Student FAFSA Completion Report

2023

Report Requirements

The *Student FAFSA Completion Report* (2023) is submitted pursuant to Education Article § 7-212, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires the MLDS Center to annually produce, on or before December 15th of each year, beginning in 2023 and ending in 2028, on the submission and completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Maryland high school students.

Specifically, the MLDS Center is to report, disaggregated by county and student characteristics:

1. The number of students who completed and submitted the FAFSA in the immediately preceding school year;
2. The number of students who did not complete and submit the FAFSA in the immediately preceding school year; and
3. The number of students who completed the FAFSA by the deadline for State financial aid.

Report Population

The population under consideration for this report is Maryland public high school students who graduated from high school in the 2021-2022 academic year. The report provides the number of those high school graduates who submitted and completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), including submitting and completing by the March 1st State financial aid processing deadline and enrolled in college.

This report was completed using data available in the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDSC) and data from the U. S. Department of Education (ED). MLDSC data include records on graduation from Maryland's public high schools and enrollment in college, both in-state and out-of-state. Data from ED includes publicly available aggregated and suppressed data on submitted and completed FAFSA forms by high school. Data from ED are gathered for two reporting timeframes:

1. February 28th – to align with questions on *how many students submit and complete the FAFSA by the deadline for State aid processing.*
2. August 31st – to align with questions on *how many students submit and complete the FAFSA in time to enroll in college in the fall term immediately following high school graduation*.

The data collected from ED are limited to first-time applicants who are no older than 19 years old at the time of filing and have received their high school diploma by the start of the academic year for which they are seeking financial aid. The data are provided for each school based upon a student's self-reporting of the name of the high school the student attended. It is possible that some students included in the ED data are *not* from the graduating class of 2021-2022, but from the prior cohort year and delayed submitting and completing the FAFSA and/or did not report the correct high school or graduated from a different high school than the one reported at the time of FAFSA submission and completion.

Due to Federal suppression requirements, some FAFSA submissions and completions are not reported at the school level by ED. And, due to small population sizes, some schools are omitted entirely from the analysis by ED even if 100% of the students submitted and completed a FAFSA.   ED school level data are used to calculate the overall local education agency and statewide results, therefore the totals under report the total number of FAFSA submissions and completions. More information on the U. S. Department of Education and FAFSA data can be found at:

https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school

MLDS Center is actively working with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to develop a data extract from MHEC's Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) so that future reports will be generated entirely from data contained within the MLDS Center system. This will minimize the data limitations noted from using publicly available ED data for completing the FAFSA report requirement.

Analysis

Table 1 reports the number of high school graduates from a Maryland public high school in 2021-2022 by Local Education Agency (LEA) and the number who submitted and completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 28th and August 31st. Overall, 95% of graduates who submitted a FAFSA in February completed it in February. Only 5% of graduates had missing, incorrect, or incomplete information on a FAFSA submission that was not resolved within February. This rate is the same for August.

Overall, 45% of high school graduates submitted and completed the FAFSA by February 28, 2022. An additional 8,277 students submitted and completed the FAFSA by August 31, 2022, bringing the submission and completion rate to 59% of all high school graduates.

Note: The submissions and completions in August are comprehensive of those in February.

Table 1. FAFSA Submission and Completion Rates, State of Maryland, 2022

Local Education Agency (LEA)	Maryland Public High School Graduates 2021-2022	FAFSA Submission and Completion by February 28, 2022 (in time for MD State Aid Processing)				FAFSA Submission and Completion by August 31, 2022 (in time for immediate fall enrollment)				Change in Submissions and Completions between February 28, 2022 and August 31, 2022			
		Submitted FAFSA	Completed FAFSA	% Submitted that are Completed	% of High School Graduates with Completed FAFSA	Submitted FAFSA	Completed FAFSA	% of Submitted that are Completed	% of High School Graduates with Completed FAFSA	Total New Submitted	% Increase in Submitted	Total New Completed	% Increase in Completed
Allegany	561	180	170	94%	30%	297	282	95%	50%	117	65%	112	75%
Anne Arundel	5,428	2,221	2,091	94%	39%	3,035	2,850	94%	53%	814	37%	759	45%
Baltimore City	3,978	1,786	1,659	93%	42%	2,353	2,180	93%	55%	567	32%	521	42%
Baltimore County	7,235	3,527	3,274	93%	45%	4,627	4,335	94%	60%	1,100	31%	1,061	41%
Calvert	1,200	574	549	96%	46%	719	689	96%	57%	145	25%	140	31%
Caroline	347	141	129	91%	37%	192	180	94%	52%	51	36%	51	49%
Carroll	1,949	948	916	97%	47%	1,182	1,144	97%	59%	234	25%	228	29%
Cecil	1,000	385	359	93%	36%	511	475	93%	48%	126	33%	116	42%
Charles	2,095	964	923	96%	44%	1,283	1,221	95%	58%	319	33%	298	39%
Dorchester	282	102	93	91%	33%	142	132	93%	47%	40	39%	39	53%
Frederick	3,161	1,513	1,447	96%	46%	1,999	1,916	96%	61%	486	32%	469	38%
Garrett	255	99	97	98%	38%	150	147	98%	58%	51	52%	50	55%
Harford	2,574	1,195	1,152	96%	45%	1,570	1,521	97%	59%	375	31%	369	36%
Howard	4,447	2,616	2,526	97%	57%	3,150	3,046	97%	68%	534	20%	520	25%

Local Education Agency (LEA)	Maryland Public High School Graduates 2021-2022	FAFSA Submission and Completion by February 28, 2022 (in time for MD State Aid Processing)				FAFSA Submission and Completion by August 31, 2022 (in time for immediate fall enrollment)				Change in Submissions and Completions between February 28, 2022 and August 31, 2022			
		Submitted FAFSA	Completed FAFSA	% Submitted that are Completed	% of High School Graduates with Completed FAFSA	Submitted FAFSA	Completed FAFSA	% of Submitted that are Completed	% of High School Graduates with Completed FAFSA	Total New Submitted	% Increase in Submitted	Total New Completed	% Increase in Completed
Kent	126	62	54	87%	43%	91	86	95%	68%	29	47%	32	69%
Montgomery	11,740	6,538	6,224	95%	53%	8,020	7,704	96%	66%	1,482	23%	1,480	29%
Prince George's	7,995	3,263	3,011	92%	38%	4,663	4,301	92%	54%	1,400	43%	1,290	55%
Queen Anne's	535	261	249	95%	47%	325	310	95%	58%	64	25%	61	31%
Somerset	176	62	57	92%	32%	100	90	90%	51%	38	61%	33	75%
St. Mary's	1,147	477	462	97%	40%	629	605	96%	53%	152	32%	143	36%
Talbot	330	148	140	95%	42%	184	172	93%	52%	36	24%	32	31%
Washington	1,567	508	481	95%	31%	786	739	94%	47%	278	55%	258	63%
Wicomico	962	401	371	93%	39%	550	510	93%	53%	149	37%	139	48%
Worcester	457	185	177	96%	39%	261	253	97%	55%	76	41%	76	47%
Statewide Totals	**59,547**	**28,156**	**26,611**	**95%**	**45%**	**36,819**	**34,888**	**95%**	**59%**	**8,663**	**31%**	**8,277**	**38%**

State Overview and Data

The **Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center** (MLDS Center) is the State of Maryland's central repository for student and workforce data. The MLDS Center develops and maintains the MLDS to provide analyses, produce relevant information, and inform choices to improve student and workforce outcomes in the State of Maryland.

MLDS Data

The MLDS connects data from across Maryland's education, child & youth services and workforce agencies. These data are subject to strict data management, security, and privacy requirements. The MLDS may only report aggregated, de-identified data. All research conducted by the MLDS Center focuses on what happens to students before and after critical transitions between education and workforce pathways. All research and analysis using the MLDS is cross-sector. Below is an overview of the available data within the System to support the analysis in this report:

Education Data

The MLDS contains education data on all students from Maryland public high schools, students attending Maryland public and state-aided independent institutions of higher education and adults completing GED® Testing or the National External Diploma Program® (NEDP®). Data on out-of-state college enrollment and degrees are available for only those students who graduate from a Maryland public high school. Data on unsuccessful attempts at fulfilling the GED® or NEDP® requirements are not included in the System. The MLDS does not contain education data on students in private high schools and has limited data on students enrolled in private institutions of higher education degree programs and public postsecondary workforce training noncredit programs. Education data begin with the 2007-2008 academic year.