

1. **Question:** What is the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Completion Initiative?

Answer: The FAFSA Completion Initiative was created in 2014 to better assist school district personnel working with college-going students. As part of the Initiative, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, offers an online FAFSA completion portal.

2. **Question:** Why is FAFSA completion important?

Answer: FAFSA completion is a critical indicator of what students plan to do beyond high school. Studies have shown that over 90 percent of the students who complete the FAFSA enroll at postsecondary institutions within 12 months of high school graduation. For many students, completing the FAFSA is the first step taken in pursuit of financial aid and postsecondary education.

3. **Question:** How does the FAFSA completion portal work?

Answer: The FAFSA completion portal provides data on FAFSA completions to school districts, allowing them to track individual students' FAFSA filing status. With this data, counselors are able to follow each senior's progress, provide individual support, and target services to increase FAFSA completion rates. In addition to student-level data, districts can view district- and state-level comparison data and weekly completion statistics. The initiative also supports FAFSA completion goal-setting and district data analysis. To access the portal, school districts must return a data usage agreement to WSAC.

4. **Question:** How many districts are involved in the FAFSA Completion Initiative?

Answer: Eighty-five percent of the school districts in the state have returned the required data usage agreement and have access to the portal as of December 2015.

5. **Question:** Are other states involved in this initiative?

Answer: Yes, Washington is involved in the national FAFSA Collective Impact Initiative group hosted by Colorado and funded by a grant from the Kresge Foundation. But Washington is the first state to develop its own self-service portal for counselors with an automatic match feature, which means there is no need for schools to upload lists and wait for results.

6. **Question:** Where can I find aggregate FAFSA completion data?

Answer: Anyone can view aggregate FAFSA data as [lists by district and school](#) or as an [interactive map](#) by Educational Service District.

7. **Question:** Where can I learn more about the FAFSA Completion Initiative?

Answer: More information is available in this informational [video](#) and online at www.wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign.