



# Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiative



## The FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) serves as the application for federal financial aid programs as well as for many state programs and financial aid from colleges and universities.

Additionally, there is a strong correlation between FAFSA completion and college enrollment. Unfortunately, many Iowa students fail to complete a FAFSA each year, thereby missing out on most financial aid opportunities and impeding their likelihood of college enrollment.

There is a strong, positive relationship between FAFSA completion and college attendance.

(Roderick, Nagoka, Coca & Moeller, 2008)

## Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiative

Iowa College Aid has partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to launch the FAFSA Completion Initiative in Iowa. This partnership allows Iowa College Aid to provide FAFSA completion information to local educational agencies (LEAs), school districts, high schools and other designated entities.

The information that can be provided includes:

- FAFSA completion status (not submitted, complete or incomplete)
- FAFSA submittal date
- FAFSA processed date
- Verification flag
- Not matched

High schools can use this information to:

- provide student specific FAFSA completion assistance,
- encourage college acceptance and enrollment,
- help students find financial aid for college,
- use FAFSA completion as a key performance measure and
- increase their school's college-going rate.

To participate in the Initiative, high schools/school districts must:

- Have an established relationship with the students.
- Sign a Data Sharing Agreement with Iowa College Aid.

## How to Get Involved

High schools/school districts that wish to participate in the Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiative must sign and submit a FAFSA Completion Data Share Agreement to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. It's that simple!

The Data Share Agreement, as well as additional information on the Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiative process, can be found at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov/IowaFAFSACompletionInitiative](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov/IowaFAFSACompletionInitiative) or by contacting Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.



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