



CARY HIGH SCHOOL'S WINNING STRATEGY

Set goals to improve communication and monitor progress of FAFSA completion using *Finish the FAFSA* data and sending students bi-weekly reminders.



01 A Variety of Communication Methods

To continuously discuss college and financial aid, the school embedded FAFSA completion messages into pre-existing methods, including:

- Morning announcements
- Google Classroom
- Principal's Messages to parents
- Counselor and Financial Aid advisor visits to Senior English classrooms

02 Early and Often

Hosted college fair and financial aid events as early as the spring of students' junior year, and in conjunction with the CFNC Next Step program.

Throughout students' senior year, FAFSA outreach events were held monthly including a virtual Senior Open House, Financial Aid information night, recorded Spanish language CFNC financial aid night, and College Planning night.

03 Dedicated Financial Aid Advisor

Students and families benefited from a district-wide WCPSS Financial Aid Advisor who visited the school in person weekly.

Provided specialized personnel supported approximately 50 families this year with completing the FAFSA either in at school or via evening meetings on Google Meet. Nearly all the students who worked with this Advisor are Pell Grant eligible.

Cary High School

Wake County Public Schools

Located in Wake County, Cary High School is home of the Imps. 45% are students of color. 29% of students are low income. The 2022 senior class has 421 students.

@PrincipallMP
www.wcpss.net/caryhs

DATA



Data from *Finish the FAFSA* was used to determine who has and hasn't completed the FAFSA, especially students with errors on their application, and provide direct outreach to these students.

PARTNERSHIPS



Cary High School partnered with LatinxED's College y Consejos program to recommend services to families who are primarily Spanish-speaking.

PRO TIP!

"Completing the FAFSA removes a potential barrier for students wanting to continue their education, earn credentials to enter the workforce and to better prepare them for the transition from high school to their post-secondary goal. With several community colleges offering free tuition to Class of 2022 graduates, completing the FAFSA was a necessary step for them to be able to take advantage of this opportunity."

60.6%

FAFSA completion rate
as of June 3, 2022

