



Current Local Support For FAFSA Filing in Chester and Lancaster Counties and Practices to Increase FAFSA Submissions

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Who I Am - Zoe Byrd

- Hometown: Lancaster, SC
- Graduated in 2019 from Lancaster High School
- Graduate in Fall 2021 from USC Lancaster with a B.A. in Liberal Studies
 - Majors in English & Sociology
 - Minor in Business
- Peer Advisor (PAL) at USC Lancaster



she/they

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and Context

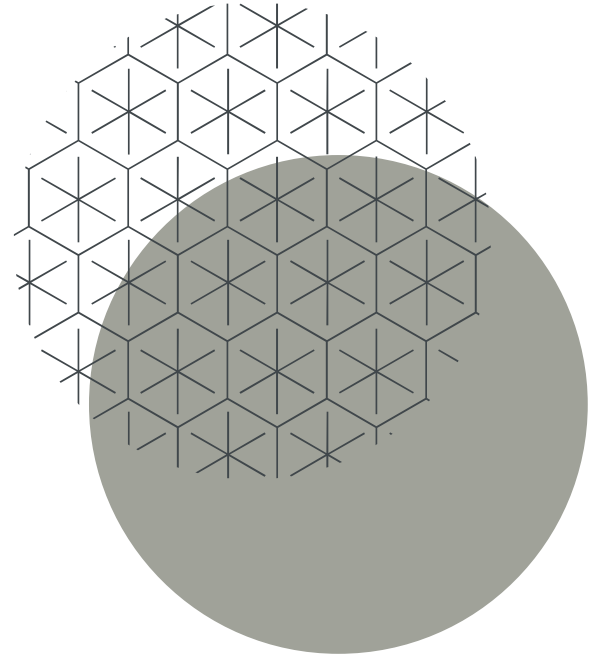
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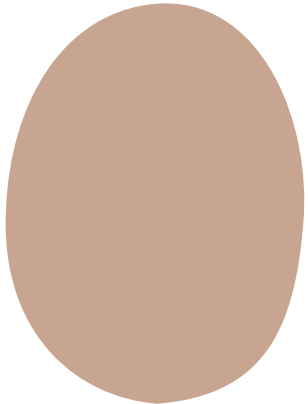
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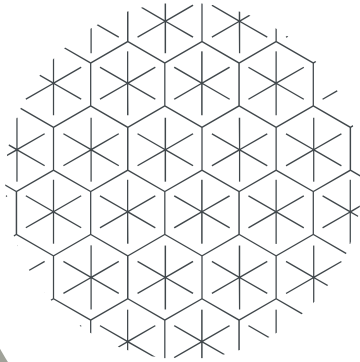
01 Background and Context



The Prompt

The FAFSA

The Prompt

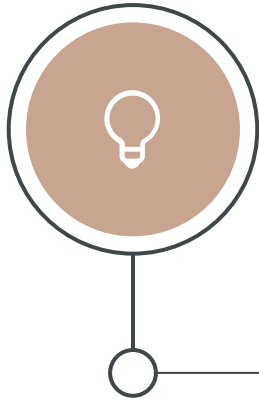


“Determine a DEIA topic and research question that most inspires/interests you. Develop a plan for research and learning, utilizing peers, mentors, resources. Develop Capstone presentation for Foundation and USCL.”

★ Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion, and
Access (DEIA)

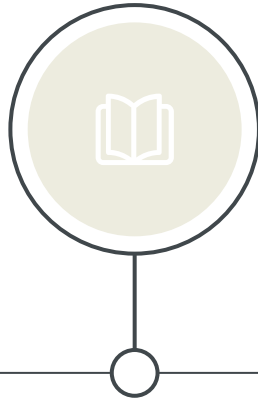


A Timeline



June 4th

Economic Equity //
Chynna Phillips,
Sisters of Charity
Foundation



June 14th

Upward Mobility
and Financial
Literacy //
Community Focus



June 22nd

Financial Aid //
High School +
College Focus



Now, July 21st

FAFSA (Free Application
for Federal Student Aid)
// High School
Focus

The FAFSA

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Must be filed every academic school year using tax return information
- Enables students to receive financial aid from the federal government, states, and higher education institutions
- In their 2020 *Fast Track FAFSA Completion* report, Education Strategy Group found “90 percent of students who complete the FAFSA enroll in college directly from high school, compared to just 55 percent of non-completers” (2)



02

Research Methodology

The Process

Sources

Process

1. Survey Current Local Support for FAFSA Filing
2. Identify Inconsistencies in Local Support and Resources
3. Identify Practices to Increase FAFSA Submissions

Sources

- Academic Sources
 - Journals
 - Articles
- Websites of School Districts and High Schools
- USCL Faculty and Staff
- Other High Schools
- Personal Experience

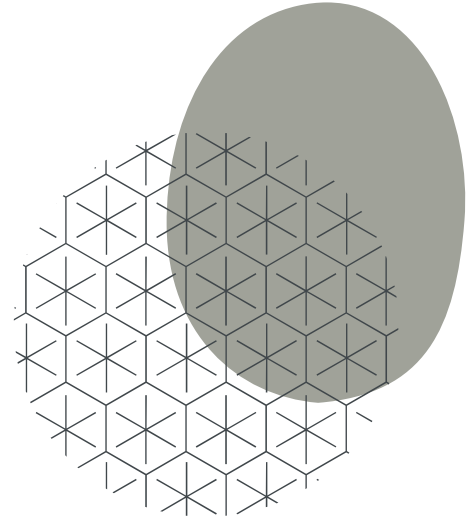




03

Contextual Limitations

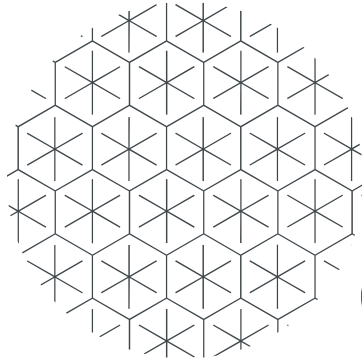
Importance Circumstances
to Consider



Important Circumstances to Consider

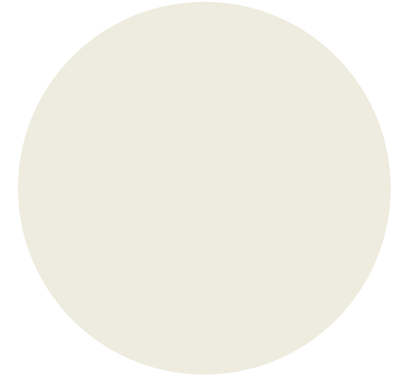
- Limited Time
 - 8-week internship / 6-week research period vs. traditional research project
- Statistics on FAFSA submissions did not go into demographics of the students
 - Submitted vs. completed
- Lack of perspective and input from current high school students and their parent(s)/guardian(s)

★ To best address the needs of a population, members of that population must be involved in determining what those needs are and the methods used to address them.



04

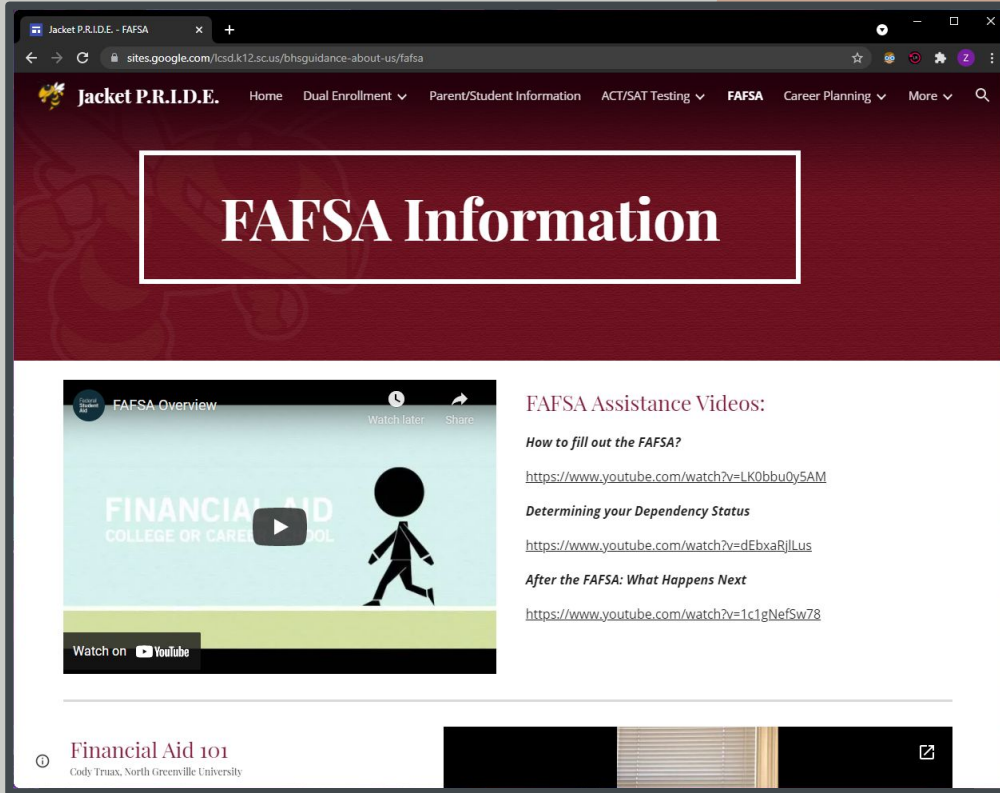
**Survey of
Current Local
FAFSA Filing
Support**



01. Furman University's College Advising Corps

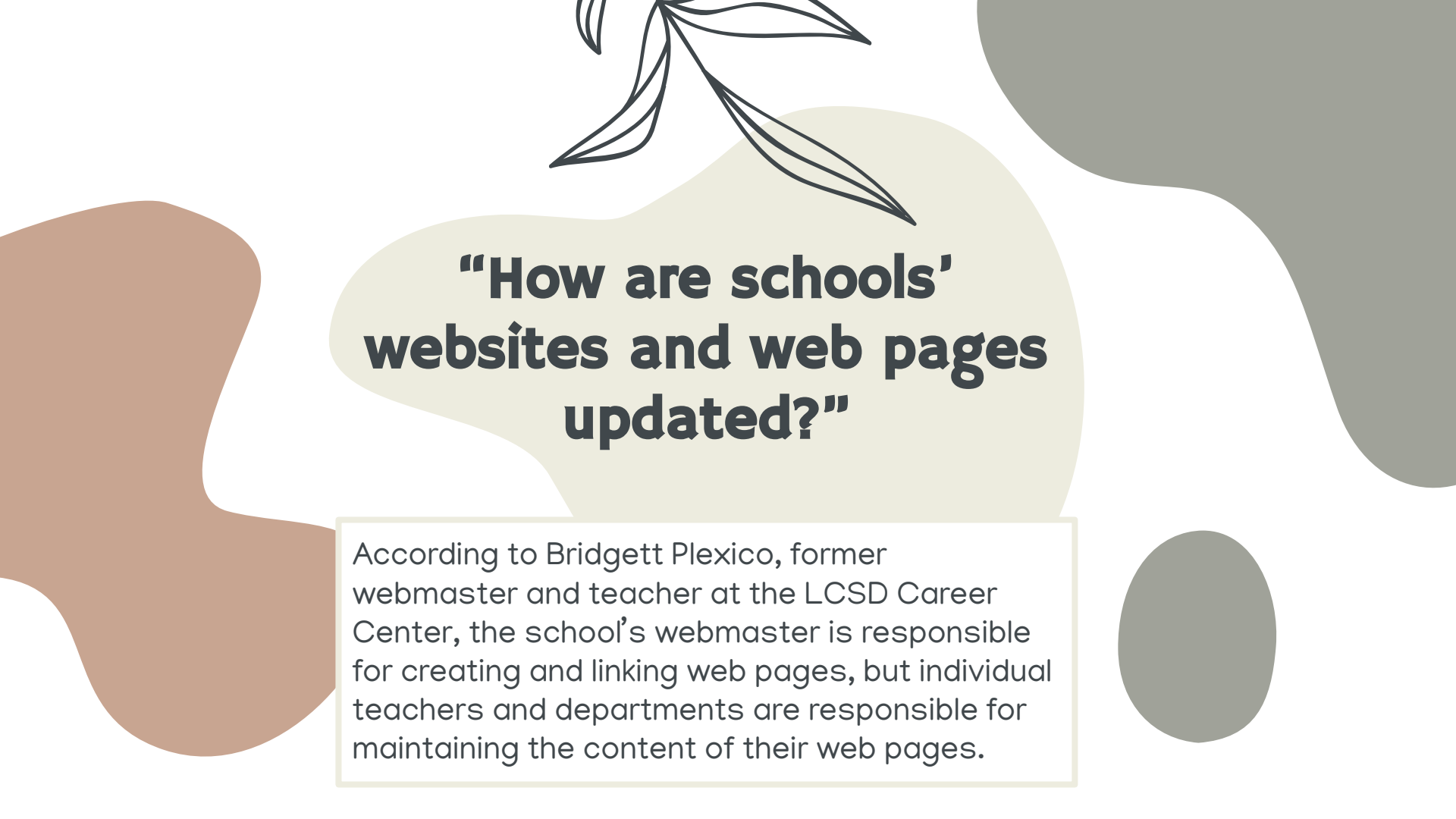
- Partnership established in SC in 2017
- Purpose of “increasing the rate of college enrollment and completion among low-income, first-generation and under-represented students” (“College Advising Corps”)
- Seniors who meet with an advisor are “27% more likely to submit the FAFSA” (Butler)





02. High School Counseling / Guidance Web Pages

Buford High School's "FAFSA Information" Web Page



“How are schools’ websites and web pages updated?”

According to Bridgett Plexico, former webmaster and teacher at the LCSD Career Center, the school’s webmaster is responsible for creating and linking web pages, but individual teachers and departments are responsible for maintaining the content of their web pages.

FAFSA Resources Available on Schools' Counseling/Guidances Web Pages

01 Direct Link to the FAFSA Website

02 Videos about the FAFSA

03 Commonly Asked Questions

04 Steps to File the FAFSA

05 2021-2022 FAFSA Information

Inconsistencies within Existing Local Support



01

Lack of
Information
Availability



02

Lack of
Up-to-Date
Information



03

Lack of
Accessibility

01. Lack of Information Availability



	Chester County School District			Lancaster County School District			
	Chester HS	Great Falls HS	Lewisville HS	Andrew Jackson HS	Buford HS	Indian Land HS	Lancaster HS
Direct Link to FAFSA Website	Available	Not available	Not available	Available	Available	Available	Available
FAFSA-Related Videos	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Available	Not available	Not available
Commonly Asked Questions	Not available	Not available	Not available	Available	Available	Not available	Available
Steps to File the FAFSA	Available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Available	Not available	Available
2021-2022 FAFSA Info	Available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Available	Not available	Available

Current Available Online FAFSA Resources on the Seven High Schools' Websites

02. Lack of Up-to-Date Information

Some high schools' websites have not been fully updated with the most recent information for both college advisors and the FAFSA.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the website for School Counseling at Lancaster High School. The page features a header with the school's name and a search bar. Below the header is a large photo of the counseling staff. A dropdown menu is open, listing the following staff members: Eric Byrd, Jerron Cauthen, Beth Crawford, Emma DeVenny, Registrar & Testing Co..., Rick Hodge, Charmaine Johnson, and Sara Jordan. Below the photo are two columns of text: 'Counselor Assignments' and 'Support Staff Assignments'. The 'Counselor Assignments' section lists assignments for Sara Jordan, Rick Hodge, Charmaine Johnson, and Eric Byrd. The 'Support Staff Assignments' section lists assignments for Beth Crawford, Lisa Emory, and Chelsea Warr. Red arrows point from callout boxes to Emma DeVenny in the staff list and Chelsea Warr in the support staff list.

Former
College
Advisor
(2018-19)

Former
College
Advisor
(2017-18)

Lancaster High School Website

Asesor universitario de LHS - FAFSA

Casa Información del contacto Fechas importantes Más

7 Steps To Filling Out The FAFSA

- 1 Create an FSA ID
- 2 Start the application at FAFSA.gov
- 3 Fill out the student demographic information
- 4 List the schools to which you'd like your FAFSA sent (even if you have not yet applied or been accepted)
- 5 Answer the dependency status questions. If you are determined to be a dependent, you will have to enter in parent information
- 6 Fill out parent demographic information (if you are determined to be a dependent). The FAFSA will guide you to which parent(s) should enter their information
- 7 Supply your financial information (and your parents, if applicable). Use IRS tax returns to indicate your financial status. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to simplify this process

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN & SUBMIT

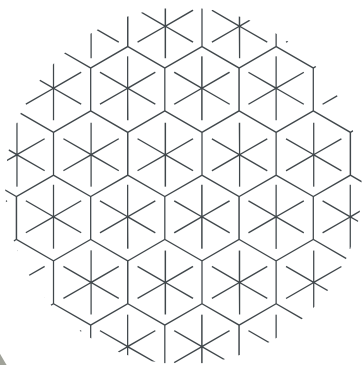
Cree su FSA ID (pin): <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

Siete elementos clave para comenzar la FAFSA:

- FSA ID
- Seguridad Social #
- Licencia de conducir
- **2018** declaración de impuestos y **2018** del IRS W-2 Documentos de Ingresos no tributables
- Registros de todos sus activos

03. Lack of Accessibility

- Navigation Difficulties
 - The search bar only searches the main LHS website, not the College Advisor site.
- No Spanish resources
 - Google Translate will only translate text directly on the web page, not graphics or pictures.



05

**Practices to
Increase FAFSA
Submissions**



Practices to Increase FAFSA Submissions

01

Create a centralized web page on school districts' websites

02

Hold frequent and regular virtual FAFSA nights

03

Offer one-on-one appointments to students, parents, and guardians



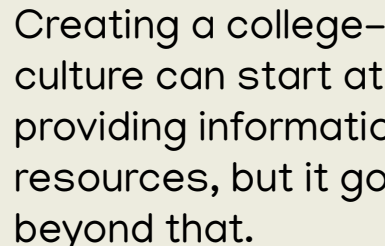
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**Why This Is
Important**

Creating a College-Going Culture

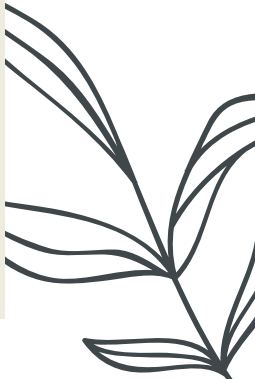
Research shows that students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to enroll in college.

According to a *Forbes* article from August 2020, college degrees are required for “70% of good jobs,” which allow for a middle-class lifestyle (Sherman).



Creating a college-going culture can start at providing information and resources, but it goes beyond that.

By providing these resources and support, schools communicate to students and their families that (1) it is possible to pursue a higher education and (2) that there is value and worth in doing so.



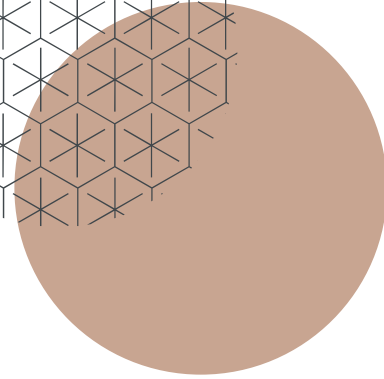
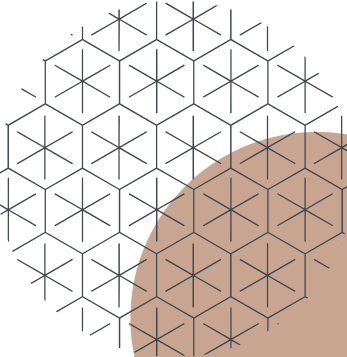


Thanks

Do you have any questions?

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Resources

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As a former webmaster and teacher of the LCSD Career Center, Plexico describes the responsibilities of the webmaster, teacher and department when creating and maintaining web pages on the school's website.

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