

Frustrated with the FAFSA?

We're here to help!



Welcome!

**COLLEGE
SUCCESS
FOUNDATION**



Today's agenda

- Introduction
- Context & Background
- Impact of Better FAFSA
 - Students and Families
 - Practitioners
- Resources and Tools
- Conclusion



FAFSA by the Numbers – WA

A close-up photograph of a white FAFSA application form held by a silver metal clipboard. The form is resting on a light-colored wooden desk. In the background, a white computer keyboard is partially visible. A large, stylized arrow graphic, colored blue and orange, points from the top left towards the bottom right, overlapping the text and the clipboard.

FAFSA
Free Application for
Student Aid

Washington College Grant (WA Grant)

Washington State has made a groundbreaking commitment to financial aid for low- and middle-income people of all ages with the Washington College Grant.

Welding
or
Nursing?

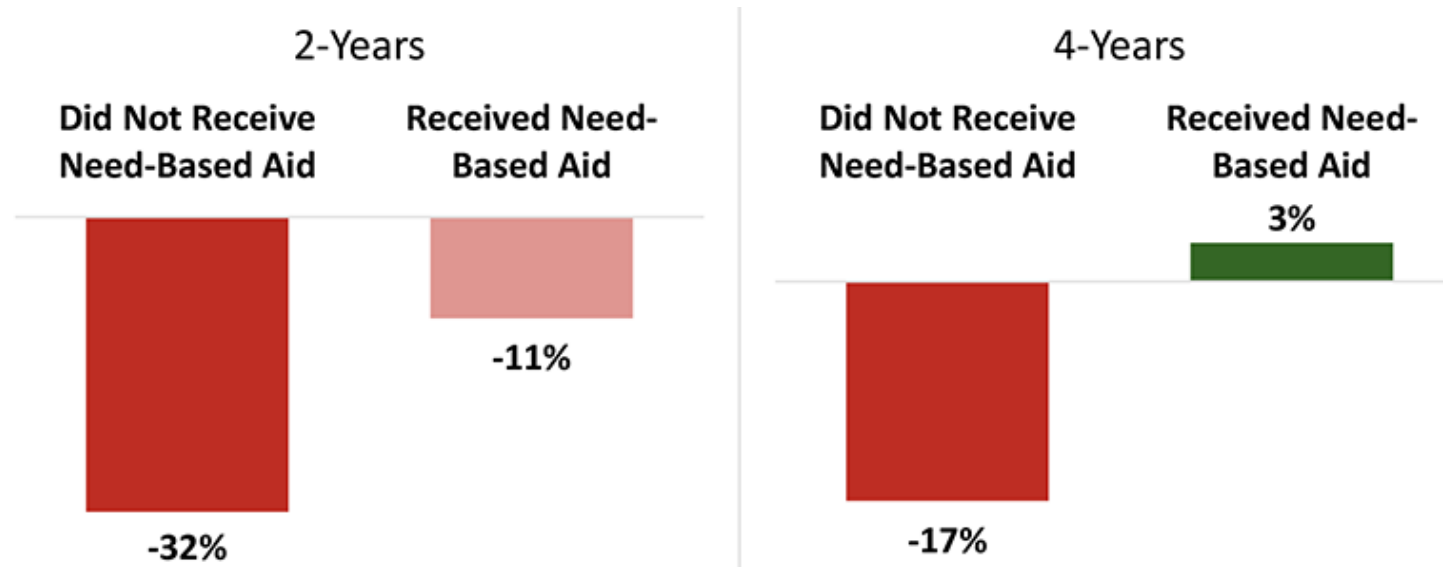
English
or
Computer Science?

Apprenticeship
or
College Degree?

Whatever the goal, Washington College Grant can help.

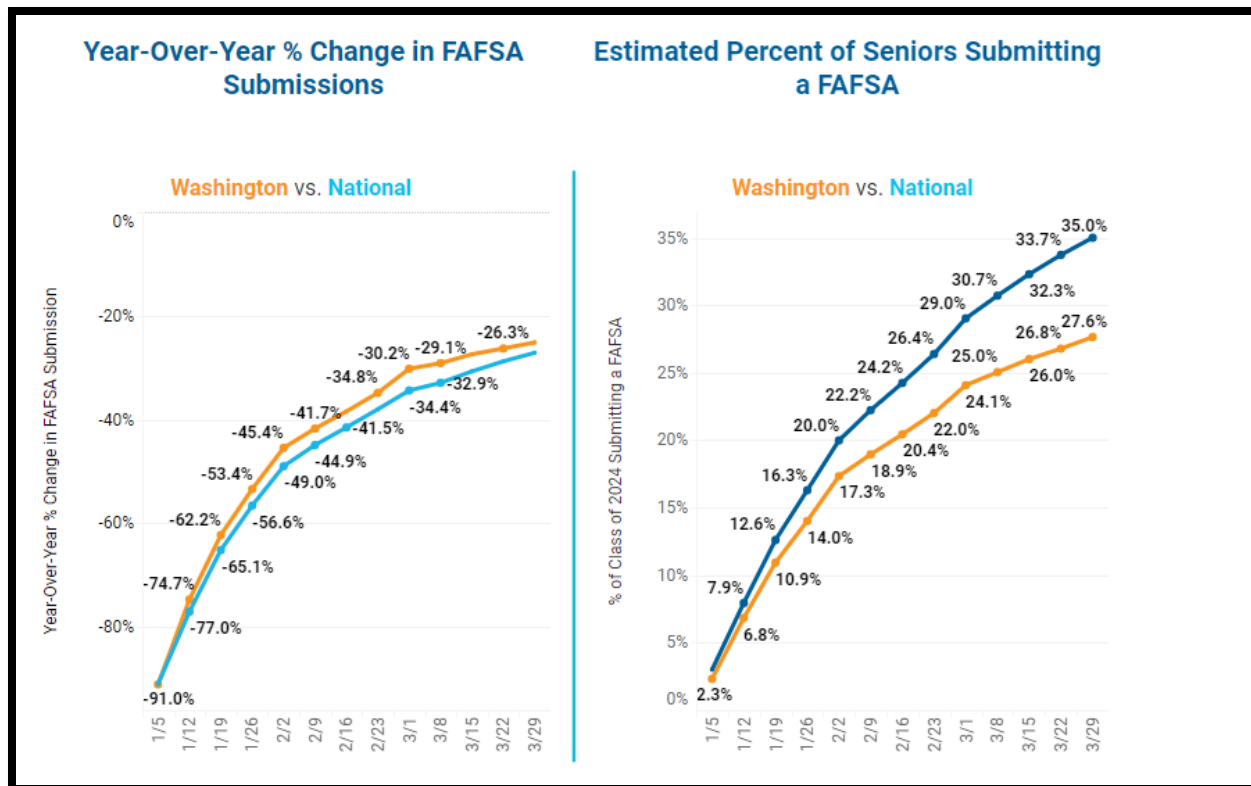
Pandemic enrollment declines were tempered for students who received need-based financial aid

- WA Grant expansion in 2020 likely further contributed.



Class of 2024 FAFSA submissions are down for HS seniors

- This is being seen across the country:

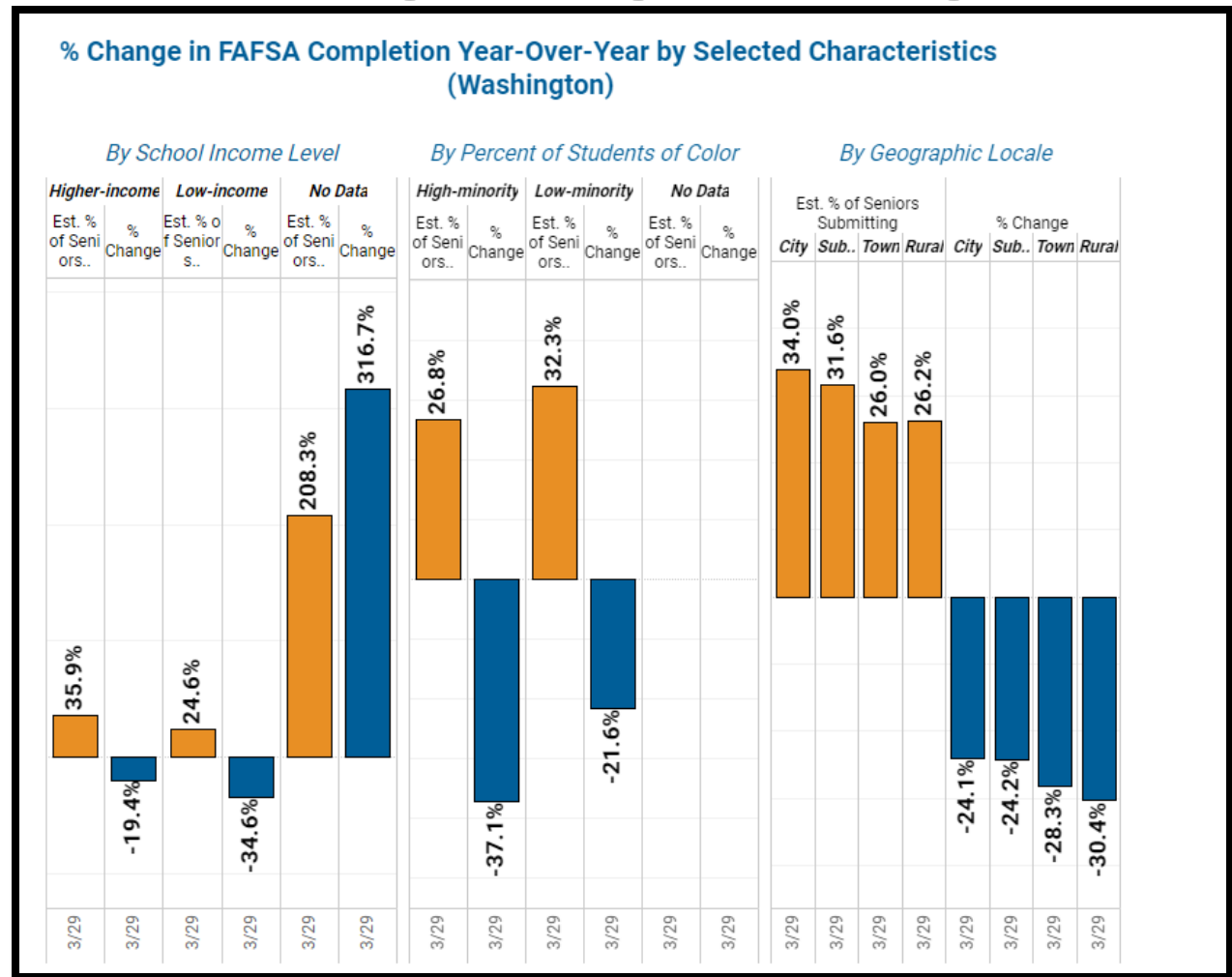


Source: National College Attainment Network (end of March 2024)

Washington Student Achievement Council

NCAN data dive – highlighting the gaps

- Lower-income schools are down more than higher-income schools
- High-minority schools are down more than low-minority schools
- Small town and rural communities are down more than suburbs and cities
- Larger schools tend to have higher submission rates than smaller schools



'Better FAFSA' Impact

- A delayed and compressed application timeline.
- Large numbers of families unable to complete the form due to multiple system-wide glitches.
- FAFSA completion rates are down and forms with errors are up.
- Systemic errors with calculations, transferred tax information, with signing, etc.
- Inaccurate data delivered to colleges.
- Financial aid offices unable to create financial aid offers.
- In many cases, **it will not be “safe” for a student to commit** until well into the summer.

**What practices have been
working well to support
students and families with
the FAFSA?**

College Bound Regional Officers



Melissa Pico
King



Cennady Coleman
South Puget Sound and
Southwest



Raul Sanchez
Northeast and
North Central



Amber Goodrich
Southeast and
South Central



Bre Olason
Northwest and
Peninsula



What do you need to better support students and families?



FAFSA Resources

CSF Financial Aid Hub

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/finaidhub

**COLLEGE
SUCCESS
FOUNDATION**



FAFSA Mini-Grants

Apply for mini grant of up to \$500/organization

Grant funds may be used for:

- Costs associated with hosting FAFSA/WASFA completion workshops and events
- Costs to support regional convenings related to FAFSA/WASFA completion
- Costs related to event marketing and outreach
- Other costs associated with helping students and families successfully navigate the FAFSA/WASFA process

Link to grant application: bit.ly/CSFFAFSAMiniGrants

Social Media Toolkit

YOUR FINANCIAL AID EVENT

High School
Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

Class of 2024

RESOURCES

FAFSA Info WASFA Info

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!
- If you have questions, see your College & Career Counselor

Presentation

YOUR FINANCIAL AID EVENT

High School
Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

Class of 2024

RESOURCES

FAFSA Info WASFA Info

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!
- If you have questions, see your College & Career Counselor

Flyer

STRUGGLING WITH FAFSA?

Class of 2024 JOIN OUR FINANCIAL AID EVENT

High School
Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

RESOURCES

FAFSA Info WASFA Info

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!
- If you have questions, see your College & Career Counselor

Flyer

YOUR FINANCIAL AID EVENT

High School
Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

Class of 2024

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!

Social Media Story

FINANCIAL AID EVENT

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL

Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

RESOURCES

FAFSA Info WASFA Info

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!

Class of 2024

Post Card

YOUR FINANCIAL AID EVENT

High School
Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

Class of 2024

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!

Social Media Post

STRUGGLING WITH FAFSA?

Class of 2024 JOIN OUR FINANCIAL AID EVENT

High School
Date
Time
Location

YOUR SCHOOL LOGO HERE

RESOURCES

FAFSA Info WASFA Info

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN STUDENTS RECEIVE?

- Start and complete your FAFSA or WASFA Application
- Make corrections to an already submitted application
- Get the answers you need about financial aid and your next steps!

Social Media Post

Email Templates

- Students who haven't submitted a FAFSA
- College Bound Students who haven't submitted a FAFSA
- Students who have submitted but have an error
- Students who have submitted
- From college counselor to teacher/staff

Templates include:

- Links to support students/staff through process



FAFSAHelp@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Send FAFSA related questions for support!





Supporting students and families is a multi-pronged approach – WSAC resources



What does this look like from WSAC?



OtterBot and direct student/parent communication and outreach



Training, outreach, and support for practitioners (trusted messengers)



WSAC is a resource hub for FAFSA/WASFA information

Training and Outreach

Aim Higher Washington and 12th Year Campaign Trainings

- Provided over 30 in-person and virtual FAFSA Simplification training opportunities
- Over 2,000 attendees / recordings available
- www.wsac.wa.gov/aim-higher-training



WA Grant Marketing Campaign



SFA Guidance and Support of Financial Aid Administrators

Communication

- Direct communication channel with thousands of College Bound Scholarship seniors and their parents
- Others can opt-in: www.wsac.wa.gov/otterbot

- Newly designed updates websites and paid marketing campaign
- Email messages statewide with key updates, resources and templates to send to students and families

- WAGrant.org/fafsa (English)
- WAGrant.org/fafsa-es (Spanish)

Resource: Financial Aid Padlet

For Practitioners

Christina Winstead • 1 • 1d

12th Year Campaign Key to Success Financial Aid Resources

These resources will help you as you plan your Financial Aid Advising Day (FAAD) and support students with financial aid and admissions applications.

- FINANCIAL AID UPDATES**
 - FAFSA Completion Portal is Now Available for School Staff
portal.wsac.wa.gov
WSAC Portal - FAFSA Completion Initiative
 - 4/9/24 Updates on Timelines for Corrections and Reprocessing
fsapartners.ed.gov
Updates on Timelines for Corrections and Reprocessing and What it Means for
- This Week in Financial Aid**
 - FAFSA Corrections Are Now Available!
studentaid.gov
Federal Student Aid
Federal Student Aid has published how to correct the most common errors. Please use this resource when working with your students.
 - Additional Details of 2024-25 ISIR Delivery, Updates for Non-SSN Contributors, and Launch of the FAFSA Partner Portal
GENERAL-04-201 Additional Details of 2024-25 ISIR Delivery, Updates for Non-SSN Contributors, and Launch of the FAFSA Partner Portal
- Training Opportunities**
 - NCAN SPRING INSTITUTE 2024: PURSUING EFFECTIVE ADVISING FOR EVERY STUDENT
ncan.org
The National College Attainment Network's (NCAN) Spring Institute returns April 15-19, 2024. The theme of this year's institute is "Pursuing Effective Advising for Every Student." Spring Institute will include a week of programming exploring how college access programs, K-12 districts and schools, postsecondary institutions, and states can best support students for a postsecondary pathway.
 - Better FAFSA for Mixed Status Families: Updates from the Department of
- Financial Aid Advising Day Supports**
 - Sample Financial Aid Advising Week Schedule Graphic
drive.google.com
FA Advising Week Sample Schedule
If you have more time to implement Financial Aid Advising Day activities. Here is a sample agenda for a Financial Aid Advising Week.
 - Financial Aid Advising Month Sample Schedule
drive.google.com
FA Advising Month Sample Schedule with Links.pdf
If you have weekly advisory or homeroom, this schedule might work better than the FAAD Week
- Financial Aid Events**
 - How to Submit the 2024-25 FAFSA Form Webinar in Spanish 4/17/24 @ 5:00pm
Federal Student Aid
BETTER FAFSA
HOW TO SUBMIT THE 2024-25 FAFSA FORM
PDF 8 p.m. Eastern Time
April Webinar 2024 English ver 2
Federal Student Aid invites you to join our free federal financial aid webinar in Spanish with English subtitles, on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 8 p.m. Eastern Time. This session will be open for students, families, college access professionals and those who support Spanish speaking communities. We will outline the process to submit the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student
 - Class of 2025 Financial Aid Night Hosted by The



wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign

**COLLEGE
SUCCESS
FOUNDATION**



Resource: Apply Page: wsac.wa.gov/apply

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Washington Student Achievement Council website. The header includes the organization's logo, contact information (info@wsac.wa.gov | (360) 753-7800), and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Email. A language selection dropdown and a Google Translate logo are also present. The main navigation menu includes links for ABOUT US, MEETINGS, POLICY, FINANCIAL AID, ADMINISTRATION, OUTREACH & INITIATIVES, and NEWS & PUBLICATIONS. Below the navigation, there is a search bar and a link to the home page. The main content area features a large banner with the text "How to apply for financial aid" and "Complete the FAFSA or WASFA", accompanied by a photograph of a young man and an older man smiling. To the right of the banner is a "CONTACT - STATE FINANCIAL AID" section with contact details for Student Financial Assistance (finaid@wsac.wa.gov, 888.535.0747) and a list of frequently asked questions with expandable arrows.

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

info@wsac.wa.gov | (360) 753-7800

Select Language | Powered by Google Translate

ABOUT US | MEETINGS | POLICY | FINANCIAL AID | ADMINISTRATION | OUTREACH & INITIATIVES | NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

home

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

How to apply for financial aid

Complete the FAFSA or WASFA

CONTACT - STATE FINANCIAL AID

Student Financial Assistance
finaid@wsac.wa.gov
888.535.0747

- What is WA Grant?
- How much can I get?
- Where can I use it?
- What about...

Call to Action

- The FAFSA Completion portal is live for school staff
- Check your portal and use new tools to engage your students
- Dashboard for aggregate data will be live next week

Washington State Public School Expected Graduates FAFSA Completion 2023-2024

Additional analysis tools are available in our [new in-depth dashboard](#).

[Overview](#) [District Graphs](#) [School List](#)

FAFSA Completion Rate

Expected Graduates in 2023-2024 Academic Year:

FAFSA Completion

Submitted with Errors:

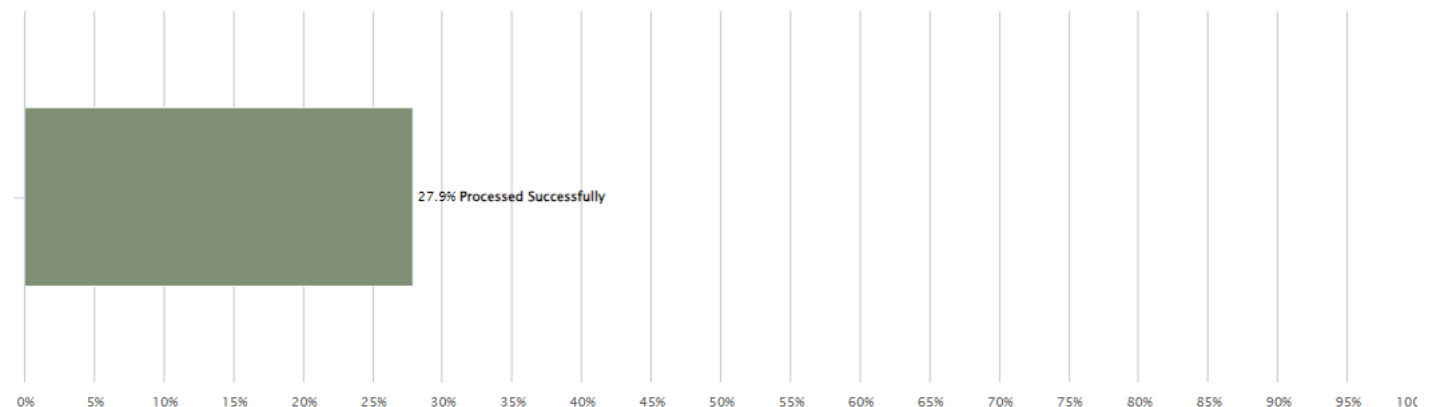
Students with FAFSAs:

83,505

23,308
5,950

29,258

27.9% Processed Successfully



WSAC's College Access Initiatives team is here to support WA students, educators, and communities!



wsac.wa.gov

**COLLEGE
SUCCESS
FOUNDATION**



What FAFSA completion strategy/action would you like to implement?

Next Steps/More to Come

Be on the lookout for invitations to join:

- Regional and statewide convenings to share and partner on FAFSA-completion
- Focus groups aimed at gathering ideas on what needs to be done (now and in the future) to improve FAFSA-completion
- Financial Aid Trainings offered by CSF and WSAC
 - Making Informed Decisions: College Commitment and Award Letters
 - Aim Higher
 - 12th Year Campaign Trainings

What you can do now

- Log into the FAFSA portal to understand who needs support
- Apply for a mini-grant
- Join an upcoming training
- Complete our survey

Not sure where to start? Have questions? Please e-mail:
FAFSAHelp@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Thank you!

We know it's been challenging and appreciate all you've done to support students and families across the state



Survey



Thank you!

FAFSAHelp@collegesuccessfoundation.org

**COLLEGE
SUCCESS
FOUNDATION**

