



CEDAR RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL'S WINNING STRATEGY

Implement bilingual English-Spanish school-wide "FAFSA Everywhere" awareness campaign about the importance of FAFSA, the steps to take, and how it is connected to the college application process.



01 "FAFSA Everywhere"

Capitalized off of in-person learning by posting flyers around the school, using time during school-wide morning announcements and classes to discuss the importance of completing the FAFSA and steps to take

Shared information early and often in both English and Spanish through weekly newsletters, social media, and group chat messaging apps

Presented to the entire senior class in the Fall semester before the FAFSA opened to get it on their radar, as well as in senior parent meetings in English and Spanish

Campaign trickled down to the juniors who are starting to meet with the college adviser about the college application process and are mentioning the FAFSA!

02 1:1 Support

College advisor reached out to students who have not completed the FAFSA and called parents to inform them about the importance of completing the FAFSA

Support provided to students who shared concerns over their and their parent's immigration status, including how this impacts their college-going plans and financial aid situation

Provided counseling support in-person and over the phone/ via messages in Spanish which, along with understanding of navigating the FAFSA with mixed-status families, allowed the adviser to build trusting relationships

Printed FAFSA signature forms and provided stamps/envelopes to mail parent signatures in order to complete the FAFSA

03 Raffle Incentives

Hosted a "FAFSA Challenge" for the school with one lucky raffle winner—but only if the school collectively reached 50% or more by February (as part of the statewide FAFSA50!)

Because of the school-wide challenge, seniors even shared infographics on their socials encouraging each other to complete the FAFSA to get to 50% or higher

Cedar Ridge High School

Orange County Public Schools

Located in Orange County, Cedar Ridge High School is home to the Red Wolves. 42% are students of color. 33% of students are low income. The 2022 senior class has 191 students.

@CRHSRedWolves

www.orangecountyfirst.com/crhs

DATA



70% of the senior class has met 1:1 with the school's college adviser to discuss the FAFSA leading to higher FAFSA completion and college application rates (as of April).

PARTNERSHIPS



The school's college adviser, family liaison, and senior counseling team partnered to create and implement the "FAFSA everywhere" awareness campaign with more students taking advantage of the Longleaf Commitment Grant to attend community college with free tuition.

PRO TIP!

Check out the school's college adviser instagram with shareable infographics: @crhs.to.college



68.1%

FAFSA completion rate
as of June 3, 2022