



**SHOW-ME**  
FAFSA CHALLENGE

# SHOW-ME FAFSA CHALLENGE

The Show-Me FAFSA Challenge is a statewide FAFSA completion competition among Missouri public high schools. Schools will compete with each other for scholarship prizes to be awarded to one of their students in categories such as highest completion rate and most improved completion rate. Visit the [Show-Me FAFSA Challenge webpage](#) for more details. Contact Kara Oberkrom at [kara.oberkrom@dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:kara.oberkrom@dhewd.mo.gov) with questions.

## COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Show-Me FAFSA Challenge will be active from October 1, when the 2021-2022 FAFSA opens, until April 1, at the state aid deadline. Schools may monitor progress using the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge online tracker throughout the competition period.

Every public high school in the state will automatically be eligible for participation, and will automatically appear on the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge online tracker.

Schools will be sorted into three groups by size as follows:

Group	School Size (Number of students)	Number of Schools in group	Number of students in group*
A	0 – 500	365 schools	66,040 students
B	501 – 1200	79 schools	61,375 students
C	1200+	83 schools	135,242 students

\*Estimates based on 2019-2020 academic year school populations

Schools with five or fewer seniors will appear on the online tracker, but will show no data for security purposes. Schools showing no data may contact [FAFSACompletionProject@dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:FAFSACompletionProject@dhewd.mo.gov) for information on obtaining their completion status percentages.

A list of schools in each group will be published by MDHEWD at the start of the competition. This list will supersede any school population fluctuations that occur throughout the academic year.

Each school will determine their own level of engagement with MDHEWD for the purposes of the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge.

# AWARD CATEGORIES

1

## HIGHEST COMPLETION OVERALL

The school with the highest FAFSA completion percentage on April 1, 2021 will win this category. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be held between the tied schools.

2

## MOST IMPROVED COMPLETION

The school with the greatest percentage increase in FAFSA completions from April 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021 will win this category. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be held between the tied schools.

3

## GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF LOWEST INCOME STUDENTS FILED

The school with the greatest percentage of their total filers who are Pell Grant eligible as of April 1, 2021 will win this category. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be held between the tied schools.

4

## MOST INNOVATIVE STRATEGY

This award requires a submission from each school by April 1, 2021. The submission form will be found on the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge webpage. Submissions can include stories, testimonials, videos, photos, and social media screenshots. Winners in this category will be decided by a panel of judges who will review submissions.

Additionally, any school that reaches or exceeds the state goal of 60% completion will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Once the 60% threshold is met, schools are eligible for up to two additional drawing entries for their participation in FAFSA Frenzy as a registered 2020-21 Journey to College Site Coordinator and in the FAFSA Completion Project with a current data sharing agreement on file with MDHEWD.

# PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for the winner in each category in each group and the winner of the statewide drawing. Each category prize is a scholarship of \$750. The drawing prize is a \$1,000 scholarship.

Winning schools will designate one of their graduating seniors who will attend a Missouri institution in 2021 as the scholarship recipient. MDHEWD recommends choosing prize recipients by random drawing of eligible seniors, however schools may choose a different selection method if desired. If a different method is used, the selection process must be shared with MDHEWD.

The school will be responsible for sending the recipient's name, contact information, and institution information to MDHEWD by June 1, 2021. If the school has no seniors that will be attending institutions in Missouri, the prize will be awarded to the second-place school in the category or the drawing will be conducted again.

Scholarship funds will be disbursed by the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge Sponsors directly to the recipient's Missouri institution.

# SPONSORS

