



2022-2023 School Year FAFSA Measure Documentation

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Overview of the Measure

- Number of HS Seniors who completed FAFSA
- The definition of ‘senior’ as used in this measure is based on the rules and assumptions adopted by the Federal Student Aid (FSA) office when reporting the number of FAFSA applications submitted and completed by high school students.
- In addition to the number of HS seniors, the percentage of estimated graduating seniors in a district who completed the FAFSA is reported. This information comes directly from the reports generated by FSA.
- Data only includes completed applications from graduating seniors submitted for the current FAFSA application cycle.
- Excluded from this measure are all applications from the previous FAFSA application cycle submitted during the current Fiscal Year.

Data Source

- FAFSA provides reports of submitted and completed applications by high school seniors for the first 15 months of each 21-month application cycle. ONLY those applications submitted for the most recent FAFSA application cycle are included in the measures.
- Reports are published monthly and can be found here: [FAFSA® Completion by High School and Public School District | Federal Student Aid](#)
- Seniors are defined as those that: are no older than 19 as of the cutoff date, will receive diploma by start of the school year to which they are applying for aid.
 - Example: An 18-year-old student who applies in October 2020 for aid to be used in the 2021-2022 school year and will have graduated before the end of the 2020-2021 school year WOULD be defined as a senior.
 - Source of expected diploma receipt data could not be determined but is likely self-reported information by the student on their FAFSA application.
- Only applications that were accepted are counted as completed applications. Applications that were not accepted are counted as submitted applications.
- Data is organized by state, district, and school building
 - No statewide summary data are provided (e.g., number of completed applications in Ohio)



- Only those districts and buildings that had at least one submitted application by a high school senior during either FAFSA application cycle present in the report will appear in the report (i.e., it is likely that some schools/districts in Ohio will not appear in the report).
- Estimated percentage of graduating seniors who have completed a FAFSA application is only provided at the District level, and only as a percentage range when enough cases were reported to not require masking (more than 5 applications in an application cycle).
 - “Graduation rates are estimated using the most recent Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate multiplied by the largest reported enrollment for this cohort beginning in the 9th grade (<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/ccddata.asp>)”
- Data for this measure comes from applications completed during the current FAFSA cycle (October, Year 1 through June, Year 2).
 - Data for this measure will come from the June FAFSA Completion/Submission Report.

Business Rules

- The number of graduating seniors, as defined by FSA, is reported as a count of completed applications by school building and a percent range of graduating seniors who completed an application by district.
- The number of graduating seniors who completed a FAFSA application is the numerator of the measure.
- The numerator is determined by the value reported for a given building of the number of applications successfully completed by graduating seniors that were submitted to the CURRENT FAFSA application cycle (i.e., the Application Cycle with a FY range one year greater than the FY range of the report card being published).
 - Due to the possibility of a given school having an unmasked count of completed applications in either the previous or current FAFSA cycle, it is not always possible to add the number of applications completed between June and December (Year 2) of the previous cycle to the total number of applications submitted in the current cycle (see section IV below for more information on the FAFSA application cycles).
 - Due to the possibility of a given school having an unmasked count of completed applications reported in June (Year 2) and an unmasked count of completed applications reported in December (Year 2) of the previous cycle, it is not always possible to give a precise value for the number of applications completed between June and December (Year 2) of the previous cycle.
 - For reasons b(i) and b(ii) above, only the values reported for the current application cycle are part of the numerator.
 - The numerator will always undercount the number of applications completed in a given fiscal year, since it only includes cases where the application was submitted for the first 9 months of the current application cycle and does not include cases where the application was submitted for between months 9 and 15 of the previous cycle.
 - The percent of high school seniors completing the FAFSA during the current application cycle is only available as a percentage range. These values are typically provided in a 5-point range. Districts with less than 20% completion are masked with a value of '<20', while districts with 80% or more completion are represented with a value of '>=80'. Districts with too few cases to calculate a completion percentage but have had at least one application completed by a graduating senior, are represented with a value of 'MISSING'.
 - As a percentage range is provided for each FAFSA application cycle separately, it is not possible to create a percent of all seniors who completed an application throughout the entire fiscal year.
 - As the numerator is drawn from the current FAFSA application cycle. The percentage range also comes from the same FAFSA application cycle.
- Due to the masking of counts for some buildings within districts and the state overall, it is not possible to provide a numerator at these levels.



- As it cannot be perfectly determined how FSA calculates the total number of graduating seniors for the purposes of estimating the percentage of graduating seniors who have completed an application, it is not possible to calculate a percent at the building or state level.
- FAFSA Application Cycle Details: Because of the 21-month long application cycles for the FAFSA, each fiscal year will involve applications being submitted to two different application cycles.
- The years listed in a FAFSA application cycle indicate the fiscal year in which the student intends to make use of any awarded funds.
 - Example: A student wishing to attend college at any point during the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year would apply to the 2022-2023 FAFSA cycle, even if the date on which the application was submitted during the previous calendar year. In this example, a student planning on attending college in Spring 2023 would submit to the 2022-2023 FAFSA cycle, even if they were submitting the FAFSA in December of 2021.
- The 21-month application cycle opens the October preceding the fiscal year listed in the FAFSA application (October, YEAR 1) and remains open until the end of the fiscal year listed in the FAFSA application (June, YEAR 3).
- FSA only reports on FAFSA applications made during the first 15-months of an application cycle. As such, any applications submitted between January, YEAR 3 and June, YEAR 3 for the previous FAFSA cycle will not factor into this measure.
- This is not problematic, as these applications primarily represent students applying for funding for the Spring semester of the current Fiscal Year. However, as students are only considered 'graduating seniors' if they would have received their high school diploma at the time of fund disbursement, no student could submit an application during the last 6-months of the application cycle and be classified as a 'graduating senior'.