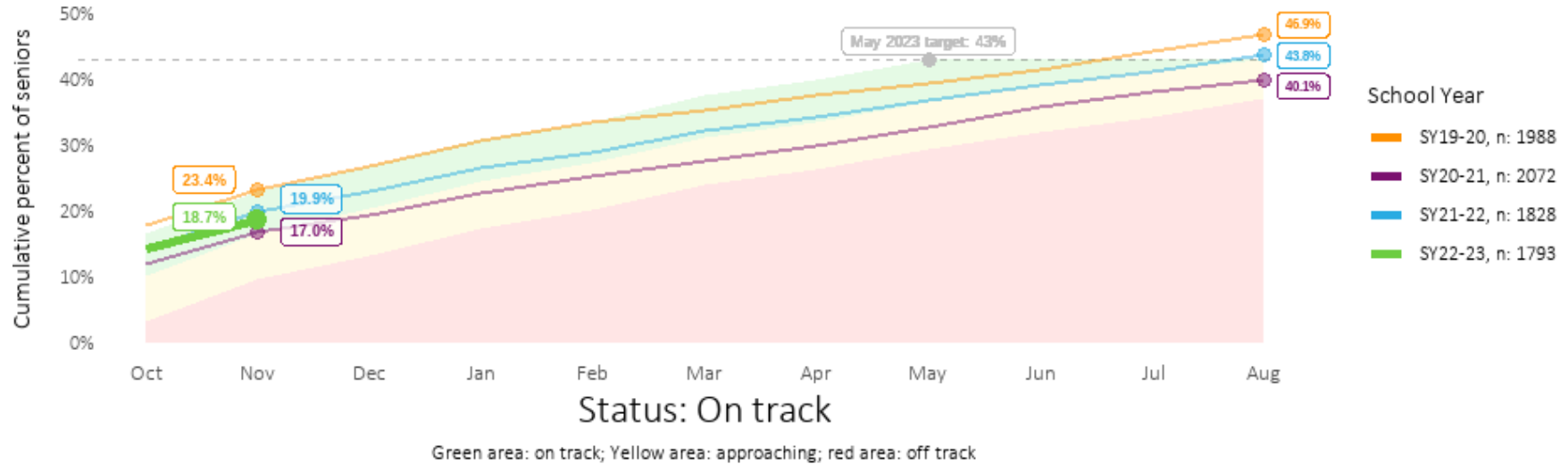


Tulsa Public Schools 2022-2027 Strategic Plan: Goal Monitoring Report

Interim Goal 3.3: Percentage of 12th grade students who complete FAFSA or other approved financial aid application will increase from 36% in May 2022 to 70% in May 2027.



Students of interest

Seniors who were enrolled at the end of the school year are included in this measure.

Seniors who do not complete the FAFSA, including students who are undocumented, are included through their completion of other approved financial aid applications

Students who complete the FAFSA as well as other approved financial aid applications are only included once.

Metric definition

Students are eligible to begin filling out the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) on October 1 of their senior year.

Other approved financial aid applications include institutional aid provided by colleges and career schools and private scholarships offered by businesses, foundations, etc. We used student survey information to track these applications and that data is included in the 21-22 school year.

This report includes FAFSAs filled out from October of a student's senior year through the following August. The most recent full month of data available at the time of reporting was November of the 2022-2023 school year.

Next steps and current conditions

Anticipated next steps follow up	Action taken	Progress
<p>We are designing a communication campaign to help families and students understand the importance of financial aid, how to complete the applications, and where they can go to get help. Another goal is to show students that postsecondary training opportunities can be within reach if they take advantage of available aid.</p>	<p>The financial aid communication campaign includes district wide and site based financial information nights, text message updates, and letters.</p>	<p>Each high school is providing at least two FAFSA nights this year. The postsecondary readiness team hosted two district wide financial information events this Fall and plan to host more in the Spring. These events allow families and students to learn about the financial aid options and get support filling out applications.</p> <p>Students and families began receiving text alerts about financial aid via talking points and email from their school counselors.</p> <p>Families of seniors who've started but not completed the OK Promise application have gotten letters/emails about the application deadline of December 30th.</p>
<p>We are working on a way to track and monitor the other approved financial aid applications that will provide reliable data and allow counselors to better support students in their search for postsecondary funding.</p>	<p>The counseling and advising team created a list of financial aid opportunities available including for students ineligible for FAFSA.</p>	<p>Counselors and advisors use this list of available financial aid as they meet with students about their postsecondary plans.</p>

Insights

Of cohort 2022, 12 students applied for the My Dream Scholarship offered by Tulsa Community College.

We've seen an increase in attendance at financial information sessions and application nights as students and families learn more about the opportunities available. These events rely heavily on volunteers knowledgeable about the process.

Last year, we learned that a district wide push for financial aid information sessions was not the best approach to increase participation so this year we shifted to provide more site based events. This led to an increase in attendance from previous years.

Next Steps

As we work with community partners, we are sharing information about these opportunities so that they can help ensure our students and families are knowledgeable about all of the financial options available to them.

We anticipate that student/family need for support will increase in the Spring so we are ramping up our efforts to secure volunteers to support students and families.

We are also working with school teams to identify dates for FAFSA/Financial Aid events for Fall 2023 so that students and families can be notified of these events early and often.

We are engaging students and families in focus groups and empathy interviews to better understand the barriers to completion so that we can create a plan that addresses their concerns and needs.

We are continuing to work with community partners and local churches to host FAFSA nights to give families more and closer options.

Percentage of 12th grade students who have completed FAFSA or other approved financial aid application, breakdowns by category

Ethnicity	Nov SY20-21		Nov SY21-22		Nov SY22-23	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
African American	14.3%	568	16.6%	471	13.3%	442
Asian	38.2%	34	37.0%	46	23.3%	43
Hispanic/Latinx	12.7%	716	15.7%	651	17.5%	635
Multiracial	19.3%	161	20.7%	140	19.4%	170
Native American	21.2%	104	21.5%	93	25.7%	74
Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*	*
White	23.5%	480	28.3%	414	25.0%	416

IEP Status	Nov SY20-21		Nov SY21-22		Nov SY22-23	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
No	19.3%	1,707	22.8%	1,497	20.8%	1,482
Yes	6.0%	365	6.9%	331	9.2%	304

Economically Disadvantaged	Nov SY20-21		Nov SY21-22		Nov SY22-23	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
No	25.6%	493	28.3%	623	22.4%	577
Yes	14.3%	1,579	15.6%	1,205	17.0%	1,216

Quadrant	Nov SY20-21		Nov SY21-22		Nov SY22-23	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
1	15.2%	422	19.9%	336	15.6%	346
2	16.9%	433	16.3%	423	18.9%	424
3	13.6%	627	14.8%	546	15.7%	510
4	22.6%	522	28.0%	472	24.0%	459
Out of District	22.2%	54	31.9%	47	23.5%	51

*Data points were hidden due to small sample sizes

Gender	Nov SY20-21		Nov SY21-22		Nov SY22-23	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Female	21.5%	1,050	24.4%	914	22.0%	894
Male	12.3%	1,022	15.4%	914	15.5%	899

Multilingual Learner	Nov SY20-21		Nov SY21-22		Nov SY22-23	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Former	18.6%	419	21.9%	415	22.3%	390
No	18.9%	1,383	22.8%	1,162	20.1%	1,169
Yes	4.4%	270	3.2%	251	6.0%	234

Appendix

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA and why it matters

The FAFSA is the application through which eligibility for federal student financial aid is assessed. Through the FAFSA, students can gain access to postsecondary education funding including grants, loans, and work-study programs. While submitting the FAFSA does not guarantee that a student will receive federal aid, *failing* to submit the FAFSA usually pushes postsecondary education, including job training, beyond reach. This is why completing the FAFSA is one of the single most important steps that most seniors can take to finance postsecondary educational options. The FAFSA is also widely used by colleges and private scholarship providers as a means to assess financial need for their awards. And most important to our students, Oklahoma also uses the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state aid including the Oklahoma Promise scholarship.

FAFSA-eligible and ineligible students

Students who are citizens and eligible non-citizens can complete the FAFSA. Eligible non-citizens include US nationals, permanent residents, and individuals with an arrival-departure record.

The FAFSA cannot be completed by undocumented students including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. This makes FAFSA a necessary-but-insufficient tool and planning step for Tulsa Public School seniors. Tulsa Public Schools is working to address this federally imposed limit by identifying and connecting impacted students to available scholarship programs to help cover the costs of postsecondary education.

Promising Practices

- **FAFSA Support Plan** - This year, school counseling teams have collaborated with the college and career advisors to create FAFSA Support Plans. These plans include current FAFSA completion rates, desired goals, and actionable steps to get there. Many of these support plans included targeted outreach to students who began but did not complete the application, information sessions, and one-on-one support.
- **In-Person Assistance to Complete Applications**- We are working on consistently providing timely information to families and students about the importance of financial aid and in-person help with completing applications. Recently, we have been seeing an increase in touchpoints that result in students completing the FAFSA and scholarship applications in our buildings.
- **Supporting Conditions for FAFSA Completion**- Most students applying for FAFSA will be required to include parental tax information so we are working to connect families with community partners that provide tax preparation support. We are also providing timely reminders about the connection between taxes and the FAFSA so that our parents of juniors can begin preparing for their FAFSA window now.

Commonly asked questions

What does “monitored/exited” multilingual student mean? Why is their performance regularly higher than their peers?

The term former multilingual learner was determined to be inaccurate as we are all always growing and developing our language skills in all of our languages. ‘Monitored/exited multilingual learners’ is the term used to indicate that multilingual learners satisfied state requirements of proficiency in the English language. Following the proficient score, we monitor these students for four years to ensure continued success in academics and language. During this period they are still eligible for some supports as needed. Once students successfully complete the four year monitoring period, they then become exited multilingual learners, meaning they have satisfied all requirements of the English language development program.

Students classified as monitored/exited multilingual learners have satisfied the state requirement of a composite score of 4.8 on the ACCESS English language proficiency assessment. This means that the student has achieved an advanced level of proficiency. As we know from research, students who become fully multilingual regularly engage more of their brain capacity and perform at higher levels than students with only one language.

Which students are Out of District?

The majority of our out-of-district students come from three groups: children of district employees, who are allowed to enroll in Tulsa Public Schools no matter where they live; students who are currently at detention centers or hospitals that don’t exist in other parts of the state; and other students across Oklahoma, based on Senate Bill 783 which allows students in Oklahoma to enroll in any school across the state that has open seats.