

Instruction

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ADDRESSING
IMPROVING THE COMPLETION RATES OF FAFSA**

6148AR(a)

In order to improve the completion rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) by students enrolled in the Fairfield Public Schools (the “District”).

The District will:

- Track data from such students regarding FAFSA completion, including date of completion.
- Identify school personnel to provide information resources and content regarding the FAFSA and monitor completion rates.
- Conduct annual presentations to students about the purpose and importance of the FAFSA and the District’s resources available to help students in completing the FAFSA.
- Provide professional development to identified District staff regarding the FAFSA and best practices for supporting students in completing the FAFSA.
- As required, the District will publish and make available on its website the annual FAFSA student completion rate for the graduating class of each high school within the District.

Strategies to increase FAFSA completion rates could include:

- Design FAFSA completion initiatives according to the target population’s needs. Low-income students, English-Language students, homeless students, foster youth, and first generational youth should be the center of this initiative.
- Establish and maintain strong partnerships with as many stakeholders as possible, with multiple organizations to assist.
- Provide option of individualized meetings between students/parents and staff.

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6148AR(b)

- Build trusting relationships with parents and the community to ensure students and their families feel comfortable in filling out the forms.
- Design systems, tools and events focusing on students who might otherwise not complete an application.
- Provide a network of resources to support school counselors and teachers.
- Start raising awareness about FAFSA early, prior to senior year.
- Provide sufficient and easily accessible resources on district/school websites.
- Use programs and forums, such as advisor periods, college and career planning seminars, parent meetings etc. to provide assistance.
- Stress financial aid is for technical, two- and four-year schools.
- Partner with local postsecondary institutions.

Legal Reference:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223m

P. A. 21-199 An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Statutes Relating to Education and Workforce Development, Sect. 6, 7, 8.