



# FAFSA UPDATE

OCTOBER 2021

## MAPPING YOUR FUTURE CONTACT INFORMATION



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## WE NEED YOUR INSIGHT ON FAFSA COMPLETION

Mapping Your Future requests your participation in a survey, created in conjunction with a FAFSA Completion Initiative led by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Mapping Your Future is participating in this FAFSA completion effort along with the South Dakota Department of Education and other higher education officials.

The purpose of the survey is to identify student/parent barriers to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion. Specifically, Mapping Your Future would like to determine the role administrators and counselors play in helping students complete the FAFSA, the barriers students face in completing the FAFSA, and the opportunities to provide FAFSA completion support to students, parents, administrators, and counselors.

It is voluntary to complete this survey and answers will remain anonymous. It is estimated to take 10 minutes to respond to this 16-question survey. Please complete the survey by Friday, October 29.

The survey is located at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBSJ5B8>

## 2022-23 FAFSA SEASON BEGINS; COMPLETIONS OFF TO A SLOW START

With only eight days of data for the 2022-23 FAFSA season, it may be too early to tell yet how we will fare with completions.

Right now, South Dakota ranks 47th among all the states with 1.9 percent of seniors having completed the FAFSA as of Oct. 8. Compared to last year at this time, that is a 17.8 percent drop in FAFSA completions.

Nationally, 3.9 percent of the high school class of 2021 has completed a FAFSA as of Oct. 8, a drop of 29.4 percent compared to the last academic year.

Because these numbers are very early, we do have an opportunity to increase FAFSA completions. Mapping Your Future is available to assist schools, students, and families with completing the FAFSA.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF FAFSA COMPLETION

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics [September 2021 data](#), jobs requiring more education for entry are expected to increase faster than average in the United States over the next decade. And with FAFSA completion strongly correlated with postsecondary enrollment (according to [an analysis by the National College Access Network](#)), the importance of FAFSA completion becomes clear.

FAFSA completion is a critical step in the path to life-long success for many students, who might not otherwise be able to afford education beyond high school. As more jobs require some type of postsecondary education, local, state, and national economies will depend on having an educated and skilled workforce.

