Research exercise: Increasing FAFSA Completion Rates: A Look at the Ohio 8 Coalition

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College Readiness and FAFSA Completion in the Ohio 8 Coalition Districts
Anna Syburg
Dr. Connie Bowman & Dr. Thomas Lasley

Research Questions
- When looking at Ohio 8 Urban Districts which schools have the highest and lowest completion rates for the FAFSA?
- What policies and programs are being implemented in the top performing districts to increase completion rates?

Why FAFSA?
- Attainment – Achievement Gap is growing in the last 30 years. Students need social resources to reach their potential.
- Difficult to navigate
- Taking goals and making concrete actions to attain them.
- Student who has completed FAFSA and accepted to a four-year university is almost 50% more likely to enroll

College Readiness:
- Four categories
  - Content Knowledge
  - Core academic skills
  - Non-academic or behavioral skills
  - College Knowledge: the ability to effectively search for and apply to colleges.

Important Case Studies:
- Chicago Public Schools – “College Coaches”
- DECA and Other Early College Academies
- H&R Block Experiment

Ohio 8: Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo & Youngstown

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