Why does it matter?

- If the bill can’t get paid, can’t attend.
- Most can’t pay completely out of pocket.
- If borrowing, borrow federal loans first, which requires FAFSA be filed.
- Filing early will allow focus on academics rather than financing.
According to the U.S. Department of Education:

90% of students who complete a FAFSA (with a calculated EFC) will enroll in post-secondary education within 12 months of filing it.
Students who were accepted into a four-year college were much more likely to enroll if they completed the FAFSA.

Difference in college enrollment by whether students completed their FAFSA among students who were accepted into a four-year college:

- Completed FAFSA: 84% enrolled in a four-year college, 12% enrolled in a two-year college, 5% did not enroll in college.
- Did Not Complete FAFSA: 55% enrolled in a two-year college, 34% did not enroll in college, 10% enrolled in a four-year college.

From High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College (2008), Roderick, Nagaoka, Coca, and Moeller
Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment

Unemployment rate in 2014 (%)

- Doctoral degree: 2.1%
- Professional degree: 1.9%
- Master's degree: 2.8%
- Bachelor's degree: 3.5%
- Associate's degree: 4.5%
- Some college, no degree: 6.0%
- High school diploma: 6.0%
- Less than a high school diploma: 9.0%

Median weekly earnings in 2014 ($)

- Doctoral degree: $1,591
- Professional degree: $1,639
- Master's degree: $1,326
- Bachelor's degree: $1,101
- Associate's degree: $792
- Some college, no degree: $741
- High school diploma: $668
- Less than a high school diploma: $488

All workers: 5%

All workers: $839

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
FAFSA Completion Statewide Numbers:

2014

• 59.3% of Maine high school seniors filed the FAFSA (October enrollment numbers) by May 1.
• Just over 62% filed by May 1 when using April enrollment.

2015

• 59.7% of Maine high school seniors filed the FAFSA (October enrollment numbers) by May 1.
FAFSA Completion Data Exchange

- FAME can provide feedback to high schools to let them know who has not completed a FAFSA.
- 56 schools participated in this exchange during the spring of 2015.
- Stay tuned for information on how to receive student level information next year.
FAME provides the following FAFSA Completion support:

- Mailing of materials to seniors (November)
- Financial Aid Night presentations
- FAFSA Toolkit mailing to school counselors
- FAFSA focused section on the FAME website
  - List of FAFSA Completion Labs
  - Online Help
  - Phone, texting and PA announcement scripts
  - Email, web and newsletter copy
FAME provides the following FAFSA Completion support:

- FAME FAFSA Completion Labs (January-early February)
- Site Coordinator training
- Personalized postcards (arrive late December)
- FAFSA completion webinars
- Facebook posts
- Email updates to counselors
- Email reminders directly to students/families
Ways to increase FAFSA Completion numbers:

- Host an FA Night (and make information about FAFSA Completion available)
- Have plan to share information:
  - Posters
  - Postcards
  - Student volunteers
  - Parent groups
  - How does your school communicate with students and parents?
    - PA Announcements, auto-dialing, announcement during athletic and other events, school website, email/texting, newsletters, school portal, Facebook, etc.
Ways to increase FAFSA Completion numbers (con’t):

- Provide incentives to students who complete — gift cards, raffle entry, extra credit, ticket to school event, etc.
  - If a FAFSA is started but not completed the student will receive reminders
- Provide incentives to students who get another student to complete the FAFSA
- Have a competition (by homeroom or even break alphabet into sections) or even with another school
- Use Thermometer poster to track
Ways to increase FAFSA Completion numbers (con’t):

- Have students start FAFSA as part of required class (like senior English)
- Host a FAFSA Completion lab
  - Make sure the event isn’t competing with other school events
  - Offer food
- Individual FAFSA appointments
  - Who has a MSSI partner?
FA101 – Friday, October 9, 2015
Wednesday Webinars
5 on the 5th
Customized trainings
Hotline Number – 1-800-228-3734
When communicating about the FAFSA, remind students it has to be done every year.

Once FAFSA filed student will get yearly reminders from the Department of Education.

FAFSA is renewable – much of the data is pre-filled so even easier new year.
As of May 10, the FSA ID replaced the PIN

- To get an FSA ID, go to: https://fsaid.ed.gov
- Will also be prompted when visiting other sites
- Critical information we’ve learned:
  - Email address can only be associated with one FSA ID
  - Must be able to access email to retrieve “secure code” to complete process
  - FSA ID Persistence - once a user has successfully authenticated with their FSA ID within FOTW, he or she will not have to enter it again