South Carolina sees small boost in applications for college financial aid

Right now, some students are preparing to apply for federal college financial aid through the FAFSA form. The Financial Aid Form for the 2023-2024 school year, which opened on Aug. 1, will be available in the interim for students in grades 11 and 12 who need it.

But the state’s college enrollment could be on the mend, with more students applying for federal college financial aid through the FAFSA form. The Fort Miller school district had one of the highest percentages of completed FAFSA filings this year, with 97 percent of students completing it. Orangeburg, with 94 percent of students completing the FAFSA form, had the second highest percentage. Charleston, with 92 percent of students completing the FAFSA form, had the third highest percentage. Overall, nearly 32 percent of students completed the FAFSA form for the 2023-2024 school year.

Higher-income schools had an estimated 2 percent increase in FAFSA filings; and Charleston, with 92 percent of students completing the FAFSA form, had the third highest percentage. Overall, nearly 32 percent of students completed the FAFSA form for the 2023-2024 school year.

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High schools serving more students from low-income backgrounds in South Carolina did have some gains in applications this year, seeing a nearly 6 percent increase in applications for students from low-income backgrounds. But the gains were not as strong as the gains seen in the past years. The Fort Mill school district had one of the highest percentages of completed FAFSA filings this year, with 97 percent of students completing it. Orangeburg, with 94 percent of students completing the FAFSA form, had the second highest percentage. Charleston, with 92 percent of students completing the FAFSA form, had the third highest percentage. Overall, nearly 32 percent of students completed the FAFSA form for the 2023-2024 school year.

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