AGENDA



What is FAFSA?



State Financial Aid Overview



FAFSA Completion and Data Review



The FAFSA Edwin Report (CR307 and CR607)

What is FAFSA

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as the **FAFSA**, is the financial aid form for accessing grants, federal student loans and work-study funds.
- Cost continues to be a barrier to accessing post secondary education, particularly for first generation college going students.
- Filling out the FAFSA is one of the most important steps students and their families can take to pay for college

Access & Affordability

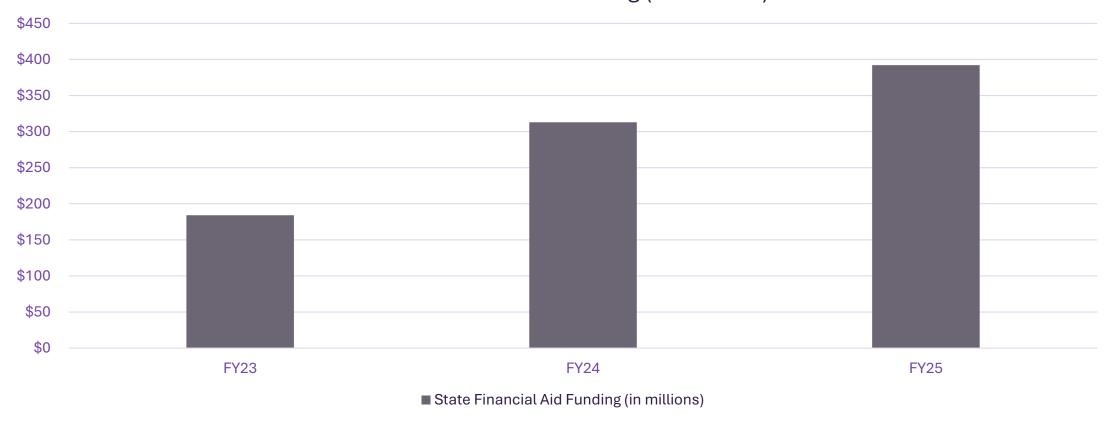
- Tuition and Fee Free Community College
- MassGrant Plus and MassGrant Plus Expansion
- Tuition Equity Law and MASFA





\$200 Million Added to Financial Aid

State Financial Aid Funding (in millions)



Free Community College



Fully implemented during the 2024-25 academic year



Funded through two major programs

MassReconnect

- Supports students age25+
- Income not a factor

MassEducate

- Supports students of all ages
- Income not a factor

Free Community College - MassEducate



MassEducate is the Commonwealth's "free community college" grant program designed to provide financial assistance to full and part-time undergraduate students who are enrolled in and pursuing an approved program of study.



MassEducate provides "last dollar" financial assistance to ensure that eligible community college students have adequate resources to fully cover the direct costs of tuition and fees towards a certificate or associate degree at a public community college.

Free Community College





- Last dollar grant program
- Provides Free tuition & fees
- Full and Part-Time students (6 credit minimum)
- Provides a book/supply allowance up to \$1200
 - An allowance up to \$1200 for Books and supplies
 - Additional \$1200 allowance for other educational expenses for some students who meet certain income threshold

Free Community College - MassReconnect

MassReconnect is a grant program designed to provide financial assistance to full and part-time undergraduate students age 25+ who are pursuing an approved program of study.

MassReconnect provides "last dollar" financial assistance to ensure that eligible community college students have adequate resources to fully cover the direct costs of tuition and fees towards a certificate or associate degree at a public community college.



Expanding MASSGrant Plus

 Free tuition and fees at all public institutions of higher education for lowincome students (Pell-eligibility standards)

- \$1,200 allowance for books and supplies
- Available at all nine state universities and all UMass campuses



Affordable College - MASSGrant Plus



- Last dollar grant for tuition and fees
- Award is determined after all other nonloan is considered
- Supports full and part-time Pell eligible students at public 4-year colleges and universities
- Student encouraged to complete the FAFSA or MASFA by the institution's published financial aid deadline (or other date imposed by the Legislature) to ensure that they receive assistance

Affordable College - MASSGrant Plus Expansion



- Last dollar grant for tuition and fees
- Award is determined after all other non-loan is considered
- Provides aid for half (50%) of tuition and fees
- Supports only full-time non-Pell students at public 4-year colleges and universities who meet income threshold (SAI = 15,000)
- Student encouraged to complete FAFSA or MASFA by the institution's published financial aid deadline (or other date imposed by the Legislature) to ensure that they receive assistance

Massachusetts State Financial Aid Removing Barriers

- Tuition Equity Law notably carves a pathway to in-state tuition rates and state financial aid for certain non-US citizen students, including undocumented students, who have attended high school in Massachusetts for at least three (3) years and earned a high school diploma (or the equivalent) in the Commonwealth
- Creation of Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) application allows students to apply for needbased <u>state</u> financial aid
- MASFA launched in January 2024 for the 2023-24 academic year; and March 2024 for the 2024-25 academic year.
 - Over 500 students completed the 2023-24 MASFA
 - 1576 applicants have been received for 2024-25
 - Expect the 2025-26 MASFA to be available in mid-December or when the FAFSA is released for all students

SIGNED INTO LAW

MASSACHUSETTS

TUITION EQUITY



Tuition Equity Law



Applying for State Financial Aid

Applying for state financial aid as a "High School Completer" is a two-step process:

Step 1: Complete the Student Application and Affidavit <u>form</u>

Step 2: Complete the MASFA

Information and additional instructions available at: www.mass.edu/tuitionequity

Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)

The Tuition Equity Law provided access to Massachusetts State Financial Aid for students who cannot complete the FAFSA due to their immigration status

Requires an Affidavit to be completed with the college to receive the in-state tuition rate – which can be done prior to high school graduation

The *Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid* (*MASFA*), was developed for students to apply for state financial aid

MASFA mimics the FAFSA and allows undocumented students a pathway to Massachusetts State financial aid

Available in two languages (English and Spanish), and can be completed at any time (**Affidavit** is required to receive state financial aid, but not to complete the MASFA)

MASFA can be accessed at: Sign In (regenteducation.net)



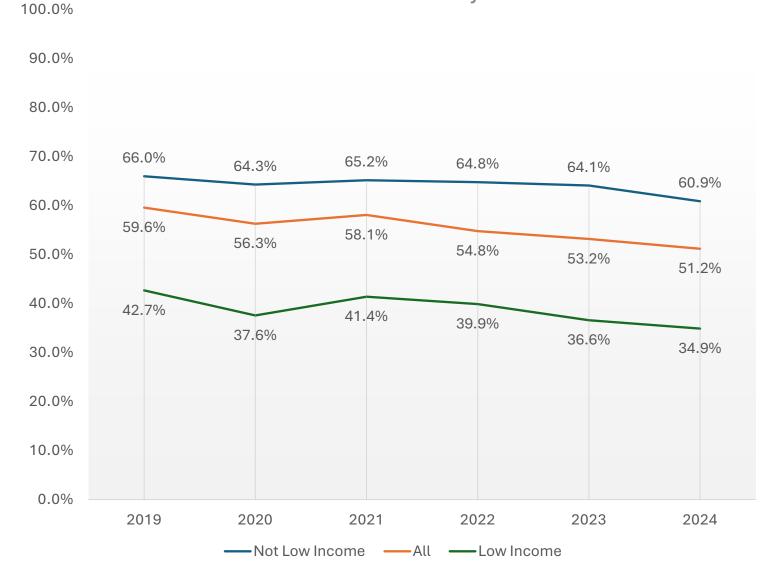
FAFSA Window opened late November

Many Students and their families have already completed FAFSA



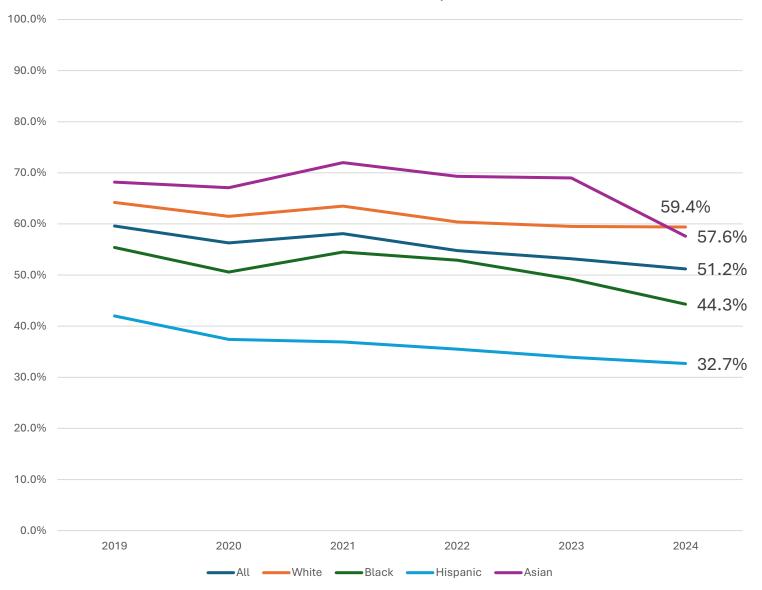
FAFSA Completion Summary 2019- 2024

MA HS Seniors FAFSA by income level



FAFSA Completion Summary 2019- 2024

FAFSA MA Senior Completion

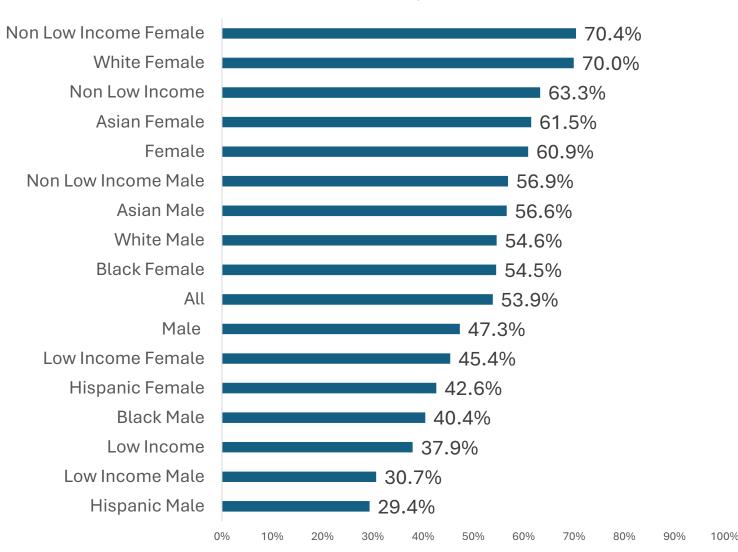


A Quick Look at FAFSA Completion by Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Income

Source: DESE, Edwin

CR607, 2024

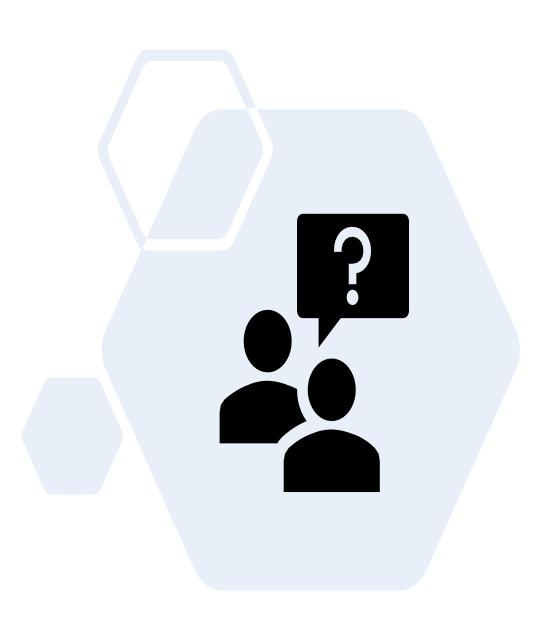




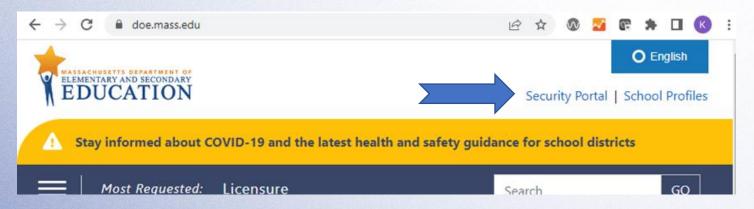
What is the Edwin FAFSA tool

- Two FAFSA reports are now available for districts and high schools in EDWIN Analytics: FAFSA Completion Report Summary CR307and FAFSA Completion Report Detail CR607.
- The reports are compiled from FAFSA data from the US
 Department of Education via the Massachusetts
 Department of Higher Education matched to data submitted by districts, such as Student Information
 Management System (SIMS) and other sources. The information is dynamic will be updated multiple times weekly;
- Access to Edwin is determined by your school district, access to student level data is critical for this report.

https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/ccr/ewis/fafsa-tool.docx

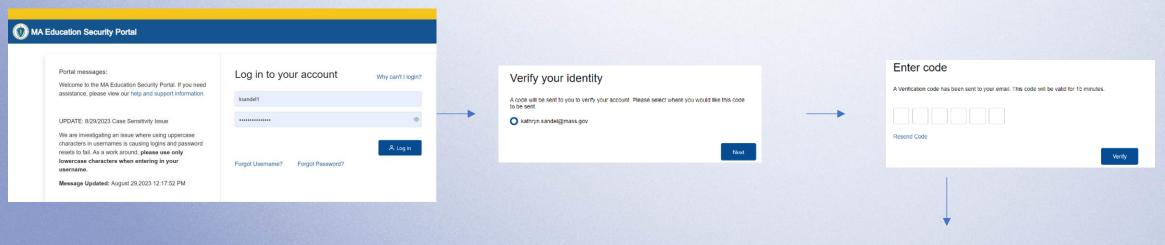


Logging into Edwin

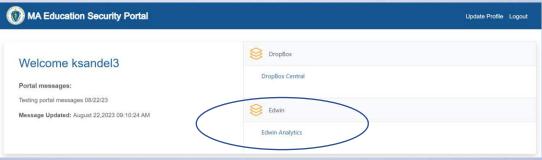


Edwin operates a little differently! For tips see

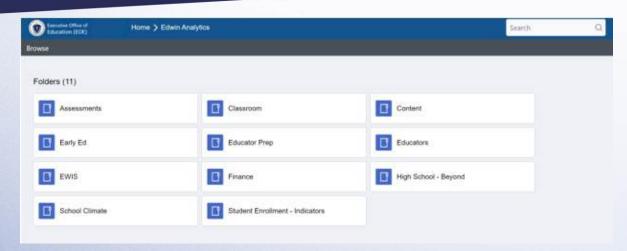
https://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/UsingEdwin.docx





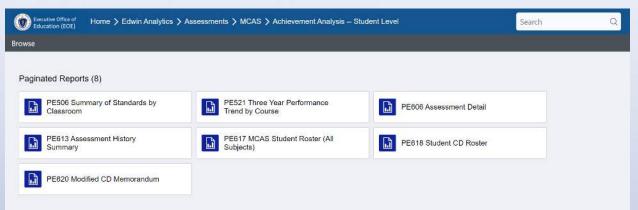


Edwin homepage



Use search box to look for report by name or keyword

Reports grouped by topic/subtopic



TIP: Hit the green button!!!



After you change ANY prompts- you must hit the VIEW REPORT button to see new data

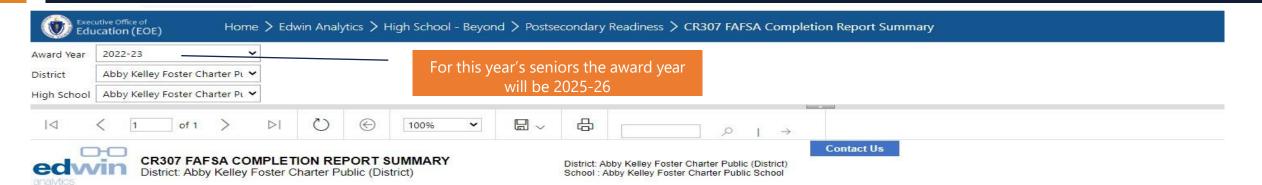
- If the "View Report" is Green, hit the button to view new data.
- Even if the report screen goes momentarily blank or you see a "fetching data" box appear on the screen, new data will not be displayed until you use the button.
- Once you have made all the changes to the prompts that you want, hit the green "view report" button to see new info.
- You are not seeing the data reflected by the prompts you picked if the view report button is green!

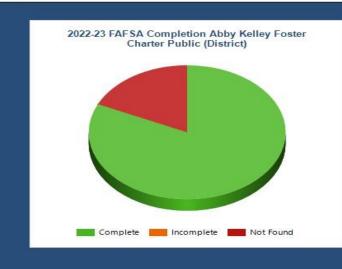
FAFSA in Edwin

- 2 reports
 - District/school view (CR307 FAFSA Completion Report Summary)
 - Student level (CR607 FAFSA Completion Report Detail)
- FAFSA data updated regularly
 - Generally updated 2 to 3 times a week, with about a week lag time When choosing the "award year, it will be 2025-26 for current seniors (the year they are receiving the award)
- Student identified as Submitted or Not Found
 - Submitted are complete or incomplete (no signature, missing information, SSN and/or Name mismatch)



CR307: District/School View FAFSA Report





	# of students (12th grade & SP)	Submitted	Complete	Incomplete	Not Found
State	75,371	41,958 (56%)	41,203 (55%)	755 (1%)	33,413 (44%)
District	94	77 (82%)	77 (82%)	0 (0%)	17 (18%)

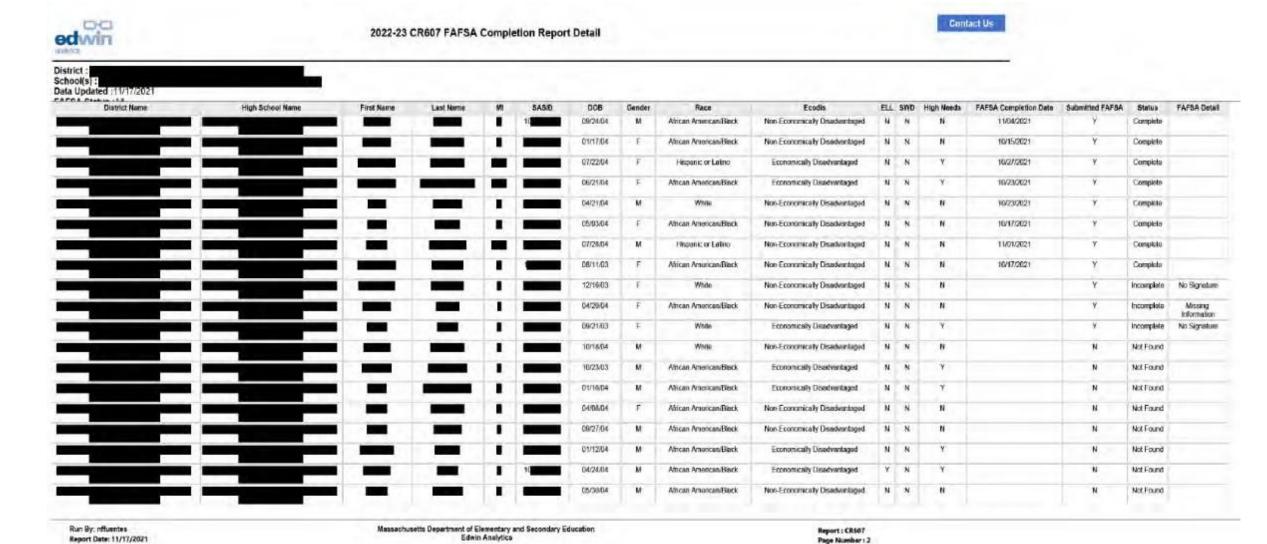
Disclaimers: Data in these reports are compiled from SIMS and other sources and matched with FAFSA data provided from the US Department of Education. Various matching techniques have been applied to maximize identification of students. Despite these matching techniques, the report will have students listed as 'not found' who may have completed a FAFSA but are not recorded here due to those matches not being complete.

The information is dynamic FAFSA information is updated several times a week, and number of students reflects current enrollment and is updated daily. As a result, representations may be different than shown in an earlier reporting period.

Number of students reflects current enrollment of 12th grade students and SP students (or, students in Special Education beyond 12th grade).

Data suppressed if total number of students is 10 or less.

CR607: Student Level FAFSA Report



"Hey, Alex said they did FAFSA" and other quick tips

- Alex may have, it may have just been done or it may have not been matched correctly, unmatched students are still in the file, they are just at the end (page down all the way) in the html version. You will also find some students who put your high school down as their high school, those students may have been long past graduates.
- Consider if you are really trying to track down kids, downloading the
 excel file from Edwin, all the seniors that are in the unmatched
 will be in there as well. This way it may be easier to work together
 with your in school and out of school partners on college access.

FYI: There is not a manual way to "fix" this match in Edwin, it's an automated system with around 70,000 high school students a year.

