



# SHOW-ME FAFSA CHALLENGE



The Show-Me FAFSA Challenge is a statewide FAFSA completion competition among Missouri public high schools. Schools compete with each other for scholarship prizes to be awarded to one of their students by promoting FAFSA completion.

Visit the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge webpage for more details.

Contact Kara Brietzke at [kara.brietzke@dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:kara.brietzke@dhewd.mo.gov) with questions.

## COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Show-Me FAFSA Challenge will be active from Oct. 1 2021, when the 2022-2023 FAFSA opens, until April 1, 2022, the Access Missouri state aid deadline. Schools may monitor progress using the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge tracker throughout the competition period.

## SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Every public high school in the state will automatically be eligible for participation, and will automatically appear on the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge tracker.

Schools will be sorted into three groups by size as follows:

Group	School Size (Number of students)	Number of Schools in group	Number of students in group*
A	0 – 500	370 schools	67,221 students
B	501 – 1200	88 schools	69,015 students
C	1200+	80 schools	133,087 students

\*Estimates based on 2021 academic year 9-12 enrollment projections

Schools with five or fewer seniors will appear on the tracker, but will show no data for security purposes. Schools showing no data may contact [FAFSACompletionProject@dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:FAFSACompletionProject@dhewd.mo.gov) for information on obtaining their completion status percentages.

A list of schools in each group will be published by MDHEWD at the start of the competition. This list will supersede any school population fluctuations that occur throughout the academic year.

Each school will determine their own level of engagement with MDHEWD for the purposes of the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge.

# AWARD CATEGORIES

Schools will compete against other schools in their group in the following areas:

1

## HIGHEST COMPLETION OVERALL

The school with the highest FAFSA completion percentage on April 1, 2022, will win this category. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be held between the tied schools.

2

## MOST IMPROVED COMPLETION

The school with the greatest percentage increase in FAFSA completions as of April 1, 2022, will win this category. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be held between the tied schools.

3

## GREATEST PERCENTAGE OF LOWEST INCOME STUDENTS FILED

The school with the greatest percentage of their total filers who are Pell Grant eligible as of April 1, 2022, will win this category. In the event of a tie, a random drawing will be held between the tied schools.

4

## MOST INNOVATIVE STRATEGY

This award requires a submission from each school. The submission form will be found on the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge webpage. Submissions can include stories, testimonials, videos, photos, and social media screenshots. Winners in this category will be decided by a panel of judges who will review submissions.

Additionally, any school that reaches or exceeds the state goal of 55% completion will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Once the 55% threshold is met, schools are eligible for up to two additional drawing entries for their participation in FAFSA Frenzy as a registered 2021-22 Journey to College site coordinator and in the FAFSA Completion Project with a current data sharing agreement on file with MDHEWD.

## PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for the winner in each category in each group and the winner of the statewide drawing. Each category prize is a scholarship of \$750. The statewide drawing prize is a \$1,000 scholarship.

Winning schools will designate one of their graduating seniors who will attend a Missouri institution in 2022 and has filed a FAFSA form as the scholarship recipient. Schools that win in the "Greatest percentage of Lowest Income Students Filed" category must designate a winner that is Pell Grant eligible in addition to the previous requirements. MDHEWD recommends choosing prize recipients by random drawing of eligible seniors, however schools may choose a different selection method if desired. If a different method is used, the selection process must be shared with MDHEWD.

The school will be responsible for sending the recipient's name, contact information, and institution information to MDHEWD by the deadline given in their winner notification email. If the school has no seniors that meet the given criteria, the prize will be awarded to the second-place school in the category or the drawing will be conducted again.

Scholarship funds will be disbursed by the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge Sponsors directly to the recipient's Missouri institution.

## WEBPAGE

MDHEWD will maintain a landing page on its website for the Show-Me FAFSA Challenge. The webpage will contain the challenge description and rules, the guidelines and submission form for the "Most Innovative" award, links to relevant resources and marketing materials, and the tracker that will show progress and filing percentages by school throughout the competition period.

## SPONSORS

