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March 6, 2019

Dear Corpus Christi ISD Administrators and Educators:

As you are aware, Education to Employment Partners (E2E) and the Coastal Compass Education & Career Resource Center have been working with CCISD on the National College Access Network (NCAN) FAFSA Challenge for the graduating class of 2019. NCAN will award a \$100,000 grand prize in September 2019 to one city based on a holistic review of the percentage growth in FAFSA submissions, adoptions of effective strategies, barriers overcome, and likelihood of sustainability.

E2E meets regularly with the College and Career Counselors of the nine CCISD high schools to discuss FAFSA submission rates. We have requested and received approval from CCISD Superintendent Dr. Roland Hernandez to implement an initiative to issue graduation cords indicating FAFSA submission as an incentive for students to submit the FAFSA. The strategy will contribute to the adoption of effective strategies we are working towards for program sustainability.

Additionally, as you are aware, the State of Texas measures the performance for districts and campuses in all areas of the accountability system. One measure, 'Graduates Enrolled in Texas Institution of Higher Education' is used to show how well the district and campus are preparing students for success after high school. Studies show that FAFSA submission is an important indicator for college enrollment. High school seniors who submit the FAFSA are 90% more likely to enroll in college after high school compared to just 55% of seniors who do not submit the FAFSA.

The initiative is titled the Corpus Christi ISD 'Financing My Future' Cord Program and will be managed by E2E and CCISD. In the future, CCISD and/or E2E may impose additional requirements to earn the 'Financing My Future' cord.

Corpus Christi ISD 'Financing My Future' Cord Program

For the 2018-2019 academic year, students who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), or submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) and receive a successful confirmation email, will earn a 'Financing My Future' cord. Students who qualify for this honor will awarded a lime green cord to wear at commencement signifying this accomplishment. Students must provide proof of successful FAFSA or TASFA submission to their College and Career Counselor by **Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.** to qualify for a cord.

For information on the 'Financing My Future' Cord Program visit <https://e2epartners.org/news> or contact Angela Pena, Director, Education to Employment Partners and Coastal Compass Education and Career Resource Center at (361) 906-0703 or angelap@edexcellence.org. Coastal Compass is available to help with FAFSA submission anytime Monday-Friday, 10:30am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:30am-2:00pm.

We appreciate CCISD's partnership in this initiative and participation in the grant program and competition thus far. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the program.

Sincerely,

Angela Pena
Director, Education to Employment Partners



Corpus Christi ISD 'Financing My Future' Cord

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Students who qualify for this honor will be awarded a lime green cord to wear at commencement signifying this accomplishment.

The deadline to submit proof of successful FAFSA or TASFA submission to the campus College and Career Counselor is Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

The campus' College and Career Counselor will be the main contact for the program:

- Branch Academy – Melissa Majek (361) 878-4780
- Carroll HS – Susan Bales-Erwin (361) 878-5147
- Coles HS – Laura Irizarry (361) 878-7380
- Collegiate HS – Vidal Anzaldúa (361) 698-2425
- King HS – Rose Mary Shepperd (361) 906-3458
- Miller HS – Rita Perez (361) 878-5100
- Moody HS – Melissa Jimenez (361) 878-7340
- Ray HS – Lynn Hartnett (361) 878-7300
- Veterans HS - Bryan Davis (361) 878-7900

You may also contact Angela Pena, Director, Education to Employment Partners and Coastal Compass Education and Career Resource Center at (361) 906-0703 or angelap@edexcellence.org.

See <https://e2epartners.org/news/> for more information on the program.

Coastal Compass Education and Career Resource Center is located at La Palmera Mall and is available to help with FAFSA submission anytime Monday-Friday, 10:30am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:30am-2:00pm. See <https://coastalcompass.org/> for more information.





CCISD Financing My Future Cord Program / FAFSA / TASFA Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the FAFSA and TASFA?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is used to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans. The TASFA is the Texas Application for State Financial Aid and is used for students that are Texas residents, but who cannot apply for the FAFSA due to citizenship status.

2. How can a student confirm that they are a cord recipient?

Students will need to show proof of FAFSA submission by showing their College and Career Counselor a Student Aid Report (SAR) which is available when the FAFSA is successfully submitted, or the email confirming successful submission. Students that submit a TASFA must show a submission confirmation email to your College and Career Readiness Counselors for verification.

3. When is the deadline to submit the FAFSA or TASFA to earn the cord?

The deadline for students to submit proof of successful FAFSA or TASFA submission to their campus College and Career Counselor is Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

4. How will students receive their graduation cord? When will they be available?

Students will pick up their cord from their College and Career Counselor. E2E will work with CCISD College and Career Counselors to ensure that students know when cords are available.

5. Do students have to pay for the cord?

No. Students earn the cord by submitting the FAFSA with their parent or guardian.

6. What if a student or parent does not want to submit the FAFSA, but has made other arrangements to ensure that they are financing their future?

CCISD has implemented the "Financing My Future" Cord Program for the first time for the graduating class of 2019 and will only issue the cords for students that have successfully submitted the FAFSA or TASFA for this graduation year.

7. What information do I need to fill out the FAFSA?

Students and parents/guardians should know or have on hand:

- Social Security Number & name on cards.
- Records of income (Student & Parent/Guardian for 2017).
 - Most applicants will be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to populate income questions, however they should have IRS 1040 forms and W2s as well.
- Information about assets (savings, stocks, investments), if applicable.
- Driver's license number(s).
- Dates of birth (month, date year).
- Month and year of marriage, separation, divorce or other change in marital status.
- Non-citizen students and parents should bring alien registration number, if available.
- List of colleges you are interested in attending after high school.
- A cell phone that can receive text messages and access to an email account.

8. Is the FAFSA a credit check?

No. The FAFSA is not a credit check and submitting a FAFSA will not affect your credit score.

9. Do I have to go somewhere to do the FAFSA, or can I submit it online?

You can submit the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can also download the U.S. Department of Education's myStudentAid app and submit it on your phone.

10. What if a student does not want to go to college, but instead wants to join the military or go straight to work? Should they still submit the FAFSA?

A lot of the time, people hear the word “college” and think of institutions such as Del Mar College or Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. However, we use the term “college” to mean any postsecondary training after high school including technical and vocational certifications, apprenticeships, worker training programs, and even the military. When a student and parent or guardian submit the FAFSA they are taking time to think about the future and how they might pay for future training programs, even if they are not planning on going to “college.” Submitting the FAFSA helps to know all available options for educational/training funds.

11. Should students with special needs or intellectual disabilities submit the FAFSA?

Yes. According to the U.S. Department of Education, students with intellectual disabilities may be able to get certain types of federal student aid. See <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities> for more information.

12. Can a student submit the FAFSA if they are not a U.S. citizen?

No. Non-citizen Texas residents should submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). See <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com> for more information.

13. Can a student submit the FAFSA if they are a citizen, but their parents are not?

Yes. The parents' immigration status is not considered in determining the student's eligibility for federal student aid. If the parent does not have a Social Security number, he or she must enter all zeros without dashes. See <https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach/target/noncitizens.jsp> for more information.

14. Can a student claim themselves as independent and not use their parent’s financial information?

For more information on dependent or independent status visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency#dependent-or-independent>.

15. Who are the CCISD College and Career Counselors?

- Branch Academy – Melissa Majek (361) 878-4780
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- Veterans HS - Bryan Davis (361) 878-7900

16. Where can I go to get help on submitting the FAFSA?

Students and parents can meet with their College and Career Counselors, Del Mar College and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi financial aid advisors, or with Coastal Compass Education and Career Resource Center staff for help with the FAFSA. Coastal Compass is located at La Palmera Mall and is open Monday-Friday, 10:30am-6:00pm and Saturday 10:30am-2:00pm. See www.coastalcompass.org or call (361) 906-0703 for more information.

17. Where can I find more information on the program?

Visit <https://e2epartners.org/news/> to find out more information or contact Angela Pena, Director of Education to Employment Partners and Coastal Compass Education and Career Resource Center at (361) 906-0703 or angelap@edexcellence.org.

