SHOW-ME
FAFSA CHALLENGE

Most Innovative Strategy Award Guidelines

What is the purpose of this award?

This award category aims to be inclusive by allowing consideration of any school no matter what its completion levels are. Submissions can also be used to collect best practices to be shared with schools across Missouri.

How do schools enter?

To be considered, schools must submit an entry form by April 1, 2021. The submission form will be available on the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge webpage.

What information is needed for submission?

Schools will provide a description of FAFSA completion strategies, as well as descriptions of successes and challenges. Photos, pdfs, and screenshots of digital outreach (social media, etc.) may be submitted as supporting material, but are not required. Submission of a video testimonial by the person and/or team responsible for implementation is encouraged.

Survey Questions
1. Describe the strategies you implemented to increase awareness and completion of the FAFSA among high school students. Which were the most effective? Ineffective?
2. What successes did you have, and what factors contributed to those successes?
3. What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?
4. Did you make changes to your approach during the challenge period? If so, why did you change course?
5. Describe the involvement of the school community (teachers, staff, and administration) and the greater community in your FAFSA completion strategies.
6. Describe how you or the school plan to sustain the FAFSA completion efforts in the coming years. How might things change next year? What lessons did you learn?

How will the submissions be judged?

Submissions will be judged by members of the FAFSA Completion Advisory Group, which is made up of partners from across Missouri, as well as select MDHEWD staff. Submissions will have identifying information removed during judging to eliminate bias.

Rubric

Each submission will be scored in the following categories according to the rubric, with room for comments.

Category	Score-1	Score-2	Score-3	Score-4
Uniqueness of strategy	Strategy has been used before in many schools in exactly this way.	Strategy has been used before in many schools, but has been customized in a unique way to fit the school.	Strategy is relatively new and has been used in a few schools, but has been customized in a unique way to fit the school.	Strategy is completely new and has been pioneered by this school.
Creativity	Strategy used only pre-made materials and resources.	Strategy used mostly pre-made materials and resources, and used some original and/or customized resources.	Strategy used some pre-made materials and resources, and mostly original and/or customized resources.	Strategy used almost exclusively original or customized resources.
Engagement	School community (teachers, staff administration) is not involved in strategy at any point. Overall community is not engaged at all with FAFSA completion efforts at the school.	School community (teachers, staff, administration) aware of and involved at some point in the strategy. Overall community is not engaged at all with FAFSA completion efforts at the school.	School community (teachers, staff, administration) and overall community are aware of and involved at some point in the strategy.	Both school and overall community are very involved. Community members take an active role in promoting FAFSA completion at the school.
FAFSA Completion Trends	School completion rate has decreased by more than 2.5%.	School completion rate has stayed stable, within +/- 2.5%.	School completion rate has increased by more than 2.5%	N/A
Replicability	Strategy will not be able to be implemented again.	Strategy may be successful again at this school, but is not likely to work in other schools.	Strategy may be successful again at this school, and could be used as a best practice for other schools to implement.	Strategy will likely be successful again at this school, and could be used as a best practice for other schools to implement.

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