

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL'S STRATEGY

Established a school culture with the expectation that each student completes the FAFSA no matter what their plans are after high school and regardless of race, language, first generation status, or GPA

Early and Often

Engaged students early and often to complete the FAFSA.

Juniors created their Federal Student AID IDs.

Seniors received FAFSA information in the fall, and support as a group.

Targeted Support

Seniors who did not complete the FAFSA received targeted support from counselors.

Counselors scheduled 1-on-1 appointments, visited classrooms, printed articles in the paper, and hosted pizza parties as incentives.

Community Partners

Partnered with Mayland Community College and its welding program to encourage interested students.

Engaged Spanish-speaking professionals from CFNC, AB Tech Community College, and UNC Asheville.

Multiple Ways to Complete

Offered multiple means for students and families to get their FAFSAs done, including:

- a FAFSA night,
- face-to-face individual appointments,
- or by sending their information to school with their student.



HELPFUL RESOURCES



Data sources: The GRACE data system from College Advising Corps was used to identify which students (or groups of students) had not yet completed the FAFSA.



Identified strategies to reach students through common allies and patterns, such as reaching out to a teacher who knows the student well, and identifying multiple students in one classroom who needed more support.



Multiple partners worked as a team towards FAFSA completion including the senior counselor, college adviser, and GEAR UP coordinator. They met weekly to assess progress towards completion.



RESULTS

69.7%
FAFSA completion rate

as of August 13, 2021  1.0% increase



Mountain Heritage High School Yancey County Schools

Located in Yancey County, Mountain Heritage High School is home to the Cougars. 17% are students of color. 43% of students are low income. The 2021 senior class has 132 students.

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