

MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-106

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
School Counselors

FROM: Jillian Balow, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: September 7, 2021

SUBJECT: FAFSA Completion Campaign Begins Statewide

WYOMING LAUNCHES FAFSA COMPLETION CAMPAIGN STATEWIDE

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) kicked off a campaign to encourage and support the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The statewide campaign will include digital media, a [website](#), and support tools for schools and communities.

Students who fill out the FAFSA are eligible to receive financial aid for college including student loans, grants, scholarships, and federal work-study programs. Since the 2021-22 FAFSA form became available on October 1, 2020, the completion rate among high school seniors is down 12% compared to the same time last year. Each year in the United States an estimated two million students would have qualified for student financial aid, had they filed their FAFSA application.

High school principals will soon receive packages with materials to share with students and parents. Also, the Wyoming FAFSA Completion Challenge is set to begin October 1. The WDE will track FAFSA completion by school and award a \$500 cash prize to the school counseling department with the highest completion rate. Details and additional information about the challenge are forthcoming via email.

For more information please contact Linda Finnerty, WDE Communications Director, at 307-777-2053 or linda.finnerty@wyo.gov.