



## SURRY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL'S WINNING STRATEGY

Revamped their financial aid outreach strategy and calendar of events with two goals in mind: improve access and enjoyment—yes, completing the FAFSA can be fun!



### 01 Engaging All Students

To engage students and build buy-in, the school framed the financial aid process as an opportunity (and less of a challenge)

- Intentionally worked to reach all students, especially students and their families
- Who couldn't afford to come on a weekday evening because they had to work
  - Who hadn't gone to college
  - Who needed more support in the FAFSA process

Made it a priority to have an interpreter at workshops to increase access to spanish-speaking students and families

Served the entire cohort of 2022 graduates headed to college

### 02 Structured Support

Instead of hosting random financial aid nights throughout the year, the school started out each semester with a detailed calendar of our events including:

- FAFSA presentation from the local community college's financial aid director
- At least one financial aid workshop per month
- Follow-up meetings throughout the school day

### 03 Raffle Incentives

To add joy and competition to the process, the school implemented a raffle system based on a student's FAFSA date of completion

With the advising corps budget and generous donations, the school raffled off some great items that got students engaged

## Surry Early College High School

### Surry County Schools

Located in Surry County, Surry Early College High School is home to the Spartans. SECHS is a Cooperative Innovative High School and partners with Surry Community College to offer students the opportunity to earn a 2-year Associates degree.

@SECHSPARTANS1  
www.surry.k12.nc.us/Page/2450

#### DATA



The school's college adviser closely tracks FAFSA completion rates using the FAFSA Tracker's calculator to identify progress compared to previous years. In April 2022, the school had already far surpassed previous years FAFSA completion rates.

#### PARTNERSHIPS



Partnership with the local community college financial aid office to provide information sessions and support to students and their families.

#### PRO TIP!

*"When students are more engaged, they're more likely to get their families involved (something our county notoriously struggles with), to tell their friends, to ask for help from staff aside from their counselor or college adviser."*

# 69.7%

**FAFSA  
completion rate**  
as of June 3, 2022

