Pass Universal FAFSA in New York

To access state and federal grants and loans, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Each year, more than 13 million students across the country have access to $120 billion dollars in federal aid, work-study, and low-interest federal loans.

Students Miss Out on Financial Aid

In the 2018-19 academic year, New York students left $200 million of federal aid on the table because they did not fill out the FAFSA.

FAFSA Completion Key to College Access

Students who complete the FAFSA by the end of their high school year are 84% more likely to enroll in college. FAFSA completion rates have declined during the pandemic, specifically for students who identify as BIPOC, low-income, and first-generation college students. Low-income students are less likely to enroll in college immediately after graduating high school (67%) compared to high-income peers (87%).

FAFSA Policies Have Proven Impact

Louisiana became the first state to implement a universal FAFSA policy in 2018 and eight states have followed. Louisiana requires seniors to complete a state aid and federal aid application to graduate. The state bolstered their support for students, tripling the number of FAFSA completion workshops and saw a 26% increase in FAFSA completion in the 2018-19 academic year.

Pass Universal FAFSA

To ensure that all students are accessing financial aid funding, policymakers **must pass S1983 requiring all high school students to complete the FAFSA prior to receiving their high school diploma**. School districts would be required to support students in FAFSA completion and to share information about state financial aid

$200 Million

Financial aid left on the table in NY

"As a student, the aid that FAFSA gives allows me to worry less about being indebted to my college and more about what I want to study through higher education." -Saima, CUNY Brooklyn College