

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**  
**INFORMATIONAL REPORT PRESENTATION**  
**FREE APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID INITIATIVE**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Office of Student Support Services has developed a Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Initiative Plan in order to be compliant with Chapter 577 of the 2021 Laws of Maryland requiring County Boards of Education to develop plans to encourage and assist high school students, especially seniors, to apply for state and federal financial aid. Under this law, each county board must submit, by October 1, 2022, a copy of their plan to the Maryland Higher Education Commission's Financial Assistance Advisory Council (FAAC), as well as the Maryland State Department of Education and three committees in the Maryland General Assembly: the Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs (EHEA) Committee; the House Appropriations Committee; and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the Harford County Public Schools District Plan in compliance with this legislation.

**DISCUSSION:**

The 2022 FAFSA Completion Initiative will include school counselors working at the high school level with students, but especially seniors, to increase FAFSA completion at each of our high schools. Baseline data has been collected and a plan for the 2022-2023 school year has been developed to include collaboration with community partners such as Harford Community College and LASOS. Evening, weekend, and virtual programs will be presented to assist students and families in correctly completing the FAFSA. School counselors will meet with families throughout the school year and will use Naviance to assist students with career and post-secondary planning. This initiative will also coincide with the annual Maryland College Application Campaign (MCAC) which serves to increase students completing applications to college. There will be an emphasis on closing the gap for our most vulnerable populations including McKinney-Vento, Unaccompanied Youth, EL and FARMS students to provide additional support.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept this informational report on FAFSA Initiative Completion for 2022-2023.