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

**Cost Estimates of FAFSA Support for Massachusetts**

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

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

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