Strategies for Financial Aid Application Workshop and Completion

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Welcome!

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Agenda

❖ Background--West Aurora High School
❖ Strategies Implemented
❖ What Didn’t Work
❖ What Worked
❖ Goals--This School Year 2021-2022
West Aurora High School

★ Located in Aurora, Illinois
★ Serves approximately 3,700 students
★ Diverse population
★ House System
FAFSA Completion Initiative

FAFSA Percentage Completed

- Current Statewide Avg: 69%
- WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL 2020: 70%
- WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL 2019: 55%
Strategies Implemented
2020-2021 School Year
## Communication

### Counselors
- Professional Development about the new FAFSA Requirement
- Weekly Updates

### Students
- Schoology Announcements
- Newsletter
- Individual follow-up
- Social Media

### Families
- District/CCRC Newsletters and e-blasts
- Mailers
- Social Media

### Staff
- Written and Oral notification
- Announcements and updates

### ISAC Corp Member
- Weekly meetings and reflections

### Administration
- Frequent updates
FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW

★ Presentation by ISACorps Member held each fall and spring
★ English and Spanish options for all WAHS Families
Financial Aid Application Workshops

★ Offered English and Spanish workshops for WAHS families
★ Held three evening and two daytime events
College & Career Readiness Center
Drop-In Hours
What Didn’t Work
College & Career Center
Virtual Drop-In Hours
Without a personal invite, students didn’t come

Completion Status Report
Lack of access to completion status

Workshops
Whole group less effective than smaller groups
What Worked
Weekly Reporting
Notifications sent to students and counselors

Team Approach
Counselors, Staff, Administration, and ISAC Efforts

Workshops
Multiple opportunities for assistance
Goals for this School Year
2021-2022
Increase Number of Dedicated Workshops
Adding additional dates 2nd semester

Increase Student Outreach Efforts
Senior Study Hall Presentations and Follow-up

Continue To Offer Virtual Events
Multiple opportunities for assistance
Timeline

- **Senior Meeting**
- **College Changes**
- **Everything Kick-off**
- **Financial Aid Application Workshops**
- **Student Outreach Efforts**
- **Family Notification of completion status**
- **Virtual and In-person Financial Aid Workshops**
- **Student Outreach Efforts**
- **Counselor Intervention**
- **Senior Meeting**
- **Continued ISACorps Member support**

August: **Financial Aid Overview**
- **Financial Aid Overview**
- **FSA ID Workshop**

September: **Continued Financial Aid Application Workshops**
- **Continued Financial Aid Application Workshops**
- **Student Outreach Efforts**

October: **Student Outreach Efforts**

November: **Student Outreach Efforts**

December: **Student Outreach Efforts**

January: **Family Notification Letter/Documentation**

February: **Family Notification Letter/Documentation**

March: **Administration Letter/Documentation**

April: **Administration Letter/Documentation**

May: **Administration Letter/Documentation**

June: **Administration Letter/Documentation**
Thank You!

Any questions?
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