



SOUTH DAKOTA FAFSA Update

JANUARY 2022

New funds to support students, institutions with greatest needs

Those with the greatest needs, including students, community colleges, and other institutions, will receive additional support with resources to reduce barriers to success in higher education.

The Department of Education announced the additional resources, and said the resources include an additional \$198 million in American Rescue Plan funds that will primarily support community colleges and rural institutions with the greatest needs. In addition, the Department provided new guidance on how colleges can use these new and existing federal funds to meet students' basic needs and connect students to other federal benefits,

The American Rescue Plan provided nearly \$40 billion for colleges and universities through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

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A quarter of high school seniors in South Dakota have completed a FAFSA as of January 7, 2022. According to these latest statistics, 2,621 students have completed a 2022-23 FAFSA.

This is a slight drop (-1.8%) from the same time last year. This drop from is particularly concerning since FAFSA completion has been dropping since the pandemic began nearly two years ago.

FAFSA completion is an important step for students to get money for their education and to achieve college and career goals.

Currently, South Dakota is behind the national trend, which has FAFSA completions at the same level as last year.

Top Schools

South Dakota schools with the largest increase in FAFSA completions compared to last year are:

1. Bennett County - 216.7%
2. Miller High School - 166.7%
3. Timber Lake High School - 120%
4. Wall High School - 116.7%
5. Stanley County - 100%
6. Parkston High School - 85.7%
7. Gayville-Volin - 80%
8. Yankton High School - 72%
9. Plankton High School - 66.7%
10. Hamlin High School - 60%

