Missouri State Aid Updates
Agenda

• Legislative Changes
• Journey to College Enhancements
• State Aid Review
• FAFSA Completion Project
Legislative Changes

• SB 807 – Public Safety Officer or Employee’s Child Survivor Grant Expansion
  (Effective 8/28/18)
  – Air ambulance personnel
  – EMTs
  – Uniformed fire marshal’s office employees
Legislative Changes

• HB 1744
  – A+ 3-year attendance requirement revised
    (Emergency clause effective 6/1/18)
    • Removed “immediately” prior to graduation
    • Now attendance for any 3 years prior to graduation from an A+ high school
    • 2018 seniors = 80% of instructional days over the 3 years in attendance at an A+ HS
    • 2019 seniors = definition under review
  – Virtual institution category created
    (Effective 8/28/18)
    • Western Governor’s University now Access Missouri eligible
Journey to College
Enhancements
Journey to College Enhancements

• Section 173.035, RSMo
  – Requires website with public & private institution information related to:
    • Academic programs
    • Financial aid
    • Course transfer
  – Accessible from a variety of devices
Journey to College Enhancements

- 4 Phase Project:
  1. Updated College and Degree Search
  2. New College Transfer Tracker
  3. Updated financial aid portal
  4. New student workspace
Journey to College Enhancements

• Updated financial aid portal
  – Student-centered and streamlined
  – Incorporation of manual programs
  – On-line eligibility estimator/application for manual programs
  – Electronic letters
    • Dynamic
    • Reach more students
Journey to College Enhancements

• New student workspace
  – Save and organize college-related information from a variety of sources:
    • College cost and course transfer comparisons
    • Financial aid
      – State aid eligibility/award comparisons
      – Institutional award letters
    • Tools:
      – Calendar of scheduled college visits and deadlines
      – Net price calculator
      – Loan calculator
      – Notes about college visits
State Aid Review
State Aid Review

• Blueprint for Higher Education Affordability Strategy 2.1
  – Task force to recommend changes for a more balanced, responsive & efficient state aid system by evaluating:
    • Effectiveness of current programs
    • Balance between need & merit
    • Alignment of state aid programs w/state goals

• Blueprint:  https://dhe.mo.gov/blueprint.php

• State Aid Review Info: https://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/stateaidreview.php
State Aid Review

- CBHE approved 3 phase approach in 3/2018:
  1. Taskforce to set policy goals
  2. State student financial aid committee to design programs
  3. Implementation
State Aid Review
Phase 1

- Policy task force met April – June 2018
  - Legislative representation from both chambers
  - Presidents & chancellors of public 2- and 4-year, and independent institutions
  - Chambers of commerce
  - Financial aid officers
  - Student support groups
  - DED Workforce Development
  - DESE
  - Students
State Aid Review
Phase 1

• Report approved by CBHE June 2018
  – Vision:
    • Transparent
    • Student centered
    • Serve eligible students where they are
    • Timely awards
    • Broad criteria that prioritize student needs
    • Achieve MO postsecondary education & workforce goals
State Aid Review
Phase 1

• Task force report (cont’d)
  – Purpose
    • Reduce financial barriers to enrollment & completion
    • Encourage students to achieve academically at their greatest potential
State Aid Review

Phase 1

• Task force report (cont’d)
  – Highlights of 12 recommendations
    • Need v. merit
    • Flexibility to serve adult/part-time students
    • Institutional & workforce partnerships to create an educated citizenry & highly skilled workforce
    • Marketing
    • Sufficient funding
State Aid Review
Phase 2

• State Student Financial Aid Committee
  – Financial aid officers from public 2- and 4-year, independent & vocational technical institutions
  – Budget/appropriations staff from both legislative chambers

• Meetings from June – Oct. 2018

• Final recommendation to CBHE in Dec. 2018
State Aid Review
Phase 3

• Implementation
  – Regulatory and statutory changes
  – System updates
  – Marketing
  – Best case: 2020-2021, assuming:
    • Phase 2 completes on time
    • CBHE approves SSFAC recommendations
    • Legislative changes passed in 2019 &/or 2020 session
    • System updates complete by July 2020
FAFSA Completion Project
FAFSA Completion Project

- [https://dhe.mo.gov/fafsa-completion/](https://dhe.mo.gov/fafsa-completion/)

- Goal: Increase the number of MO students who successfully complete a FAFSA
FAFSA Completion Project

• Aggregate completion information on project home page
  – Limited to public high schools
  – * if less than 5 in any category
  – Number of FAFSAs Completed updated daily
  – Number of Seniors rcvd. periodically from DESE
  – Historical information available
FAFSA Completion Project

• Student-specific HS FAFSA Report:
  – Complete
  – Error
  – No Signature
  – Selected for Verification

• DOB range limits to high school seniors only
  – Reasons students not on rpt. at top in red

• Available to public or private HS’s Oct. - June
FAFSA Completion Project

- 148 participating districts
- 193 high schools
- 577 authorized users
  - 156 active
  - 291 inactive
  - 286 not registered
FAFSA Completion Project

• Participation is a 2-step process
  – Step 1: Superintendent completes FAFSA Data Access Agreement
    • Identifies district contact responsible for data (page 6)
    • Identifies authorized users (Attachment B)
      – Must be a district employee
    • Outlines handling of PII
      – Can’t share with third party
      – Data destruction, etc.
FAFSA Completion Project

• Step 2: Authorized user registers for user ID/password
  – Instructions on Participate page of website (https://dhe.mo.gov/fafsa-completion/participate.htm)
  – Recommend register before the agreement is submitted
    • If register after, email kelli.reed@dhe.mo.gov when submit registration to expedite
  – User ID & system-generated password emailed from DHESecurity
FAFSA Completion Project

• Customer satisfaction survey May 2018
  – Ease of Process
    • 74% agreed or somewhat agreed
  – Helpful in Identifying Students Needing Assistance
    • 87% agreed or somewhat agreed
  – Website Quality
    • 82% agreed or somewhat agreed
FAFSA Completion Project

• Requested Areas of Improvement
  – Communication
    • Marketing of project/FAQs for troubleshooting
    • Chain during agreement process
    • Of registration submission
  – Interaction of FAFSA Frenzy and FAFSA Completion Project
FAFSA Completion Project

• Requested Areas of Improvement (cont’d)
  – High School FAFSA Report
    • DOB range
    • Addition of date FAFSA completed
    • For previous year (summer as trailer)
FAFSA Completion Project

• On the horizon:
  – Annual verification of contact, district & user information
  – Would require changes to FAFSA Data Access Agreement
    • Contact information (moved from page 6 to Attachment B)
    • District information (moved from page 8 to Attachment B)
    • User access information (remains in Attachment B)
Contact Information

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