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# **Indiana Reaches 60 Percent FAFSA Filing Goal**

60 Percent of Indiana High School Seniors Have Filed the 2025-2026 FAFSA

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Today, the <u>Indiana Commission for Higher Education</u> (Commission) announced that 60 percent of Indiana high school seniors from the class of 2025 have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). With over 50,000 students filing for the 2025-2026 school year, the FAFSA is a key to college affordability for many, unlocking millions of dollars in both state and federal aid.

In 2023, the Commission set the goal to reach a 60 percent FAFSA completion rate for high school seniors. Since setting that goal, Indiana reached 54 percent (2023) and 58 percent (2024), both years shy of the aimed 60 percent. Individuals can continue to monitor Indiana's FAFSA filing rate using the Commission's FAFSA Completion Dashboard.

Nationally, Indiana ranks 17th in the nation in high school senior FAFSA completions according to the <u>National College</u> <u>Attainment Network's FAFSA tracker</u>. Additionally, over 72 percent of 21st Century Scholars have completed the FAFSA, a requirement to earn the state's promise scholarship, which covers tuition and fees for up to four years at any Indiana public institution and partial tuition and fees at Indiana private institutions.

"We are very pleased with reaching our goal of 60 percent FAFSA completion," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "It has been a concerted effort between our K-12 and higher education systems, community organizations, philanthropic partners, parents and families, and policymakers to reach this goal. We will continue to push to reach as many Hoosiers as we can in the coming months to make sure all forms are filed correctly and ensure students receive their eligible financial aid."

Two years ago, Indiana became the eighth state to adopt a FAFSA completion requirement for high school seniors with opt-out provisions available. Now, over a dozen states have implemented a similar requirement. Since this legislation, Indiana has seen steady growth in filings.

While Indiana's state priority deadline to file the FAFSA has passed, the Commission will continue to work with and encourage all Hoosier students to still file for federal aid and to check the status of their FAFSA forms, confirming they are free from error and are properly processed and received by their selected institutions.

The Commission's Outreach Coordinators are available to assist students and families in the filing process. To send a direct message to your region's Outreach Coordinator, visit www.learnmoreindiana.org/contact.

### Additional resources are available

- Hoosier families can access free FAFSA help through INvestEd by email (<u>outreach@investedindiana.org</u>) or phone at 317-715-9007. ¿Necesitas ayuda en español? Llame 317-715-9007.
- The U.S. Department of Education provides email and live chat assistance for FAFSA filers as well as a helpline at 1-800-4-FED-AID.

# **About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education**

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through higher education, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission's HOPE (Hoosier Opportunities & Possibilities through Education) Agenda serves as the agency's strategic plan and mission through 2030, providing seven goals around enrollment, completion, and graduate retention efforts. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including 21st Century Scholars, which celebrates 35 years in 2025.