

LOSFA LOOP

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Compete to Complete Baton Rouge: Racing Toward the Finish

In 2015, the City of Baton Rouge had a FAFSA completion rate of 44 percent, one of the lowest rates among the 22 cities awarded the FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant. Though the completion rate for the city was low, our drive to increase the FAFSA completion rate was high. To accomplish this, the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and its partners first created the Compete to Complete campaign to increase competition at the 11 target high schools that are in East Baton Rouge Parish, and then organized and hosted innovative community and school events that encouraged students and parents to complete the FAFSA.

One of the most innovative events hosted by LOSFA and its partners was the FAFSA Tournament, which was held in December. The event was a collaboration with the Bob Pettit Basketball Tournament, which is a basketball competition among more than 10 high schools in East Baton Rouge Parish School District, as well as neighboring districts. Because several of our target schools were competing in the basketball tournament, it was a great opportunity to foster more competition in the Compete to Complete campaign by including FAFSA completion as part of the event. Throughout the tournament, students and parents completed their applications, won giveaways, and received vouchers to purchase food to enjoy while they watched their teams compete for the championship. At the end of the FAFSA Tournament, parish and school

administrators praised the success of the event and asked to include FAFSA completion as a part of the high school football championship in the fall.

Another innovative event that amassed great success was the FAFSA Block Party, a close-out event to encourage students and parents to complete or correct their FAFSAs. At the block party, students and parents were able to complete their FAFSAs inside the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library before heading outside to enjoy refreshments and music provided by a local DJ. Additionally, representatives from MAX 94.1, one of the most popular radio stations in the city, were at the FAFSA Block Party to promote the event on the radio and provide giveaways to participants.

In addition to the FAFSA Tournament and FAFSA Block Party, LOSFA and its partners held several events throughout the year to encourage students and parents to complete the FAFSA. School concentration events were held at each of the 11 target schools included in the grant. During these events, LOSFA staff visited a different school each day for two weeks to assist parents and students with FAFSA completion throughout the entire school day. LOSFA and its partners also held FAFSA Frenzy events at several of our partners' locations, including the local East Baton Rouge Parish libraries and the Claiborne State Office Building, where the Board of Regents is located. Furthermore, LOSFA created the FAFSA Lab, a section of the LOSFA office

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Compete to Complete Baton Rouge: Racing Toward the Finish (continued)

that was transformed into a computer lab for FAFSA completion. To receive assistance from LOSFA, students and parents are encouraged to book appointments online; however, walk-ins were welcomed to visit the FAFSA Lab also.

With help from the FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant, LOSFA and its partners were able to host these

innovative events to assist students and parents in completing the FAFSA. Not only has the grant assisted LOSFA and its partners with increasing the FAFSA completion rate of the City of Baton Rouge, it has helped a multitude of students realize that they can afford to attend a post-secondary institution.

What people said about the events and initiatives held as part of the Compete to Complete FAFSA Campaign

“Ms. Charlie provided me with great assistance with the FAFSA.”

DeJa Grayson

2017 Graduate of Tara High School

“The workers with LOSFA were very helpful with assisting my 12th grade daughter and me with setting up a FSA ID and completing the FAFSA. I am very grateful and thankful for the assistance that we received.”

Jeunese Henderson

Parent

“The FAFSA workshop was very informative. The representatives were nice and personable, and they made it easy for me to ask questions. They explained how the system works and helped me to complete my FAFSA. I would highly recommend this workshop to many individuals.”

Wanda Ballon

Parent

“This was a very helpful tool to have. My son and I were able to complete the FAFSA. Juterh was helpful and knowledgeable. We received impeccable service and attention. I would highly recommend this service

to continue and will also spread the word to my coworkers to take advantage of this opportunity. My sincerest thanks!”

Lisa Spurlock

Parent

“The event was very helpful. I was actually having trouble completing my application at first, but they helped me submit it.”

Tashfia Shehzabin

2017 Graduate of Lee Magnet High School

“Today, I learned how to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA event was very helpful, and I am thankful that you took the time to help us out.”

Chris Hebert II

2017 Graduate of McKinley Senior High School

“This event was a great opportunity for my mother and me to complete the FAFSA because we never got the chance to do so at home.”

Kailyn Crockett

2017 Graduate of McKinley Senior High School

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What people said about the events and initiatives held as part of the Compete to Complete FAFSA Campaign

"I was in Mr. Griffith's class with Ms. Charlie and Ms. Brittani learning about FAFSA and LOSFA, and I found it very helpful."

Reginald Perry

2017 Graduate of Tara High School

"I learned the correct way to complete my FAFSA. The event was very beneficial, and it was a big help in completing my FAFSA."

Ali Marzoughi

2017 Graduate of Tara High School

"It's awesome that LOSFA spends their time to help families complete their FAFSA after work hours. I'd like to thank Timenee Thomas and Mary Cobb-Marshall for all of their help."

Angela Hebert

Parent

"I really thank you guys for all of the help. It means a lot."

Tia Hudson

2017 Graduate of Tara High School

"Today was very beneficial because I was able to update my FAFSA information and create my Student Hub account for TOPS. Thank you!"

Susan Stevens

Parent

"This event was very helpful, and they are an excellent group of informed individuals."

Laura Felder

Parent

"LOSFA and [its partners] provided our students with a wonderful opportunity to apply for financial aid during the EBR Parish Boys' Basketball Tournament. This is a valuable resource for our students to receive

money toward college tuition. Thank you to the staff for working tirelessly during these four days."

Lynn Williamson,

District Athletic Director for East Baton Rouge Parish Schools

"They were very helpful and helped me get a step closer to earning money for college."

Erica Ross

2017 Graduate of Baton Rouge Magnet High School

"Our goal is to serve students! With that in mind, any and every opportunity we have should be used to make post-secondary options available and LOSFA does that. It was and is our pleasure to continually support their efforts! Together we do!"

Karen Triche

Principal at Tara High School

"The FAFSA Block Party was a very informative, smooth, and helpful event in a nice environment."

Lisa Cook

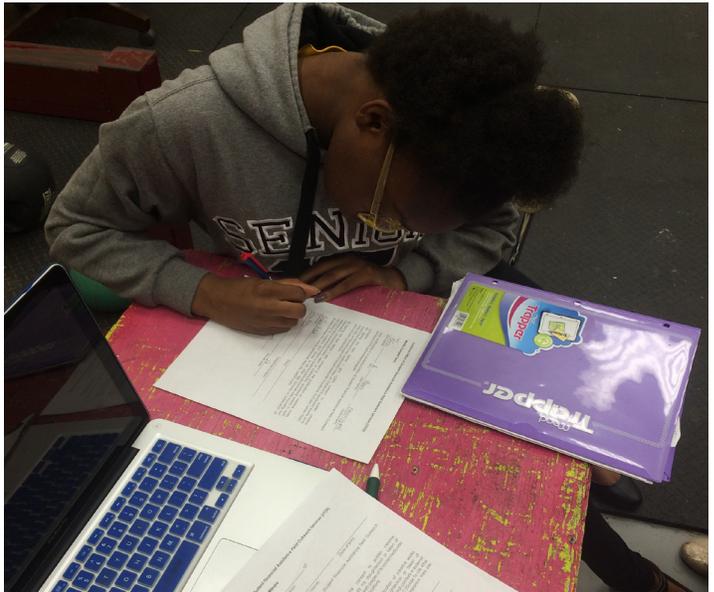
Parent



Compete to Complete FAFSA Campaign Photos



Compete to Complete FAFSA Campaign Photos



GO Grant Allocations for 2017-2018

The Board of Regents has approved \$26,429,108 for GO Grant Awards for the 2017-2018 award year. Institutions have been allocated an amount based on the same methodology used for 2016-2017.

The Board of Regent’s GO Grant Framework is outlined in Student Financial Aid Bulletin S2013-01 dated January 29, 2013 which can be found on LOSFA’s website at www.osfa.la.gov/MainSitePDFs/S2013-01.pdf.

The following apply during the 2017-2018 academic year:

1. The annual allocation will be used for fall, winter and spring semesters/terms, with no plans to fund summer awards.
2. Due to legislative reporting requirements, it is necessary to continue the fall billing deadline of November 1, 2017 (fall billing corrections deadline, November 16) and a winter billing deadline of January 17, 2018 (winter billing corrections deadline, February 1). The fall and winter deadlines will also allow LOSFA and Board of Regents to better estimate funding availability for subsequent semesters/terms.
3. Late billings for fall, winter and spring semesters/terms will require approval. Approval is not guaranteed.
4. The spring billing deadline is March 26, 2018, since March 24th falls on a weekend (spring billing corrections deadline, April 11).

2017-2018 Go Grant Allocations

School	2017-2018 Allocation	School	2017-2018 Allocation
LSU-BR	\$ 2,063,886	Delta -Ouachita Campus	**
LSU-A	\$ 295,107	North Central Campus	**
LSUMC-NO	\$ 135,305	Northeast Campus	**
LSUMC-S	\$ 16,500	Ruston Campus	**
LSU-E	\$ 267,866	Tallulah Campus	**
LSU-S	\$ 904,774	Northshore Tech CC	\$ 35,973
LSU SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL	\$ 3,683,438	Florida Parishes Campus	**
Southern-BR	\$ 1,246,397	Slidell Campus	**
Southern-NO	\$ 266,032	Sullivan Campus	**
Southern-S	\$ 216,240	Hammond Campus	**
SU SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL	\$ 1,728,669	Northwest Louisiana TC	**
Nicholls	\$ 1,023,822	Mansfield Campus	\$ 9,077
Grambling	\$ 985,294	Northwest Campus	\$ 30,053
La. Tech	\$ 1,080,265	Shreveport-Bossier Campus	\$ 40,201
McNeese	\$ 1,441,572	Nunez CC	\$ 57,388
ULM	\$ 1,617,400	River Parishes CC	\$ 55,218
NW	\$ 1,532,194	Ascension Campus	**
SE	\$ 2,852,899	West Side Campus	**
ULL	\$ 2,344,849	South Central TC	**
UNO	\$ 1,137,630	Lafourche Campus	\$ 9,750
UL SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL	\$ 14,015,925	Reserve Campus	\$ 23,250
Baton Rouge CC	\$ 619,600	Young Memorial Campus	\$ 21,750
Baton Rouge Campus	**	South La. C C	\$ 390,296
Folkes Campus	**	Acadian Campus	**
Jumonville Campus	**	Charles B. Coreil Campus	**
Bossier Parish CC	\$ 253,785	Evangeline Campus	**
Central Louisiana TCC	\$ 77,094	Gulf Area Campus	**
Alexandria Campus	**	Lafayette Campus	**
Avoyelles Campus	**	Teche Campus	**
Huey P Long Campus	**	T H Harris Campus	**
Lamar Salter Campus	**	Sowella Tech CC	\$ 221,266
Natchitoches Campus	**	Morgan Smith Campus	**
Oakdale Campus	**	LCTC SYSTEM SUB-TOTAL	\$ 4,679,134
Sabine Valley Campus	**	Centenary	\$ 97,725
Shelby Jackson Campus	**	Dillard	\$ 294,232
Delgado	\$ 2,494,911	La College	\$ 217,371
Jefferson Campus	**	Loyola	\$ 283,884
West Jefferson Campus	**	Univ. of Holy Cross	\$ 61,706
Sidney Collier Campus	**	Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady	\$ 308,629
L E Fletcher CC	\$ 89,492	Tulane	\$ 354,911
Louisiana Delta CC	\$ 250,030	Xavier	\$ 703,484
Bastrop Campus	**	INDEPENDENTS' SUB-TOTAL	\$ 2,321,942
		Total	\$ 26,429,108

** Go Grant funding for these schools are included in the funding listed for the main campus at central billing schools, or the individual schools for those with decentralized billings.

This allocation is based on 2016-2017 Go Grant expenditures,

5. Unused funds will be reallocated after the spring billing deadline. Reallocations made to institutions should be used to award students enrolled in the fall and continued to spring or enrolled in the spring who were eligible for but did not receive a GO Grant because the institution used its full annual allocation.
6. In the event of a reallocation of unused funds, the school(s) receiving the reallocated funding will be provided with a deadline to expend the reallocated dollars.

LOSFA's Social Media Sites



<http://www.facebook.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.twitter.com/LOSFA>



<http://www.youtube.com/LOSFA1000>



<http://instagram.com/LOSFA001>



For more information, contact the
Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance
A program under The Board of Regents

By Phone: 800-259-5626

By E-mail: custserv@la.gov

By Mail: P.O. Box 91202,
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202

Web Address: www.osfa.la.gov



For submissions, opinions, or comments for the LOSFA LOOP, please
contact Gus Wales at Gus.Wales@la.gov.