

Help! Our Kids Are Not Attending College

NOSCA – Destination Equity

Friday, April 13, 2012

2:30 – 3:45

Greg Darnieder and Joyce Brown – Ed.D.

Objectives

1. Understand the relationship between college access and FAFSA completion
2. Understand using FAFSA completion as a collaborative CCR strategy.
3. Learn strategies and practices implemented to drive FAFSA completion within a large urban district.
4. Review the national FAFSA Tracking Pilot process.

Chicago Public Schools

Prepare Every
Student For
College and
Career
Readiness

**District
Goal**

Demographics

- 112 Thousand HS Students
- 18Thousand Seniors
- 130 High Schools
- 600 Elementary Schools

College and Career Readiness Strategy

FAFSA
Completion

Recommendation #2

*Help Students and Families
Manage The High
Cost Of College*

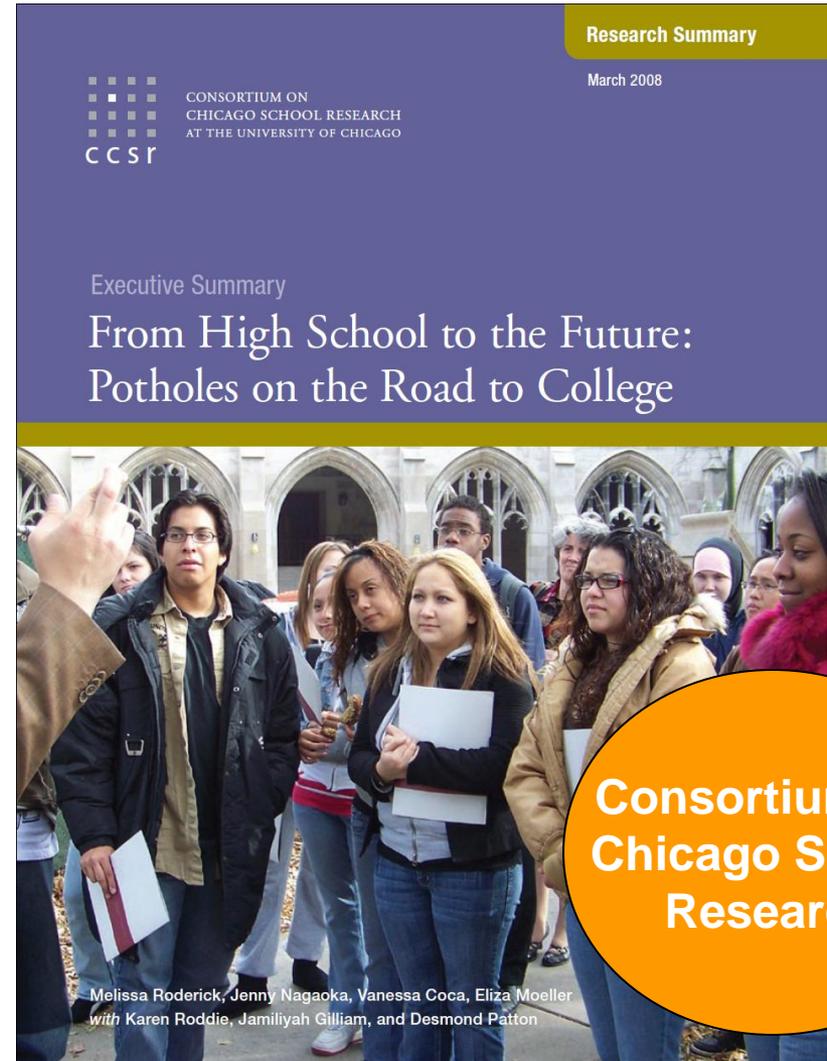


FIGURE 11

Only 41 percent of CPS graduates who aspired to complete a four-year degree took these steps and enrolled in a four-year college in the fall after graduation—an additional 9 percent enrolled in college without taking these steps

Tracking students through the steps to college enrollment:

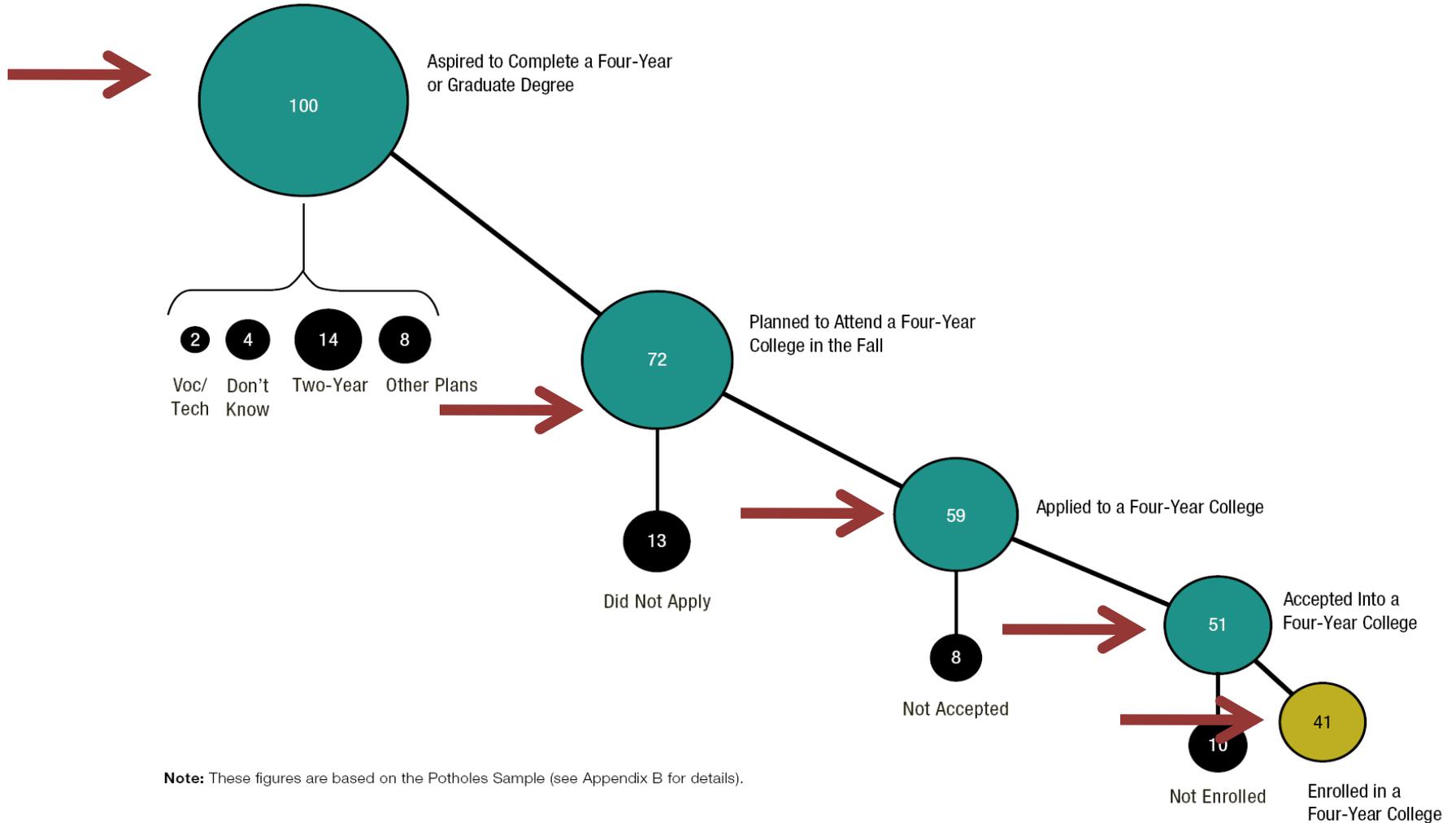
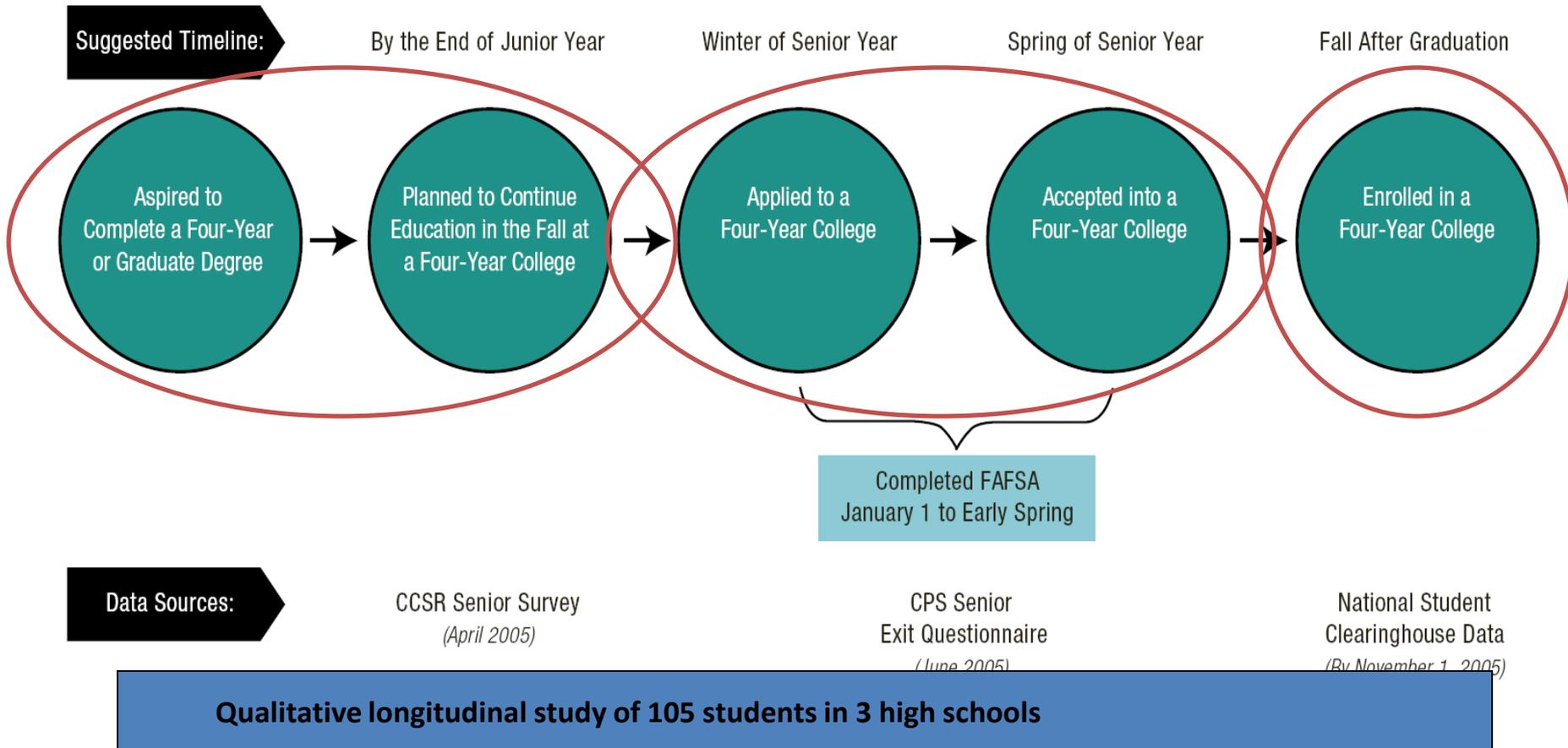


FIGURE 10

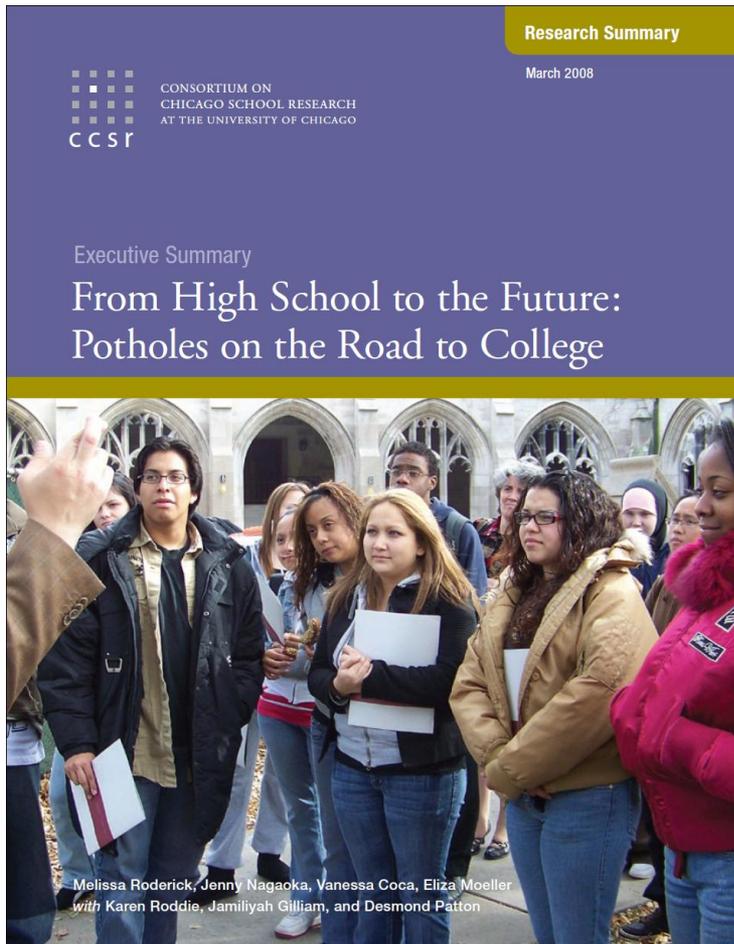
Tracking CPS graduates' steps towards college enrollment



Research Guides Our Work

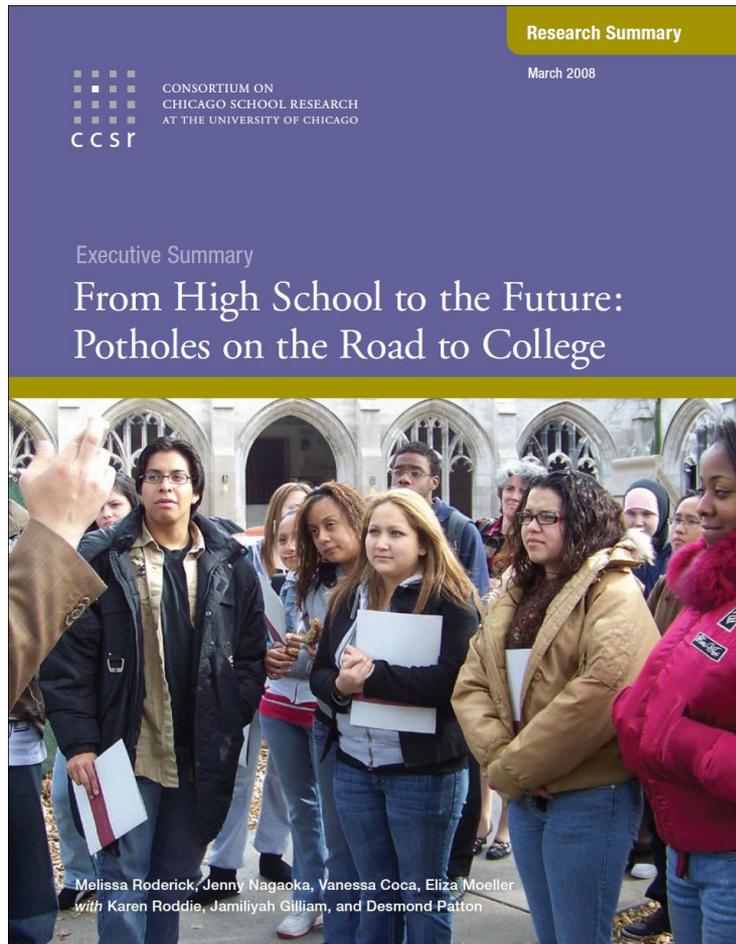
Pothole #3

Financial Capital



- College Cost Myths
- Incomplete FAFSA
- No FAFSA completion
- Late FAFSA completion
- Lacked Knowledge About
- FAFSA Completion
- And Money For College

Pothole #4



Students Feel Unsupported In The College Application Process

1. “Counselors play a minimal role in helping students identify colleges, navigate the application process, and make college decisions.”
2. “Counselors seem to have a paper processing role”
3. “Limited contact with counselor to plan for college.”

Systems Needed

Key Finding

Filing a **FAFSA** and **applying to multiple colleges** shape students' likelihood of being **accepted to and enrolling in a four-year** college



Barriers to College Attainment

Lessons from Chicago

Jenny Nagaoka, Melissa Roderick, and Vanessa Coca,

The Consortium on Chicago School Research at The University of Chicago January 2009

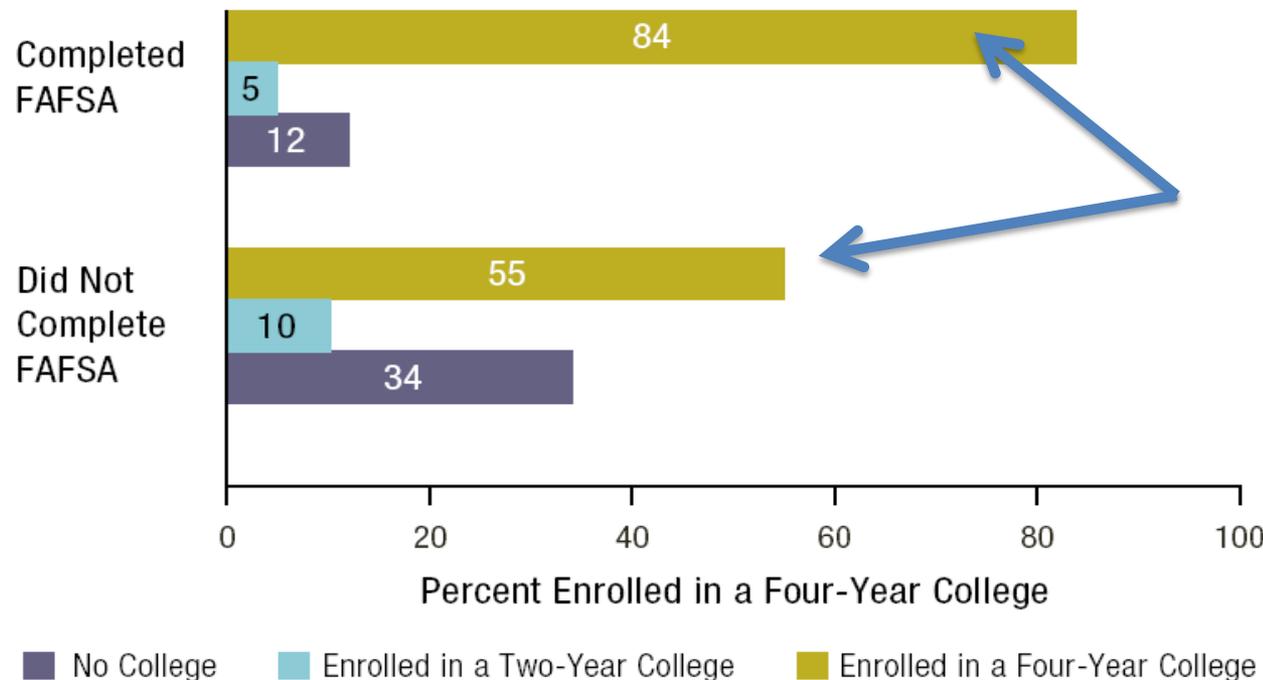
www.americanprogress.org

College Enrollment and FAFSA Completion

FIGURE 19

Students who were accepted into a four-year college were much more likely to enroll if they completed the FAFSA

Difference in college enrollment by whether students completed their FAFSA among students who were accepted into a four-year college:



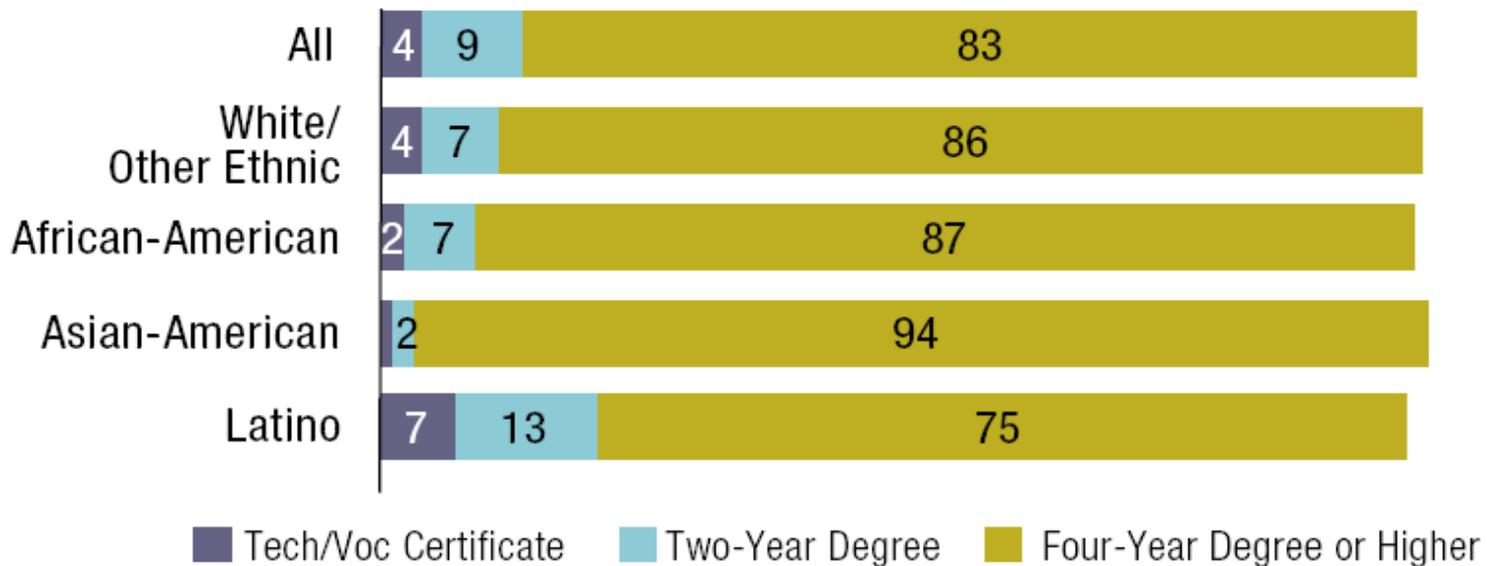
From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College (2008)

Roderick, Nagaoka, Coca, and Moeller

FIGURE 1

Almost all CPS graduates hope to complete some form of postsecondary education, and their parents want them to attend college

What is the highest level of education you plan to complete?



From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College (2008)
Roderick, Nagaoka, Coca, and Moeller

Key Findings

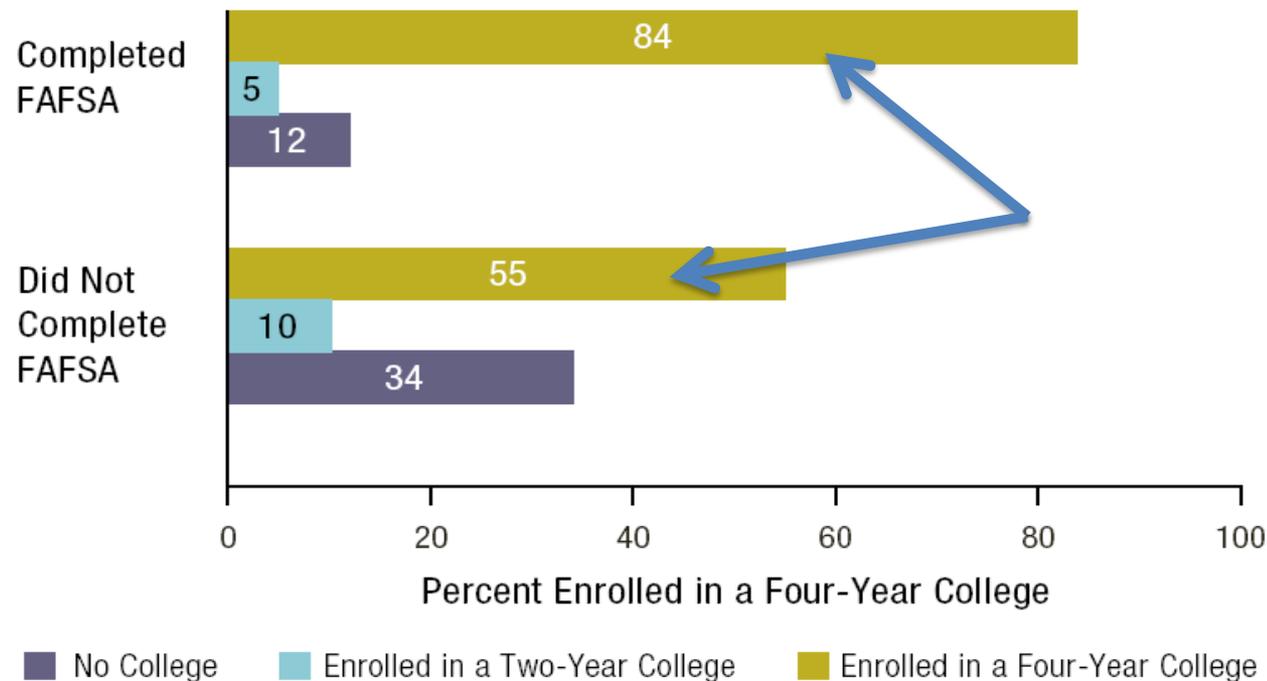
1. CPS students who aspire to complete a four year degree do not effectively participate in the **college application process**.
2. Attending a high School with **a strong college-going culture** shapes students' participation in the college application process.
3. Filing a **FAFSA and applying to multiple colleges** shape students' likelihood of being **accepted to and enrolling in a four-year** college
4. Only about **one-third** of CPS students who aspire to complete a four-year degree enroll in a college that **matches their qualifications**.
5. Among the most highly qualified students, having discussions on post-secondary planning and having strong connections to **teachers** is particularly important in shaping the likelihood of **enrolling in a match school**.
 - Promoting understanding and effective participation in the financial aid process is a critical component of any strategy to improve college access and attainment.

Using FAFSA To Drive College and Career Readiness

FIGURE 19

Students who were accepted into a four-year college were much more likely to enroll if they completed the FAFSA

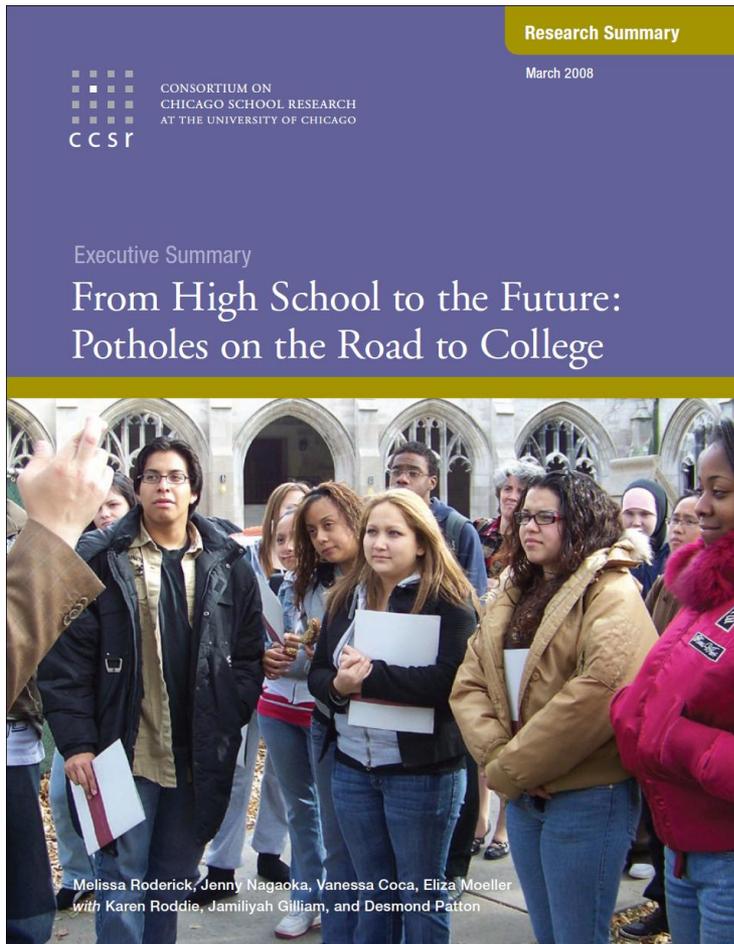
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Counselor Response To Potholes



- Implement strategies to ensure on-time **FAFSA** completion and submission.
- Implement strategies to ensure **application to multiple colleges**.

Central Office Roles

Director

Department of
Postsecondary Education
and Student Development

Officer

Office of College and
Career Preparation

**District
Director**

Secondary School
Counselors

The Process

FAFSA
Data
Received
from ISAC

Data
Received By
Research
Team

Disseminated
from Central
office

Central
Office
Administrators

Central
Office
Program
Managers

Area
Sup

Principals

Counselors

Making the FAFSA Data Actionable

The Role of CPS

- Based on data provided from Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
 - FAFSA completion
 - EFC ranges
 - Pell eligibility
 - Eligibility for state grants
- Tri-level reporting system
 - District data broken out by student subgroups
 - Web-based in-time school-level data
 - Web-based in-time student data within schools

Strategies

Data System
Link HS To
College
Outcomes
(NCR)

Track
Outcomes
Over School
Over Time

School Level
Reports
District
Reports

March
June
October
Measures

Priority Filing
Jan - March

Completion Strategies

Pre January Strategies:

Data Cleaning

Training

Partnerships

FAFSA Completion Plan

School Based Completion
Schedule

Collaboration with Higher
Ed and College Access

How does FAFSA tracking fit into the district's larger strategies of college access and success?

District and school yearly data

- Reporting and accountability mechanism
 - Develop an annual reporting system and school level reports on postsecondary preparation and outcomes
 - Examine long-term trends to track progress
- Allows for building targeted strategies around specific student groups

How does FAFSA tracking fit into the district's larger strategies of college access and success?

In-time data

- School accountability mechanism to create competition and track progress
- Identify and track problem within schools at the student-level
 - Lists of students allow school staff to work on problem and problem solve around specific issues that students have
 - Caseload strategy not “random acts of guidance”
- Allows for internal solution based on building capacity rather than implementing a program
 - Training of school staff and building partnerships with external groups

FAFSA Final District Report

2007 FAFSA Completion Report for All Graduates

FAFSA Completion Rate

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Graduates | 14995 |
| Completed FAFSA | 9674 |
| Percentage | 64.5 % |

Grant Eligibility of Those who Completed FAFSA

| | Number | Percent |
|------|--------|---------|
| Pell | 7588 | 78.4 % |
| MAP | 6245 | 64.6 % |
| IIA | 3741 | 38.7 % |

FAFSA Completion Rates for All Graduates

| By GPA Category | Number | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | Graduates | Completed | Percent |
| 2.0 or less | 3145 | 1374 | 43.7% |
| 2.0-2.4 | 2869 | 1697 | 59.1% |
| 2.5-2.9 | 2624 | 1877 | 71.5% |
| 3.0-3.4 | 2029 | 1600 | 78.9% |
| 3.5 or higher | 2620 | 2231 | 85.2% |
| Missing | 1708 | 895 | 52.4% |

FAFSA School Summary Report

FAFSA Completion Report as of April 24, 2008

| Area | Unit | School | Total Seniors | Number completed FAFSA | Percent submitted FAFSA | Percent change from last week |
|------|------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 19 | 1570 | SULLIVAN HS | 132 | 50 | 37.9% | 7.8% |
| 19 | 6990 | DEVRY HS | 92 | 50 | 54.3% | 5.4% |
| 19 | 1480 | MATHER HS | 288 | 99 | 34.4% | 4.9% |
| 19 | 1520 | ROOSEVELT HS | 185 | 84 | 45.4% | 4.9% |
| 19 | 1330 | FOREMAN HS | 194 | 57 | 29.4% | 4.8% |
| 19 | 1610 | VON STEUBEN HS | 259 | 138 | 53.3% | 4.6% |
| 19 | 1530 | SCHURZ HS | 324 | 114 | 35.2% | 4.4% |
| 19 | 1140 | NORTH-GRAND HS | 175 | 72 | 41.1% | 3.9% |
| 19 | 1070 | PROSSER HS | 250 | 110 | 44.0% | 3.5% |
| 19 | 1410 | KELVYN PARK HS | 241 | 85 | 35.3% | 3.4% |
| 19 | 1560 | STEINMETZ HS | 333 | 148 | 44.4% | 3.3% |
| 19 | 1580 | TAFT HS | 315 | 100 | 31.7% | 2.5% |
| 19 | 1210 | AMUNDSEN HS | 226 | 81 | 35.8% | 1.7% |
| 19 | 1540 | SENN HS | 189 | 84 | 44.4% | 1.2% |
| 19 | . | AREA TOTALS | 3203 | 1272 | 39.7% | 3.8% |

FAFSA School Reports on Students

- After logging in, school administrators see a list of seniors at their school, whether or not they completed the FAFSA, and their eligibility for Pell and state grants

This report contains confidential student information and can not be shared publicly. Please note that information is only available for seniors that have a valid Social Security number in SI.

| SID | Last Name | First Name | FAFSA | Illinois | MAP | Pell | IIA |
|-----|-----------|------------|-------|----------|-----|------|-----|
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 4 | | | Y | Y | N | N | N |
| 3 | | | Y | Y | N | N | N |
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | | | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 3 | | | Y | Y | N | N | N |
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |
| 3 | | | . | . | . | . | . |

FAFSA Training

FAFSA Training Plan

Who Must Be Trained:

- Counselors/School Based Personnel
- CBO's
- Higher Ed

Training Modules

Filling out FAFSA, Tracking, Forecaster, Pin numbers, parent activities, special circumstances, counselor resources



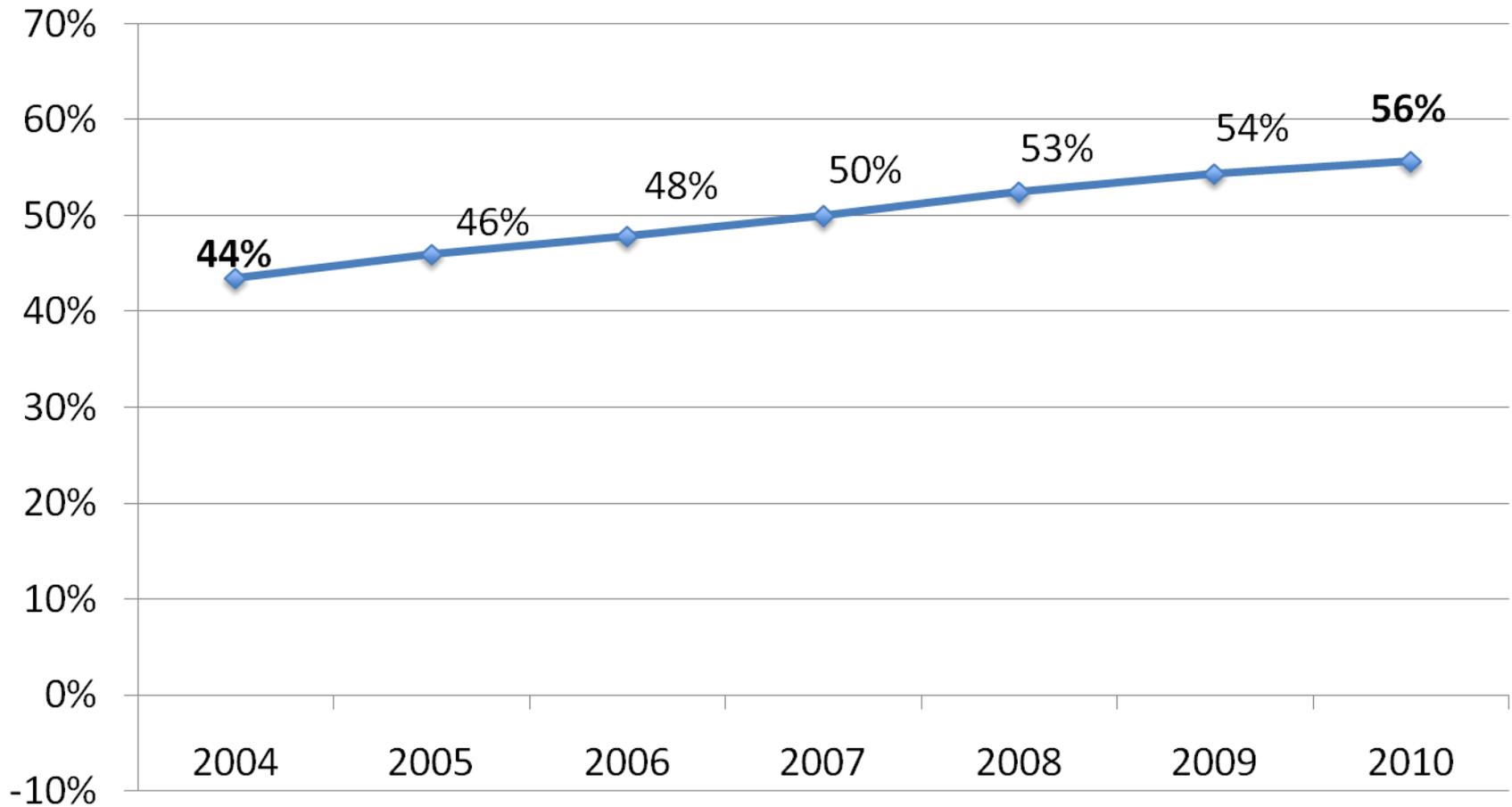
See Training
Handout

Overview

Focus Areas:

- Verification of FAFSA knowledge including: Filling out the FAFSA, Tracking, FAFSA Forecaster, Pin numbers, Parent activities, Special circumstances, counselor resources
- Understanding roster reports
- Track completion events
- Develop FAFSA Completion Schedule
- Parent Preparation Activities
- Website Resources

CPS has shown a slow and steady increase in college enrollment



Why did the FAFSA tracking system work?

- Strong district leadership around college access
- Broke down problem of college access into a manageable size
- Embedded in larger set of efforts to improve financial aid awareness among students and parents (and school staff)
- Continual interaction between practitioners and data people
- Breaking data into student subgroups allows for building strategies
- Real-time data allows for tracking and comparing the progress of schools
- Real-time data allows school staff to focus on students as individuals

FAFSA PILOTS

In 2010, the Department of Education piloted a FAFSA Completion Project to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and secondary school administrators in determining which of their students have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the upcoming school year. The pilot currently provides principals, counselors and college access professionals across 20 participating school districts and high schools with verifiable and actionable information to use in increasing FAFSA completion among their student population. Key studies have indicated that FAFSA completion correlates strongly with college enrollment, particularly among low-income populations.

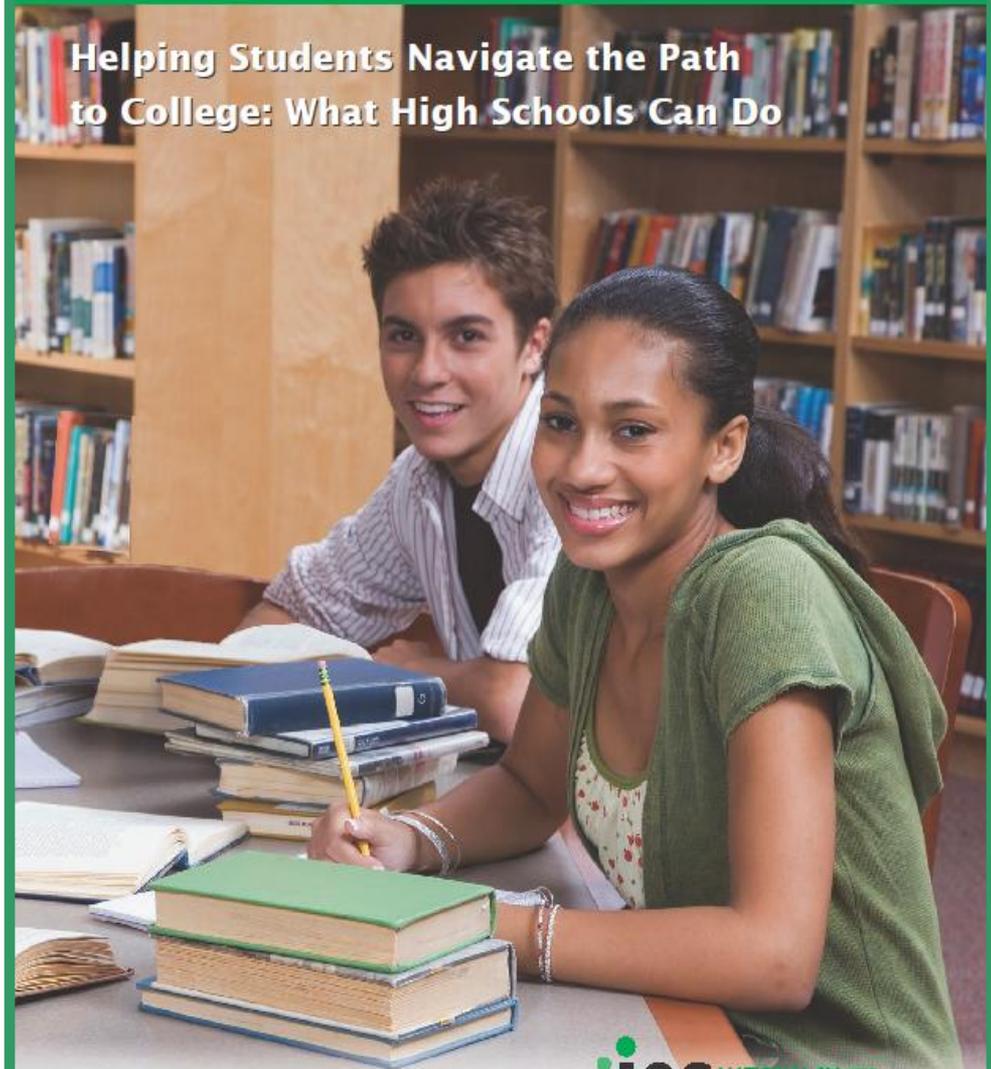
The FAFSA Completion Project: An Annotated Bibliography



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

IES PRACTICE GUIDE

WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE

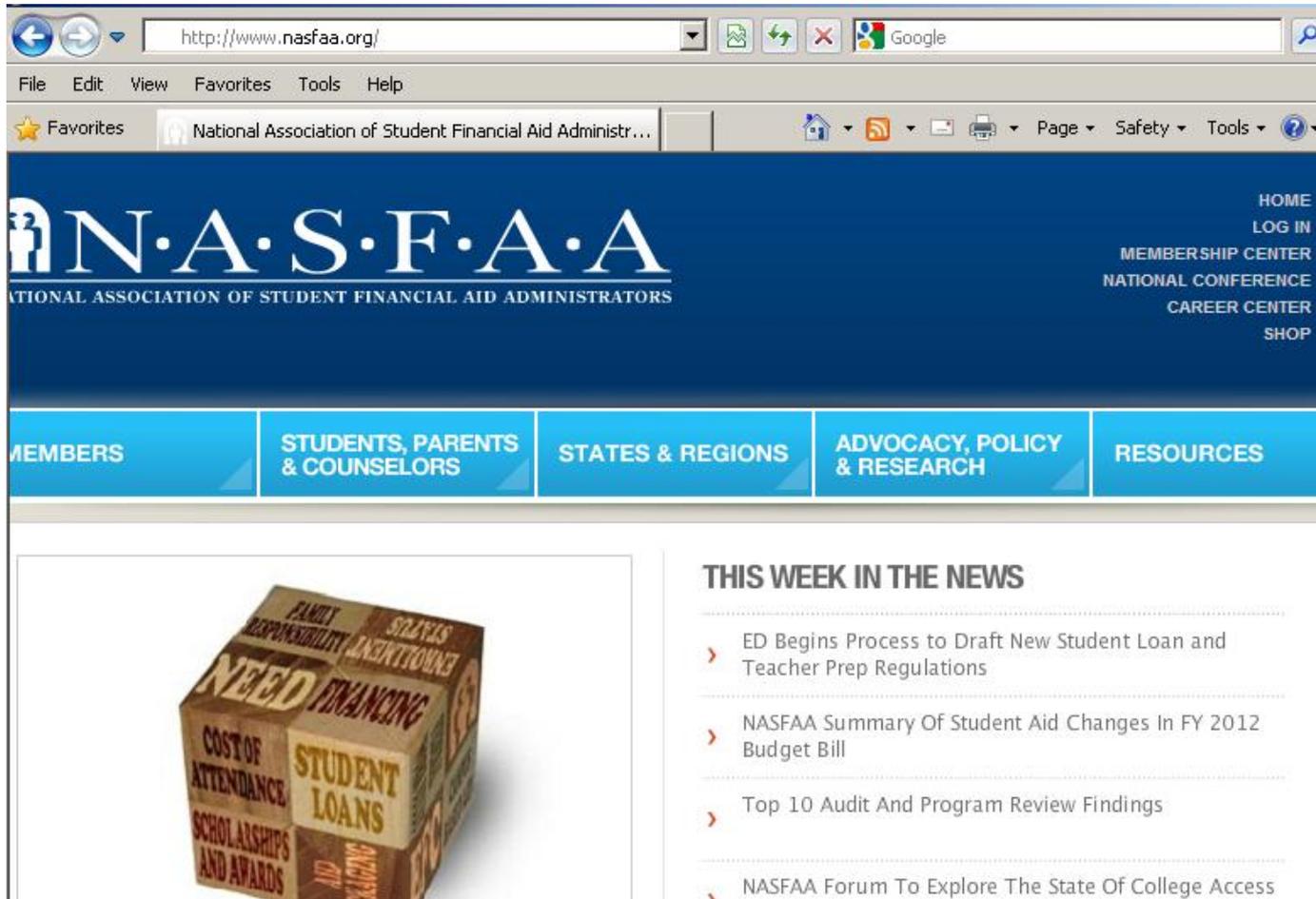


Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do

NCEE 2009-4066
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ies NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EDUCATION EVALUATION
AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE
Institute of Education Sciences

We Must Barrier Proof Our Students By Using Resources



The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the NASFAA website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.nasfaa.org/>. The website's header features the NASFAA logo and the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS". A navigation menu on the right includes links for HOME, LOG IN, MEMBERSHIP CENTER, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, CAREER CENTER, and SHOP. Below the header is a blue navigation bar with five main categories: MEMBERS, STUDENTS, PARENTS & COUNSELORS, STATES & REGIONS, ADVOCACY, POLICY & RESEARCH, and RESOURCES. The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a 3D graphic of stacked cardboard boxes with various financial aid-related terms such as "NEED FINANCING", "STUDENT LOANS", "COST OF ATTENDANCE", "SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS", "FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY", "STARS", "NEW YORK", "AID", and "FINANCING". On the right, the "THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS" section lists several articles with red arrow icons:

- ED Begins Process to Draft New Student Loan and Teacher Prep Regulations
- NASFAA Summary Of Student Aid Changes In FY 2012 Budget Bill
- Top 10 Audit And Program Review Findings
- NASFAA Forum To Explore The State Of College Access

Web Resources Snapshot

| Website | Middle and High School | Adult Students | Parents | Borrowers | Spanish |
|---|------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Student Aid on the Web studentaid.ed.gov | X | X | X | X | X |
| FAFSA fafsa.gov | HS Seniors | X | X | | X |
| FAFSA4caster fafsa.gov | X | | X | | X |
| National Student Loan Data System nslds.ed.gov | | | | X | X |

*List of URL shortcuts to FSA's student-facing websites are available in handout.

Publication Snapshot

| Document Name | Audience(s) | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Elementary School Student & Parent | Middle School Student | Middle School Parent | High School Student (9-11) | High School Senior | High School Parent | College Student | Adult Student |
| College Prep Checklist | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| My Future My Way | | X | | | | | | |
| Bookmark | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Do You Need Money for College: Federal Student Aid at a Glance (2-pager) | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Funding Your Education | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Paper FAFSA (also in PDF at www.fafsa.gov) | | | | | X | X | X | X |
| FAFSA on the Web Worksheet | | | | | X | X | X | X |
| Your Federal Student Loans | | | | 11 th | X | X | X | X |
| Direct Loan Basics for Students: Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans | | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Direct Loan Basics for Parents: Direct PLUS Loans | | | | | | X | | |

Available online at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs

Available for order at www.fsapubs.gov

FSA For Counselors

Resources to help you help your students:

www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov

1. Information about free training for counselors.
2. Financial aid PowerPoint presentation and script.
3. Federal Student Aid Publications Ordering System:

www.FSAPubs.gov

Professionals Toolkit

- Free digital toolkit
- Targeted to counselors and other professionals who help students and families prepare for a postsecondary education
- Toolkit can also be used by FAAs
- Component examples:
 - Financial aid night presentation and materials
 - Short, simple fact sheets and brochures
 - Adaptable calendar and ready to use e-blasts
 - Videos

These PPs are the sessions conducted by FSA and the release of the federal updates for the upcoming year. Over 6,000 FAA and others participate at these conferences in December.

- **Power points for all 2011/2012 sessions**
- **Recommended Session Videos; GS-1, 31, 32, & 33**
- **For new counselors see Fall Conference 2010 sessions; GS-2, 29, 48, & 49**

FSA Conferences



2011

[Fall Conference](#)



Watch Session Videos

[Foreign Schools Information](#)

[Software Developers Conference](#)

2010

[Fall Conference](#)

What's New

[2011 Fall Conference](#) is being held at the MGM Grand Conference Center.

Some of the presentations are now posted and available for download [here](#).

View photos from the conference [here!](#)

Attendees as of 11.30.11: **6,741**

Useful Resources

[Training for Financial Aid Professionals](#)

[2011 NASFAA Leadership Conference](#)

[Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\)](#)



Resources For Students

Student Aid on the Web -planning for college, paying for college, and repaying student loans:

www.studentaid.ed.gov

College.gov—inspiration for students who think college might not be for them:

www.college.gov

College Preparation Checklist - a student's or parent's first stop for information on academic and financial preparation:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/collprep

Funding Your Education: e Guide to Federal Student Aid—book to help students or parents understand the financial aid process and maximize the resources on the comprehensive www.studentaid.ed.gov website:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide

Do You Need Money for College? Federal Student Aid at a Glance—quick glimpse outlining the federal student aid programs, eligibility criteria, and application tips:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/needmoney

Looking for Student Aid Without Getting Scammed:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/LSA

Fact sheets on various topics:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs

FAFSA on the WebSM /Federal School Codes:

www.fafsa.gov

PIN information and registration:

www.pin.ed.gov

FAFSA4casterSM—early estimate of aid eligibility:

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

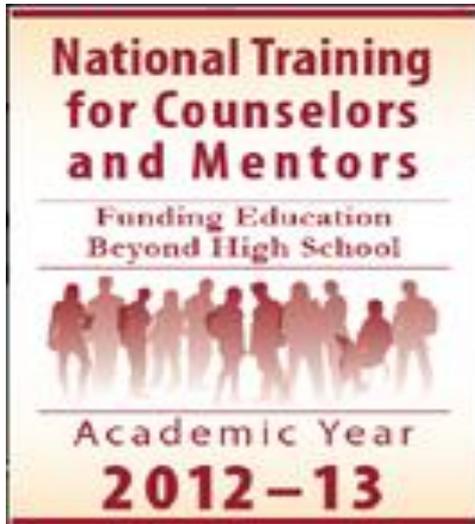
Counselors Call!

1-800-4-FED-AID



**Get All
Questions
Answered!**

Counselor Resources



ccsr.uchicago.edu

FAFSA Data Center

- **FAFSA Completion by High School**
- As the cost of college continues to increase, financial aid becomes ever more important. While many factors are involved in the decision to attend college, there is a strong correlation between FAFSA completion and college enrollment.
- Previously, high schools relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rate and that data can be inaccurate. For this reason, Federal Student Aid is providing high schools with current data about their FAFSA submissions and completions so that high schools can track their progress and help to ensure that their students complete a FAFSA. A completed FAFSA allows the Department to determine a potential student's eligibility for federal student aid – a key factor in families' college decisions.
- The data included in the attached charts reflect the number of submitted and completed FAFSAs among applicants no older than 18 who will have received their high school diploma by the start of the 2012-2013 school year. The data is displayed in spreadsheets broken down by state that include the school name and city of the high school.
- Below, you can select a state from the drop-down menu to view that state's data, get more information about the data assumptions, or find answers to the most frequently asked questions.

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/datacenter/fafsa/hs.html>

Application Trends

- FAFSA completion rates among low-income households continue at rates between 32 and 35% for the past six years
- Nationwide for families with incomes over \$40K, FAFSA completion is up 9.6%, but up only 3.6% for families earning less

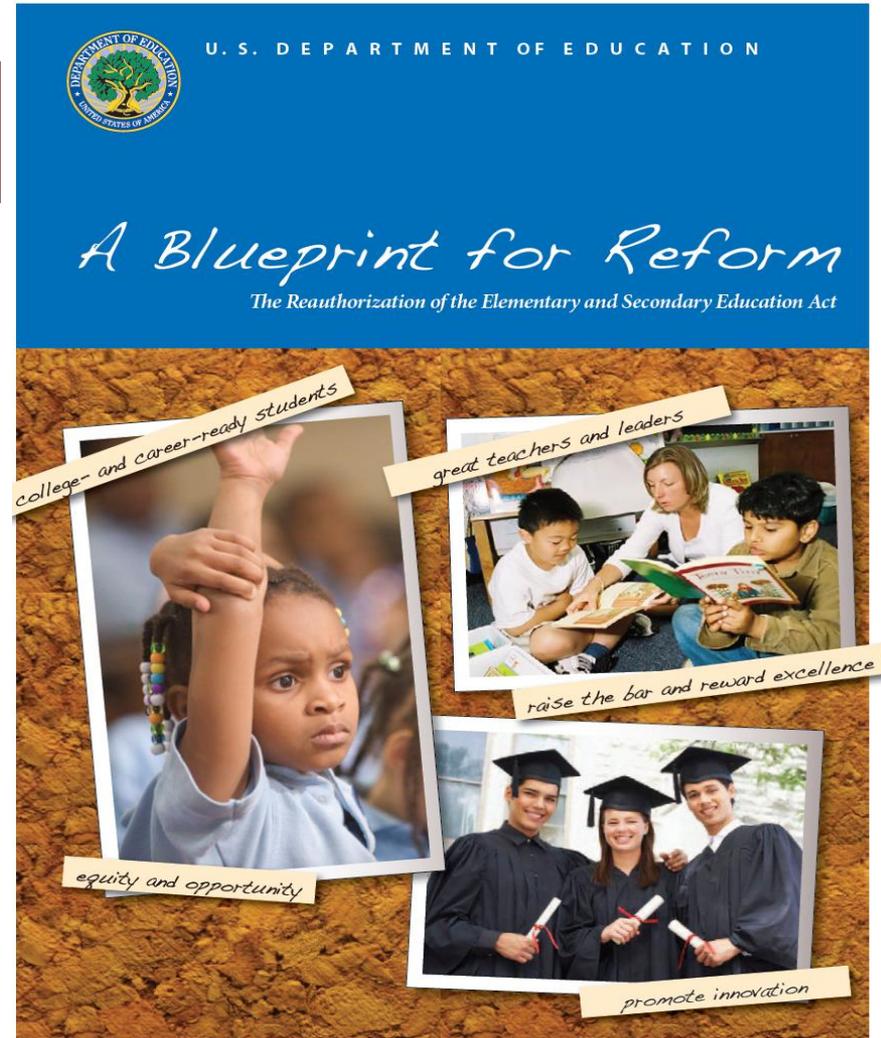
FAFSA Completion
Important step to
support college entry

The National Call To Action

The Vision

President Obama has called for America to once again lead the world in college graduates.

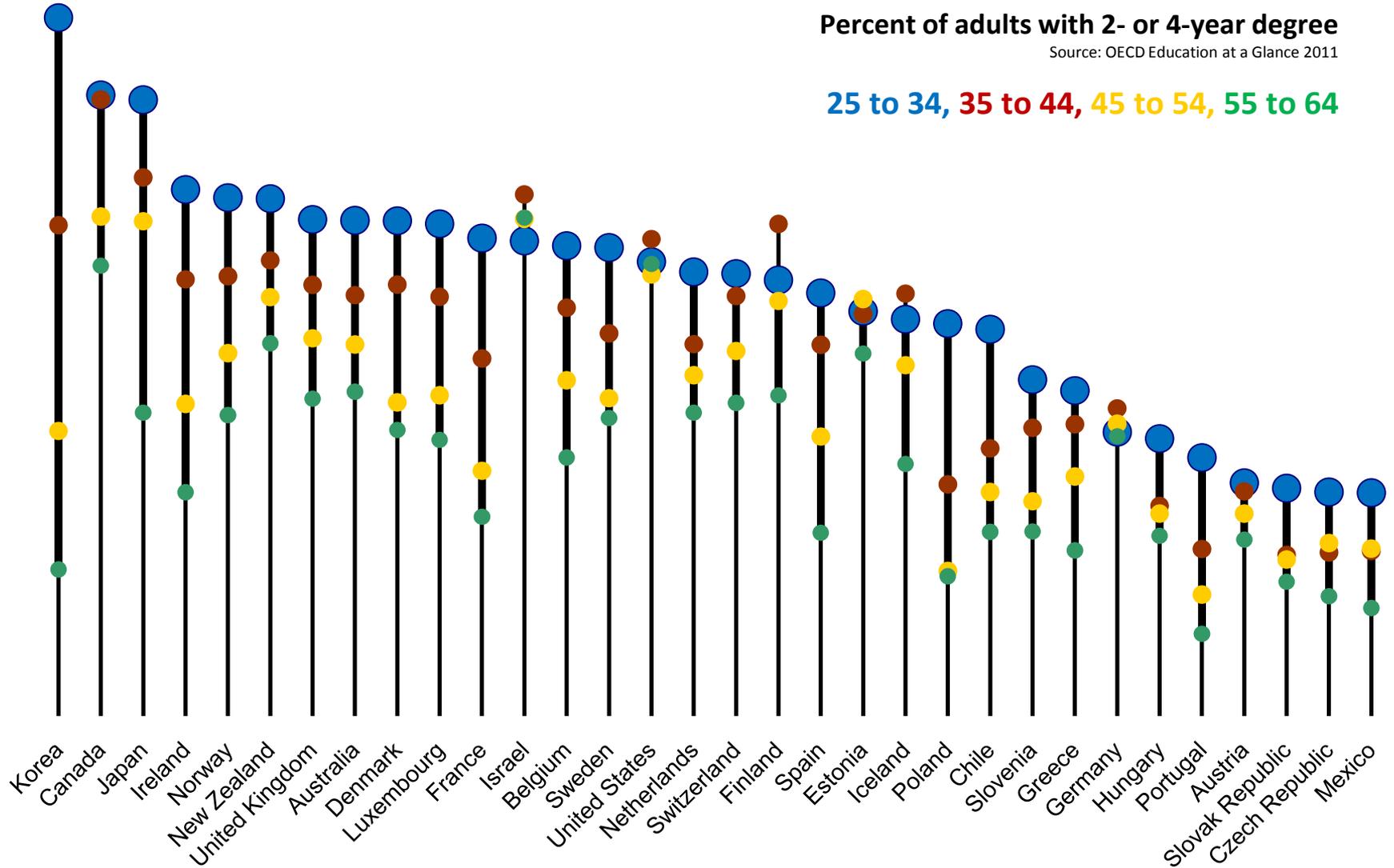
Handout – How many will it take from your state?



Percent of adults with 2- or 4-year degree

Source: OECD Education at a Glance 2011

25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64



Conclusion

- The college application process is overwhelming, even for highly qualified students.
- Students engage in very limited and chaotic searches and don't know how to think about "fit".
- Students have great difficulty managing the financial aid process.
- **Counselor support and school climate matter a great deal in guiding college enrollment and college match.**
- Schools must structure this process.
- Our students and families need us more than ever before.