



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL F. RICE, PH.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 8, 2023

TO: FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant District Contracts

FROM: Bill Witt, Manager *Bill Witt*
Continuous Improvement Unit
Office of Educational Supports

SUBJECT: FAFSA Completion Challenge Updates

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received numerous inquiries regarding the allowable uses of FAFSA Completion Challenge funds, when the official grant award letter will be sent, and how to record and code the grant expenditures. This communication will address these questions.

Allowable Uses

Per Section 67f of PA 103 of 2023 (State School Aid Act), funds received under this subsection are used for participation in and implementation of activities that are known to drive FAFSA completion, as determined by the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN).

MDE and MCAN have collaborated to create a list of allowable activities, which are listed on the [MDE website](#) under "FAFSA Completion Strategies." These activities are grouped by the following categories listed below. Expand each header on the webpage to see the allowable activities:

- Set a Bold Goal and Monitor Progress
- Spread Awareness and Provide Support
- Expand Capacity
- Establish a College-Going Culture
- Develop Partnership

This list also includes resources that support the FAFSA completion challenge and the activities listed on the MDE website.

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The allowable activities list developed by MDE and MCAN is not intended as an all-inclusive list. There may be other activities that are not explicitly listed under one of the categories but still align with and support the goals of the FAFSA Completion Challenge. Creating an exhaustive list of all the possible allowable activities would not support the goals of the grant and, in all likelihood, would create restrictions that are not in line with the intent of the legislation

School district staff should consider the following questions when choosing activities to fund with Section 67f dollars:

- Are these activities explicitly stated under one of the categories listed on the MDE website?
- If not explicitly stated, can the district provide a rationale for the activity and demonstrate the connection to and/or alignment with one of the five categories to any interested party

If the district cannot answer yes to either question, then it should consider other activities that align with and support the goals of the grant.

MDE has also received questions regarding the purchase of incentives as an allowable usage of these funds. In general, incentives can be allowable, but they should be educational in nature and must be in explicit support of the five categories and/or the goals of Section 67f.

School district staff should consider if they can provide a rationale for the incentive and demonstrate the connection to and/or alignment with one of the five categories. If not, the district should consider other incentives or activities that align with and support the five categories and the goals of the grant.

Grant Award Notifications

Districts approved for FAFSA Completion Challenge Grant funds will receive an official grant award notification and letter from the GEMS/MARS system on or before November 20th, 2023.

Grant Code Information

For Section 67f funds, please use Grant Code 283. For revenue coding, use Major Class 312, Suffix 0000.

Please email Alexis Han (hana@michigan.gov) with any questions about this grant or the information contained in this communication.