

Louisiana Believes

Financial Aid Planning: A Critical Component to Post-Secondary Success

Financial Aid Policy

Students graduating spring 2018 and beyond must have taken one of the following steps as part of their graduation requirements:

- Submit the [FAFSA](#)
- Complete the [Louisiana TOPS form](#)
- Submit an opt-out [non-participation form](#)
- Receive a [waiver](#) through school system

Several resources are available on the [Financial Aid web page](#) to support schools in ensuring students meet this graduation requirement.

LOSFA's [Compete to Complete](#) tool is a way to track school *completion* rates.

Please email LDEFinancialAid@la.gov with questions.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Students started submitting the 2019-2020 FAFSA as early as October 1, 2018.
- The financial aid application process is more aligned with the college application process.
- Students could potentially be eligible for additional federal, state, institutional aid.

2018-19 FAFSA Submission Data

From USDOE as of December 28, 2018

Sabine Parish 66%
Madison Parish 61%
Iberville Parish 56%
Beauregard Parish 50%
Livingston Parish 48%
St. Charles Parish 47%
Jefferson Davis 47%
West Baton Rouge Parish 44%
St. Tammany Parish 43%
Grant Parish 42%
Allen Parish 42%
Union Parish 40%
Rapides Parish 40%
St. Mary Parish 39%
Winn Parish 39%
Bienville Parish 39%
St. Bernard Parish 39%
East Baton Rouge Parish 38%
Lafourche Parish 37%
Washington Parish 36%
Vernon Parish 35%
Caldwell Parish 35%
City of Bogalusa Dist. 35%
East Feliciana Parish 34%
St. John the Baptist Parish 34%

West Feliciana Parish 34%
Lafayette Parish 34%
Tangipahoa Parish 34%
Cameron Parish 34%
Avoyelles Parish 34%
Ascension Parish 33%
Plaquemines Parish 33%
City of Monroe Dist. 32%
Bossier Parish 31%
Ouachita Parish 31%
Red River Parish 31%
Evangeline Parish 31%
Vermilion Parish 31%
Terrebonne Parish 31%
Central Community Dist. 31%
Caddo Parish 31%
Natchitoches Parish 31%
Zachary Community Dist. 31%
Assumption Parish 30%
St. Landry Parish 30%
Franklin Parish 30%
Calcasieu Parish 28%
St. Martin Parish 28%
St. James Parish 27%
Webster Parish 27%

Iberia Parish 25%
DeSoto Parish 24%
St. Helena Parish 24%
Acadia Parish 23%
LaSalle Parish 23%
Morehouse Parish 22%
Concordia Parish 21%
Pointe Coupee Parish 18%
Lincoln Parish 18%
West Carroll Parish 17%
Richland Parish 16%
City of Baker Dist. 13%
Claiborne Parish 13%
Catahoula Parish 0%
East Carroll Parish 0.0%
Tensas Parish 0.0%

LOSFA Completion Report

- LOSFA's completion report provides school administrators with student level data, such as names and if the application has been submitted with errors.
- School systems should begin requesting the report twice a month from November to May. Administrator will use the report to target students who haven't satisfied the graduation requirement.
- Schools should seek out partnerships with Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), higher education institutions, and financial aid assistance groups to assist with the FAFSA Errors.

FAFSA Errors

- Student signature missing
- Parent signature missing
- Social Security Number incorrect
- Date of birth incorrect
- Name not matched with SSA

FAFSA Completion Success Strategies

- Superintendents, supervisors, and principals should stress the importance and benefits of completing the application to students and parents.
- Remind parents about FAFSA with “Save the Date” cards.
- Send out robo calls along with text messages to remind students and parents.
- Offer some time during the school day for parents to stop in to receive assistance.
- Offer T-shirts or food.

FAFSA Completion Success Strategies

- JAG Specialist assistance
- Start talking to parents about FAFSA completion in August or September
- Hold Senior/Graduation Night after October 1 and incorporate FAFSA
- School or classroom competitions
- Partner with athletic events to encourage parent participation
- Partner with financial aid assistance groups: LOSFA, LELA, Career Compass, etc.

Resources

- [LDE Financial Aid web page](#)
- [Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events](#)
- LDE Financial Aid Unit
- [LOSFA](#)
- Partnering with higher education institutions
- Financial Aid Assistance Groups ([LELA](#), [Career Compass](#), College & Career Transitions Coordinators)

Questions

Email Idefinancialaid@la.gov