

# Louisiana: FAFSA as a Graduation Requirement

- ✓ In the 2014-2015, the FAFSA completion rate nationwide was approximately 55 percent. Louisiana's public school rate was 48 percent.
- ✓ In 2015, forty-seven percent of graduates did not meet the requirements for TOPS Opportunity, Performance, Honors, or Tech awards. More than 11,000 of these students (56 percent) did not complete a FAFSA, making them ineligible to receive federal aid as well.
- ✓ In December 2015, the Board approved a revision to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, which requires that public school students graduating spring 2018 and beyond take one of several FAFSA steps as part of their Individual Graduation Plan.
- ✓ In January 2016, the Department formed the Financial Aid Working Group to ensure that parents, students and districts are properly supported throughout the implementation of policy.





# Louisiana: Community & Government Agency Support

**Purpose:** Financial Aid Working Group was created to assist the Louisiana Department of Education with the implementation of the financial aid access policy approved by the Board in December 2015 by:

1. Developing a state action plan for school level financial aid form completion;
2. Assisting the Department in the ongoing identification of support services and programs available for secondary schools and families; and
3. Assisting in the development of partnerships with financial aid-related support programs, services, and other stakeholders.

**Members:** Over 40 participants from across the state representing local education agencies, higher education, non-profits, government agencies, financial aid service providers, and others.

# Louisiana: Results

| High School Graduation Year | FAFSA Completion            |                    |                            | College Going      |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
|                             | 12th Grade Enrollment Count | # FAFSA Completers | % of Class Completed FAFSA | Total HS Graduates | # Enrolled in College 1st Fall after HS Graduation | % Enrolled in College 1st Fall after HS Graduation |
| 2017-2018                   | 49088                       | 37841              | 77.10%                     | 43707              | 25087  | 57.40%   |
| 2016-2017                   | 42364                       | 30202              | 71.29%                     | 40735              | 23517  | 57.73%   |
| 2015-2016                   | 41783                       | 27035              | 64.70%                     | 40031              | 22860  | 57.11%   |
| 2014-2015                   | 40555                       | N/A                | N/A                        | 38244              | 22188  | 58.02%   |