

The NC FAFSA Tracker

Helping North Carolina
Pay for Education

NCAIR – March 2025

About NCSEAA

North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority

- Created in 1965; constituted as a political subdivision of the State under Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.
- Governed by a Board of Directors with expertise in finance, secondary or higher education, system CFOs, and nonpublic K12 chief administrative officer or CFO.



Presenters

Andrea Lewton

Deputy Director, Data Analysis
and Research

Kyndall Boxell

Business Intelligence/Data
Analyst

Jennifer Sills

Software Quality Assurance
Specialist/Data Analyst



PARTNERSHIP:

- North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
- NC Department of Public Instruction
- NC Community College System
- UNC System
- NC Independent Colleges and Universities
- College Foundation, Inc.

Free service of the State of North Carolina that helps students plan, apply, and pay for college.

What NCSEAA Does...

Higher Ed Grants &
Scholarships

Forgivable Ed
Loans for Service

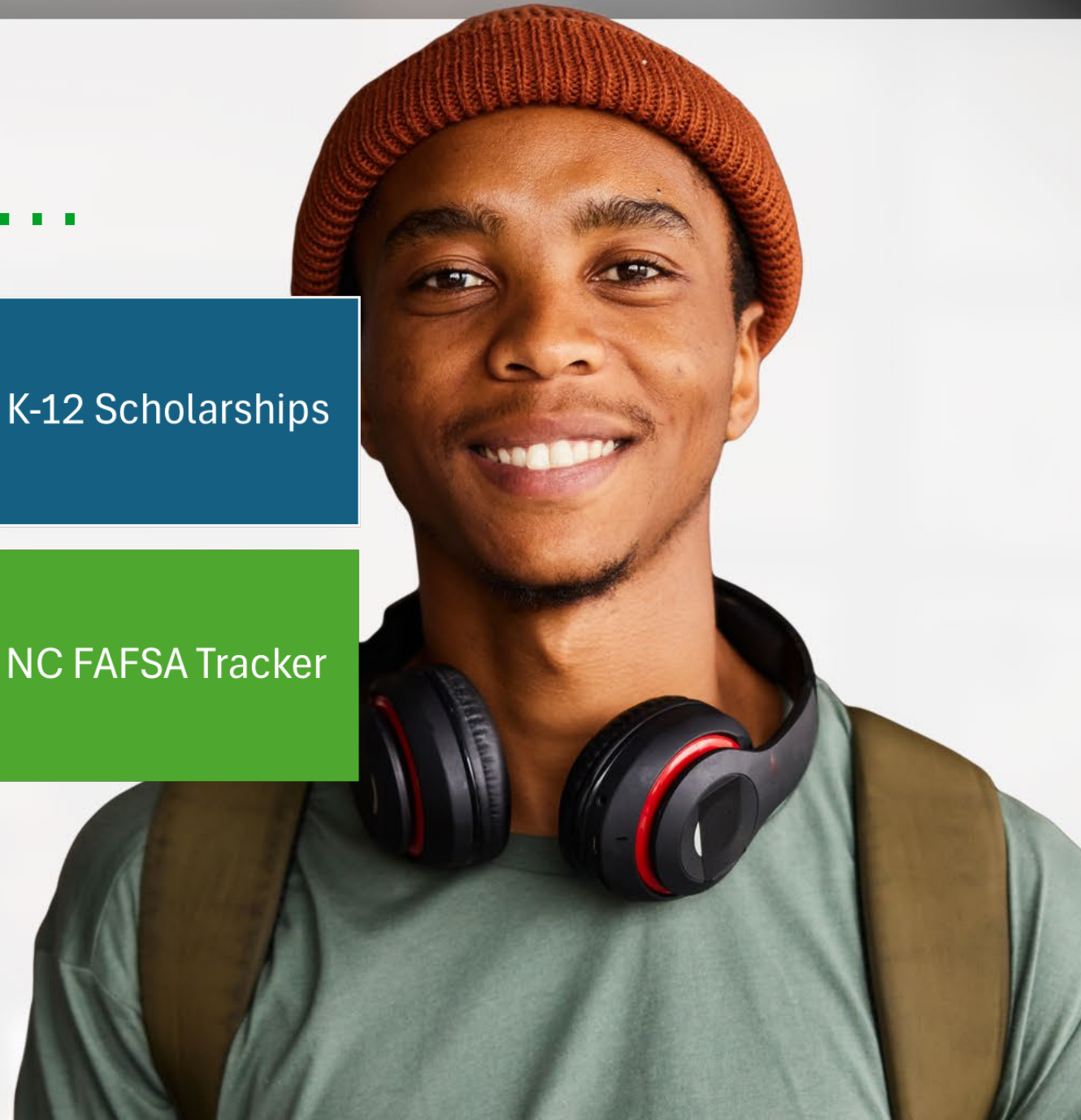
K-12 Scholarships

Residency
Determination for
In-State Tuition
(RDS)

529 College
Savings Plan

NC FAFSA Tracker

College for North
Carolina
(CFNC.org)





Key Learning Outcomes:

- FAFSA Cycle
- Why do we need a NC FAFSA Tracker?
- FAFSA Tracker History
- NC FAFSA Tracker 2025
- Data Sources
- Weekly Updates
- Main Features
- Impact
- Future Improvements

NC FAFSA Tracker

High School Seniors



NC Goal:
2 million North
Carolinians ages 25–
44 will hold a high-
quality degree or
credential by 2030.

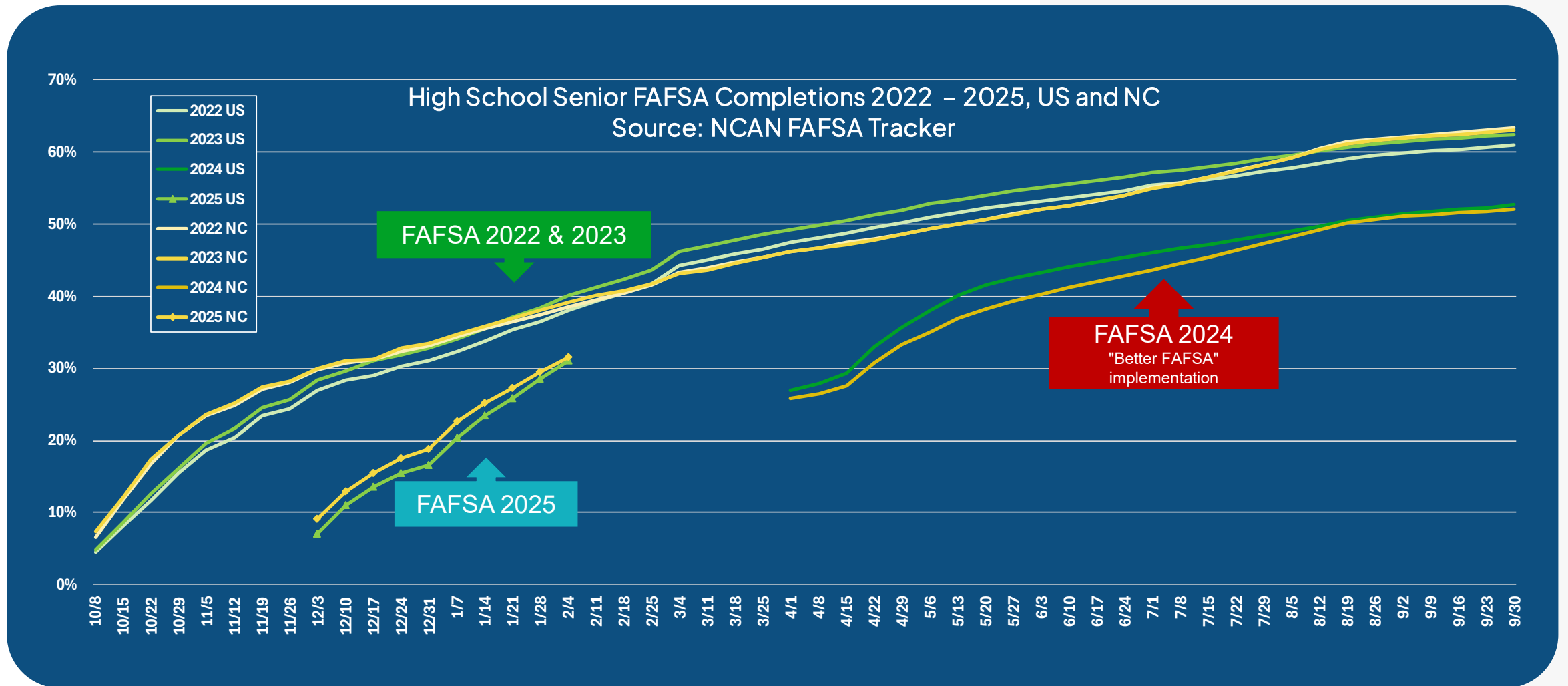
What is FAFSA?

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
- FAFSA unlocks access to financial aid at the federal, state, and college level

October → September



FAFSA: High School Seniors



Why do we need a NC FAFSA Tracker?

- Cost is the top barrier to attending college
- FAFSA completion is a strong predictor of Fall college enrollment
- FAFSA is one of the few metrics we can get in real time
- Friendly competition among schools and districts
- Inform education leaders about what to expect, and how to allocate resources
- CFNC outreach representatives use the NC FAFSA Tracker regularly to measure impact in their regions

Track and rank school's progress toward 100% of their **high school seniors** completing the FAFSA.

FAFSA Tracker History

(High School Seniors)

2015 Florida developed the first FAFSA Tracker

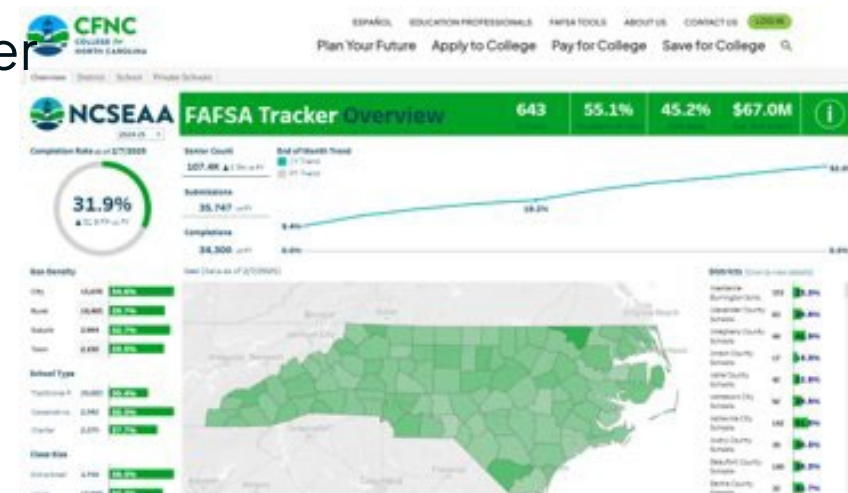
2018 National College Attainment Network (NCAN) launched the *#FormYourFuture* FAFSA Tracker (all 50 states)

2020 MyFutureNC & UNC Carolina Demography collaboration

2022–2023 NCSEAA takes over FAFSA Tracker

2024 NCSEAA & Slalom improvements

2025 NCSEAA Data Analytics Team



Behind the Data



Data Sources

- Federal Student Aid (FSA) website
 - FAFSA Submissions
 - FAFSA Completions

Submission: Submitted an application

Completion: Submitted application is complete

Gathered weekly throughout the FAFSA cycle.

NC FSA data is publicly available, gathered from FSA's website:

<https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school>

Data Sources

- NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
 - School Information & Senior Counts
 - Race & Gender
 - Economically Disadvantaged Students (ESD)
- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
 - Geocoding

Gathered once, at the beginning of the FAFSA cycle.

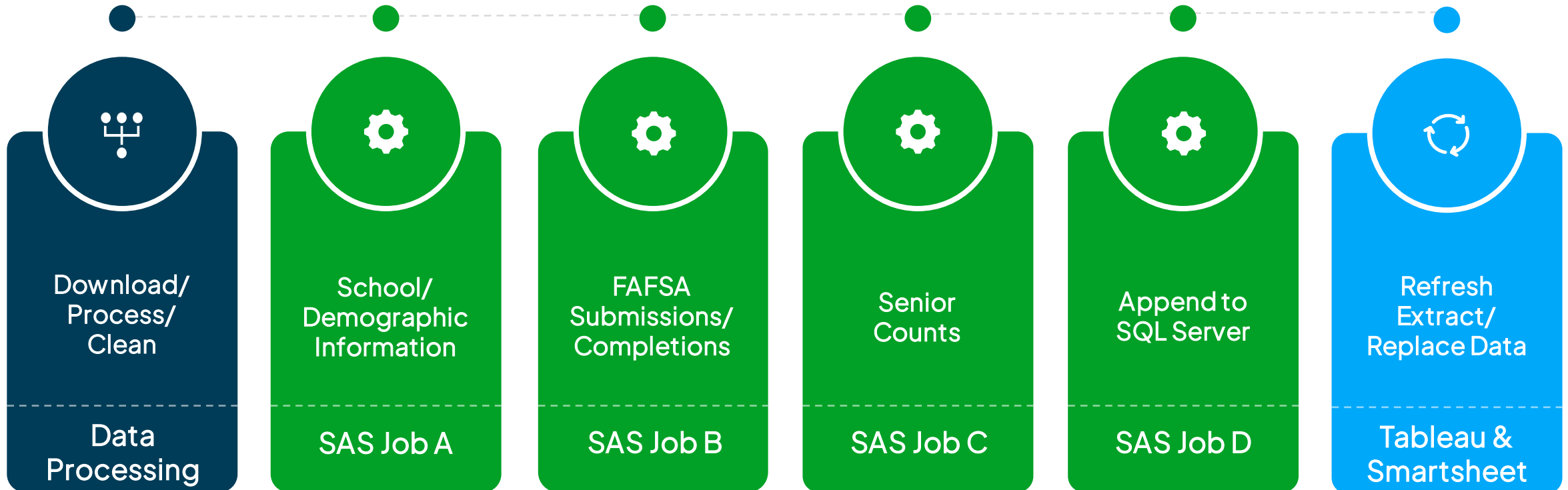
NC DPI &
NCES data is
publicly available,
gathered from
their websites:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports>

<https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>

Updating the Tracker

(Weekly Process)

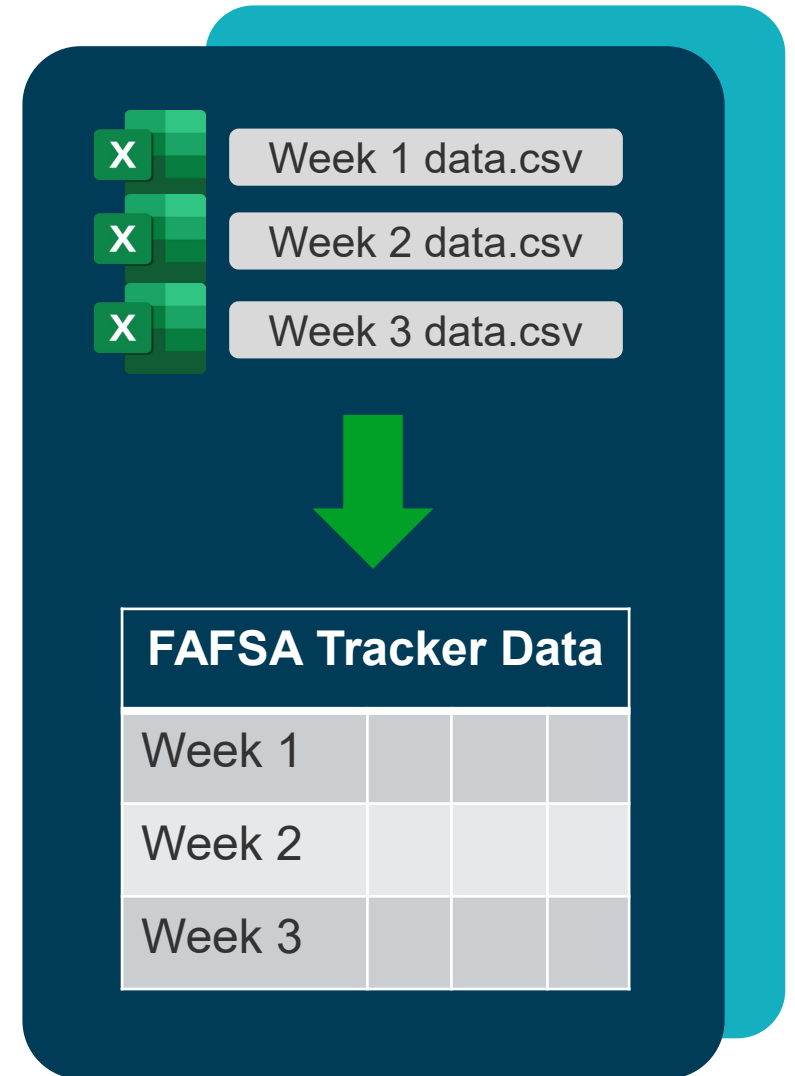


2025 Updates

- Improvements based on user insights
- View past FAFSA cycle data
 - Compare each cycle to prior year
- Branding changes



- SQL server



Where to Find NC FAFSA Tracker

cfnc.org/fafsatracker



Navigating the Tracker





NCSEAA

FAFSA Tracker Overview

645

55.1%

45.2%

\$74.2M



2024-25

Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

107.5K ▲ 5.3% vs PY

End of Month Trend

CY Trend

PY Trend

Submissions

39,304 vs PY

Completions

37,768 vs PY

9.4%

0.0%

This dashboard is meant to be *interactive*. Click any mark to filter the dashboard to that subset of data. Click again or press ESC to clear.

Marks are **colored** based on a **comparison** to **prior year**. If that comparison is greater than last year, those marks are colored **green**, if below they are colored **orange**.

Note: **Private School** data is only available on the Private School tab. Functionality is limited due to data availability.

To **download a .csv** of the underlying dataset, scroll below the dashboard and download the smartsheet.

Data as of: 2/21/2025

Geo Density

City	16,457	37.7%
Rural	16,061	33.0%
Suburb	2,916	35.8%
Town	2,396	32.9%

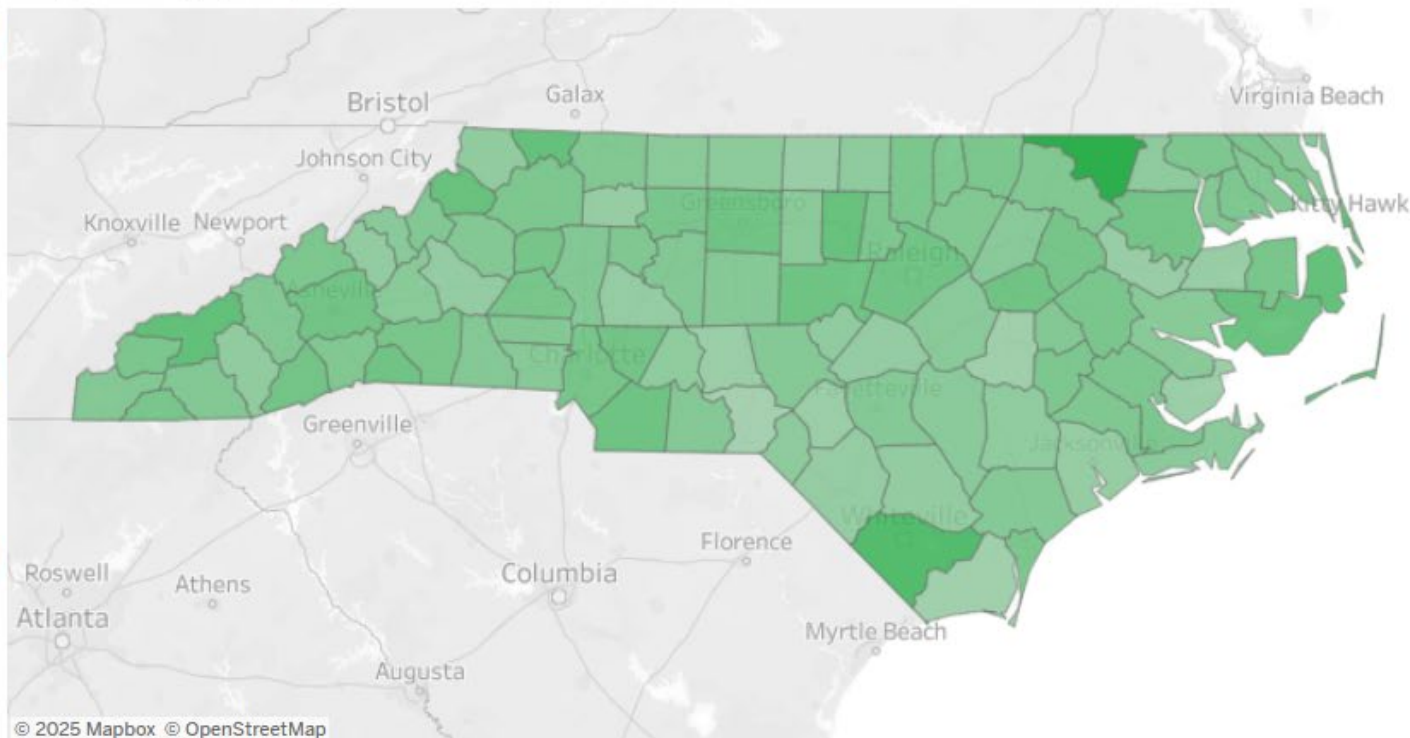
School Type

Traditional P..	32,150	33.6%
Cooperative ..	3,165	54.0%
Charter	2,453	40.6%

Class Size

Extra Small	4,133	42.9%
Large	19,660	35.8%
Medium	8,490	30.8%
Small	5,547	35.5%

Geo (data as of 2/21/2025)



Districts (Click to view details)

Alamance-Burlington Scho..	424	28.8%
Alexander County Schools	90	31.3%
Alleghany County Schools	48	45.7%
Anson County Schools	18	16.2%
Ashe County Schools	46	25.0%
Asheboro City Schools	104	32.2%
Asheville City Schools	165	60.2%
Avery County Schools	46	38.3%
Beaufort County Schools	158	29.7%
Bertie County Schools	33	33.7%
Bladen County Schools	85	29.2%
Brunswick County Schools	185	20.2%

18



2024-25

FAFSA Tracker Overview

191
Schools

65.9%
Students of Color

43.6%
EDS Rate

\$29.8M
Est. Pell Grants



Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

43.6K ▲ 3.3% vs PY

End of Month Trend

CY Trend

PY Trend

Submissions

17,092 vs PY

Completions

16,457 vs PY

11.1%

0.0%

21.6%

32.6%

37.7%

0.0%

Geo Density

City	16,457	37.7%
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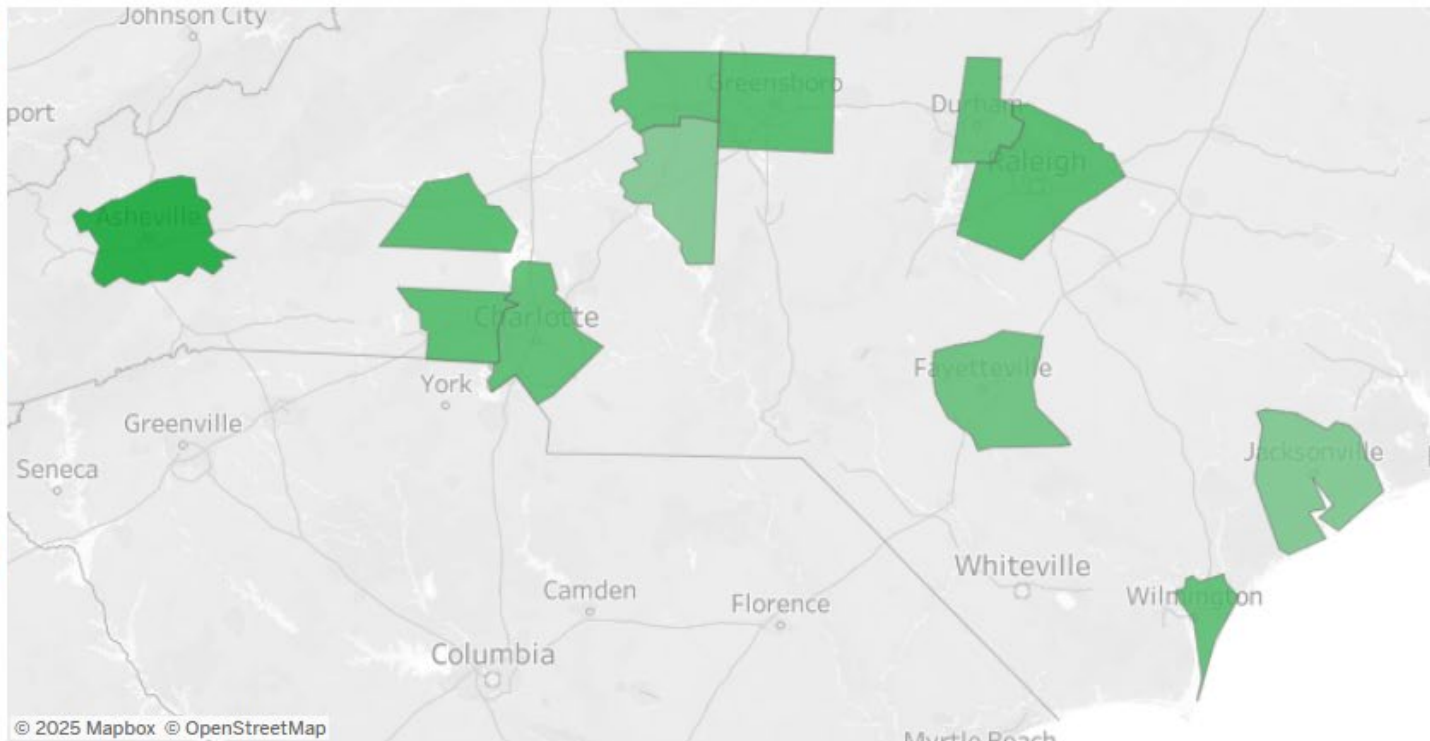
School Type

Traditional P..	14,558	36.8%
Cooperative ..	1,143	56.5%
Charter	756	37.7%

Class Size

Extra Small	1,405	46.4%
Large	12,948	37.7%
Medium	1,030	28.5%
Small	1,074	41.5%

Geo (data as of 2/21/2025)



Districts (Click to view details)

Asheville City Schools	165	60.2%
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Sch..	3,420	36.4%
Cumberland County Schools	971	30.4%
Durham Public Schools	701	36.0%
Guilford County Schools	1,798	38.3%
Hickory City Schools	110	39.7%
New Hanover County Schools	626	34.6%
Onslow County Schools	443	24.7%
Thomasville City Schools	29	25.4%
Wake County Schools	4,952	39.9%
Winston Salem / Forsyth County S..	1,343	36.6%
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Sch..	276	54.5%

19



2024-25

FAFSA Tracker Overview

645

Schools

55.1%

Students of Color

45.2%

EDS Rate

\$74.2M

Est. Pell Grants



Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

107.5K ▲ 5.3% vs PY

End of Month Trend

CY Trend

PY Trend

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39,304 vs PY

Completions

37,768 vs PY

9.4%

0.0%

19.2%

29.9%

35.2%

0.0%

Geo Density

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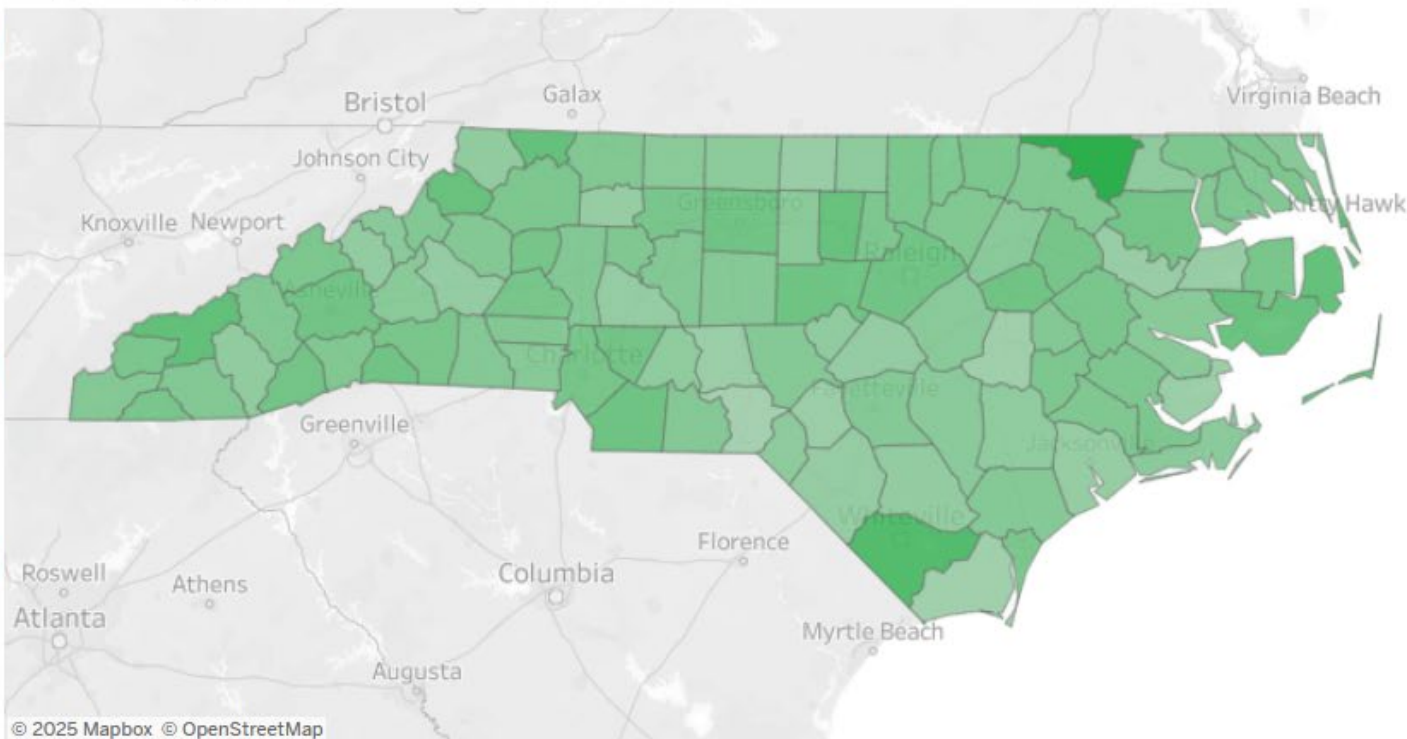
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Geo (data as of 2/21/2025)



Districts (Click to view details)

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Brunswick County Schools	185	20.2%

20



2024-25

FAFSA Tracker Overview

42
Schools

55.5%
Students of Color

32.6%
EDS Rate

\$7.4M
Est. Pell Grants



Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

13.4K ▲ 2.4% vs PY

End of Month Trend

CY Trend
PY Trend

Submissions

5,590 vs PY

Completions

5,436 vs PY

11.9%

0.0%

23.2%

35.0%

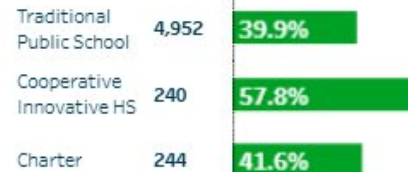
40.5%

0.0%

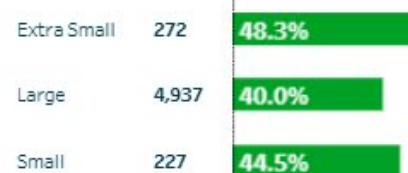
Geo Density



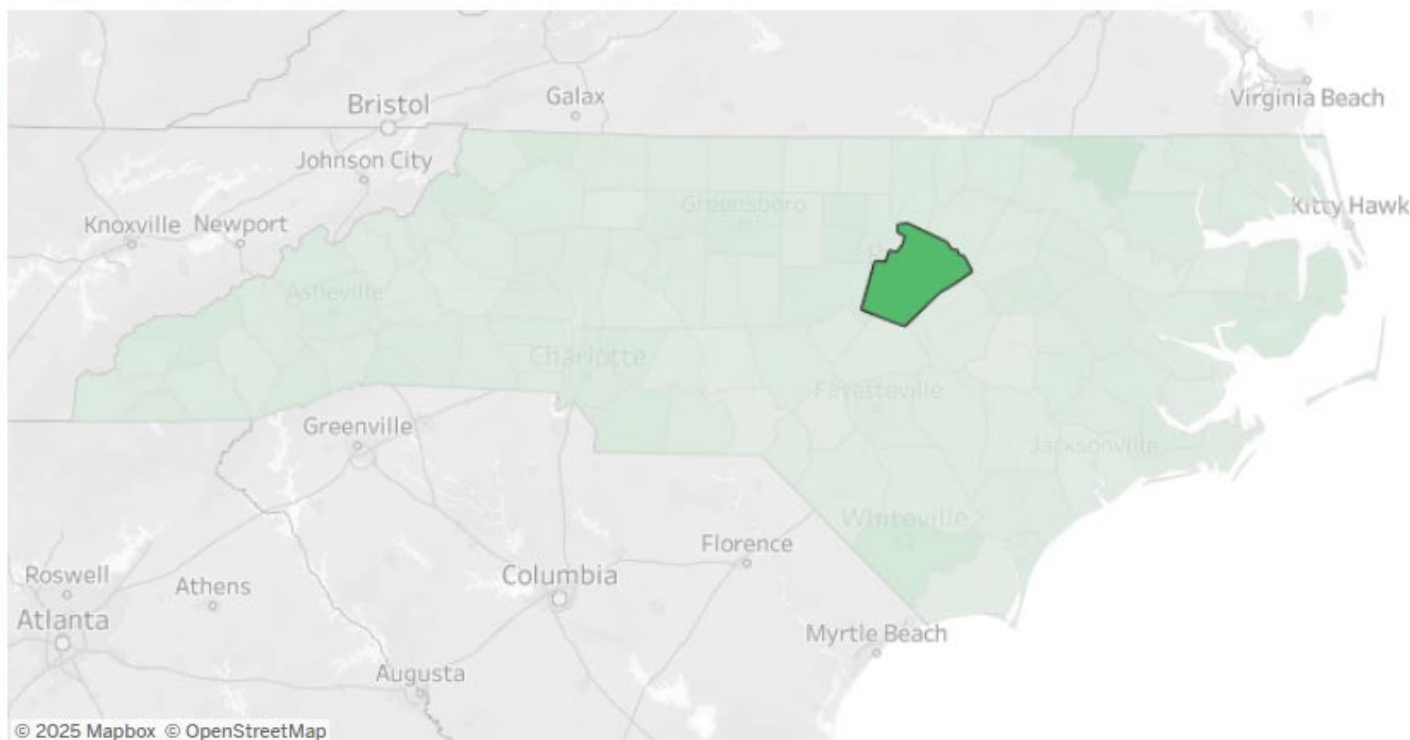
School Type



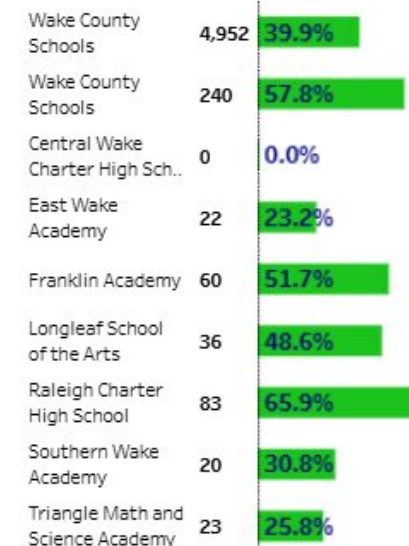
Class Size



Geo (data as of 2/21/2025)



Districts (Click to view details)





FAFSA Tracker District

Select District
Wake Count...

35
Schools

56.8%
Students of Color

34.6%
EDS Rate

\$7.3M
Est. Pell Grants



Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

12,837 ▲ 2.7% vs PY

Submissions

5,337 vs PY

Completions

5,192 vs PY

End of Month Trend

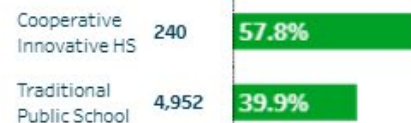
■ CY Trend
■ PY Trend



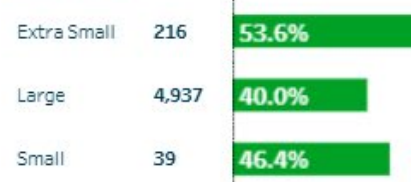
District Info

Wake County Schools
Wake, NC

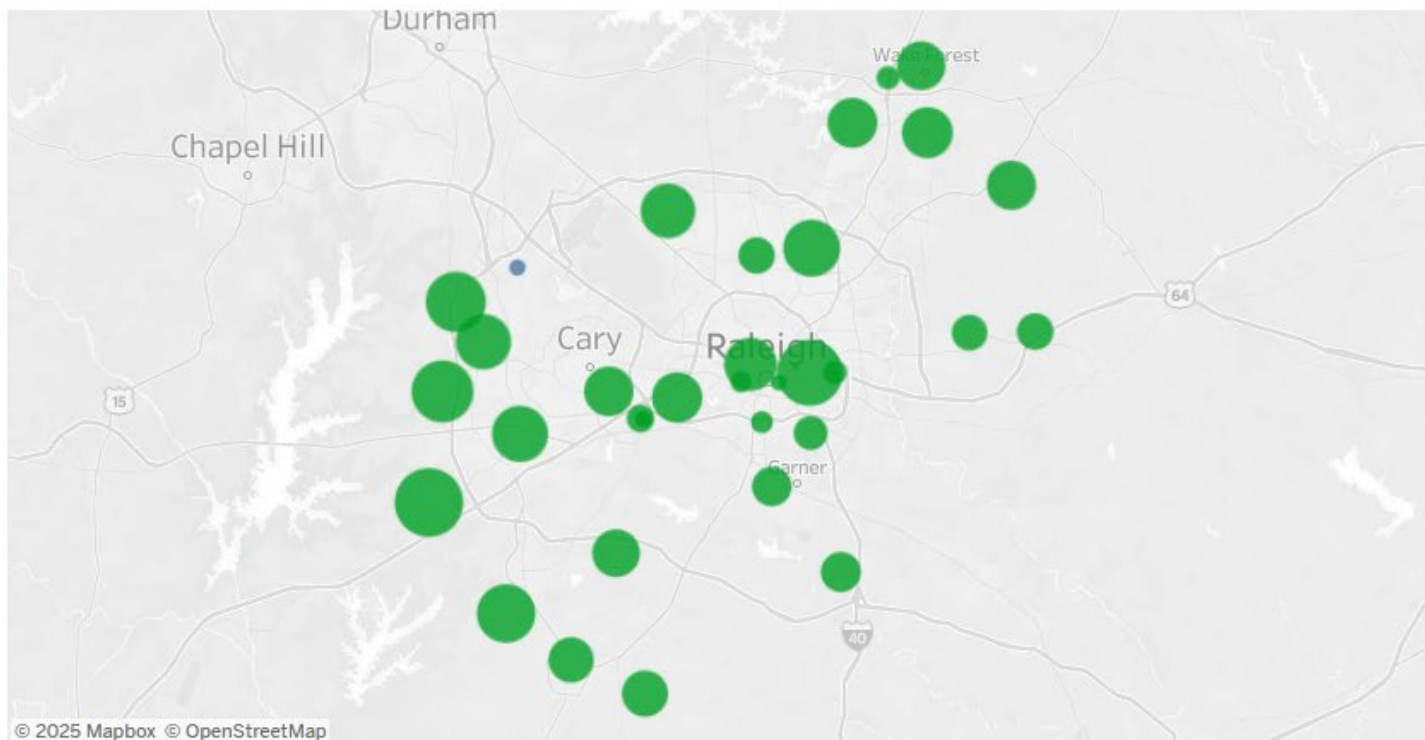
School Type



Class Size



Geo



Schools (Click to view details)

Apex Friendship H..	360	50.5%
Apex High	240	41.3%
Athens Drive High	193	44.9%
Cary High	186	38.9%
Crossroads FLEX	15	34.9%
East Wake High	101	28.3%
Enloe High	332	57.1%
FuquayVarina High	155	38.1%
Garner High	118	33.4%
Green Hope High	233	45.1%
Green Level High	292	52.2%
Heritage High	197	45.2%



NCSEAA

FAFSA Tracker District

Select District

Wake Count...

1

Schools

62.2%

Students of Color

28.4%

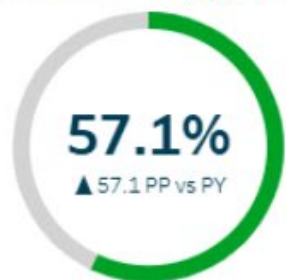
EDS Rate

\$446.8K

Est. Pell Grants



Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

581 ▲ 11.7% vs PY

Submissions

340 vs PY

Completions

332 vs PY

End of Month Trend

CY Trend

PY Trend

18.1%

0.0%

33.0%

50.9%

57.1%

0.0%

District Info

Wake County Schools

Wake, NC

School Type

Traditional Public School 332

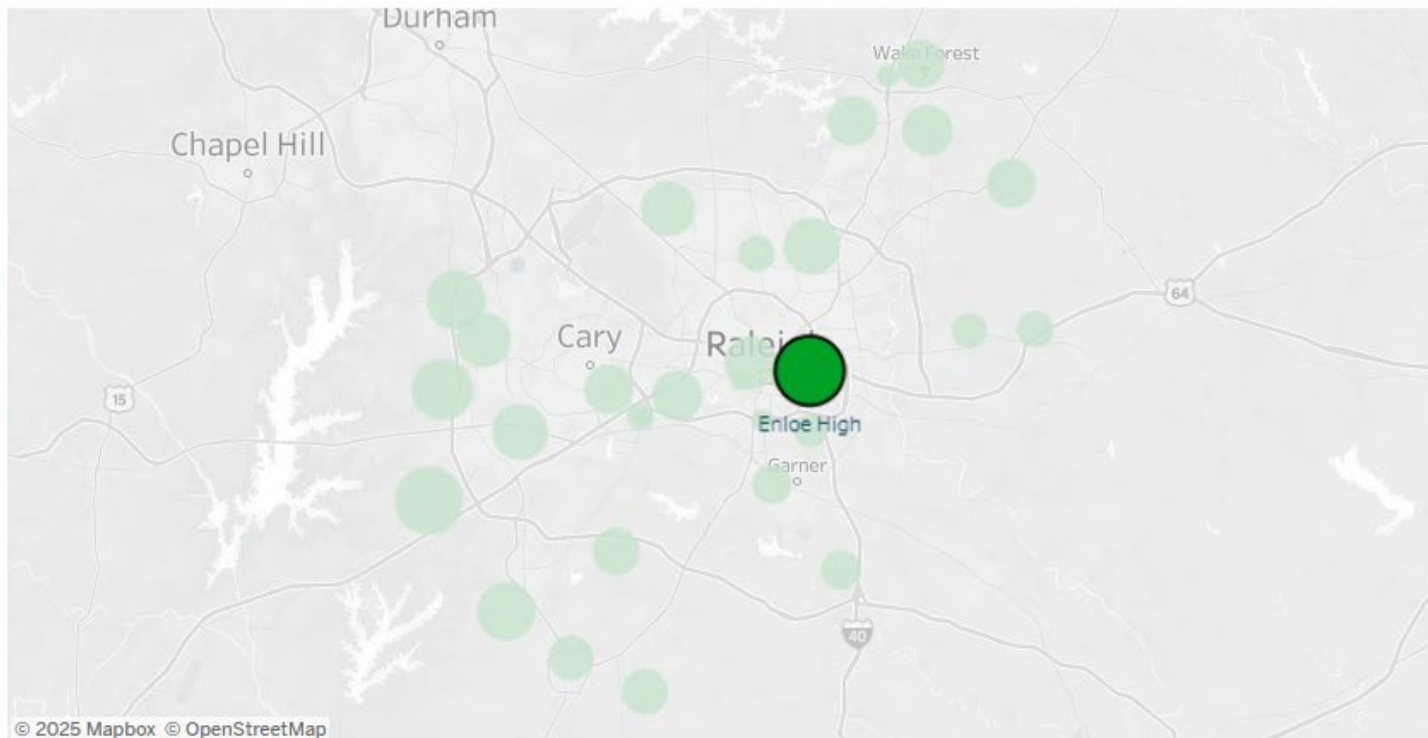
57.1%

Class Size

Large 332

57.1%

Geo



Schools (Click to view details)

Enloe High

332

57.1%



NCSEAA

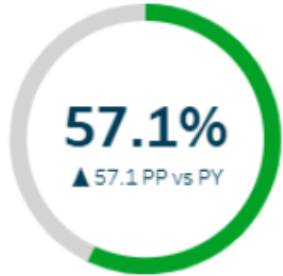
FAFSA Tracker School

Select School

ENLOE HIGH SCHOOL_R...



Completion Rate as of 2/21/2025



Senior Count

581

▲ 11.7% vs PY

Submissions

340

vs PY

Completions

332

vs PY

Students of Color

62.2%

Econ. Disadv.

28.4%

Est. Pell Grants Earned

\$446.8K

School Info

Enloe High

Wake County Schools

Wake, NC

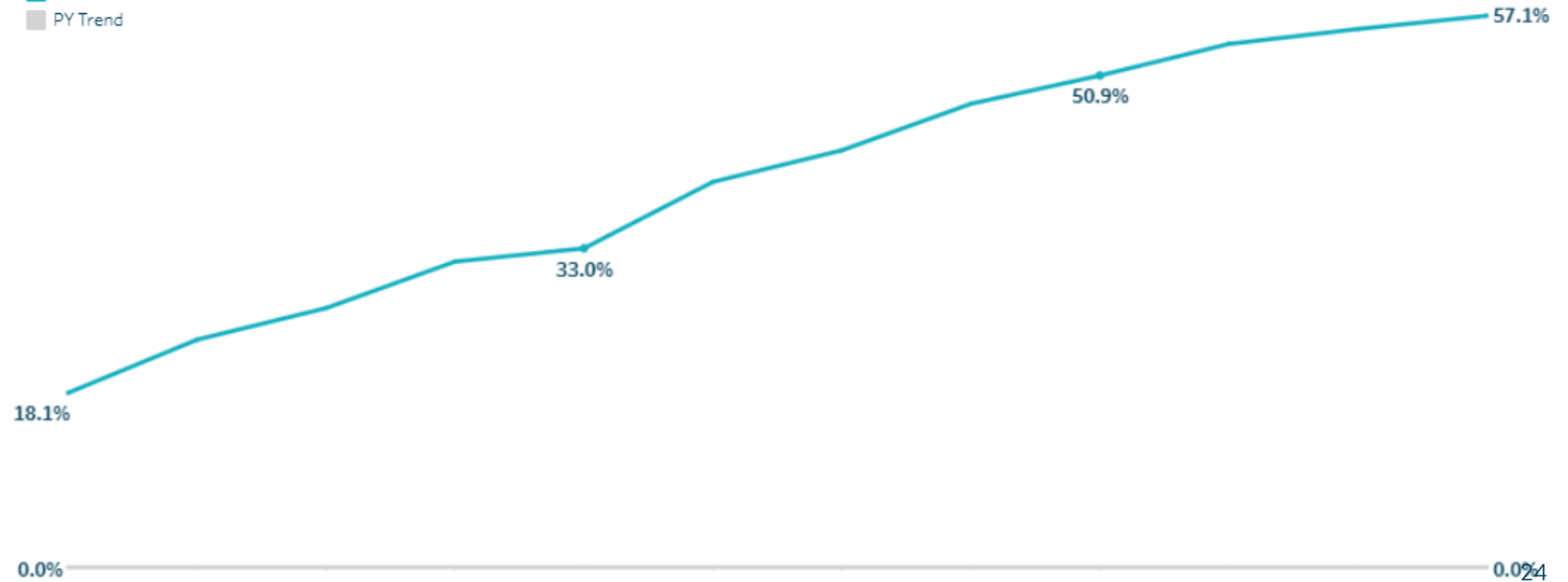
School Type: Traditional Public School

Class Size: Large (268+)

End of Month Trend

CY Trend

PY Trend





NCSEAA

FAFSA Tracker Private Schools

Set Private School Senior Class Size

100



Private School Count

213

Submissions

185

vs PY

Completions

182

vs PY

Private School Detail

School Name Proper	Submissions CY	Completions CY	Submitted diff	Completions diff	Subm previous y..	Compl previous y..	Completions Del..	Completion %	Completion Rate ..	Completion Rate..
Academy At Soar Soar Inc - Waynesville	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Ahoskie Christian School - Ahoskie	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Alamance Christian School - Graham	10	9	10	9	0	0		9.0%		
Albemarle School - Elizabeth City	5	5	5	5	0	0		5.0%		
Antioch Christian Academy - Lumberton	6	6	6	6	0	0		6.0%		
Arborbrook Christian Academy - Matthews	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Arendell Parrott Academy - Kinston	19	19	19	19	0	0		19.0%		
Asheboro Hybrid Academy - Asheboro	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Asheville Christian Academy - Swannanoa	39	38	39	38	0	0		38.0%		
Asheville School - Asheville	28	27	28	27	0	0		27.0%		
Berean Baptist Academy - Fayetteville	9	9	9	9	0	0		9.0%		
Bethel Assembly Christian Academy - Windsor	6	6	6	6	0	0		6.0%		
Bethel Christian Academy - Kinston	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Bishop Mc Guinness High School - Kernersville	69	67	69	67	0	0		67.0%		
Bradford Academy - Mebane	8	8	8	8	0	0		8.0%		
Brittain Academy - Thomasville	27	21	27	21	0	0		21.0%		
British International School Of Charlotte - Charlotte	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Burlington Christian Academy - Burlington	18	18	18	18	0	0		18.0%		
Caldwell Academy - Greensboro	16	15	16	15	0	0		15.0%		
Calvary Baptist Church School - New Bern	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Calvary Baptist Day School - Winston-Salem	32	32	32	32	0	0		32.0%		
Calvary Christian School - King	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Calvary Christian School - Southern Pines	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0%		
Calvary Day School - Winston-Salem	43	42	43	42	0	0		42.0%		

FAFSA Tracker Download – Smartsheet.com

	file_updated	data_updated	school_city	LEA_Name	school_type	School_Type_Desc2	Zip_Code_5	County_Description	location	Locale_Type_Desc	SBE_Region_Names	senior_count	senior_class_size	Subm_current
1	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	A L BROWN HIGH SCHOOL_KANNAPOLIS	Kannapolis City Schools	Traditional Public School	Regular School	28083	Cabarrus	Suburb	Suburb, Midsize	Southwest	358	Large (268+)	
2	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	AC REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL_ASHEVILLE	Buncombe County Schools	Traditional Public School	Regular School	28803	Buncombe	Suburb	Suburb, Midsize	Western	270	Large (268+)	
3	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	ACADEMY AT SMITH_GREENSBORO	Guilford County Schools	Traditional Public School	Regular School	27407	Guilford	City	City, Midsize	Piedmont Triad	35	Extra small (0-79)	
4	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	ADVANCE ACADEMY_HENDERSON	Vance County Schools	Traditional Public School	Alternative Education	27536	Vance	Rural	Rural, Fringe	North Central	7	Extra small (0-79)	
5	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	ALAMANCE VIRTUAL SCHOOL_BURLINGTON	Alamance-Burlington Schools	Traditional Public School	Regular School	27217	Alamance	Rural	Rural, Fringe	Piedmont Triad	34	Extra small (0-79)	
6	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	ALBEMARLE HIGH SCHOOL_ALBEMARLE	Stanly County Schools	Traditional Public School	Regular School	28001	Stanly	Rural	Rural, Distant	Southwest	106	Small (80-165)	
7	February 21 2025	February 14 2025	ALEXANDER CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL_TAYLORSVILLE	Alexander County Schools	Traditional Public School	Regular School	28681	Alexander	Rural	Rural, Fringe	Northwest	288	Large (268+)	

Usage



27,807
Total Views

10,134
Active Users

70,715
User Events

57
Avg. Seconds per visit

Future Plans

01

RDS

NC residency
determination data

02

Fact Sheet

One page infographic at
the state level

03

Reports

Customized metrics at the
district & school levels

04

Additional FAFSA Trackers

Enrolled Students FAFSA Tracker
Adult Learner FAFSA Tracker



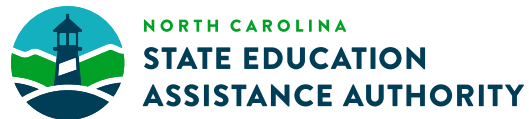


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Thank you!

Questions?



Presented by:

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Andrea Lewton - alewton@ncseaa.edu

