

**POLICY TO IMPROVE COMPLETION RATES OF THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**

The Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education (the “Board”) understands that completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) is an important step in the path to postsecondary education and is associated with higher rates of college enrollment. The Board is committed to improving the completion rates of the FAFSA for students enrolled in the Regional School District 17 Public Schools (the “District”).

In order to improve the completion rates of the FAFSA by students enrolled in grade twelve in the District, the District shall develop a systematic program through which such students are educated about the purpose and content of the FAFSA, encouraged to complete the FAFSA, and assisted in the completion of the FAFSA, as may be necessary and appropriate. The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to develop administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy. The Board further directs the Superintendent or designee to conduct periodic assessments of such regulations, at least annually, to determine effectiveness in improving completion rates of the FAFSA.

Any information contained in a FAFSA, held by the Board, shall not be a public record for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act and thus shall not be subject to disclosure under the provisions of section 1-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Each year, the Superintendent or designee will report to the Board the FAFSA completion rate for each high school in the District.

The Board may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations, to implement the provisions of this policy.

Legal Reference:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-11i
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223m

**APPROVED: 08.16.22
REVISED:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ADDRESSING IMPROVING THE
COMPLETION RATES OF FAFSA**

In order to improve the completion rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”) by students enrolled in the Regional School District 17 Public Schools, the District will:

- Develop a FAFSA Team to identify challenges, successes, and next steps in improving the completion rates of the FAFSA among students in grade twelve.
- Track data from such students regarding FAFSA completion, including date of completion.
- Identify FAFSA coaches who will be assigned a caseload of students to assist students in completing the FAFSA and monitor their completion rates.
- Provide incentives to students who have completed the FAFSA, which may include but are not limited to, spirit days and giveaways, if funding permits.
- Conduct annual presentations to students about the purpose and importance of the FAFSA and the District’s resources available to help students in completing the FAFSA.
- Provide professional development to identified District staff regarding the FAFSA and best practices for supporting students in completing the FAFSA.

Legal Reference:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-223m

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