All in for Financial Aid Briefing: Governor Newsom's Proposal to Increase Financial Aid Application Completion
Agenda

1. Welcome and celebrate partners
2. Why are we fighting for financial aid completion?
3. Governor’s proposal on financial aid completion
4. Key advocacy dates
5. Panel discussion on the impact of the Governor’s proposal on students and district leaders
6. FAQ and Q&A
THANK YOU!

50+ organizations signed on to our coalition letter in support of the Governor’s FAFSA/CADAA proposal
Shernae Hughes
College Prep Advisor and
Public Policy Advocacy Fellow
BLU Educational Foundation

Dar'rell Jones
College Prep Advisor
BLU Educational Foundation
BLU Overview

Who We Are

BLU Educational Foundation began its work in 2001 as a response to the higher education challenges faced by families with limited opportunities in California's Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties)

Our Mission

To provide educational and human services programming to youth, adults and organizations in order to build healthy, productive communities.
Where it all Began

FEBRUARY 21, 2011 - MARCH 2, 2011

FAFSA CRUNCH GET MORE MONEY & SCHOOL

Congratulations to this week’s Raffle winner.
Go Hawks!

WWW.BLUEDFOUNDATION.ORG
BLU’s Financial Aid Achievements

AB 2015 (2019)
The bill requires that students are given critical information pertaining to the FAFSA and the CA Dream Act prior to their senior year.

Leave No Money on The Table (2020)
A three-tiered strategy which utilizes state-wide, regional, and local initiatives to increase FAFSA/Dream Act completion rates and educational equity throughout the Inland Empire.
Denise Castro
Policy Analyst
The Education Trust-West
#All In For Financial Aid Timeline

- Financial Aid Tracker
- Paving the Path to College Aid
- Assembly Bill 1617
- Governor’s proposal for LEAs to ensure that seniors complete and submit the FAFSA or CADAA

Governor’s proposal to increase financial aid application completion is included in the final budget.

**The Cost of Opportunity**

**Assembly Bill 2160**

**#Allin4FinancialAid campaign**

**Hidden Figures: A Framework to Increase Access to Financial Aid**
Tyler Wu
Director of Policy
uAspire
In 2020, only 54% of California’s graduating seniors completed the FAFSA or CA Dream Act application.
In 2018-19, nearly half-million high school seniors did not complete a FAFSA or CADAA leaving nearly $550 million on the table in federal and state aid.
Why this is an equity issue?

High schools with high concentrations of low-income students and students of color have some of the lowest financial aid application rates in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
<th>% FAFSA / CADAA completers</th>
<th>% Free / Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>% Students of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stockton High</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>10.76%</td>
<td>77.21%</td>
<td>87.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield High</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>26.19%</td>
<td>73.67%</td>
<td>68.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California City High</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>27.21%</td>
<td>76.49%</td>
<td>74.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Hills High</td>
<td>1,453</td>
<td>29.25%</td>
<td>70.13%</td>
<td>63.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosamond High Early College Campus</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>30.21%</td>
<td>69.89%</td>
<td>66.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallejo High</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>30.77%</td>
<td>72.06%</td>
<td>77.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsie Allen High</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>31.27%</td>
<td>66.18%</td>
<td>80.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Verde High</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>31.29%</td>
<td>63.45%</td>
<td>70.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stagg Senior High</td>
<td>1,714</td>
<td>34.17%</td>
<td>75.26%</td>
<td>77.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Miller Dorsey High</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>35.93%</td>
<td>74.28%</td>
<td>97.94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: List is limited to traditional public, non-charter, high schools with enrollment greater than 100, above state average % free/reduced lunch recipients, and above state average % student of color enrollment.
During the pandemic, California has seen a decline of about 45% in first-time freshman CADAA completion rates and 10% in first-time freshman FAFSA completion rates.
What is the Governor’s proposal to increase financial aid application completion?

Governor Newsom’s proposed 2021-2022 Education Budget, included a proposal for local education agencies (school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools) to confirm that all high school seniors complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), California Dream Act Application (CADAA), or opt-out of doing so.
What is the Governor’s proposal to increase financial aid application completion?

Defines students and LEAs (school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools)

Start date: 2021-2022 school year

Says LEA governing boards must confirm students either:
- Fill out FAFSA;
- Fill out CADAA;
- Complete a parent or emancipated student opt-out;
- LEAs complete an extenuating circumstance waiver.
What is the Governor’s proposal to increase financial aid application completion?

- Designates LEAs to connect parents and students with services or programs run by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to help them complete forms.
- Ensures that any information sharing in compliance with this proposal abides by state and federal privacy laws.
- Confirms LEAs have discretion on how to implement this.
- LEAs can be reimbursed for the costs of activities if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this contains costs mandated by the state.
What is the All In For Financial Aid campaign?

No students should be denied the opportunity to go to college just because they did not know about their financial aid options.

Join the All in For Financial Aid Campaign to ensure that the California 2021-2022 budget allows for all high school seniors to complete a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Learn more by going to: edtrustwest.org/Allin4FinancialAid
Important Dates

March 16, 2021
Assembly Budget hearing at 9 am PST
Turn out for public comment and show your support for this important measure.

April 20-21, 2021
Advocacy Day at 9:30 am PST
To support the Governor’s FAFSA/CADAA proposal.
bit.ly/ETWAAdvocacyDay
What do legislators need to hear from you?

- **Tell them your story** about why financial aid matters to you
- **Highlight that this is a door of opportunity** for low-income students and students of color to get the financial aid they need
- **Stress that over half of California’s K-12 students are low-income and yet barely half our high school seniors apply for financial aid**
- **Show them this policy has worked in California’s own Val Verde Unified School District – and that we need a statewide solution**

[edtrustwest.org/Allin4Financialaid](edtrustwest.org/Allin4Financialaid)
Panel Discussion

Why is this proposal so important?

What impact will this proposal have on students, schools, and districts?
Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Is the Governor’s proposal a graduation requirement? How does the Governor’s proposal on LEA confirmation differ from a graduation requirement?

Q2: How does this proposal address undocumented students’ privacy concerns?

Q3: Are there any consequences for students or LEAs for lack of FAFSA/CADAA completion?

Q4: Will there be funding provided to help LEAs?
**Important Dates**

March 16, 2021
Assembly Budget hearing at 9 am PST
Turn out for public comment and show your support for this important measure.

April 20-21, 2021
Advocacy Day at 9:30 am PST
To support the Governor’s FAFSA/CADAA proposal.
bit.ly/ETWAdvocacyDay
Contact Us

Shernae Hughes  
BLU Educational Foundation  
shughes@bluedfoundation.org

Dar’rell Jones  
BLU Educational Foundation  
djones@bluedfoundation.org

Tyler Wu  
uAspire  
tylerw@uaspire.org

Denise Castro  
The Education Trust-West  
dcastro@edtrustwest.org