



Louisiana is ranked 17th in the nation with overall FAFSA completions



"As a rule, we find what we look for; we achieve what we get ready for."

James Cash Penney

Penney's words resonate most as we reflect on the achievement to date regarding FAFSA completion. The increasing cost of higher

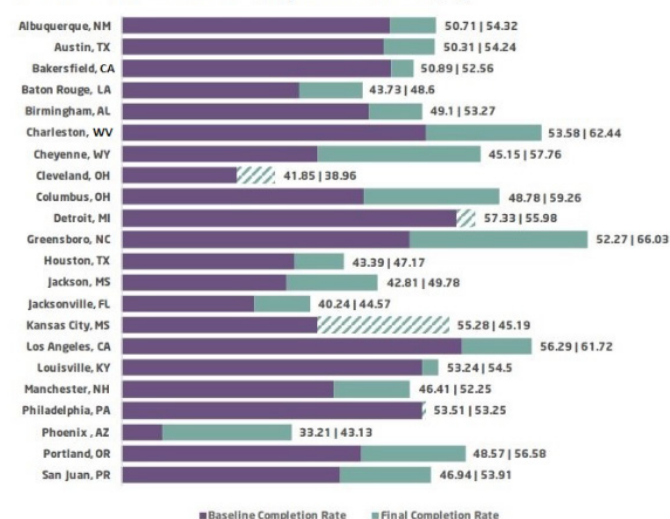
education continues to make headlines along with the number of students, who for various reasons, fail to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), leaving free funds on the table each year. In an effort to pilot best practices aimed at increasing FAFSA completion rates, The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance applied for a FAFSA Challenge Grant in cooperation with the following partners:

- Career Compass
- LELA
- Louisiana Board of Regents
- Louisiana Department of Education
- Baton Rouge Community College
- East Baton Rouge Parish School System

The grant was sponsored by the National College Access Network and funded by the Kresge Foundation. NCAN selected 22 U.S. cities to receive up to \$55,000 each to raise FAFSA completion rates by at least 5

percent for the graduating Class of 2017. Baton Rouge was selected as one of those cities. Here's how our team placed at the end of the competition.

Grantee Cities' FAFSA Completion Rates (%)



Our team performed excellent work but the efforts did not stop there. The lessons learned from the challenge grant helped strengthen efforts statewide.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - *Henry Ford*

Ford's words resonate most as we look at how lessons learned in collaboration fueled achievements realized through heightened expectations. Take a look at this

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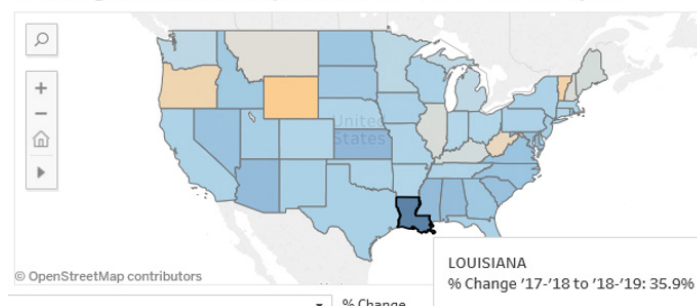
team shout out from Ms. Barrye Bailey, Education Technology Consultant in the Office of Student Opportunities at LDOE:

"Louisiana is ranked 17th in the nation with overall FAFSA completions as of December 29, 2017. We're ranked #1 in the nation with highest increase of completed FAFSAs at the same time last year. Give yourselves a round of applause!!! Here's a copy of the chart as well as the link to Public Tableau website to check out where we are. Have a great day!!!

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/bill.debaun.national.college.access.network#!/vizhome/FormYourFutureFAFSATracker/CurrentWeekRanking>

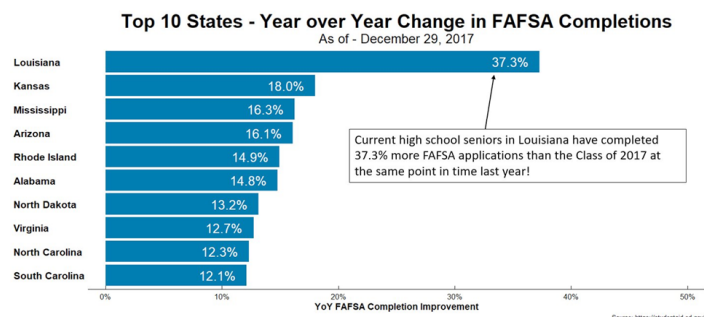
...and take a look at where we are now!

% Change in FAFSA Completions, '17-'18 to '18-'19 Cycle



Shouting out to our partners around the state as we continue to work together to assist Louisiana students and families.

Best,
S.



Azaria and Anissa Chase complete the FAFSA at the FAFSA Lab.



Sarah and Resnick and mom at LSU Kickoff.



Khristopher Hobbs assisted students and parents with creation of their FSA IDs and completion of postsecondary applications during their LCAAM event.

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

FLY TOUR

FEB. 20	NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SOUTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 21	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BATON ROUGE	SOUTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 22	SOWELA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SOUTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 23	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-BATON ROUGE	SOUTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 26	CENTRAL LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE-ALEXANDRIA	NORTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 27	NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	NORTH	10:00 AM
FEB. 28	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-SHREVEPORT	NORTH	10:00 AM
MAR. 1	GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY	NORTH	10:00 AM
MAR. 2	DILLARD UNIVERSITY	SOUTH	10:00 AM

THE FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR YOU (FLY) TOUR provides services and resources to guide students toward a future of informed decisions and financial freedom. Through song, poetry, and Wordplay, the FLY Tour educates students about financial literacy and financial responsibility as well as a variety of LOSFA-administered student financial assistance programs.

The FLY Tour is a dynamic theatrical presentation that uses poetry, music, and drama to communicate the importance of financial literacy and fiscal responsibility. The intent is to make students aware of how financial aid decisions made early in their lives can have a lasting impact on their futures. The production will also present information about support services available to students on college campuses and pre-college tasks that must be completed prior to the student's first day of classes.

The response to the FLY Tour has been so overwhelmingly positive that it is now an annual LOSFA event held on post-secondary education campuses across the state.

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unlockmyfuture.org.



Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance
A Program of the Board of Regents

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LOSFA, VISIT OSFA.LA.GOV

www.osfa.la.gov

Florien High School Students Take Informative and Interactive Campus Tour

Louisiana GEAR UP Students from Florien High School visited Central Louisiana Technical Community College-Sabine Valley to take an informative and interactive campus tour. During the tour, the students learned about the institution's admissions and financial aid processes before taking an interactive tour of the technical education programs offered by CLTCC-Sabine Valley, including the Business Office Technology, Patient Care Technician, Welding Technology, and the Electrician Technology programs. As the students

learned about the different technical programs, they participated in hands-on activities that would be relevant to earning certifications in those programs. For example, students learned to administer CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) using training dummies while learning about the Patient Care Technician program. While discussing the Business Office Technology program, each student participated in a typing test as typing skills are vital to professions that students enter after completing the program.



Florien High School Louisiana GEAR UP students learn about Business Office Technology on a field trip to Central Louisiana Technical Community College.



Florien High School Louisiana GEAR UP students learn to administer CPR using training dummies.

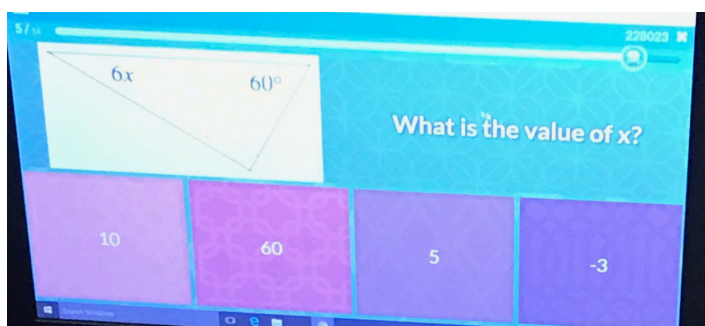


Left: Florien High School Louisiana GEAR UP students learn about Electrician Technology and Welding Technology (above).

Oak Park Middle School Students Enjoy Fun Learning during Math Night

Students at Oak Park Middle School kicked the New Year off by participating in Math Night. During Math Night, the Louisiana GEAR UP students rotated through five stations to play educational games that focused on different math topics. The topics included math vocabulary, angle measures, the Pythagorean Theorem, negative and positive equations, decimals, fractions, and least common multiples. As the Math Night ended, four eager students decided to participate in a quick Quizizz competition while a crowd of fellow students,

parents, and teachers gathered around to watch the competition. Ultimately, Christian White won the competition and cheered after winning. He enjoyed playing the educational games so much that he wished the event was longer. "I loved it, but it was too short," Christian voiced when asked about his experience at Math Night. Another student, LaShondria Abney, also discussed how much she enjoyed the event. "It was fun, and I really enjoyed it. My favorite part was the Quizizz competition," she said after the event ended.



Oak Park Middle School Louisiana GEAR UP students participated in Math Night that included five stations on various math topics.

Students play a Math game with a deck of playing cards during Oak Park Middle School's Louisiana GEAR UP Math night.



Oak Park Middle School Louisiana GEAR UP student participates in one of five stations on various math topics during Math Night.

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<http://instagram.com/LOSFA001>



For more information, contact the
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A program under The Board of Regents

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For submissions, opinions, or comments for the LOSFA LOOP, please
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