

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

MD FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID STRONG MONTH OCTOBER 2021

- WHEREAS,** *The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an instrumental way of helping students pay for college and the only way to access federal and state financial aid; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The statewide MDFAFSASTRONG Initiative led by the Maryland College Application Campaign (MCAC) helps high school seniors facilitate student completion of the FAFSA; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Priority is given to removing barriers to the college application process for students who wish to pursue postsecondary education but lack information or support; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The term "postsecondary education" means opportunities within two- and four- year college and universities, certificate and trade school programs, military institutions, and registered apprenticeships; and*
- WHEREAS,** *High School seniors who complete the FAFSA are 84% more likely to enroll immediately in postsecondary education, and FAFSA completion is associated with a 172% increase in immediate college enrollment; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland has a goal to increase the FAFSA completion rate for 2022 high school graduating class to 70%.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 2021 as MD FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID STRONG MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of October
Two Thousand and twenty-one

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Robert H. Lathrop
Lt. Governor

John C. Wolk
Secretary of State