

# The FAFSA Completion Pilot Project

# The FAFSA Completion Problem

- The number of students failing to file the FAFSA each year has remained flat for over a decade.<sup>1</sup>
- Of the students who did not apply for federal student aid in 2007-08, 2.3 million had an expected family contribution (EFC) that would have qualified them for a Pell Grant, with 1.1 million potentially qualifying for a full grant.<sup>2</sup>
- The reasons behind lack of FAFSA completion have recently gained interest from post-secondary researchers. Very recently it was reported that at least 1.7 million students fail to file the FAFSA each year because they incorrectly believe themselves to be ineligible.<sup>2</sup>
- It has been estimated that nearly \$50 million in Pell grant awards alone goes untapped by NYC students each year who would be eligible if they filled out their FAFSA forms.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kantrowitz, 4/28/2009; <http://www.finaid.org/educators/20090427CharacteristicsOfNonApplicants.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Kantrowitz, 1/18/2011; <http://www.finaid.org/educators/20110118nofafsareasons.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Estimation by Parthenon -based on number of college-going NYC students eligible for free/reduced lunch, but not applying for FAFSA

# What are the benefits of completing the FAFSA?

- According to the U.S. Department of Education, 90 percent of students submitting the FAFSA enrolled in higher education.
- The 2009 study dubbed the “H & R Block Experiment” found that helping families to complete and submit the FAFSA increased students’ postsecondary enrollment by 29%<sup>1</sup>
- Research has also documented that students completing a FAFSA application by May who had been accepted into a four-year college were more than 50 percent more likely to enroll than students who had not completed a FAFSA.<sup>2</sup>
  - *Schools that support their students through FAFSA completion will be more likely to have a higher percentage of students enroll in college the fall after high school. The Progress Report will recognize this contribution through the College Enrollment Rate metric\*.*

<sup>1</sup> [http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~longbr/Bettinger\\_Long\\_Oreopoulos\\_Sanbonmatsu\\_-\\_FAFSA\\_experiment\\_9-09.pdf](http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~longbr/Bettinger_Long_Oreopoulos_Sanbonmatsu_-_FAFSA_experiment_9-09.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/downloads/1835ccsr\\_potholes\\_summary.pdf](http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/downloads/1835ccsr_potholes_summary.pdf)

*\*This metric will award Progress Report points according to the percentage of students who enroll in college the fall after graduating from high school. It will be reported but not scored in fall 2011, and will be reported and scored in fall 2012.*

# The FAFSA Completion Pilot Project

- Led by the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid (FSA) office, the FAFSA pilot project aims to provide FAFSA completion data to 20 pilot sites across the country so that each site can focus its resources on students who have not completed the FAFSA and make FAFSA completion one component of a comprehensive college and career-ready strategy.
- The FAFSA pilot sites include local education agencies in major cities, smaller school districts and individual high schools.

FAFSA Completion Project Pilot Sites	
Alamance-Burlington	Manheim Township HS
Albuquerque Public Schools	Miami-Dade CO Public Schools
Austin ISD	Minneapolis Public Schools
Boston Public Schools	Muscogee CO School District
Dallas ISD	<b><i>NYC Dept. of Education</i></b>
Denver Public Schools	Portsmouth Public Schools
Fresno USD	Riverside USD
Gateway Institute of Technology	San Antonio ISD
Goose Creek CISD	School District of Philadelphia
Houston ISD	Sehome High School

# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Goal and Access

- **The Goal:** For guidance counselors and other school staff who provide college advisement to have 'real-time' data (updated every 2 weeks) to use in assisting students in their FAFSA completion process, thus increasing the likelihood of their students enrolling in college.
- **Where can school staff find this information?**
  - Data will be accessed via ARIS Private Communities in *ARIS Connect*

FAFSA Completion Data Timeline	
Dates	Task
January 2014 – June 2014, MONTHLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data will be received on students filing the FAFSA for the 2013-2014 college school year</li><li>• Student-level files will be distributed to principals guidance counselors and other college advisement staff via ARIS Private Communities</li><li>• Data will be refreshed monthly</li></ul>

# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Completion Data

## *What data will school staff receive?*

- In January 2014, NYCDOE will receive data on students' FAFSA completion status from USDOE for *currently enrolled* NYCDOE students who are on track to graduation and are eligible for completing FAFSA.
- Monthly, you will receive the data (see table below) regarding the current FAFSA completion status of your current students.

FAFSA Completion Data Received from USDOE
<b>• FAFSA Completion Flag</b>
0 = Record was not found on the FAFSA Completion database table
1 = FAFSA submitted but not processed due to missing signature(s)
2 = FAFSA processed with an EFC calculated
3 = Problem with the application/Application error
<b>• Date FAFSA was submitted</b>
<b>• Date FAFSA was processed</b>

*Note: The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount of money a family will be expected to contribute to their child's education. The EFC is subtracted from the school's Cost of Attendance (COA). To arrive at the financial need: Financial Need = COA - EFC. The student budget should include tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, travel, and personal and incidental expenses.*

# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Accessing the data *Where can school staff find this information?*

- A link will be posted on Principals' Portal that will direct principals to their students' data, along with instructions on how to use the data
  - The data will be stored in the ARIS Private Communities

## What Principals Will See on Principals' Portal

### The Principals' Portal



Accountability School Support Student Support & Family Services Hiring & Staff Development Legal Services Leadership Development

DOE Intranet Home > Principals > My Accountability Reports & Systems

**Systems**

- ARIS
- Student Information Systems (SIS)
- HSST
- NYC Fitness Gram
- Basic Educational Data System Survey (BEDS)
- PSAL

**My Accountability Reports & Systems**

2007-2008 Periodic Assessment Selection Tool

View and print a summary of your selections or update your order quantities and ITA choices by the dates below.

Assessment Window	Last Day to Update Information
High School ITA 2	Friday, November 28, 2008
Grades 3-8 ITA 2 ELA/Math	Friday, December 26, 2008
Regents-Year Predictive (Spring Administration)	Tuesday, January 06, 2009
High School ITA 3, ELA/Math	Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Grades 3-8 ITA 3	Friday, February 20, 2009
Pre-Regents Predictive (Spring Administration)	Thursday, February 26, 2009
Grades 3-7 Spring Predictive	Wednesday, March 04, 2009

**How to Update**  
From the Summary Page, click on "Edit quantities and ITAs" to update this information.

**FAFSA Completion Data**

The NYCDOE is a pilot site for the US Department of Education FAFSA Completion Project. This project provides student-level data on FAFSA completion. Completing the FAFSA is a critical component of access to postsecondary education. This information will help you target students and families who have not yet submitted a FAFSA, or whose FAFSA submissions may be incomplete.

By clicking the link below, you, guidance and college counselors will have access to data indicating each of your students' level of completion in the FAFSA application process. This data will be refreshed every two weeks so you can track your students' progress in completing the FAFSA.

Access FAFSA completion data for Bayside High School or get more information about the data.

**Hello,**

**Bayside High School**

- My School Portal
- My Key Contacts
- My School Support
- My Accountability Reports & Systems
- My Human Resources Reports & Systems
- My School Environment Reports & Systems
- My Budget Reports & Systems



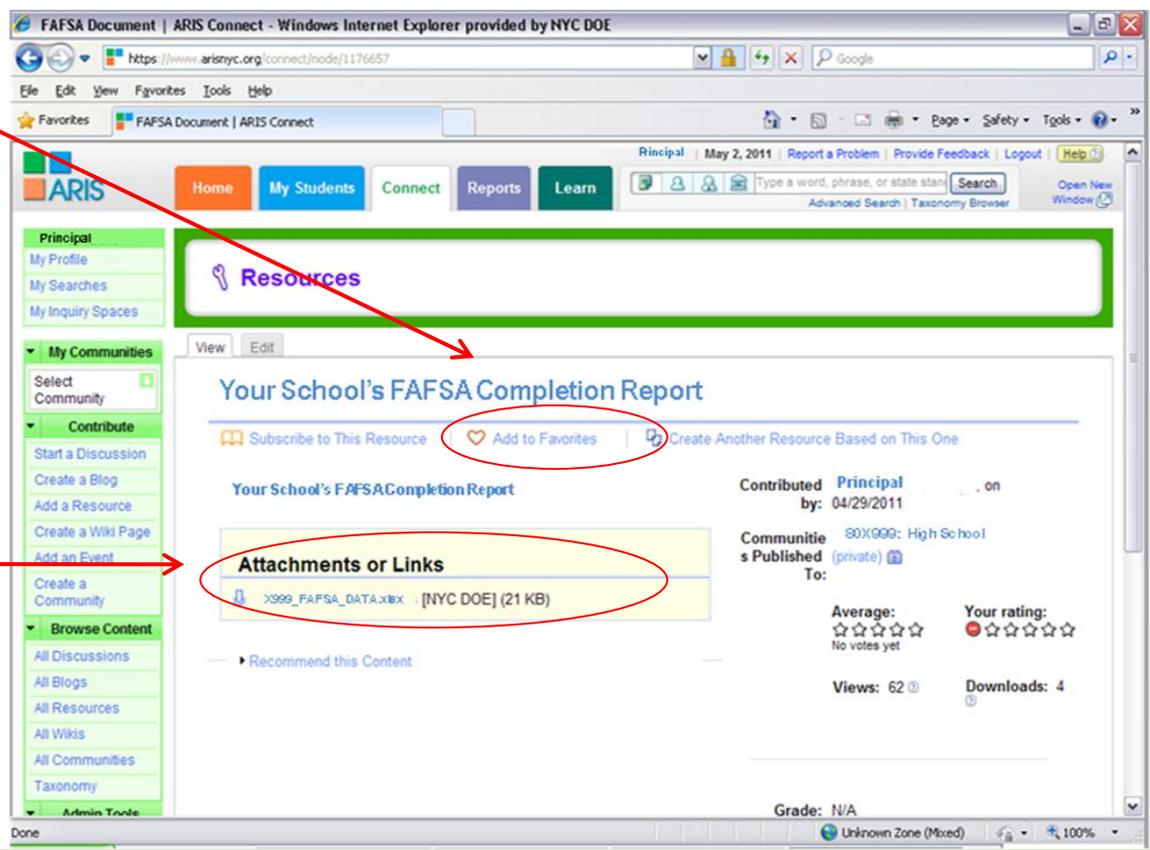
# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Accessing Data

## Where can school staff find this information?

- When principals click the link on Principals' Portal, they will be directed to their ARIS Private Community and will see the following:

Principals can add this file to their favorites

Click here to open the data file



# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Completion data

## What will the data look like?

- The Excel data file will include:
  - DBN
  - OSIS
  - First Name
  - Last Name
  - Date of Birth
  - FAFSA Completion Flag
  - Date FAFSA was submitted
  - Date FAFSA was processed
  
- The file will be editable, and will allow school staff to add columns and notes to track their students' progress
  
- Color coding to draw attention to students who are behind in the process

The Data File

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following content:

**INSTRUCTIONS**

The data provided to you includes real-time data on FAFSA completion for the following students: Grades 11 and 12 in the current cohort, and any active students in the prior two (2) cohorts.

For more information on the data you have received and how to use this data (including descriptions on the FAFSA completion flag), click [here](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact: FAFSAPilotData@schools.nyc.gov

**Key:**

- 0 (GREY) = Record was not found on the FAFSA Completion database
- 1 (YELLOW) = FAFSA submitted but not processed due to missing signature(s)
- 2 (GREEN) = FAFSA processed with an EFC calculated
- 3 (RED) = Problem with the application/Application error
- BLANK = Student has FAFSA record, but more than one record was found (see FAFSA Data User Guide)

	DBN	OSIS	First Name	Last Name	DOB	FAFSA Completion Flag	Date FAFSA was submitted	Date FAFSA was processed
4	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
5	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
6	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
7	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
8	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
9	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
10	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	0		
11	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	1	04292011	
12	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	1	04292011	
13	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	1	04292011	
14	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	1	04292011	
15	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	2	04292011	05052011
16	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	2	04292011	05052011
17	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	2	04292011	05052011
18	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	2	04292011	05052011
19	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	2	04292011	05052011
20	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	2	04292011	05052011
21	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	3	04292011	05052011
22	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	3	04292011	05052011
23	01M000	123456789	JANE	DOE	12101993	3	04292011	05052011

# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Completion data

## *How will Principals and School Staff be notified?*

- Principal were notified of the pilot in Principals' Weekly
  - The announcement will direct principals to Principals' Portal and their ARIS Private Community
- Network and Cluster leaders were notified in School Support Weekly
  - A future announcement will direct network and cluster leaders to their FAFSA data download summary available on the intranet (<http://intranet.nycboe.net/SchoolSupport/NetworksResources/MgmtResources/CompletionReports/default.htm>)
- Any questions can be directed to [FAFSAPilotData@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:FAFSAPilotData@schools.nyc.gov)

# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: Deadlines

*School staff should be aware of deadlines when assisting students.*

- For students planning to attend postsecondary education in 2014-2015, the FAFSA filing period began January 1, 2014.

## **Federal Deadline**

- Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2015.
- Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 19, 2015.

## **State Deadline**

- New York - June 30, 2015 by midnight, Central Time. Additional form may be required.

## **College Deadline**

- Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.



# FAFSA Completion Project and NYC: *Communications and Outreach*

- **Development of a FAFSA Pilot email address**
  - [FAFSAPilotData@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:FAFSAPilotData@schools.nyc.gov)
- **Development of an FAQ document that presents the information in a very user-friendly format without the need for in-person training**
- **Conjoining postsecondary awareness outreach measures**
  - Addition of FAFSA pilot description on front page of 'Where Are They Now' (WATN) reports
  - Addition of a few extra slides/minutes at the end of the upcoming WATN webinars
- **Highlighting this as a *pilot* project**
  - Soliciting feedback via the email address
    - Requests for feedback in multiple places
    - Plans to incorporate feedback into January 2015 rollout

# What are other cities doing to increase FAFSA completion?

## Philadelphia

- [www.phillygoes2college.org](http://www.phillygoes2college.org)
- Current completion rate is 38%; Set goal of 60% completions by March 15, 2011 and 80% by June 15, 2011

## Chicago

- [www.chooseyourfuture.org](http://www.chooseyourfuture.org)
- Created FAFSA Completion Hotline; Provided incentives to schools with high FAFSA completion rates; Provided assistance on completing the application from non-profit organizations
- 65% completion rate in 2010; Increased to 86% completion in 2011

## Austin

- Economic and Government classes have completing the FAFSA as a class assignment
- 39% submitted the FAFSA, with a 29% completion rate in 2010

## Fresno

- Launched “34 Days of FAFSA” that feature free workshops; Campaign was covered by the press in local newspapers and TV news programs; “Parent University” with workshops on FAFSA completion
- 41% completion rate for students with a GPA of 2.0 or higher; Goal to increase by at least 20 percent.

## Denver

- District-wide free FAFSA workshops
- 41% completion rate in 2010; Goal to increase to 65% in 2011 and beyond

The national FAFSA completion rate is 57%.