



Supporting College Completion for Students Experiencing Homelessness

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- U.S. Department of Education’s technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program
- Website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
- Webinars: <http://nche.ed.gov/web/group.php>
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Listserv: <http://nche.ed.gov/listserv.php>
- Products: <http://nche.ed.gov/products.php>

Outline

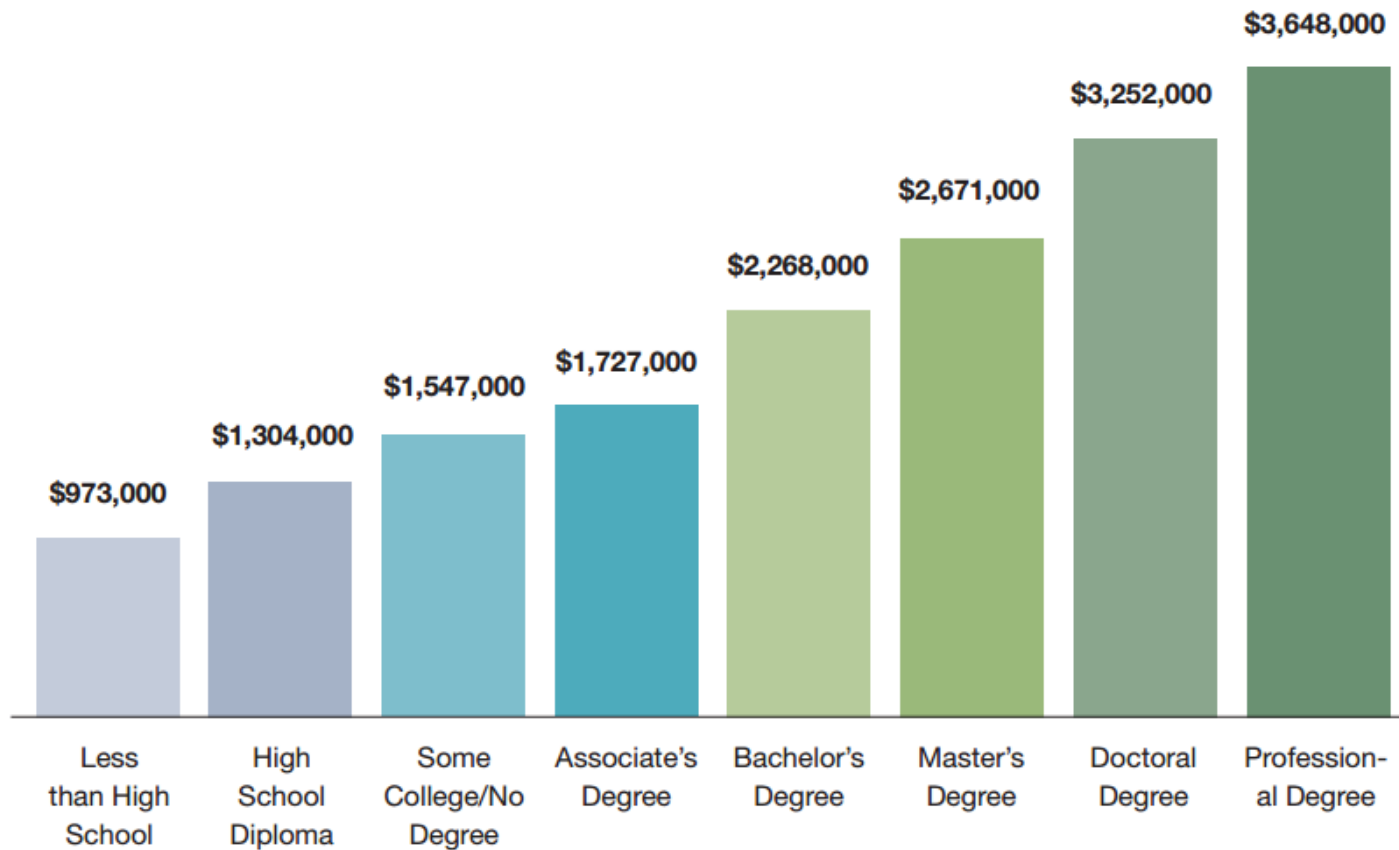
- Setting the stage
- Support for getting into college
 - New ESSA provisions
 - Fee waivers
 - FAFSA completion
- Support for college completion
 - Model programs and common components
 - Getting started in your community
- Additional resources



Setting the Stage

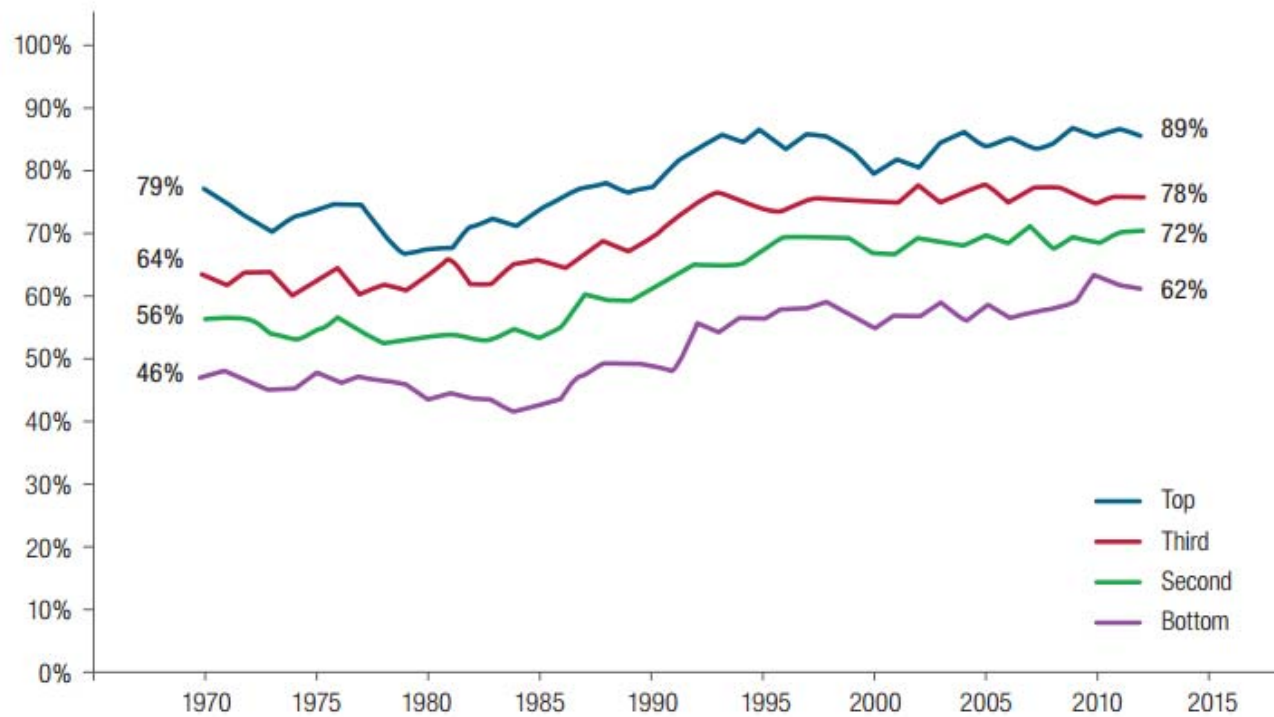
The Value of a College Degree

FIGURE 1: MEDIAN LIFETIME EARNINGS BY HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2009 DOLLARS



College Continuation Rates

Equity Indicator 1b: High School Graduates College Continuation Rate (HSGCCR) by family income quartile for 18 to 24 year olds: 1970 to 2012



What do you
think?

Bachelor's Degree Completion

- In 2009, what percentage of low-income (bottom quartile) students who entered college completed a bachelor's degree within 6 years?
 - 26%
 - 42%
 - 65%
 - 79%

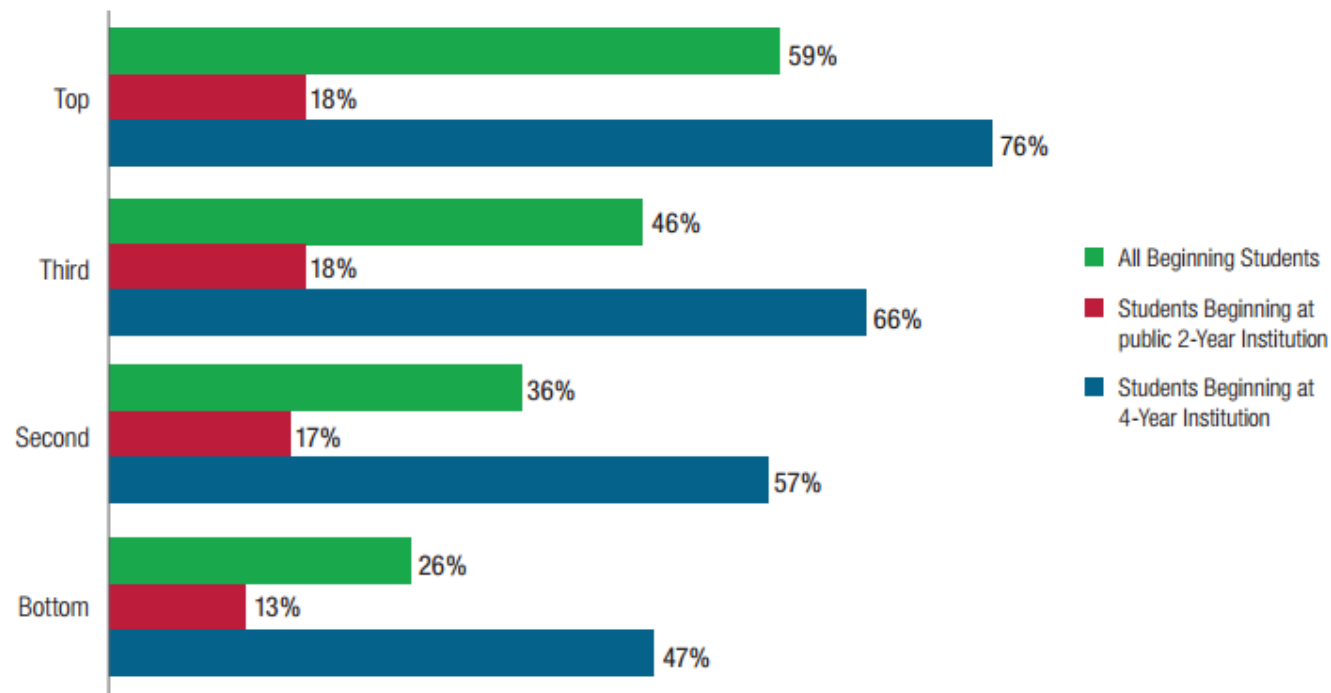
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Bachelor's Degree Completion

Revised Equity Indicator 5b: Percent of dependent first-time students who first enrolled in a postsecondary education institution in the 2003-04 academic year, who obtained a bachelor's degree within six years by level of first institution attended and family income quartile: Spring 2009





**Supports for Getting
into College**

ESSA Higher Education Provisions

- The state EHCY plan must include a description of how homeless youth will receive assistance from school counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college
- Local liaisons must inform unaccompanied homeless youth of their independent student status when applying for federal financial aid and assist these youth with verification of this status for the FAFSA.
- Visit <http://nche.ed.gov/legis/essa.php> for more information



Fee Waivers

- Fee waivers are available for homeless students for:
 - Advanced Placement (AP) exams
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/waivers/guidelines/ap>
 - College entrance exams
 - ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/feewaiver.html>
 - SAT: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers>



Fee Waivers

- College application fees
 - College Board:
<https://satresourcecenter.collegeboard.org/college-application-fee-waivers>
 - NACAC:
<http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver/Pages/default.aspx>

What do you
think?

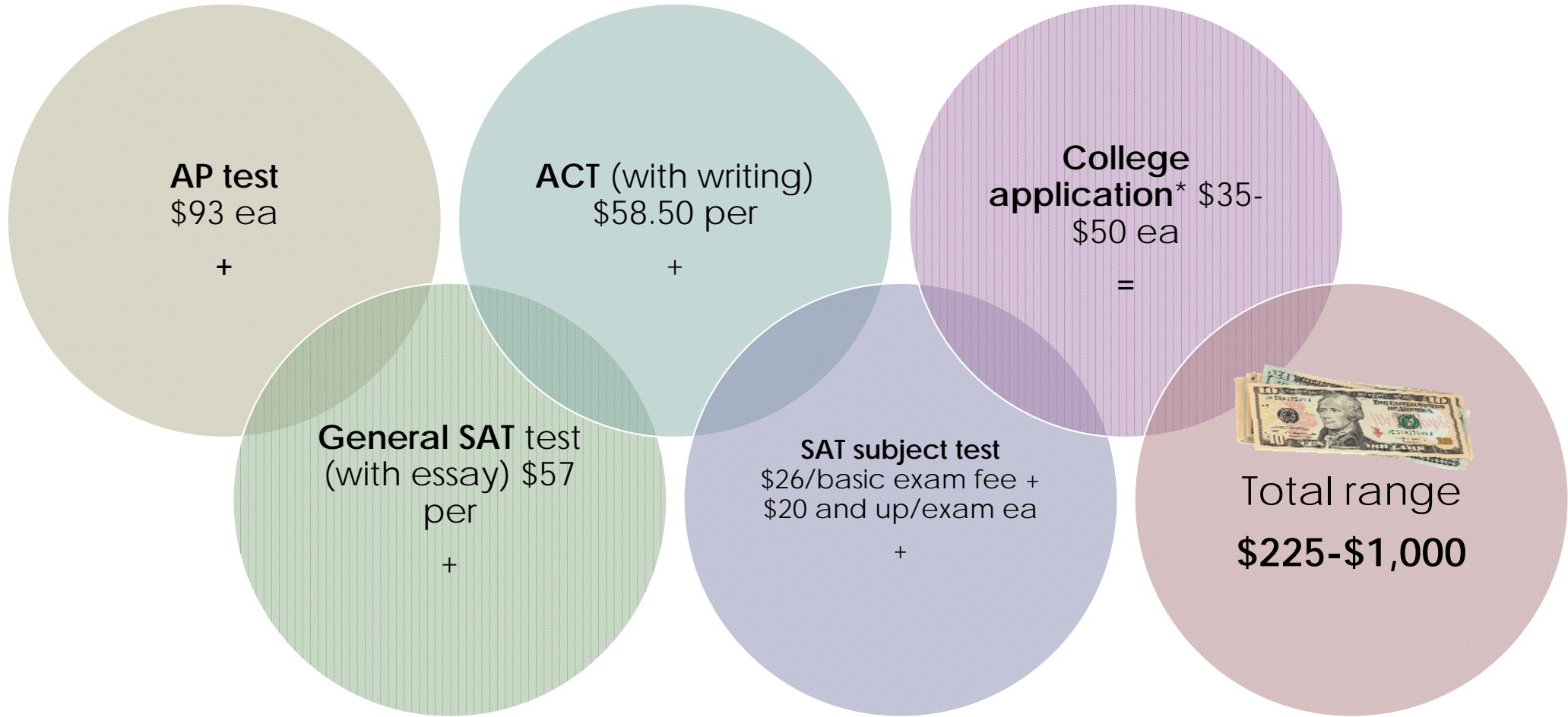
What's the big deal about fees?

- A student who takes one AP test and one college entrance exam, and applies to five colleges, will spend an average of ___ in fees.
 - \$222
 - \$363
 - \$575
 - \$845

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*The College Board recommends that students apply to between 5 and 8 colleges.

FAFSA Basics

- FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- The official FAFSA web address is www.fafsa.gov
- Students applying for federal aid must complete a FAFSA for each school year for which they are seeking federal aid

October 2016 FAFSA Changes

- Beginning with the 2017-2018 FAFSA, ED began releasing the new FAFSA in October (“early FAFSA”)
- Students will submit income from an earlier year (“prior prior year”)
- Visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes> for more information



CHANGES TO THE FAFSA® PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

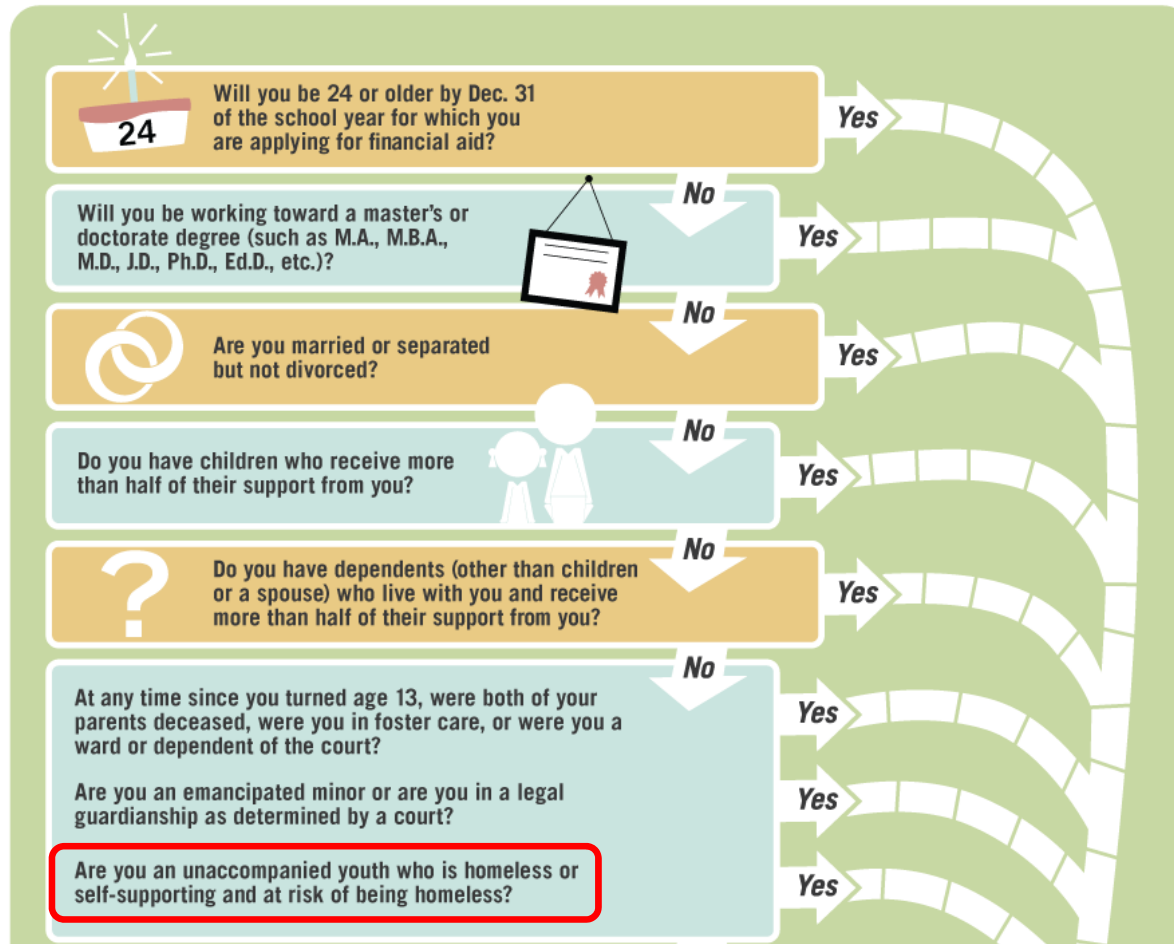
USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.


Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Do I Have to Provide My Parents' Information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSASM)?


All applicants for federal student aid are considered either "independent" or "dependent." Dependent students are required to include information about their parents on the FAFSA. By answering a few questions, you can get a good idea of which category you fit into.



 Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?

No

Yes

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces? 

No

Yes

**You may be a
Dependent Student**

If none of the criteria listed above apply to you, you may be considered a dependent student and may be required to provide your parents' financial information when completing the FAFSA.

**You may be an
Independent Student**

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you may be an independent student. You may not be required to provide parental information on your FAFSA.

**If you have questions about your dependency status
or need more information, please visit
StudentAid.gov/dependency.**

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April 2013



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- **Unaccompanied**

Not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

- **Homeless**

McKinney-Vento definition -

<http://nche.ed.gov/legis/mv-def.php>

- **Youth**

Age 23 or under

July 2015 US ED Dear Colleague Letter -

<http://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1516Attachment.pdf>



Determiners of Student Status

- Local liaisons
 - Required under ESSA for graduating high school seniors
 - Allowed for college students through age 23 for whom liaisons have the needed information (June 2016 letter from Secretary King)
- Directors (or their designees) of shelters funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act or by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (student received services)
- College financial aid administrators (any student)



Documenting Student Status

- For local liaisons and shelters

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Documentation of Independent Student Status for the FAFSA

<http://www.naehcy.org/educational-resources/higher-ed>

- For financial aid administrators

Making Student Status Determinations for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Eligibility Tool for Financial Aid Administrators

http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/faa_tool.php



“Accompanied” Homeless Students

- Include parental information on the FAFSA
- Federal aid package is calculated based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and will reflect the family’s low-income status
- Understanding the EFC

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated>



Scholarships

- List from high school counselor
- NAEHCY: <http://www.naehcy.org/naehcy-scholarship-fund/about-the-fund>
- Horatio Alger: <https://scholars.horatioalger.org/>
- Reputable scholarship search engines
 - Fastweb!: <http://www.fastweb.com/>
 - College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
 - U.S. Department of Education: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>



Questions?

Tips?



Supports for College Completion

What do you
think?

Low College Completion Rates

What factors might contribute to homeless students' low college completion rates?

What do you
think?

Low College Completion Rates

- Destabilizing effects of homelessness (physical, mental/emotional, financial, and academic)
- No educational role model (no experience of a “college-going culture”, feel “out of place” or overwhelmed)
- No place to stay over extended breaks
- Other reasons?



Risk Factors for Non-Completion

- Part-time enrollment
- Delaying entry into postsecondary education after high school
- Not having a regular high school diploma
- Having dependent children
- Being a single parent
- Being financially independent of parents
- Working full-time while enrolled

Community College?

- Risk factors common among non-traditional students, many of whom attend community college
- Myriad of responsibilities competing for time and attention
- Lower level of student engagement
- Poor planning for transferring to a 4-year institution
- The 2-year vs. 4-year issue should be considered for each individual student based on a variety of factors (not just cost)

Institutions Taking the Lead

- Florida State University
 - Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement - <http://care.fsu.edu/>
 - Unconquered Scholars Program - <http://care.fsu.edu/College-Programs/Unconquered-Scholars-Program>
- Kennesaw State University CARE Center - <http://studentsuccess.kennesaw.edu/care/>
- University of Massachusetts Boston U-ACCESS Program - https://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/uaccess



What do you
think?

Needed Supports

What kind of supports might a homeless youth need to complete college?



What do you
think?

- Financial assistance
- Basic needs
- Relational support
- Housing assistance
- Academic support
- Career support
- Mental health support
- Others?

Needed Supports

Common Program Components

- Case management
 - Assess individual student needs
 - Coordinate service provision
- Housing assistance
 - Reduced, delayed, or waived housing deposits
 - Provision of housing during extended breaks
 - Use of private donations to assist with expenses (application fee, deposits, short-term rental assistance)



Common Program Components

- The provision of basic needs
 - Campus food pantries
 - Transportation to the grocery store
 - Gas and grocery cards
- Academic and career support
 - Matching with an academic advisor
 - Skills workshops
 - Tutoring
 - Career advising

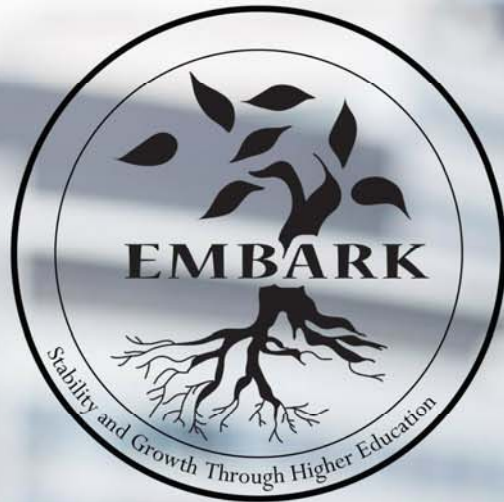
Common Program Components

- Mental health support
 - Individual and group counseling
 - Targeted assistance for substance abuse and eating disorders
- Financial support
 - Dedicated liaison to the Office of Financial Aid (FSU)
 - Financial skills workshops
 - Dedicated scholarships or scholarship assistance



Things to Remember

- Dedicated funding is not required (although it helps...)
- Leverage existing campus resources (funding, programs, people)
- Invite in-kind donations (funding and volunteering)



EMBARK Georgia is a statewide network of support for youth who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness and are enrolled or interested in attending any postsecondary educational institution in Georgia

<https://embarkgeorgia.org/>

Questions?

Tips?

Resources

- NCHE Homeless Education Helpline
homeless@serve.org, 800-308-2145
- NAEHCY Higher Education Helpline
highered@naehcy.org, 855-446-2673
- *Supporting College Completion for Students Experiencing Homelessness*
<http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/he-success.pdf>
- *College Access and Success for Students Experiencing Homelessness: A Toolkit for Educators and Service Providers*
<http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/toolkit.pdf>





Thank You

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