

The Nuts And Bolts of Transitions to Postsecondary Education

*Paving the Way to College and Career
Virtual Training Series*

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**November
2019**

Laying the Foundation for
Postsecondary Success

TODAY!

The Nuts and Bolts of
Transitions to
Postsecondary
Education

**May
2020**

Building a Postsecondary
Mindset

Paving the Pathway to College and Careers

Your presenters



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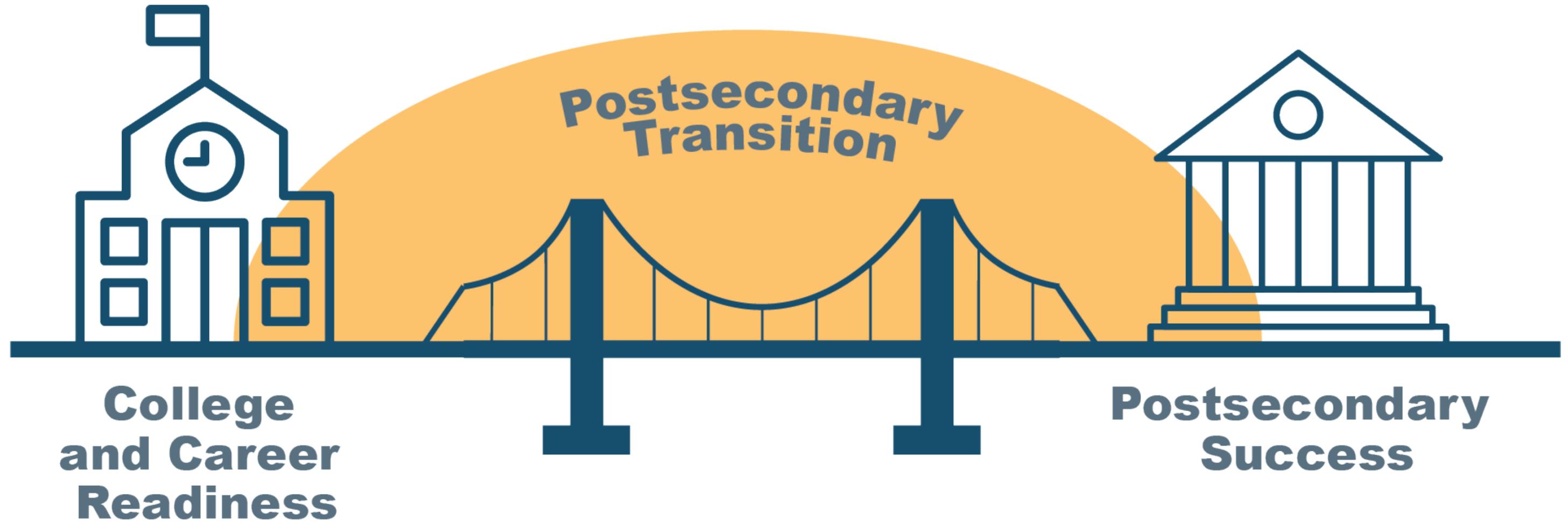


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**National College
Access Network**



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Terminology



Agenda

- Welcome and goals for the day
- Why are we here?
- Evidence-based strategies to support postsecondary transitions
- Lessons from the field: National College Access Network presentation
- Wrap-up and next steps

Meeting goals



Our goals for this discussion are to:

- Provide an overview of **evidence-based strategies** related to the nuts and bolts of the postsecondary transition: **selection, application & assessment**, and **financial supports**.
- **Learn** from the field.
- **Raise questions** and walk away with at least one **strategy to try**.

Norms for today

- **Participate actively**, listening and responding to the presenters and other attendees.
- **Ask questions** and **share thoughts** throughout the workshop so you can be sure to leave with something that can help you in your work.
- Take the time to **let us know** what worked and what we could do better.

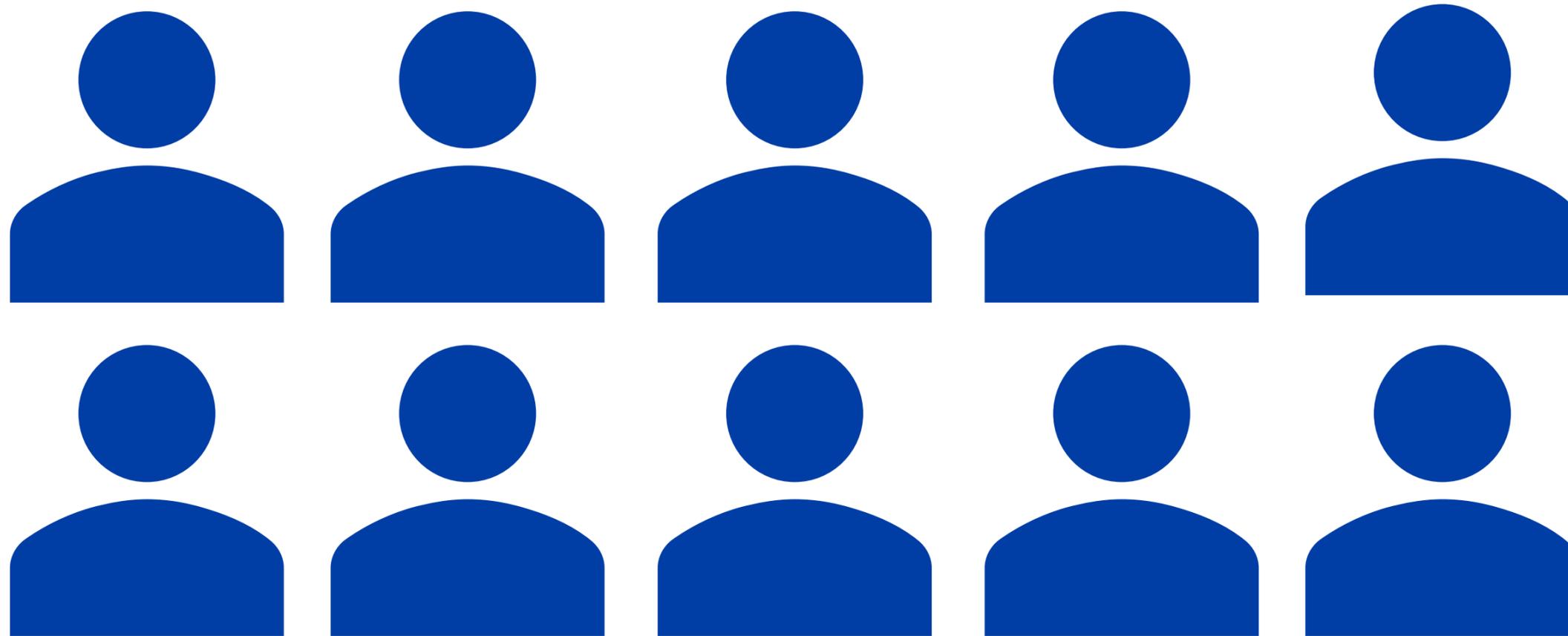




Why are we here?

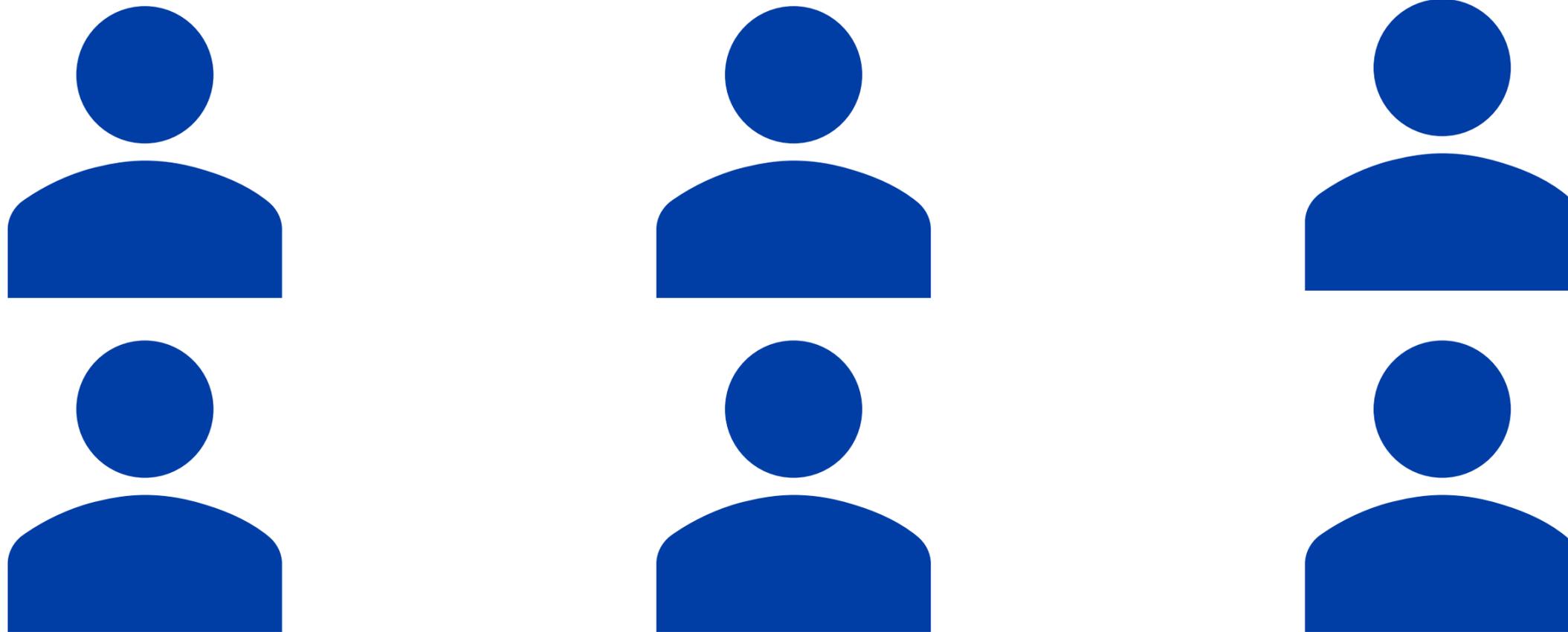
Some basic statistics

What do we know about college enrollment?



Castleman, B. L., & Page, L. C. (2014). A trickle or a torrent? Understanding the extent of summer “melt” among college-intending high school graduates. *Social Science Quarterly*, 95(1), 202–220. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/ssqu.12032>

Between 10 and 40% of accepted students **do not show up to campus** in the fall.



Castleman, B. L., & Page, L. C. (2014). A trickle or a torrent? Understanding the extent of summer “melt” among college-intending high school graduates. *Social Science Quarterly*, 95(1), 202–220. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/ssqu.12032>

Why do high school students not enroll in or drop out of postsecondary institutions?



What kinds of nuts and bolts supports are needed?





Evidence-based strategies to support transitions to postsecondary education



Selection Supports

What do you think?

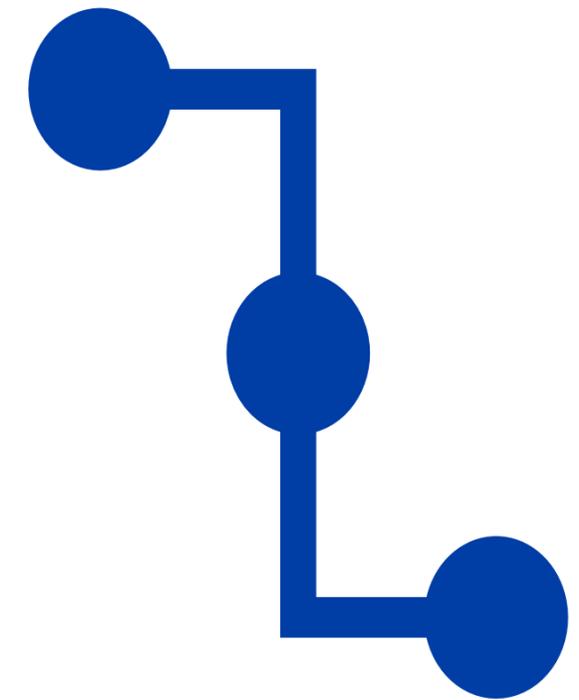
How do your students make decisions about where to apply to school?



Supports for school selection

Assist students in their college search by:

- Helping students identify postsecondary programs that **match** their **qualifications, interests, and goals**.
- Encouraging students to apply to a **range** of programs: **safety, match, reach**.
- Sharing information on **net vs. sticker price**.



Page, L. C., & Scott-Clayton, J. (2016). Improving college access in the United States: Barriers and policy responses. *Economics of Education Review*, 51, 4–22. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2016.02.009>

Tierney, W. G., Bailey, T., Constantine, J., Finkelstein, N., & Hurd, N. F. (2009). Helping students navigate the path to college: What high schools can do: A practice guide (NCEE #2009-4066). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/>

Selection resources

The screenshot shows the NCES College Navigator search interface. At the top, the NCES logo and 'National Center for Education Statistics' are displayed. Below this is the 'COLLEGE Navigator' logo. The search form includes a 'Name of School' text box, a 'States' dropdown menu (set to 'No Preference'), a 'ZIP Code' field, and a 'Miles from' dropdown. There are checkboxes for 'Programs/Majors', 'Level of Award' (Certificate, Bachelor's, Associate's, Advanced), and 'Institution Type' (Public, Private non-profit, Private for-profit, 4-year, 2-year, < 2-year). A 'Show Results' button is prominent, along with 'Guide Me' and 'Clear Search' links. To the right of the search form is a banner with the text 'Find the right college for you' and a 'Guide Me' button. Below the banner is a list of search tips:

- » Refine your search with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » Build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » Pinpoint school locations with an interactive map.
- » Export search results into a spreadsheet.
- » Save your session including search options and favorites.
- » Add College Navigator to your browser search bar.



April 2017

Idea Incubator Series

Incorporating Fit and Match Into College Advising and Program Data

U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). College Navigator. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>.
DeBaun, Bill & Cook, Kendall E. (April 2017). Idea Incubator Series: Incorporating Fit and Match into College Advising and Program Data. Washington DC: National College Access Network. U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from https://cdn.ymaws.com/collegeaccess.org/resource/resmgr/publications/incubatorfitmatch_2017.pdf



Application & Assessment Supports

What do you think?

The biggest barrier to students completing their postsecondary applications is _____.



Supports for college applications

How to help?

- Help students create or design email account for application process
- Create clear timelines for the process and communicate deadlines
- Seek application fee waivers
- Support students with essays
- Support letters of recommendation requests
- Assign staff to ensure student applications are complete and of sufficient quality

Ways to help?

- Integrate application steps into course requirements (e.g., English classes to write essays; advisory to set a timeline)
- Hold postsecondary application weeks
- Partner with college access and/or postsecondary institution

Page, L. C., & Scott-Clayton, J. (2016). Improving college access in the United States: Barriers and policy responses. *Economics of Education Review*, 51, 4–22. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2016.02.009>

Tierney, W. G., Bailey, T., Constantine, J., Finkelstein, N., & Hurd, N. F. (2009). Helping students navigate the path to college: What high schools can do: A practice guide (NCEE #2009-4066). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/>

Supports for assessment preparation and completion

- Implement **universal school-day testing** policy
- Offer assistance with **testing fee waivers**
- Establish **testing center** on high school campus
- **Communicate** testing schedule and timeline through:
 - Emails and phone blasts
 - Information tables and athletic events
- Help students prepare with:
 - **Training** on test-taking
 - Exam preparation or **workshops** (incl. direct tutoring, ordering practice tests, or using training software)

**Contact
the Nudge Hotline
for free assistance:**

hotline@nudge4.org
434.233.0165 (phone)
434.233.0165 (SMS)



Page, L. C., & Scott-Clayton, J. (2016). Improving college access in the United States: Barriers and policy responses. *Economics of Education Review*, 51, 4–22. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2016.02.009>

Tierney, W. G., Bailey, T., Constantine, J., Finkelstein, N., & Hurd, N. F. (2009). Helping students navigate the path to college: What high schools can do: A practice guide (NCEE #2009-4066). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/>

Sample schedules

Exhibit 3. Example of a college entrance exam schedule

SAT Test Dates for 2008/09				
Test Date	Test	Main Deadline	Late Fee Deadline	Nearby Test Locations
October 4, 2008	SAT I & II	September 9, 2008	September 16, 2008	High Schools A & B
November 1, 2008	SAT I & II	September 26, 2008	October 10, 2008	High Schools A & C
December 6, 2008	SAT I & II	November 4, 2008	November 18, 2008	High Schools B & C
January 24, 2009	SAT I & II	December 26, 2008	January 6, 2009	High Schools A & B
March 14, 2009	SAT I	February 10, 2009	February 24, 2009	High Schools A & C
May 2, 2009	SAT I & II	March 31, 2009	April 9, 2009	High Schools B & C
June 6, 2009	SAT I & II	May 5, 2009	May 15, 2009	High Schools A & B

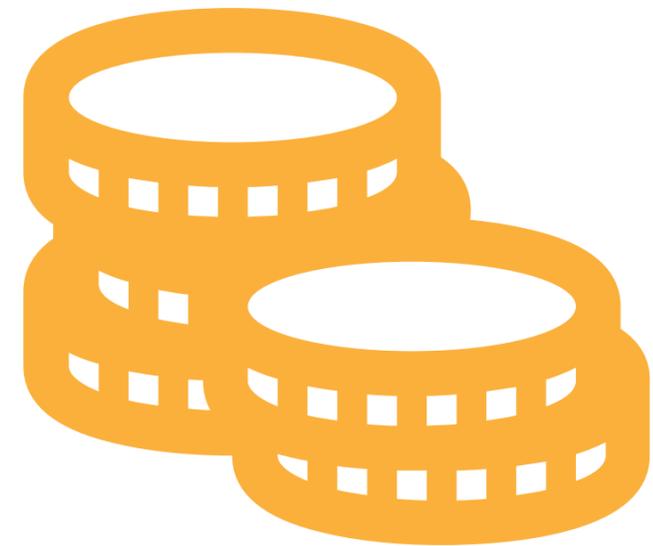
ACT Test Dates for 2008/09			
Test Date	Main Deadline	Late Fee Deadline	Nearby Test Locations
September 13, 2008	August 12, 2008	August 22, 2008	High Schools A & B
October 25, 2008	September 19, 2008	October 3, 2008	High Schools A & C
December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008	November 20, 2008	High Schools B & C
February 7, 2009	January 6, 2009	January 16, 2009	High Schools A & B
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009	March 13, 2009	High Schools A & C
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009	May 22, 2009	High Schools B & C

Source: Adapted from materials created by a National College Advising Corps program site.

Exhibit 5. Example of a college admissions timeline

- April 2008**
 - ☐ Visit a college during spring vacation.
- June 2008**
 - ☐ Ask teachers for letters of recommendation before summer vacation.
 - ☐ Visit two colleges by the end of the month.
- July 2008**
 - ☐ Brainstorm college essay topics.
 - ☐ Visit two more colleges by the end of the month.
- August 2008**
 - ☐ Obtain admission applications for colleges being considered.
 - ☐ Write a rough draft of the college application essay.
 - ☐ Search for college scholarships.
- September 2008**
 - ☐ Complete a final draft of the college essay.
 - ☐ Check in with the high school's College and Career Center on a regular basis.
 - ☐ Request that high school transcripts be sent.
- October 2008**
 - ☐ Complete college applications (or the Common Application, a general application form used by more than 150 independent colleges) by the end of the month.
- November–December 2008**
 - ☐ Early action or early decision deadline for some colleges.
 - ☐ Continue to search and apply for **scholarships**.
- January 2009**
 - ☐ Application deadline for most colleges and universities (January 1 or 15).
 - ☐ Contact colleges to make sure your application materials were received.
 - ☐ Fill out the FAFSA (released January 1).
- February 2009**
 - ☐ Complete the FAFSA prior to the deadline for most schools (February 1 or 15).
 - ☐ Search for scholarships at the colleges you are considering.
- March 2009**
 - ☐ Update FAFSA application, if needed.
 - ☐ Receive college acceptance letters.
- April 2009**
 - ☐ Attend open houses for colleges that offered admittance.
- May 2009**
 - ☐ Select a college and send a deposit to the school.
 - ☐ Request final high school transcripts be sent.

Source: Timeline adapted from materials created by a National College Advising Corps program site and an application timeline created by Sallie Mae at www.salliemae.com/before_college/students_plan/select_school/getting_in/understanding/application_timeline.htm.



Financial Supports

FAFSA completion matters

- **Completion rates** for graduating seniors **have risen** from 57.2% in the class of 2015 to 61.2% for the graduating class of 2019.
- **91.5% of students who complete the FAFSA** enroll in college in the fall, compared to **only 49.7% of students who do not** complete the FAFSA.
- Many students who do not complete the FAFSA would have qualified for federal Pell Grants. Estimates suggest **students are missing out on up to \$2.6 billion in college funding**, with each student leaving behind an average of \$4,000.*



*Another study calculated missed funding at over \$9,000 when including Pell plus other funding sources. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2353846
Funds left behind are calculated annually by nerd wallet. Data presented are 2018-19 school year. <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/2018-fafsa-study/>

What do you think?

The biggest barrier to students completing their FAFSA application is _____.



Why don't students complete the FAFSA?

- **Don't know about it**
- **It's too long and too complicated**
- **Fear** of the cost of college and student debt
- **Believe they don't qualify** for funds
- **Missed deadlines**
- **Unwillingness to share personal information** with the government

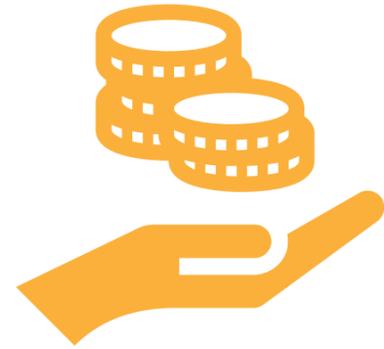


Hodara, Michelle. "What does the research say about barriers to FAFSA completion and strategies to boost completion?" Education Northwest. Published January 17, 2017.

Davidson, J. Cody. (2013). Increasing FAFSA completion rates: Research, policies and practices. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 43(1). <https://ir.library.louisville.edu/jsfa/vol43/iss1/4/>

Families need information **and** personalized assistance with FAFSA

- Personalized assistance has been shown to increase both FAFSA completion and college enrollment for low to moderate income families.
 - Compared to participants who received no information, or received only information without additional supports, ***participants who received information and personalized assistance had significant increases in FAFSA completion and college enrollment.***
- Early and accurate information has shown some evidence for improving FAFSA completion rates.



Eric P. Bettinger, Bridget Terry Long, Philip Oreopoulos, and Lisa Sanbonmatsu (2012), “The Role of Application Assistance and Information in College Decisions: Results from the H&R Block FAFSA Experiment.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127(3): pp. 1205-1242.

George-Jackson, C., & Gast, Melanie J. (2016). Addressing information gaps: Disparities in financial awareness and preparedness on the road to college. *Journal of Financial Aid*, 44(3).
<https://ir.library.louisville.edu/jsfa/vol44/iss3/3>



Learning from the field

School-based FAFSA strategies

- Host FAFSA completion events at various times and dates.
- Build a FAFSA strategy team in each building.
- Provide detailed timeline to students/families.
- Implement building level activities to reach goal.
- Select and train Peer Counselors.
- Participate in district FAFSA completion competitions.
- Offer student incentives and/or prizes for completion to meet FAFSA goal.
- Track student completion, monitor on regular basis and share completion with appropriate district personnel.
- Run social media campaigns.



Community-based FAFSA strategies

- Build completion dashboards and/or monitor dashboards provided by another source.
- Run community messaging campaign involving key education stakeholders that include various delivery methods.
- Create partnerships with local higher education institutions.
- Offer high-quality FAFSA training programs for community volunteers.
- Identify and collaborate with community partner organizations with similar mission/goals.
- Establish high-level engagement with college access CBO where available.



Each week during the FAFSA cycle, Federal Student Aid releases school-level data on FAFSA submissions and completions. At the National College Access Network, we take that data and convert it into a tool for tracking completions.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submissions by High School Applications processed through February 7 of the first 15 months of each cycle

Name	City	State	2020/ 2021 Cycle		2019/ 2020 Cycle					
			Through February 7, 2020		Through February 7, 2019		Through June 2019		Through December 2019	
			Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete	Applications Submitted	Applications Complete
AARON ACADEMY	HENDERSONVILLE	TN	136	129	130	125	153	146	170	165
ADAMSVILLE JUNIOR / SENIOR HIGH SC	ADAMSVILLE	TN	112	112	106	103	108	105	112	110
ADOLESCENT PARENTING PROGRAM	MEMPHIS	TN	6	6	7	7	8	7	8	7
AGATHOS CLASSICAL SCHOOL	COLUMBIA	TN	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6
ALCOA HIGH SCHOOL	ALCOA	TN	133	129	151	136	153	143	156	146
ALIYAH ACADEMY	TAZEWELL	TN	7	7	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
ALPHA EDUCATIONAL LEARNING CENTE	SEVIERVILLE	TN	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	5	6	6
ALVIN C. YORK INSTITUTE	JAMESTOWN	TN	105	102	113	104	123	114	129	121

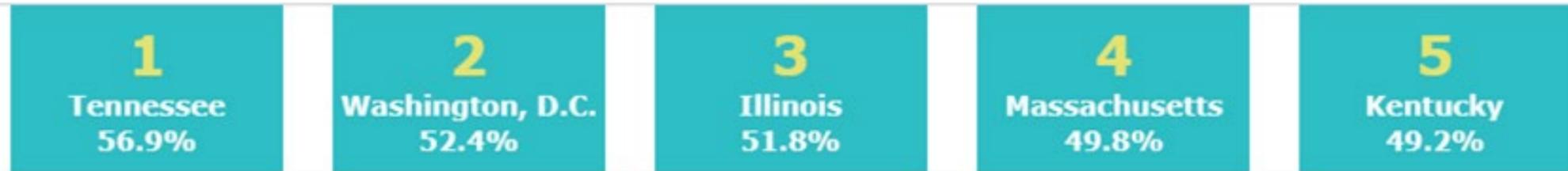


#FormYourFuture FAFSA Tracker

Through January 17, what percent of your state's seniors had completed a FAFSA? What is your state's change year-over-year?



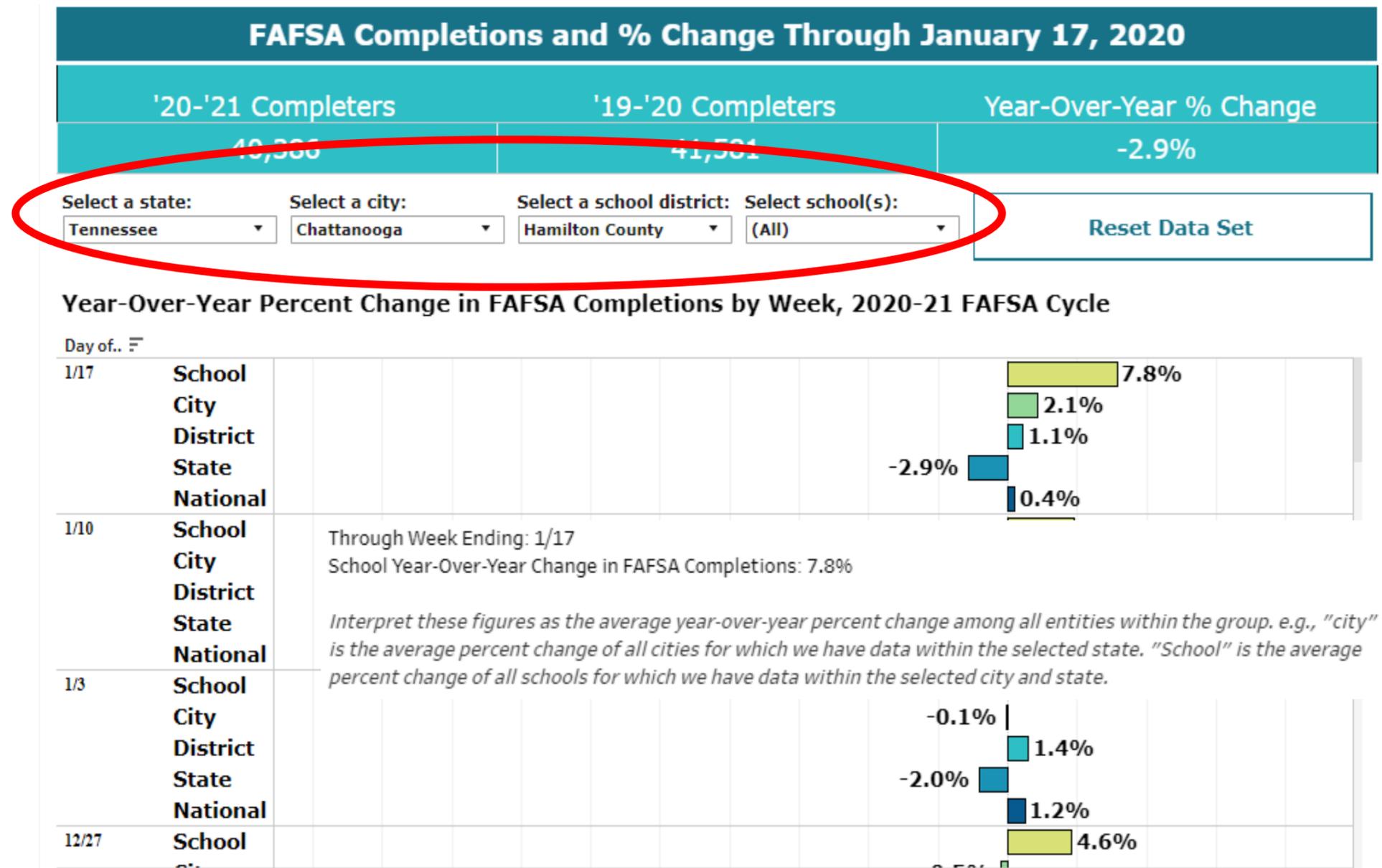
Cho...



	Rank as of January 17, 2020	% of Class Completed FAFSA	'20-'21 Completers	12th Grade Enrollment
UNITED STATES		38.6%	1,440,493	3,734,721
Tennessee	1	56.9%	40,386	70,997
Washington, D.C.	2	52.4%	2,421	4,624
Illinois	3	51.8%	78,442	151,411
Massachusetts	4	49.8%	37,353	75,068
Kentucky	5	49.2%	22,469	45,626
New Jersey	6	48.9%	18,111	36,622
Connecticut	7	48.7%	12,111	24,844
Rhode Island	8	47.0%	10,111	21,511
Louisiana	9	45.7%	15,111	33,111
Delaware	10	44.6%	8,111	16,111
New York	11	44.1%	11,111	22,111
Maine	12	42.1%	5,111	10,111

NCAN's FAFSA Tracker (www.formyourfuture.org) is updated weekly and tracks completions at the national, state, city, district, and school levels.

Use the FAFSA tracker to compare FAFSA completions at different levels





Question and Answer



Wrap-up and next steps
Share your feedback on today's activities

Resources and Tools

- DeBaun, Bill & Cook, Kendall E. (April 2017). Idea Incubator Series: Incorporating Fit and Match into College Advising and Program Data. National College Access Network. Retrieved from: https://cdn.ymaws.com/collegeaccess.org/resource/resmgr/publications/incubatorfitmatch_2017.pdf
- Tierney, W. G., Bailey, T., Constantine, J., Finkelstein, N., & Hurd, N. F. (2009). Helping students navigate the path to college: What high schools can do: A practice guide (NCEE #2009-4066). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved from <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/>
- U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). College Navigator. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>.

Resources and Tools

Nudges, Norms, and New Solutions: Evidence-based strategies to get kids to and through college: <https://nudge4.ideas42.org>

National College Access Network: <https://collegeaccess.org>

- College Prep Timeline

FAFSA tracking data

- <https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>
- <https://formyourfuture.org/>

Continuing this journey

How can you use what we discussed today?

- What specific strategies from today's webinar do you want to try?

For our growth...

Give us feedback!

