



UNIVERSAL FAFSA

Universal FAFSA Policies' impact

- No evidence that these policies have harmful effects
- Evidence that it leads to an increase in completed FAFSAs
- Louisiana saw the greatest success translating its gains in FAFSAs into gains in Pell Grant receipt

Best Practices are incorporated



A form that allows both students and parents to opt out without providing extra personal details.



Hardship/Special Circumstance Waiver Authorized by School/District Personnel



Option to fill out the new MASFA instead of FAFSA



Financial resources to Schools and community-based organizations for program implementation



Supports collaboration between K12 and higher education groups for implementation.

Ensuring Universal FAFSA Policy Success in Massachusetts

To translate FAFSAs completion gains in

- Increased college enrollment
- More Pell Grants recipients



Universal FAFSA policies should be deliberately coupled with college guidance for students.

Cost Estimates of FAFSA Support for Massachusetts

Per student cost estimates are derived by the author based on established industry benchmarks.

Completion Rate	60.86%
12th Gr Enrollment 2022-2023	75390
FAFSA Completions	45879
FAFSA Non-filers	29511
FAFSA support only \$180-\$200 per student	\$5,607,090
College guidance support and FAFSA support \$450 per student	\$13,279,950
Targeted approach with mix of both approaches	\$9,443,520

Table: by Hildreth Institute • Source: Enrollment and FAFSA completions data from the National FAFSA Tracker- Massachusetts. • Created with Datawrapper

The cost of a program designed for success ranges from \$9.5M to \$13M.