ROCHESTER FAFSA FACTS

Rochester College Access Network *March 2016*

Over 200 Students Get Help With Financial Aid Forms at FAFSA Fest

More than 200 students and 300 family members came through rain, snow, sleet, and sun to libraries, rec-centers, and schools to receive assistance in filing federal and state financial aid forms through FAFSA Fest. At seven events, trained volunteers and financial aid professionals worked with families and students to complete FAFSA and TAP applications and make college a more affordable reality.

According to Rochester College Access Network, which organized six of the seven events, encouraging students to file early is a key because most financial aid is distributed on a *first come, first served* basis. Therefore, by filling out their forms before the end of March, the over 200 students who FAFSA Fest events are more likely to receive generous financial aid packages than students who opt to file later in the year.

Thanks to all the volunteers and partners who helped make this year's FAFSA Fest successful and an even bigger "thank you" to the families who made the time in their busy schedules to attend!

Change in Filing Deadline Sparks Increased Filings at Most Schools

Submissions are up at most RCSD and charter schools in Rochester thanks to FAFSA Fest and an earlier start to the 2017/18 FAFSA filing period! In total, all but three Rochester City School District and charter schools have followed that trend.

Changing the beginning of the filing period to October 1st, up from January 1st, has opened up opportunities for more students to file earlier- the key to receiving the maximum amount of financial aid.

Four schools, World of Inquiry, Rochester Academy Charter School, School Without Walls, and University Prep Charter School all have completion rates of above 50% compared to zero this time last year.

Six additional schools (Integrated Arts, Wilson, Leadership Academy, NE College Prep, Career Mentoring, And School of the Arts) need fewer than sixteen additional submissions to eclipse 50% which would mean that over 66% of RCSD and charter schools would have a completion rate of at least 50%.

Most other schools have posted double digit growth in submissions over 2016 with the largest growth occurring at East (32) and Edison (26).

Roc. City and Charter HSs by FAFSA Completion Rate[1]

School	3/10/2017 Completion Rate	3/10/2016 Completion Rate
World of Inquiry	60%	48%
School W/O Walls	54%	44%
Academy Charter[2]	54%	22%
U. Prep Charter[2]	51%	32%
School of the Arts	46%	42%
Integrated Arts	44%	29%
Joseph C Wilson	41%	30%
NE College Prep	40%	25%
East	32%	17%
Early College	28%	39%
Leadership Acad.	24%	17%
James Monroe	21%	30%
Vanguard	21%	9%
Edison	19%	7%
Career Mentoring[2]	18%	29%

[1] Using 3/10 submission data studentaid.ed.gov [2] Charters

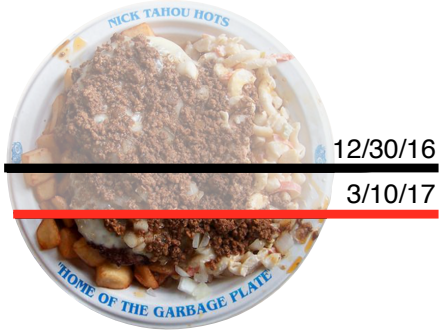
About Rochester College Access Network: A program of Rochester Education Foundation, RCAN is a collaborative group founded in 2013 to support college access and success through coordinated communication, coalition, and advocacy for students in Rochester to meet their full potentials.The group includes representatives from local colleges and universities, not-for-profit organizations, philanthropic organizations and businesses.

Rochester FAFSA Filing Rate Ahead of 2016

Increasing the FAFSA filing rate among Rochester public school seniors is one of RCAN's strategic goals. Looking at Federal filing data from early March, Rochester seniors have so far submitted 574 FAFSAs which is an increase of 168 over a year ago. Overall, 34% of seniors have filed the form compared to around 20% last March.

By the end of December 2016, slightly fewer than half of 2016 graduates had submitted FAFSAs. We are hoping that schools, counselors, and community partners can build on their current momentum and surpass the 49% filing rate by the end of 2017. A list of local FAFSA resources is available online at www.rochestercan.org.

How Full's Our FAFSA Plate?



The Whos, Whats, Wheres, and Whys Of FAFSA Fest

In total, 212 students received assistance in filing the FAFSA and TAP applications. As in year's past the College Goal New York event at East High School (promoted but not organized by RCAN) received the most attendees at 78 followed by 56 attendees at the December 1st RCAN event at SUNY Brockport's Rochester Educational Opportunity Center, 28 at Franklin Campus, 17 at Maplewood Library, 16 at Wilson HS, 12 at Wheatley Library, and 5 at the Frederick Douglass R-Center. Of the 101 evaluations we collected, 100 rated their experience as good or great and 75% strongly agreed that attending FAFSA Fest was going to help them attend college.

Who were the attendees?	
Identified Gender	Male 52%
	Female 48%
First Gen College?	No 52%
	Yes 48%
Diversity	Black 53%
	Hispanic 22%
	White 13%
Income	Under $20k: 22%
	$20-40: 21%
	Above $40: 16%
	No response: 42%
Current enrollment status	High School 84%
	Not enrolled 9%
	College 4%

Roc. City and Charter HS FAFSA Fest Attendance

School	RCAN	College Goal	TOTAL
All City	6	2	8
Early College	3	2	5
East	14	33	47
Edison	4	6	10
Integrated Arts	1	3	4
Leadership Acad.	5	1	6
Monroe	9	4	13
NE College Prep	5	3	8
Roc. Intl' Academy	1	0	1
Roc. Academy	1	0	1
Career Mentoring	1	0	1
Rochester Prep*	2	0	2
School of the Arts	15	10	25
School W/O Walls	4	1	5
U. Prep Charter	7	5	12
Vanguard	4	2	6
Wilson	13	2	15
World of Inquiry	7	2	9
TOTAL ROC. HS	102	76	178

ROCHESTER COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK
A Program of Rochester Education Foundation

250 Mill St., Rochester, NY 14614
585-271-5790
info@rochestereducation.org
www.RochesterEducation.org
www.RochesterCAN.org
Find us on Twitter: RochesterCan