

School Counselors and FAFSA Completion: Systemic Best Practices to Increase FAFSA Submissions and Completions in Your School & District

NOSCA Fall 2012 Webinar Series December 12, 2012

Moderator:

April Bell Director The College Board

Expert Panelists:

Greg Darnieder

Senior Advisor to the Secretary on the College Access Initiative U.S. Department of Education

Laura Owen

Assistant Professor Johns Hopkins University School of Education



Expert Panelists Introductions



April Bell, Moderator Director, College Board nosca.collegeboard.org



Greg Darnieder Senior Advisor to the Secretary on the College Access Initiative U.S. Department of Education **greg.darnieder@ed.gov**





Laura Owen Assistant Professor Johns Hopkins University, School of Education <u>http://education.jhu.edu</u>

JOHNS HOPKINS

School of Education



liness Counseli



NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy

NOSCA's Vision

• Every student exits high school with the educational preparation and social capital necessary for college and career success and full participation in a democratic society and global community.

NOSCA's Mission

• Endorse and institutionalize school counseling practice that advocates for equitable educational access and rigorous academic preparation necessary for college and career readiness for all students.





NOSCA's "Own the Turf" Campaign



A national advocacy campaign to galvanize and mobilize school counselors to "own the turf" of college and career readiness counseling and take the lead in establishing a college-going culture in their schools, districts, communities and/or states.



NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy



 Home
 About NOSCA
 Research & Policies
 News & Commentary
 Tools & Resources
 Events & Professional Development

 About NOSCA
 NOSCA Team
 Advisors
 NOSCA Press
 Awards
 Own the Turf
 Outreach Initiatives
 Request Materials Form

Pledge to "Own the Turf"

Join the campaign to own the turf of college and career readiness counseling. Sign up now by using the online form below, or the form included in the Own the Turf toolkit. School counselors and collaborative partners who join the campaign will receive an advocacy kit and a wide range of strategies and practical tools to support their efforts to build college and career readiness. View the Pledge

- . Be part of a national movement.
- Gain new strategies and tools.
- Belong to the online community.
- Share experiences and effective practices.
- Get involved.
- View the Own the Turf webinar.

The "Own the Turf" Campaign

Galvanize and mobilize counselors to "Own the Turf" of college and career readiness counseling.



Join the [Own the Turf] campaign Pledge today and receive a free "Own the Turf" toolkit

nosca.collegeboard.org



See Coun



NOSCA's Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling

A Systemic K-12 Approach

The Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling should be applied in elementary, middle and high schools.

Component	Elementary	Middle	High
College Aspirations	•	•	•
Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness	•	•	•
Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement	•	•	•
College and Career Exploration and Selection Processes	•	•	•
College and Career Assessments	•	•	•
College Affordability Planning	•	•	•
College and Career Admission Processes			•
Transition from High School to College Enrollment			•

CollegeBoard Advocacy & Policy Center



College and Career Readiness Counseling A Systemic K-12 Approach

Elementary School – To create early awareness, knowledge and skills that lay the foundation for academic rigor and social development necessary for college and career readiness.

Middle School – To create opportunities to explore and deepen college and career knowledge and skill necessary for academic planning and goal setting.

High School – To create college and career pathways that promote full implementation of personal goals that ensure the widest range of future life options.





Component #6: College Affordability Planning "Why It Matters"

Elementary School:

Understanding basic finance and how to use and manage money are essential skills that build a foundation for **financial literacy**. Students who apply their knowledge of everyday **financial decisions** and engage in meaningful activities related to finance are equipped to increase and expand their financial literacy and financial aid knowledge in future years.

Middle School:

Understanding **financial planning** and the use and management of money is critical for students and families. These skills will assist them in **making sound financial plans and decisions** related to students' future educational goals.

High School:

Money is one of the biggest barriers to enrolling in college or career/technical school. Students (and families) who are **equipped to make informed financial decisions** are more likely to prepare for, enter and complete college or career/technical school. Therefore, **securing financial aid** for students is an essential part of completing the college and career application, admission and transition process.





Submitting Online Questions

Questions may be submitted at any time during the presentation.

To submit a question:

- Click on the Question Mark icon (?) on the floating toolbar on your Web Session screen (as shown at the right).
- This will open the Q&A window on your computer only.
- Type your question into the small dialog box and click the Send Button.

Q&A Icon



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The Relationship Between FAFSA Completion and College Attainment







Greg Darnieder

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Key Collaborators

- The Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago
- Chicago Public Schools -College and Career Strategy
- National FAFSA Completion Project





FAFSA Application Trends

 FAFSA completion rates among low-income households continue at rates between 32 and 35% for the past six years

National FAFSA Completion Rate – 57%. FAFSA Completion Important step to support college entry





Removing Barriers

Filing a FAFSA and applying to multiple colleges shape students' likelihood of being accepted to and enrolling in a four-year college.





Barriers to College Attainment Lessons from Chicago

Jenny Nagaoka, Melissa Roderick, and Vanessa Coca, **The Consortium on Chicago School Research at The University of Chicago January 2009** www.americanprogress.org





College and Career Readiness Strategy

Consortium on Chicago School Research

FAFSA Completion

Recommendation #2

Help Students and Families Manage The High Cost Of College CONSORTIUM ON CHICAGO SCHOOL RES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF C **Research Summary**

March 2008

Executive Summary

From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College





Financial Capital

Research Summary

March 2008



CONSORTIUM ON CHICAGO SCHOOL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO C C S I

From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College



College Cost Myths
Incomplete FAFSA
No FAFSA completion
Late FAFSA completion
Lacked Knowledge About
FAFSA Completion
And Money For College





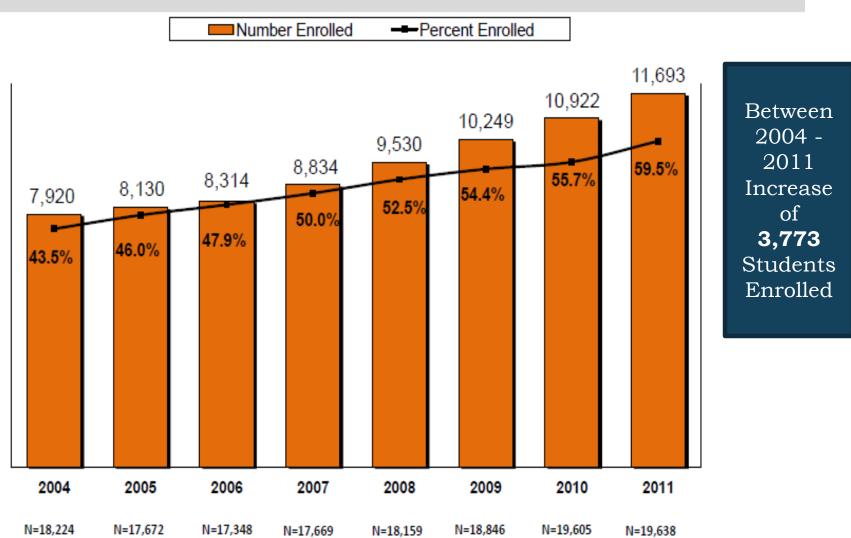
Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

- 59.5% of CPS 2011 graduates enrolled in college by November 1, 2011.
- An increase of 3.8 percentage points from 2010 and an increase of 16.0 percentage points since 2004.
- This is the seventh consecutive year CPS has seen increases in its college enrollment rate, and the largest increase since CPS began tracking college enrollment in 2004.



College Enrollment of CPS Graduates 2004-2011



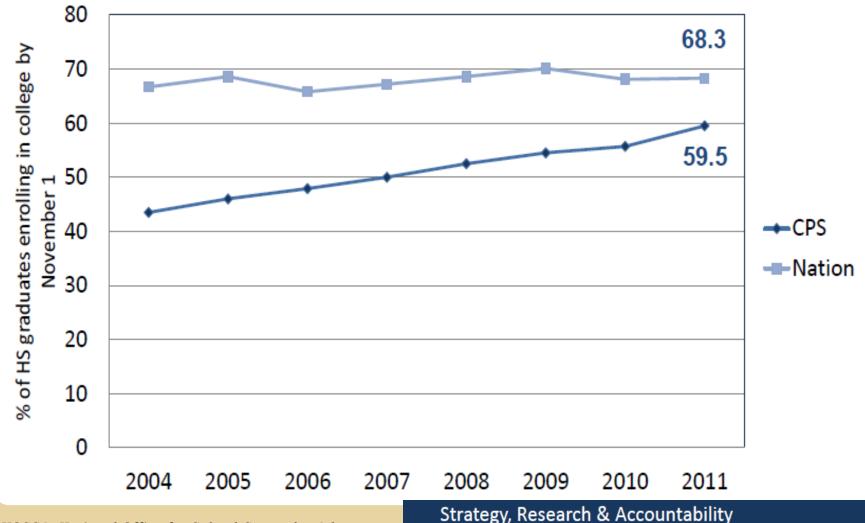


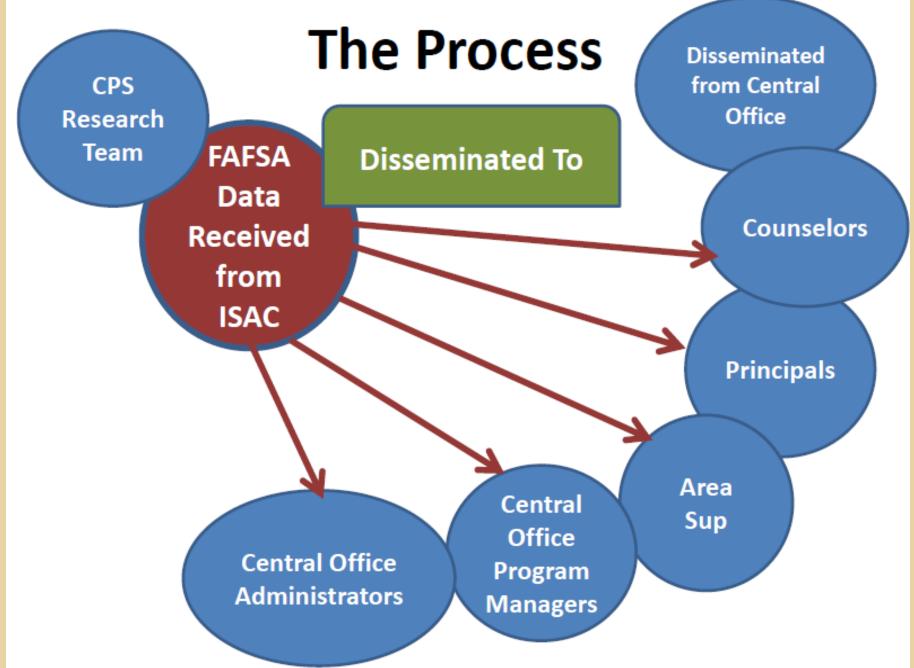
NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy

Strategy, Research & Accountability

CPS is narrowing the college enrollment gap with the nation

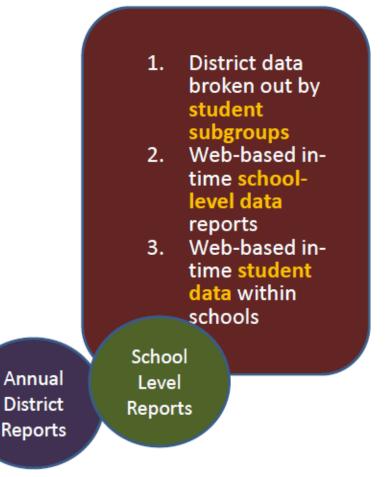








Reporting and Accountability



- FAFSA lists by student name allowed school staff to work on FAFSA completions and problem solve around specific student issues
- Counselor caseload strategy not "random acts of guidance"
- Capacity Building through school based collaborations





Department of Education FAFSA Tracking Pilot Program

In 2010, the Department of Education piloted a FAFSA Completion Project to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and secondary school administrators in determining which of their students have completed a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** for the upcoming school year.

The pilot currently provides **principals**, **counselors and college access professionals** across <u>20</u> participating school districts and high schools with verifiable and actionable information to use in increasing FAFSA completion among their student population.

Key studies have indicated that FAFSA completion correlates strongly with **college enrollment**, particularly among <u>low-income</u> <u>populations</u>.



The FAFSA Tracking Project US Department of Education

92 Randomly Selected Sites These sites receive filing status by student name on FAFSA submissions, thus enhancing the use of district, school and community resources to increase completion rates



FAFSA Completion By High School

For high schools to track their progress FSA <u>regularly</u> updates estimates for the first twelve months of an application cycle.

From January through June, data releases are **biweekly** starting on the third Friday of January.

For the remainder of the calendar year, data releases are **monthly** occurring on the first Friday of the month starting on the first Friday of August.



<u>http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/data-</u> <u>center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-</u> <u>school</u>









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Narrowing the College Opportunity Gap: Helping Students and Families Navigate the Financial Aid Process







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Assistant Professor Johns Hopkins University, School of Education <u>http://education.jhu.edu</u>







NOSCA's Eight Components of College and Career Readiness

- 1. Student aspirations for college
- 2. Academic planning for college and career readiness
- 3. Enrichment and extracurricular engagement
- College and career exploration and selection process
- 5. College and career assessment
- 6. College affordability planning



- 7. College and career admission processes
- 8. <u>Transitioning from high school graduation to</u> <u>college enrollment</u>

College Board Advocacy and Policy Center. (2010). Eight components of college and career readiness counseling.



College and Career Readiness Counseling

Gaps the Research

- For many students the simple issue of financial aid is the difference between going to college and not and these factors deserve attention (Tierney, Corwin, & Colyar, 2005)
- Research has not sufficiently focused on the key role of school counselors in providing guidance students need to make informed postsecondary decisions (Holcomb-McCoy, Lee, Bryan, & Young, 2011)





FAFSA Completion **Project**

- In 2010, 20 school districts across the US were selected to participate
- US Department of Education's FSA database was utilized to determine if a student had submitted a FAFSA form to the US Department of Education (DOE).
- School districts submitted directory information (name, date of birth and zip code) for the graduating seniors





DOE Match

DOE matched each student's information to their FAFSA record and returned FAFSA information to the district.

No match in FSA database
 FAFSA complete but missing signature
 FAFSA complete and filed
 FAFSA begun but not complete

Disconnect between student self-reported FAFSA status and actual FAFSA completion.





Multi-pronged Campaign





District and City Partnership





Collaborative Relationships

C2 ALEUQUERQUE JOURNAL

METRO & NEW MEXICO

** FRIDAY, FIDRUARY 11, 2011

"I'm telling you it's not a

Department of Education sale the form has been streamline and simplified, feature that will

Families, Don't Fear: FAFSA Help Is Here

Form for College

 Form for College Aid Can Be Tricky
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Media Coverage



START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID **Counselor** Training

Community Partnerships



Student Involvement





New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation









District Wide Focus on College and Career Readiness

Reallocation of resources

▶14 full-time College and Career Counselors

□ All counselors were encouraged to:

>support and increase student FAFSA completion

▹promote a college-going culture in the school

>leverage relationships within the local community

ensure that all students (Pre K-12), including those with alternative educational needs, had the means, opportunity and preparation to attend college





Program Evaluation

8,655 high school graduates

Longitudinal databases were used to quantify the impact the outreach had on FAFSA Completion and College Enrollment.

➢US Department of Education's Federal Student Aid FAFSA database

>National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) database

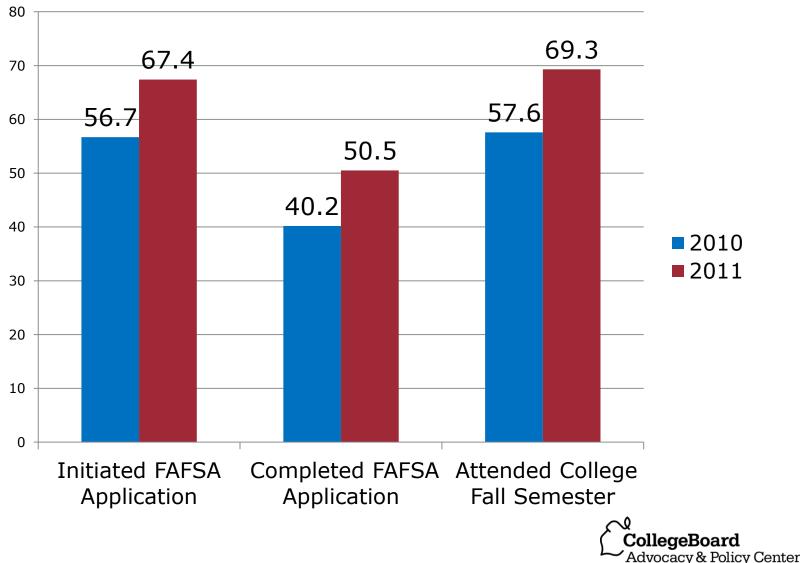


Results

- □ Year to Year Results
- □ 2 year and 4 year attendance rates
- □ H&R Block Study Comparison
- □ College Attendance by Ethnicity

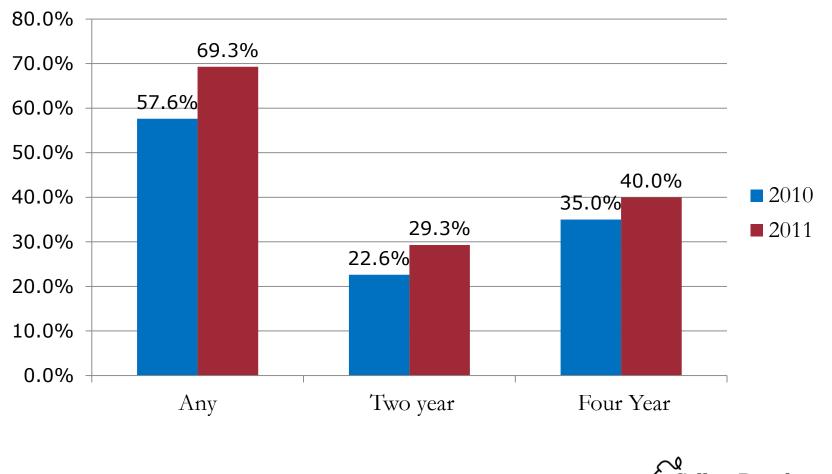
College and Career Readiness Counseling

Year to Year Results (2010 vs. 2011)





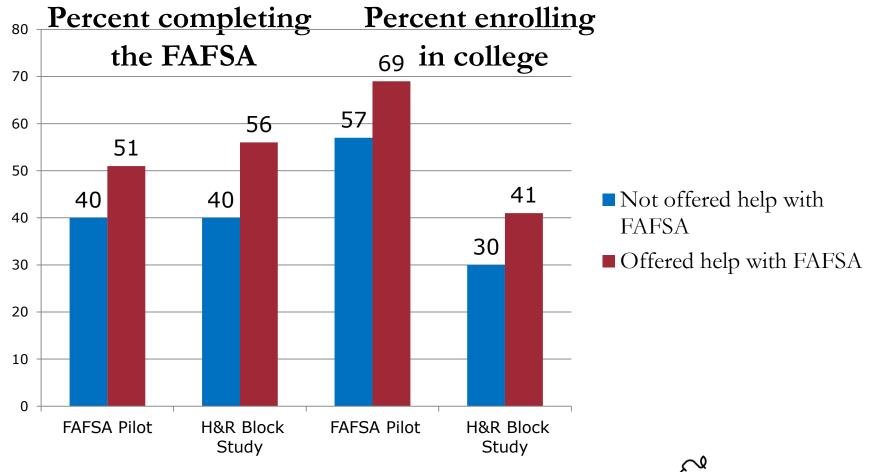
College Attendance District Wide



CollegeBoard Advocacy & Policy Center



Comparison to H&R Block Study



⁽Bettinger, Long, Oreopoulos & Sanbonmatsu, 2012)



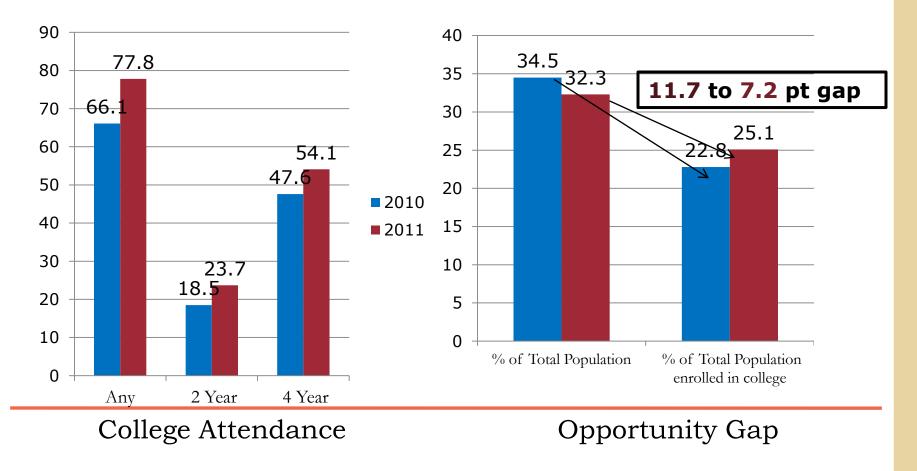
College Enrollment Results by Ethnicity







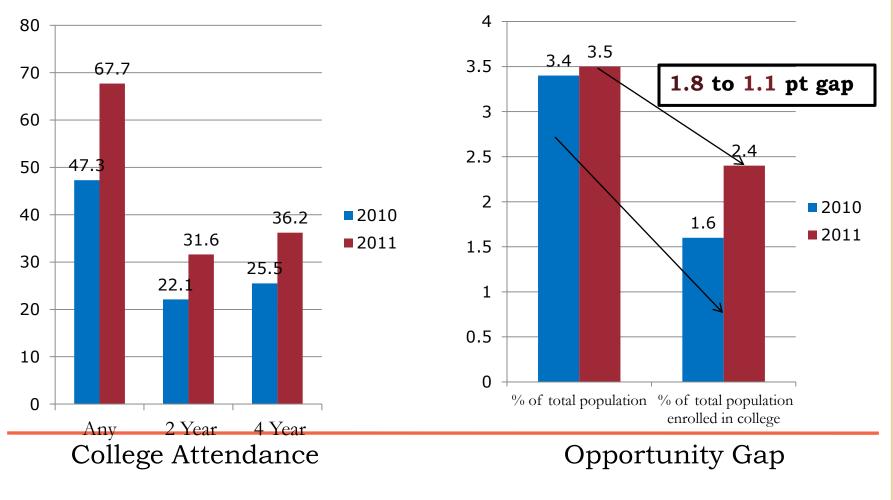
White – non Hispanic







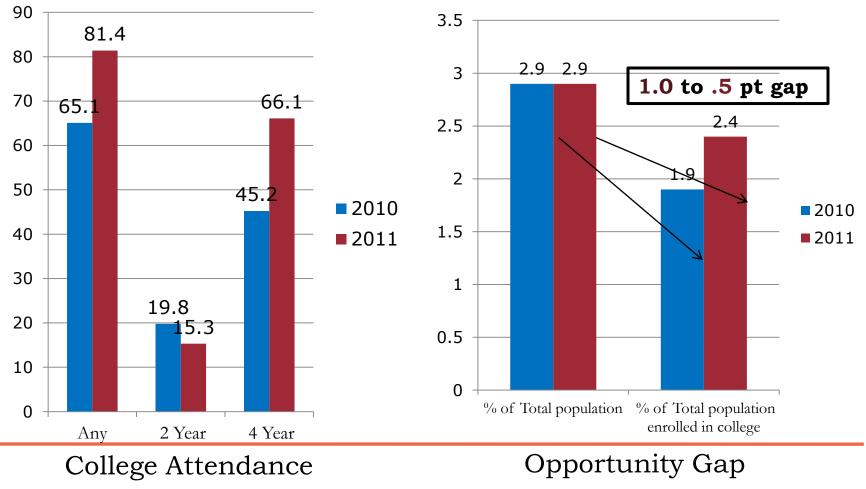
African American







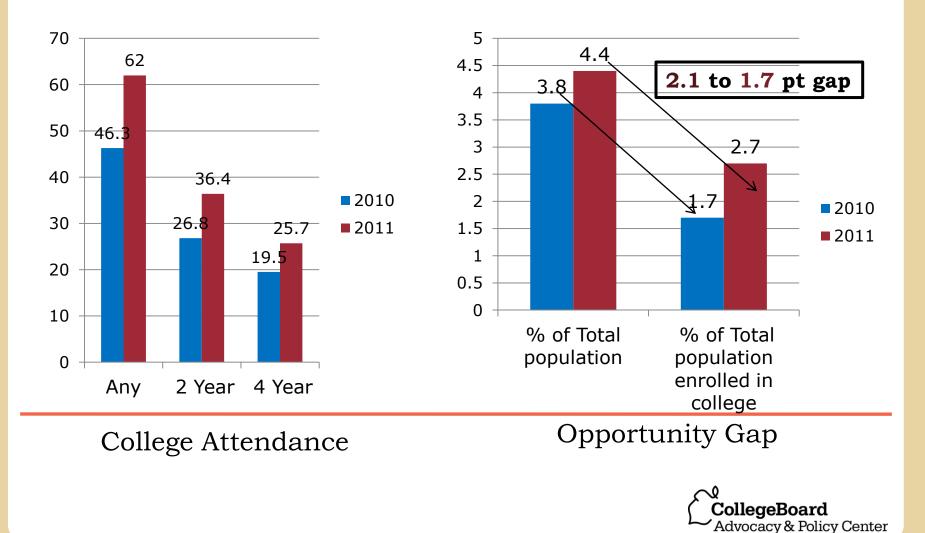






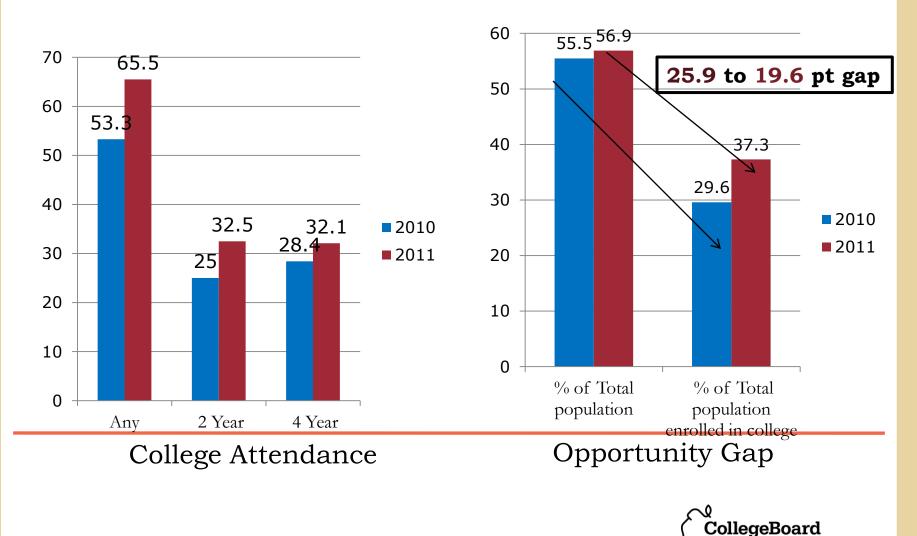


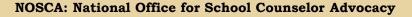
Native American





Hispanic





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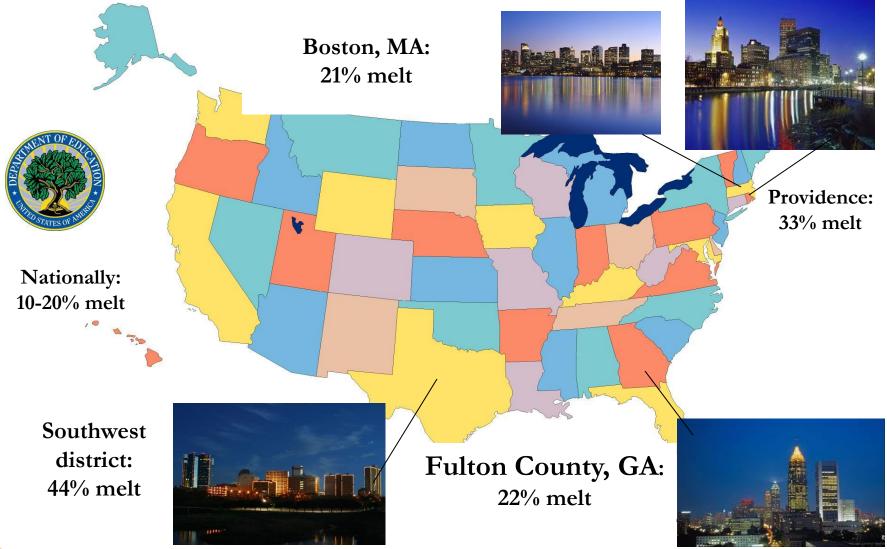
Summer Melt Work – Castleman & Page

Summer melt is a term traditionally used by college admissions officers to describe the phenomenon that students pay a deposit to attend a particular college but do not matriculate *at that college* the following fall.

Here, we use *summer melt* to describe the phenomenon that college-intending students fail to enroll *at all* following high school graduation.



Magnitude of the Summer Attrition Problem



OWNT

College and Career Readiness Counseling

The Challenge and Opportunity of Summer

Are students making optimal decisions not to enroll in college?

Informational barriers	Advantages of summer
to enrollment*	intervention
 Unanticipated costs (e.g. health insurance) that affect students' college-going decisions Navigating financial aid award letters Difficulty interpreting tuition bill Difficulty accessing/completing required paperwork Lack of access to school counselors/professional guidance 	 Students have signaled a strong intention to enroll Summer barriers more easily targeted than other problems? Students more responsive to outreach/support? Ample supply of school counselors to staff outreach efforts





Top 5 services provided to students in the summer

Provided financial aid assistance

□ Met (or talked with) graduate and/or family member

Provided encouragement or reassurance

Followed-up or tracked needs/sent transcript

□ Connected to a staff member at the college

Based on results from summer outreach in Fulton County, GA





Summer 2012 Outreach

Eight urban districts in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Southwest, and Mountain West

Approximately 25,000 students

Peer mentors reach out to students over the summer, HS counselors on hand to support

HS counselors stationed at high schools and colleges reach out to students over the summer. Digital messaging campaign to students with reminders of key summer tasks







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Laura Owen Assistant Professor Johns Hopkins University, School of Education

http://education.jhu.edu





Resources & Tools and Question & Answer Segment





FAFSA Completion By High School

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<u>http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/data-</u> <u>center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-</u> <u>school</u>





Federal Student Aid (FSA) For Counselors

Resources to help you help your students: www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov

- Information about free training for counselors.
- Financial aid PowerPoint presentation and script.
- Federal Student Aid Publications Ordering System:

www.FSAPubs.gov





These PPs are the sessions conducted by FSA and the release of the federal updates for the upcoming year. Over 6,000 FAA and others participate at these conferences in December.

- ✓ Power points for all 2011/2012 sessions
- ✓ Recommended Session Videos: GS-1, 31, 32, & 33
- ✓ For new counselors, see Fall Conference 2010 sessions: GS-2, 29, 48, & 49





Fall Conference

Watch Session Videos

Foreign Schools Information





What's New

2011 Fall Conference is being held at the MGM Grand Conference Center

Some of the presentations are now posted and available for download here.

View photos from the conference here!.

Attendees as of 11.30.11: 6.741

Software Developers Conference	Useful Resources
	Training for Financial Aid Professionals
	2011 NASFAA Leadership Conference
	Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP)
2010	
Fall Conference	twitter

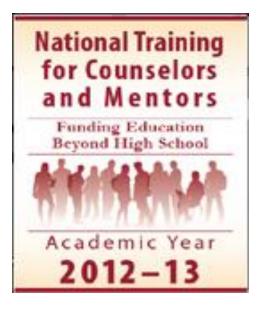
www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov





Resources for Counseling Families on Preparing Financially for College

The National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) 2011-2012 academic year initiative is under way!



- Provide free training, information, resources, and tools regarding federal, state, and local financial aid programs for counselors and mentors working with students and their families.
- •States that participate in NT4CM receive:
 - -free training materials from the U.S. DOE
 - **-free** publicity materials to promote state training and initiatives, and ongoing support and suggestions from other participating states.





Resources For Students & Families

Student Aid on the Web -planning for college, paying for college, and repaying student loans: www.studentaid.ed.gov

College.gov—inspiration for students who think college might not be for them: <u>www.college.gov</u>

College Preparation Checklist - a

student's or parent's first stop for information on academic and financial preparation: www.studentaid.ed.gov/collprep

Funding Your Education: e Guide to Federal Student Aid—book to help students or parents understand the financial aid process and maximize the resources on the comprehensive www.studentaid.ed.gov website:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide

Do You Need Money for College? Federal Student Aid at a Glance—quick glimpse outlining the federal student aid programs, eligibility criteria, and application tips:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/needmoney

Looking for Student Aid Without Getting Scammed:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/LSA

Fact sheets on various topics: www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs

FAFSA on the Web/Federal School Codes: www.fafsa.gov

PIN information and registration: www.pin.ed.gov

FAFSA4casterSM—early estimate of aid eligibility: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov



Have a question?

1-800-4-FED-AID

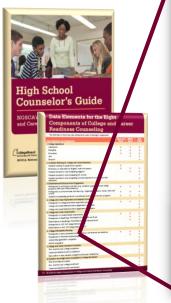






Component #6: College Affordability Planning

Relevant Data to Measure Student Progress and Your Accountability & Effectiveness K-12



HS Guide: Page 20 EM & MS Guide: Page 16

Data Elements for the Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling

The chart below shows key data elements for each of the Eight Components.

Data Elements, By Component	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
6. College Affordability Planning			
Participation in early awareness financial literacy and financial aid initiatives	•	•	•
Participation in financial aid planning processes		•	•
Scholarship application completion			•
FAFSA completion			•

Source: <u>High (Elementary, Middle) School Counselor's Guide: NOSCA's Eight Components of</u> <u>College and Career Readiness Counseling</u>, National Office of School Counselor Advocacy, The College Board, 2011.





Component #6: College Affordability Planning Strategies for FAFSA Completion

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Break down the data to assess performance of

student groups, paying close attention to traditionally

underserved populations. (See page 3 for a list of the

Do students from low socioeconomic backgrounds

Disparities between student groups

participate in financial literacy/financial aid

grade African American students?

compare to those of Asian students?

opportunities at the same rates as their more

12th-grade Latino students compare to those of 12th-

How do FAFSA completion rates for white students

Work systemwide - with students, schools, districts,

parents and families, and communities - to reach

everyone. Focus your work on the students who need

the most help, and then use data to assess the impact

of those efforts. In this way, you will create equitable

interventions and begin to close the gaps.

Data by student groups

student arouns)

For example:

advantaged peers?

Work systemwide



College Affordability Planning High School Guide

THE GOAL

Provide students and families with comprehensive information about college costs, options for paying for college, and the financial aid and scholarship processes and eligibility requirements, so they are able to plan for and afford a college education.

WHY IT MATTERS

Money is one of the biggest barriers to enrolling in college or career/technical school. Students (and families) who are equipped to make informed financial decisions are more likely to prepare for, enter and complete college or careentechnical school. Therefore, securing financial aid for students is an essential part of completing the college and career application, admission 🧧 How do scholarship application completion rates for and transition process.

WHAT TO MEASURE

Early introduction to financial literacy and financial planning encourages students and families to engage in the timely completion and submission of FAFSA and WHAT TO DO scholarship applications.

Relevant data

- Participation in early awareness financial literacy and financial aid initiatives
- Participation in financial aid planning processes
- Scholarship application completion
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion



Ensure students understand financial aid application processes, including application completion and

submission procedures, educational debt, adhering to deadlines, understanding Student Aid Reports (SARs) and financial aid award letters, federal borrowing and repayment options tailored for diverse student groups, application signatures, and communicating with financial aid offices.

WORK SYSTEMWIDE

(Individual, Group, Classroom and Grade)

Students

- Familiarize students with financial aid publications and applications, including FAFSA, state agency applications, scholarship/grant applications, and financial literacy glossaries.
- Ensure that students with special and unusual circumstances (e.g., independent students, students with incarcerated or missing parents, foster care students, and wards of the court) have information about federal, state and institutional financial aid guidelines for application and submission, including supporting documentation and verification information

School

- Collaborate with teachers schoolwide to include financial literacy and financial aid awareness into lessons about basic finance, wealth, money management, and the financial aid application and submission process
- Use student FAESA data to create structures to monitor application completion, make application updates and corrections, and ensure students receive and review aid reports.
- Disseminate free financial literacy and financial aid information, resources and tools in multiple languages from federal and state entities such as the U.S. Department of Education, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Financial Literacy and Education Commission, and the State Higher Education Commission

District

- Collaborate with other high school counselors to develop and implement districtwide financial aid events at which students can complete FAFSA and other critical forms. Hold districtwide competitions for FAESA completion to encourage higher college and career/technical school enrollment rates.
- Collaborate with middle school counselors to align financial literacy efforts in middle and high school so students' planning is coherent and continuous. Identify families who are new to the district and who may not have had this planning in middle school.

Parents and Families

- Create outreach efforts to ensure that parents and families are aware of their role in assisting their children in the college affordability process (see student interventions above).
- Ensure that parents and families engage in the financial aid application process knowing that family financial circumstances may not prevent their students from applying for and/or receiving most financial aid.
- Disseminate free federal and state financial literacy and financial aid publications, brochures and website information that can help parents submit supporting financial aid documentation to colleges, universities and career/technical schools.

Community III =

- Partner with community businesses and financial institutions to develop and provide scholarship and stipend opportunities for students and/or support financial literacy initiatives
- Encourage community leaders to help spread the word about financial literacy initiatives by serving as speakers and mentors and assisting students with documentation retrieval and translation, application review and submission.
- Use federal and state outreach personnel and toolkits from federal financial literacy and financial aid agencies to enhance school- and community-based initiatives.

High School Counselor's Guide: Component 6 🔳 1

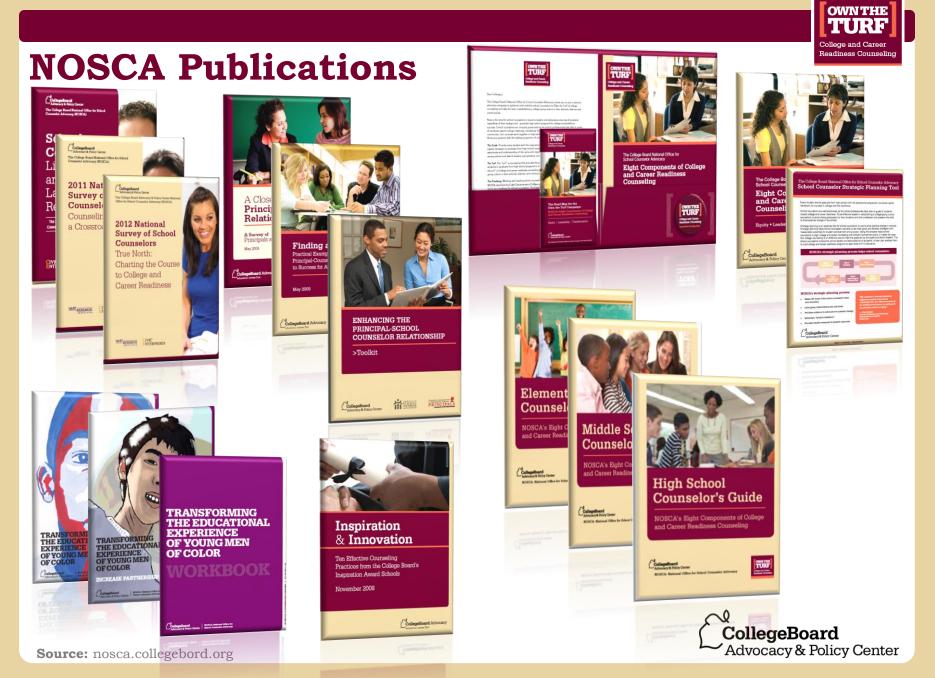


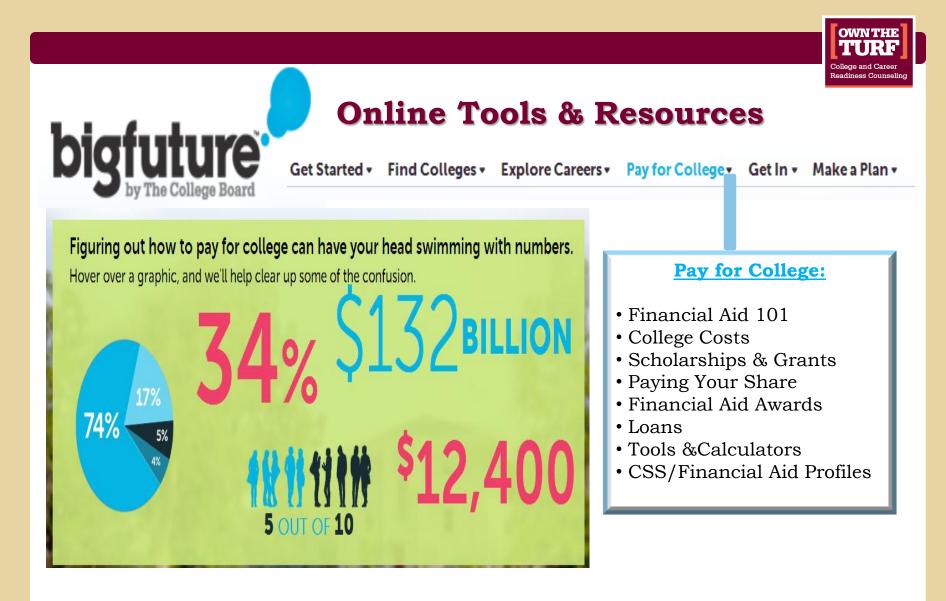
Source: High School Counselor's Guide: NOSCA's Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling, National Office of School Counselor Advocacy, The College Board, 2011.



A Crosswalk to Connect the Dots

1. NOSCA's Eight Components	2. Data Elements	3. Systemwide Interventions	4. Tools, Resources & Programs
1. College Aspirations			
2. Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness			
3. Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement			
4. College and Career Exploration and Selection Process			
5. College and Career Assessment			
6. College Affordability Planning			
7. College and Career Admissions Process			
8. Transition from High School Graduation to College Enrollment			



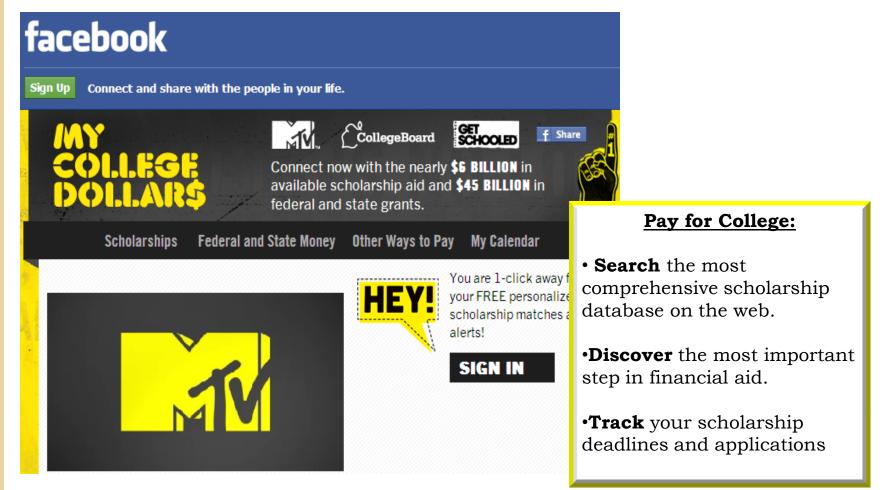


Bigfuture.collegeboard.org





Online Tools & Resources



http://apps.facebook.com/mycollegedollars/





The Net Price Calculator Website

The College Board's Net Price Calculator

Home

Participating Schools

Are you an Institution? Click here.

What is the Net Price Calculator?

Welcome! We're glad you're exploring how to plan and pay for your college education. Colleges that you may think are out of your price range may be affordable.



Using the NPC

Financial Aid 101

Announcements





Submitting Online Questions

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- This will open the Q&A window on your computer only.
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Q&A Icon



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Ask:	All Panelis	its]	
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School of Education



College and Career Readiness Counseling

NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy



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