



SHOW-ME

FAFSA CHALLENGE

Most Innovative Strategy Award Guidelines

What is the purpose of this award?

This award category aims to be inclusive by allowing consideration of any school no matter what its completion levels are. Submissions can also be used to collect best practices to be shared with schools across Missouri.

How do schools enter?

To be considered, schools must submit an entry form. The electronic form will be available on the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge webpage.

What information is needed for submission?

Schools will provide a description of FAFSA completion strategies, as well as descriptions of successes and challenges. Photos, pdfs, and screenshots of digital outreach (social media, etc) may be submitted as supporting material, but are not required.

Survey Questions

1. Describe the strategies you implemented to increase awareness and completion of the FAFSA among seniors at your high school. Were these strategies unique to your school? If not, where did you learn about them and what changes (if any) did you need to make for them to work at your school?
2. What strategy was the most effective and why? How did you measure success?
3. What challenges did you face (if any) and how did you overcome them? (e.g., Did you use pre-made materials and resources, customize the resources, or use a combination of pre-made and customized? Did you partner with any school or community resources?)
4. Did you set an internal goal? What was it, and did you meet it?
5. Will this year's strategy be able to be successfully implemented again at your school? Would you recommend that other schools try your approach, and if so, what advice would you give them?

How will the submissions be judged?

Submissions will be judged by a panel of judges comprised of select MDHEWD staff as well as partners from around the state. Submissions will have identifying information removed during judging to eliminate bias.

Rubric

Each submission will be scored in the following categories according to the rubric, with room for comments. Scores from each judge will be averaged for final score.

Category	Explanation of Criteria	Points available
Uniqueness of strategy	<p>The highest score in this category should be given to schools that implement a strategy that is completely new and has been pioneered by this school. Strategies can be influenced by best practices, but overall they are fresh and new.</p> <p>A mid-range score should be given to schools that use common FAFSA completion strategies, but implement them in a way that is unique to the school, region, population, and/or community.</p>	25
Creativity	<p>The highest score in this category should be given to schools that exhibit exceptional creativity in one or more aspects of their FAFSA completion strategy (e.g., marketing materials, activities, incentives, presentations, use or customization of existing resources, etc.).</p>	15
Replicability	<p>The highest score in this category should be given to schools whose strategy can be shared as a best practice for other schools to emulate.</p>	10
Bonus Points (optional)	<p>Bonus points may be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Examples of elements that may warrant bonus points include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on underserved populations • Exceptional school and/or community engagement • Duration of strategy • Quantity of quality outreach events • FAFSA completion percentage improvement 	Maximum of 10

Sponsors

