Welcome To Your FAFSA Session at LearnOn!

Chat in....

● Where are you joining us from?
● What’s been your biggest takeaway from LearnOn so far?
But first, housekeeping.

Chat Support
Throughout the presentation, our wonderful EVERFI colleagues, Catherine, Heather, & Erica will be providing support through the chat!

Ask Questions
So, ask any questions you may have - they are happy to assist you!
Utilize:
- Chat
- Q & A box

Social
Find us on Twitter/Instagram/TikTok @EVERFIK12 and use #LearnOn2022 when you share out
Also check out @PersistNashville!

Let’s dig in!
Help your Students Maximize their FAFSA application

Kristen King
Co-Founder, Director of Coaching
Persist Nashville
@persistnashville

Rachel Henry
Implementation Lead, NY/NJ
EVERFI
(former financial aid counselor)
@Rachel_EdTech
AGENDA

• The Why
• Tips for Increasing FAFSA Completion Rates
• Pause for Q & A
• Resources to Help Students Complete the FAFSA
• Q & A
Tell us about yourself! What role best describes how you support students?

- Classroom educator
- Counselor
- Administrator
- Parent
- Community Member / Other
Why This Topic Matters
What's going on?

Student Loan Debt Statistics
In 2020: A Record $1.6 Trillion

Zack Friedman
Contributor
Personal Finance
Bestselling Author, The Lemonade Life. He writes and speaks about leadership and greatness.

Using the most recent data available, NCAN calculated that 57% of high school graduates from the class of 2021 completed a FAFSA. That's four percentage points higher than the 2015-16 rate, and significantly higher than the 44% rate that was previously reported by NCAN using a different data set (more on that below).

Fall 2021 Undergraduate Enrollment Declines 465,300 Students Compared to Fall 2020

by Todd Sedmak | Jan 13, 2022 | Press Releases |
A Question of Equity

- Low income students more disproportionately diverted from college pathway.
- Hispanic students experience largest decline in college enrollment between 2019-2021
- FAFSA declines among students attending low income high schools

“Any uncertainty can really rattle you, particularly if you’re the first in your family to go to college.”
- Kim Cook | Executive Director, National College Attainment Network
What is the FAFSA?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Opens October 1st, 2022
Unlocks Needs-Based & Income-Based Financial Aid; Institutional/Campus Aid

⇒ Apply for the FAFSA + add your family income ⇒ DoE generates an Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
⇒ Determines the amount of financial aid given
Don’t leave FREE $money$ on the table:

**Grants:** Aid students are given for their higher education that doesn’t have to be repaid.

**Loans:** Subsidized loans means the DoE will cover the interest rates. Other loans taken out must be repaid with interest.

**Work-Study:** provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, so they can earn money to help pay education expenses.

**Your State:** see how much Pell was left on the table in your state using NCAN research

https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types
Poll question

What is your biggest barrier in supporting students with the FAFSA?

- Not feeling like an expert
- Sensitivity around student/family personal information
- Lack of time
- Not built into the daily role
Barriers with the FAFSA

Though it’s getting easier (hooray 2024!), the FAFSA is historically 100+ questions and requires a lot of ‘paperwork’:

- Tax information/Private documents
- “Verification” = Audit (sometimes random)
- Technical questions/difficult questions for non-traditional family
- Is more complicated for undocumented students
Tips to Help Students Apply
FAFSA Support

- Fill out your own FAFSA as practice to help students
- Identify your “expert” in your district or state
- Use the DRT (when it’s playing nice)
- The worst that happens is verification. That is OKAY. Internalize this.
- Check out the toolbox we’ve included at the end of this presentation
- Learn what supports your school offers:
  - FAFSA Nights
  - Virtual appointments (screenshare required)
  - Community events
Supporting Immigrant, Undocumented, and DACAmented Students and Families

- Parent immigration status does not impact student status
  - If parents don’t have SSN, enter “000000000”

- Eligible noncitizens qualify for aid. Here is a list of eligible noncitizens.

- Undocumented students and DACAmented students do NOT qualify for federal aid.
  - Some states permit undocumented and DACAmented students to pay in-state tuition, rather than international student rates. There are also specific scholarships for these students.

- Federal Guidance Sheet & Federal Toolkit for Non-U.S. Citizens
Q & A for Kristen King
Additional Resources
Kristen’s top tools for your toolbox

“Know how to find the expert, not be the expert”

- Education Quest: Videos and Question by Question
- US DOE Q&A Citizenship Status on FAFSA
- Federal Financial Aid Tookit
Poll: Have you ever used an EVERFI resource?
- Yes
- No
- Maybe?

Chat in: If so, which one(s)?
Pathways: Financing Higher Education
Key Components

An immersive learning experience designed to engage students in learning about financing higher education.

- DIGITAL EXPERIENCE
- OFFLINE RESOURCES
- SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY
At-a-Glance

*Pathways: Financing Higher Education* is dedicated to providing high school learners with the skills they need to make the best decisions for themselves when financing their higher education. This course will help learners understand how to evaluate the return on investment of their higher education options, make good choices when evaluating their path, and make a plan to successfully pay their education costs. The course further delves into responsible budgeting for higher education loans, repayment, and avoiding the common pitfalls of borrowing.

**Course Highlights**

- Scenario-based narrative
- Immersive and diverse environments and characters
- Learning through problem solving

**Course Topics**

- Return on Investment
- Understanding Financial Aid
- Student Loan Basics
- Budgeting for Your Loans
- Repaying Loans Responsibly

*Also Available in Spanish*
Digital Experience: Lesson Goals

1. **Return on Investment**
   Proactively evaluate the return on investment specific to their projected career and potential higher education institutions.

2. **Understanding Financial Aid**
   Seek out scholarships and grants to help pay for their higher education and complete the FAFSA.

3. **Student Loan Basics**
   Compare and select loans that offer the best terms and conditions for their personal goals.

4. **Budgeting for Your Loans**
   Create a budget for each institution while considering financial aid and loan costs to make the best personal financial decision.

5. **Repaying Loans Responsibly**
   Make a plan for repaying the costs of higher education that avoid common pitfalls and won’t negatively impact future opportunities.
Shyla

Wow, there are a lot more costs for higher education than I thought. It sounds like those extra expenses could really add up.
Pathways: Addressing FAFSA Barriers

- Step-by-Step understanding of how to fill out the FAFSA
- Opportunity for a Tier 1 Intervention - scalable so ALL students have access
- Breakdown of documents & information needed
- Interactive scenario of how to fill out the FAFSA with a parent or guardian
- Strategic tool to support completion rate goals
Offline Resources

- Course Outline
- Curriculum Guide
- Lesson Plans
- Teacher Discussion Guides
- Parent/Guardian Discussion Guides
Scholarship Opportunity

EVERFI is offering $1,000 529 College Savings Scholarships to students across North America this upcoming school year.

Criteria to Apply:

- Attend a K-12 School in the U.S. or Canada
- Complete a total of 3 lessons in Pathways: Financing Higher Education or other EVERFI courses (you can combine lessons from multiple courses)
- Write and submit a 300-500 word essay

Bonus Lesson Plan - Step-by-step instructions to help your students apply!
Getting Started with EVERFI
Visit EVERFI.com/newteacher

- Fill out the information to access the Pathways resource

- If redirected to Clever, then your school uses the EVERFI app in Clever & you can access that way.
Already have an account?

Login at everfi.net or the EVERFI app in your school’s Clever platform

Instructor Directions
1. Select “Explore Courses”
2. Find the “Financial Education” section & find “Pathways”
3. Click “Create Class” & fill out the information

Student Directions
● Class code - give students the class code & registration site: everfi.com/student
● Clever - students log into Clever & click the EVERFI app
Chat in....

What’s one takeaway from this session you can apply in the upcoming school year?