



# FAFSA Finish Line

The Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) was identified as the entity to lead the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Initiative in Arizona. Through this Federal initiative the U.S. Department of Education permits the Commission to disclose limited information about individual students' FAFSA application statuses to authorized high school and district personnel, empowering high school personnel to provide help for a student to complete their FAFSA.

## How Does FAFSA Finish Line Work?

An authorized individual (from a high school or district office), receives access to student level information on FAFSA completion statuses. Each cohort of Senior students is securely matched to FAFSA data files to identify the status of the student's application, such as "complete," "not complete," or "missing signature(s)". Knowing the FAFSA completion status allows school personnel to provide targeted assistance to students and increase successful completion rates.

## FAFSA Finish Line Results

Sixty-eight (68) of the FAFSA Finish Line high schools who actively used the reports had completed 8,651 2017-2018 FAFSA's. The same 68 high schools completed 9,779 2018-2019 FAFSA's. These 68 high schools saw an 13% growth in completed FAFSA's over the prior year.

## How Can I Participate in FAFSA Finish Line?

Interested high schools or district administrators **must sign a data-sharing agreement** with the ACPE, agreeing to comply with required oversight, privacy, data security, and non-disclosure policies as outlined by the ACPE and the U.S. Department of Education.

Authorized individuals will then **complete a User Agreement** and be given a User ID and secure access to an online portal in order to retrieve their cohort data. A user guide and training is provided.

For more information or to obtain your data-sharing agreement, please contact **Daniel Helm, Associate Director for State Student Financial Assistance** at **602.258.2435** or email [dhelm@azhighered.gov](mailto:dhelm@azhighered.gov).

## The Importance of FAFSA

- Over \$150 billion available in federal student aid
- 90% of high school graduates who complete the FAFSA enroll in college
- Helping first-generation and under-served families complete the FAFSA significantly increases the odds that their children will enroll in college

## Working Together

The ACPE, is helping to make sure all Arizona high school students complete at least ONE application to attend a postsecondary institution and to file a FAFSA.

- High Schools are building a college-going community
- In 2018, the FAFSA Finish Line program has 22 District partners and 128 high school partners