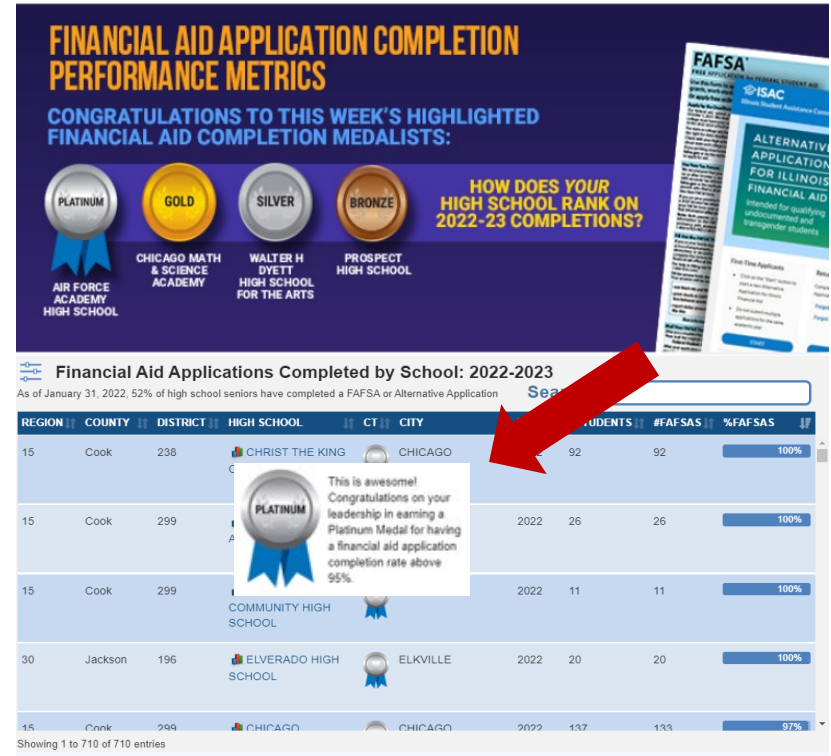
# Financial Aid Data Matching

- ISAC receives public high school senior class data from ISBE
- Private schools must complete a student record upload
- The student roster is then matched with FAFSAs and Alternative Applications that are filed each week
- ISAC provides participating high schools with updated information every Monday through the GAP Access portal

**Note: A roster that is uploaded by the school is the best way to ensure an accurate completion match and rate**

# Financial Aid Application Completion Performance Metrics

- Current high school completion rate
- Can sort and filter to search any high school across the state
- Can compare up to two years of completion data
- Data updated every week



# 2021 Recognition of Excellence

- All schools with an award will receive the center banner the first year they place
- Award period for the Class of '21 was from October 1, 2020 – August 21, 2021
  - 26 Platinum schools
  - 76 Gold schools
  - 127 Silver schools
  - 202 Bronze schools

## Class of '21 Completion Awards



Platinum > 95%  
26 Schools



Gold > 85%  
76 Schools



Silver > 75%  
127 Schools



Bronze > 65%  
202 Schools

# 2022 Recognition Calculation and Participation Criteria

- Award period for Class of '22
  - October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
  - 67% will be Bronze based on the Class of '21 average
- Public schools
  - ISAC will use ISBE provided data to prepopulate rosters
- Private school
  - Must complete a student record upload for the entire class of 2022 into the GAP Access portal at least once during the award period

**Note: If your school does not appear in the Financial Aid Applications Completion chart (pictured in slide 19), please upload a roster**

# FAFSA Completion Initiative User Guide



# GAP Access Portal Sign -Up

- The FAFSA Completion Initiative tool is only available to high schools
- School principal must certify and agree to the terms and conditions
  - School principal can then designate privileges to authorized users
- For questions, contact:  
Mary Lewis  
[Mary.Lewis@Illinois.gov](mailto:Mary.Lewis@Illinois.gov)

# School Summary

- School summary will include:
  - Graduation year
  - Class size
  - Filed a financial aid application
  - Filed, has EFC
  - Filed, no EFC
  - Pell eligible
  - MAP eligible
  - Total Opt Out

Person School Administration **Programs**

FAFSA Completion: School Summary

Select School **School Summary**

**SOME HIGH SCHOOL 12345**

Address: 123 Some Street, Chicago, IL 60001  
Phone: 773-323-0000  
Principal: Jake Smith

Contact: Walker Smith, 773-311-0000, ww@dd12.org

Approval: Closed, Demo Loaded, CPS, CITE

Entries displayed: 10

Graduation Year	Class Size	Filed FAFSA	Filed, has EFC	Filed, no EFC	Pell Elig	MAP Elig	Total Opt Out
2022 Students College Choices EFC Range	16	0	1	-1	1	0	0
2021 Students College Choices EFC Range	43	17	14	3	15	12	0
2020 Students College Choices EFC Range	46	8	3	3	3	0	0
Showing 1-3 of 3 entries							
Overall College Choices EFC Range	109	25	18	5	17	12	0



# Data by Graduation Year

- Once graduating class has been selected, user will have access to:
  - Opt-Out Waiver checkbox
  - Individual data
  - Application filing status
  - Date application was received
  - MAP eligibility

School Administration Programs

FAFSA Completion: Details Graduation Year 2021

School Summary

**Some High School-12345**

Address  
123 Some Street  
Chicago, IL 60000

Phone  
773-123-0000  
Principal  
John Smith

Contact  
Walter Smith  
773-211-0000  
ws@sd12.org

Approval  
Closed  
Demo Loaded  
CPS  
CITE

Entries displayed: 10

Select	Opt Out Waiver	Last Name	First Name	MI	DOB	FAFSA Status	Initial FAFSA Received Date	MAP Elig @1st Choice College
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				K 07/24/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/09/2020	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				A 02/17/2003	Filed, has EFC	12/09/2020	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				04/26/2003	No FAFSA Filed		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				T 06/12/2003	Filed, has EFC	01/31/2021	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				P 11/03/2002	Filed, has EFC	10/03/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				E 03/30/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/10/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				08/31/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/03/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				G 06/15/2003	Filed, has EFC	11/08/2020	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				02/01/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/24/2020	

Add Delete Selected Save Changes Excel Report Back

# Add and Delete Function

- Add student records to your school's list
- Delete student records that should not appear on the school's list
- Users can edit students date of birth and name
- Changes will be reflected immediately, but data is matched every Monday

The screenshot shows the 'FAFSA Completion: Details Graduation Year 2021' interface. It includes a 'School Summary' section for 'Some High School-12345' with contact information for the school and principal. Below this is a table of student records with columns for selection, opt-out status, last name, first name, and FAFSA completion status. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Add', 'Delete Selected', 'Save Changes', 'Excel Report', and 'Back'. The 'Add' and 'Delete Selected' buttons are highlighted with a red box.

Select	Opt Out	Wisher	Last Name	First Name	FAFSA Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				A 03/17/2000 Filed, has EFC 12/09/2020 N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				04/26/2003 No FAFSA Filed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				T 04/12/2000 Filed, has EFC 01/31/2021
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				P 11/03/2002 Filed, has EFC 10/03/2020
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				E 03/06/2000 Filed, has EFC 10/10/2020
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				06/31/2005 Filed, has EFC 10/03/2020
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				G 04/15/2000 Filed, has EFC 11/06/2020 N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				02/01/2005 Filed, has EFC 10/24/2020

# Reports

- Schools can download a report that mirrors the format of the Graduation Year screen in excel format
- Data can be sorted as needed
- Schools should monitor their school rosters and make any updates as necessary
- ISBE will accept reports for compliance

School Administration Programs

### FAFSA Completion: Details Graduation Year 2021

School Summary

#### Some High School-12345

Address: 123 Some Street, Chicago, IL 60600  
Phone: 773-123-0000  
Principal: John Smith  
Contact: Walter Smith, 773-211-0000, ws@4612@erg

Approval: Closed, Demo Loaded, CPS, CITE

Entries displayed: 10

Select	Opt Out	Waiver	Last Name	First Name	MI	DOB	FAFSA Status	Initial FAFSA Received Date	MAP Elig @1st Choice College
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			K	07/24/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/09/2020	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			A	08/17/2005	Filed, has EFC	12/09/2020	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				04/26/2005	No FAFSA Filed		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			T	06/12/2003	Filed, has EFC	01/31/2021	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			P	11/05/2002	Filed, has EFC	10/05/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			E	09/30/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/10/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				08/31/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/03/2020	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			G	04/15/2005	Filed, has EFC	11/06/2020	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				08/11/2003	Filed, has EFC	10/24/2020	

Buttons: Add, Delete Selected, Save Changes, **Excel Report** (highlighted with red arrow), Back

# FAFSA Graduation Requirement Compliance

- The ISAC generated roster can be saved/printed to demonstrate compliance for the entire class having submitted a financial aid application or a non-participation form
  - You must participate in ISAC's FAFSA Completion Initiative in order to access this report
- Paper/electronic waivers can be kept in the individual student file or with the master list for the entire class
- This requirement must be met by July 31<sup>st</sup> of the graduating class year along with all other ISBE graduation requirements

# Resources to Support Financial Aid Completion

# ISAC Corps Provides Year -Round Help

- The ISACorps are near peer mentors trained to support students and families with college planning and financial aid
- The ISACorps continues to assist the community outside of financial aid season to ensure that students have all the tools and resources that will help them transition to a college campus

**ISAC Student Assistance Committee**

## Outreach Request Form

To request an ISAC representative for your event, please email this completed Outreach Request Form no more than six (6) months and no less than three (3) weeks prior to the event to [isac.outreach@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.outreach@illinois.gov). Unless otherwise noted, your event will be added to our website at <https://studentportal.isac.org/events>. In-person events will be conducted in accordance with state and local health guidelines.

### SECTION I – Event Logistics

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Time: From: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. To: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.  
p.m. p.m.

If first choice for date is not available, please indicate second choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Building/Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Event Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code & Phone Number & Extension \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION II – Event Profile

**Outreach Event Type:** (select one) – See following pages for descriptions.

Financial Aid Process Presentation  Financial Aid Application Completion Workshop  Information table

If selecting one of the events below, please enter specific event name from descriptions on following pages.

Financial Aid/Literacy event: \_\_\_\_\_

Postsecondary Exploration/Preparation event: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Exploration event: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Preference** (select one):  In-person  Virtual

**Language** (select one):  English  Spanish

**Anticipated Number of Attendees:**  Under 20  21-30  31-50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Audience** (select as many as apply):

Freshmen  Juniors  Sophomores  Seniors  Parents  Professionals/Educators

Younger than high school  Nontraditional students  Adult learners  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### College Changes Everything Campaign


Yes! Please have a Corps member contact me so that we can become a College Changes Everything (CCE) site by having a financial aid application and college application workshop between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

CCE sites will receive free promotional materials for their workshops, along with some CCE t-shirts while supplies last.

ISAC #73249 (08/24/16) 4/15/2021 Printed by authority of the State of Illinois

# ISAC College Q&A

- This text messaging service allows students and parents to send their college -planning and financial aid questions to a real-life ISAC staff member
- This service is particularly valuable when a counselor or ISACorps member is not immediately available



Questions about college planning and financial aid?

**NOW YOU CAN GET ANSWERS SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR PHONE!** →

ISAC College Q&A

It's easy to get started!  
Simply text your first and last name to the phone number in your area code.

217 207-3265  
309 306-7066  
618 223-6450  
630 216-4910  
708 252-3890  
773 453-9520  
815 242-4630  
847 243-6470

Dedicated support for all returning adult students:  
872 395-4723

Servicio en Español:  
773 823-0570

**ISAC**  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Helping to make college accessible and affordable for Illinois students.  
[www.isac.org](http://www.isac.org)

ISAC #13767 08/18 (ON 3767 1M 08/18) Printed by authority of the State of Illinois



# #RocktheFAFSAIL

- Statewide campaign to increase student's financial aid application completion
- High schools are encouraged to host one or more financial aid application completion workshops throughout the winter and spring
  - ISAC staff is available to assist
  - Use the Rock the FAFSA toolkit to help get the word out





# ISAC College Minute

- College planning and college-going topics in less than a minute!
  - Available in Spanish
- Use as quick reminders during the school day



# NCAN FAFSA Tracker

## As of 2/18/22 for the Senior Class of 2022

- Illinois' FAFSA completion rate is 50.3%
  - IL ranks #3 nationally
  - National completion rate is 37.7%
- Compared to the Class of 2021, during the same period
  - There is a 0.4% increase in the FAFSA completion rate in Illinois
  - There is a 1.7% increase in the overall national FAFSA completion rate

1	2	3	4	5
TN	DC	IL	TX	KY
55.2%	51.9%	50.3%	47.7%	41.0%

	Current Rank	% of Seniors Completing
Tennessee	1	55.2%
Washington, D.C.	2	51.9%
Illinois	3	50.3%
Texas	4	47.7%
Connecticut	5	47.2%
Massachusetts	6	45.3%
Delaware	7	44.7%
New York	8	44.7%
New Jersey	9	44.4%
Louisiana	10	44.0%

# Resource Links

- [ISBE FY22 FAFSA Nonparticipation Form](#)
- [Financial Aid Application Completion Performance Metrics](#)
- [Financial Aid Completion Initiative User Guide](#)
- [Rock the FAFSA Toolkit](#)
- [#ISAC College Minute](#)
- [NCAN FAFSA Tracker](#)

# Thank You!

Questions?

Reach out to

Manuel Talavera | Professional Development Specialist  
[manuel.talavera@illinois.gov](mailto:manuel.talavera@illinois.gov)