

FAFSA Update

November 2021



OUR DAKOTA DREAMS

Taking the first step toward making a dream come true, especially when it requires attending college, can feel difficult – so difficult that many people abandon their dreams.

Our Dakota Dreams is a newly formed coalition designed to encourage and support South Dakotans as they take the first steps toward pursuing their college and career dreams.

Follow the “Our Dakota Dreams” campaign and share posts on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.



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2022-23 FAFSA COMPLETION

Early data indicates drop in FAFSA completions

South Dakota, like the rest of the country, is still experiencing a drop in FAFSA completions compared to the same period last year. As of November 5, FAFSA completion is down about 1.8 percent in South Dakota compared to 1.9 percent nationally. Fortunately, the amount of the decrease has been lessening so there is reason to hope that the trend will reverse.

Contributing cause to drop in FAFSA submissions?

There has been speculation among the college access and financial aid communities nationally that the drop could in part be attributed to technical issues with the 2022-23 FAFSA. Many schools and organizations report students and parents are experiencing errors that have prevented some from submitting a FAFSA. These issues have been reported to Federal Student Aid, and it is hoped these issues are short lived.



Although there has been a drop in FAFSA completions statewide and nationally, some South Dakota high schools are seeing an increase in FAFSA completions. Among the high schools with the top increases so far this year are:

- Winner High School - 216%
- Sturgis Brown High School - 100%
- Great Plains - 83.3%
- Tea Area High School - 63.6%
- Canton High School - 60%
- Dell Rapids High School - 40%
- T.F. Riggs High School - 40%
- Brookings High School - 39.4%
- Harrisburg High School - 36.1%
- Baltic High School - 28.6%