



March 28, 2024

Dear Senior families,

In a [January 18, 2024 press release](#), the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) announced a statewide completion goal for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Class of 2024 is the first cohort to have this as part of their graduation requirements. While non-completion will not prohibit them from graduating, the purpose is to ensure that public school staff (or Choice Eligible private schools as defined by IC-20-51-1-4.7) provide information on funding available for post-secondary education, as well as, opportunities to complete the necessary forms.

Completing the FAFSA form may not be a waste of time. Indiana graduates left \$76 million in Pell Grant funds on the table in 2023 by not completing the FAFSA form. Filing the FAFSA is the first step toward accessing over \$400 million in state and billions of dollars in federal aid.

On **Friday, April 5, 2024, from 9:00 am to 3 pm**, financial aid experts will be on-site to help seniors and/or their parents/guardians in completing the online FAFSA or to answer any questions you may have. Your financial information is confidential and is not shared with the school. We are simply providing you another opportunity to complete the application before the deadline of April 15, 2024. We will have tables and devices available in the **Opal E. Sherman Auditorium Atrium (enter door 14)** and designated areas for confidential consultation with aid experts.

Following the 2023 legislative session, high school seniors are required to file the FAFSA, with opt-out provisions available. Either option counts toward the graduation requirement. In the event that you know you do not qualify for assistance, the [opt-out form has been linked here](#) for your convenience.

We will be working with students in the next few days to create their FAFSA ID number. This is a required step prior to completing the form and is very simple to do by visiting [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) to get started. Both students and parents will need a FAFSA ID number.

Other items to bring:

- 2022 federal tax returns, W-2, and other records of income
- Bank statements/records of investments (if applicable, but not usually needed)
- Social Security Number (parent & student)
- List of colleges of interest

We appreciate your assistance with the completion of either the FAFSA form or the opt-out form so that our district can work toward the overall state goal, as well as, fulfill this required piece of the overall state graduation requirement for all graduating seniors moving forward.

Please feel free to contact the high school Student Services team with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you for our **April 5th FAFSA FRENZY FRIDAY** event.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ronnie Lawhead, Principal