

EdConnection

New campaign assists students preparing for college

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The *3 to Get Ready!* statewide initiative, coordinated by the Ohio Department of Higher Education, highlights three aspects of the college prep process:

The Ohio Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Initiative;
Ohio College Application Month; and
College Signing Day.

The new campaign will help high school students apply for financial aid, submit college applications and select where they'll pursue their college education.

Every student is encouraged to complete the FAFSA so they may understand what resources are available to them as they evaluate next steps. The financial aid filing season officially began Oct. 1, with the launch of the 2019-2020 FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa). (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>) The Ohio FAFSA Completion Initiative encourages high schools and institutions of higher education to support students and families during the FAFSA completion process.

Ohio College Application Month runs Oct. 1 through Nov. 15. The goal of the campaign is to assist high school seniors as they apply for their chosen postsecondary education option, including certificate, associate degree and bachelor's degree programs.

College Signing Day is a celebration of students' plans for continuing their education or training after high school. Qualifying high school seniors will publicly "sign" with their colleges of choice and will be celebrated by their peers, building staff and families. College Signing Day is typically held in the spring.

High schools, institutions of higher education and community partners that want to participate in the campaign can register at www.ohiohighered.org/3toGetReady (<https://www.ohiohighered.org/3toGetReady>). Once registered, participants may request materials to support their local events, including student stickers, staff buttons and display posters. Participants who support all three parts of the initiative will receive a special designation from the state.

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