



NORTH CAROLINA
STATE EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Why set a FAFSA Goal?

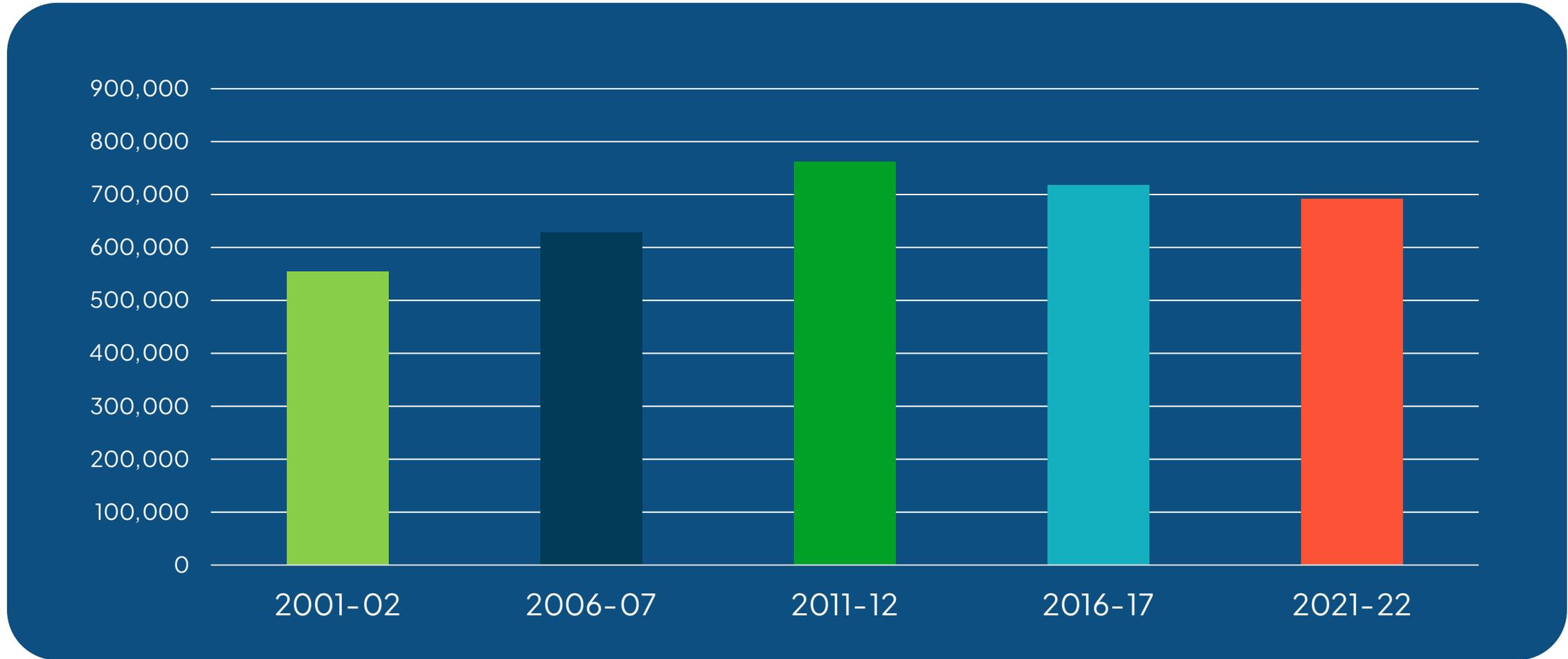
FAFSA Data Walk

Kathy Hastings
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NCASFAA, 2025

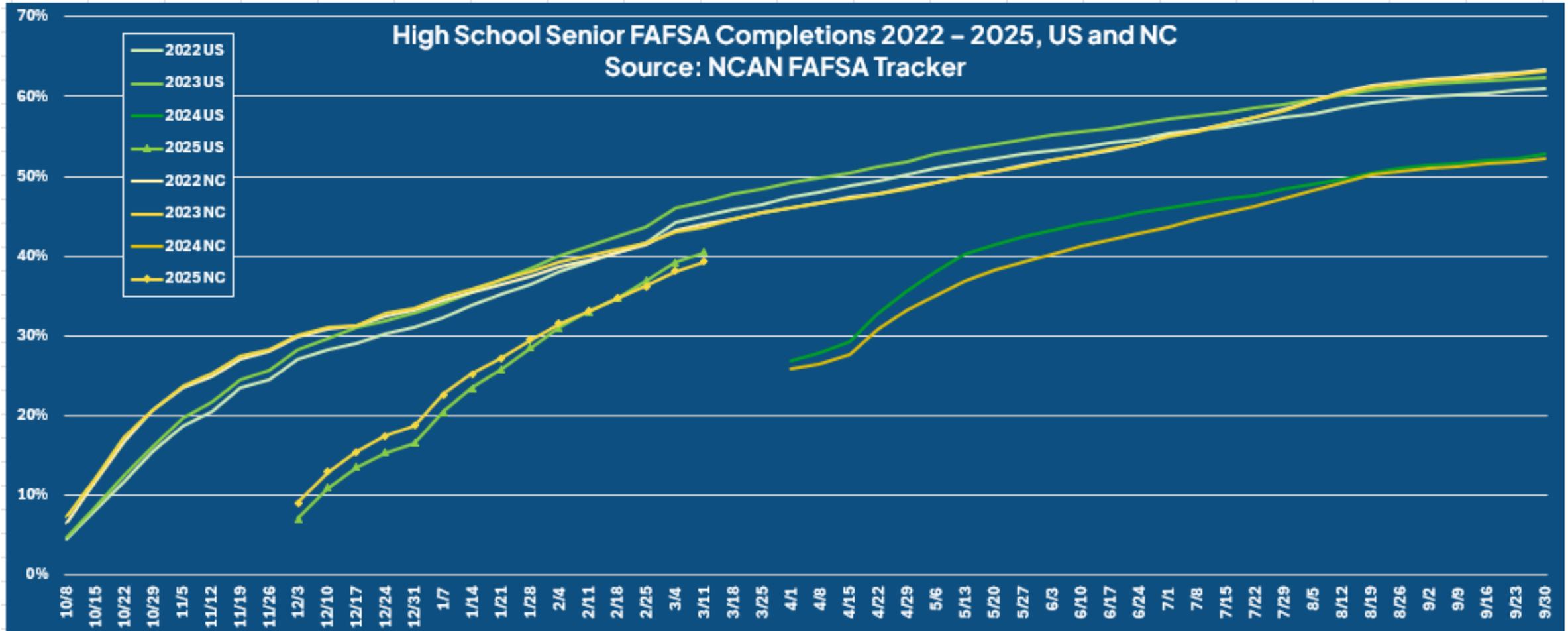


Why a new FAFSA goal?

NC's college enrollment has been falling



FAFSA: High School Seniors



Next Up: FAFSA Data Discussion

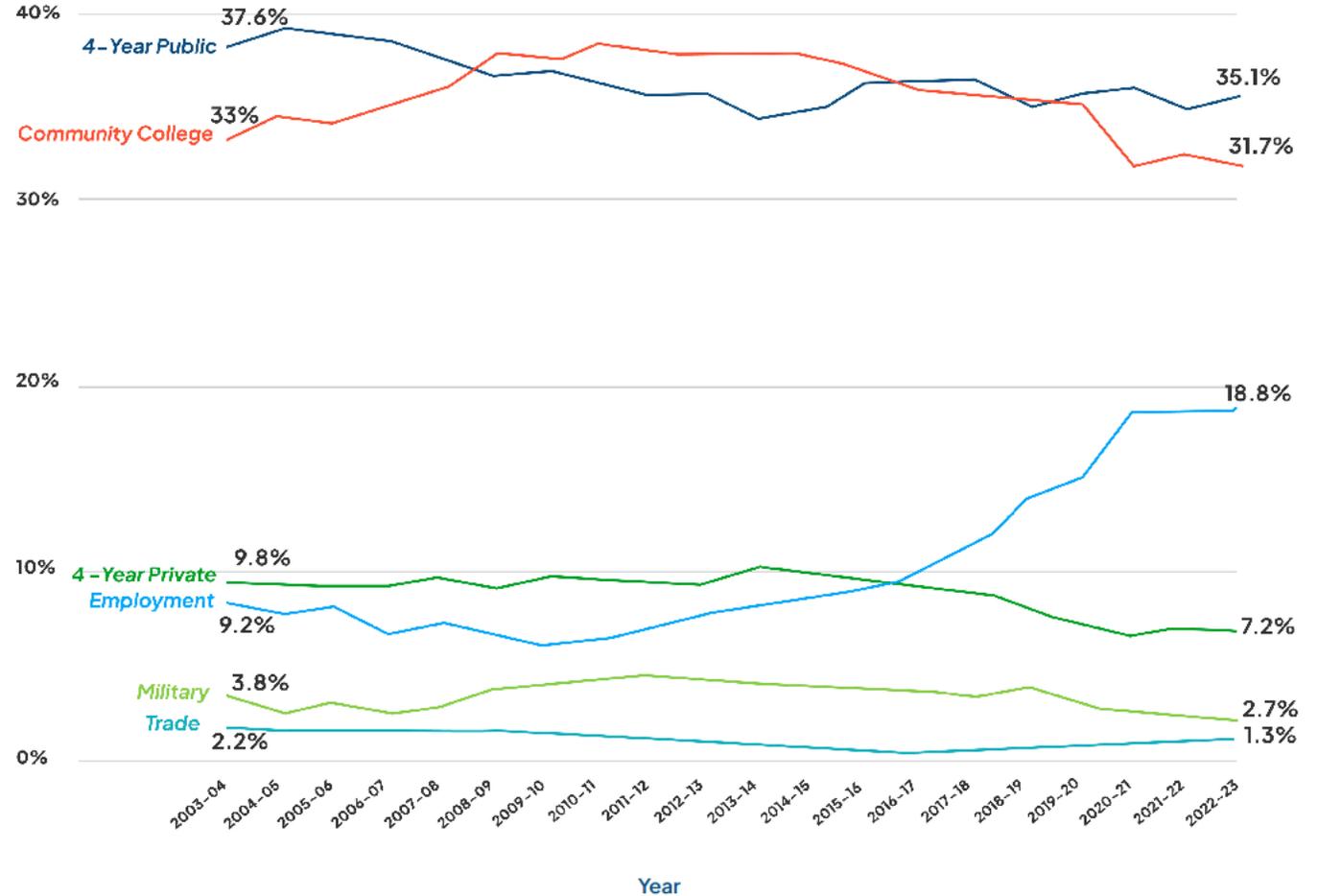


Who will complete a FAFSA out of a full senior class?

100%	Entire senior class
-13.0%	Students who don't graduate high school (Graduation rate statewide is 87% ¹)
-2.7%	Students going into the military ²
-18.8%	Students who plan to go straight into the workforce ²
-3.1%	Estimated students who are undocumented in North Carolina ³
= 62.4%	Current "Full FAFSA" — remaining high school students intending/able to go to college (the population who should complete a FAFSA)

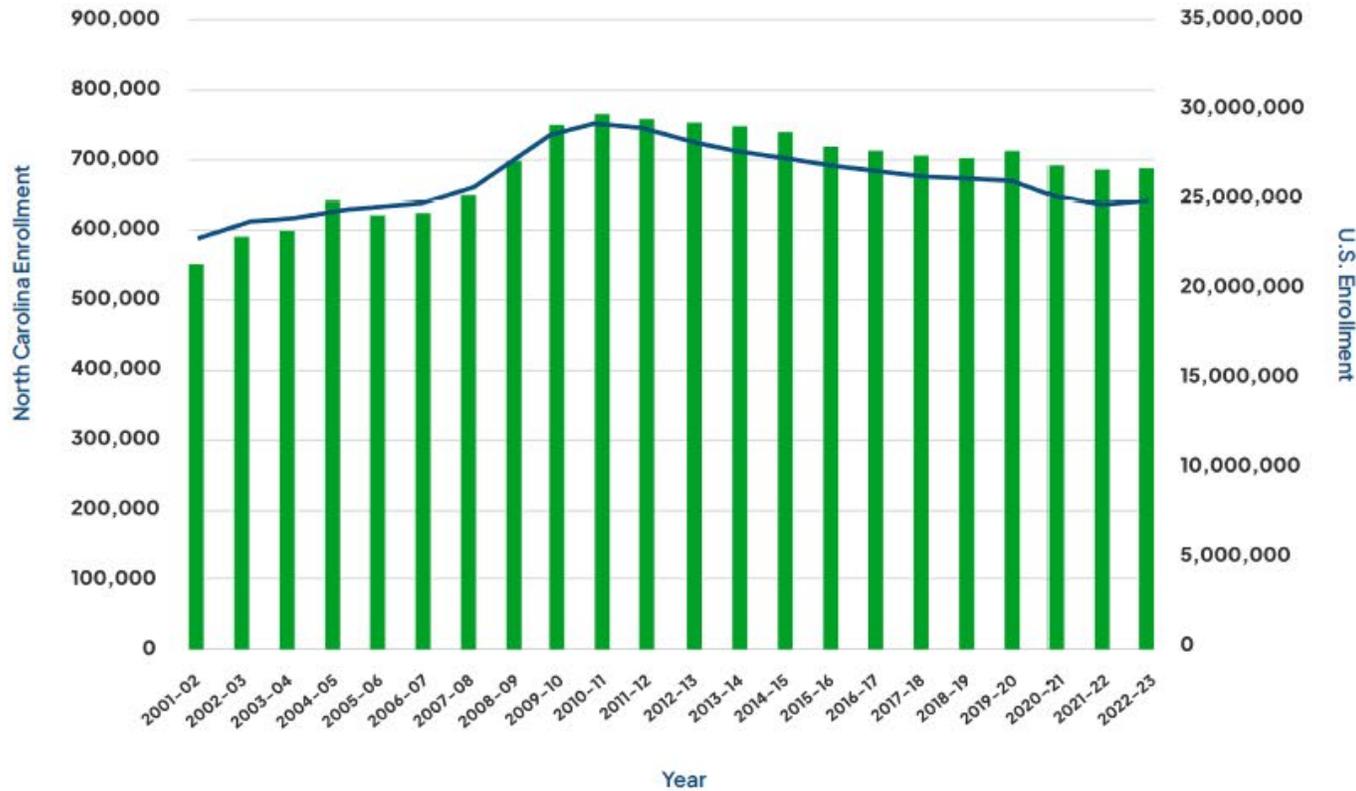
1. DPI, Cohort Graduation Rates 2015–2024 <https://bi.nc.gov/t/DPIAccountabilityandTesting/Views/CGR2024State/CGRState?%3Aembed=>
 2. DPI, Graduate Intention Report 2022–2023 class <http://apps.schools.nc.gov/ords/f?p=145:17::NO::>
 3. Pew Research Center, U.S. unauthorized immigrant population estimates by state, 2016 <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/interactives/u-s-unauthorized-immigrants-by-state/>

High School Graduation Intention Trends²



Post Secondary Enrollment Trends — NC vs. U.S. (2002–2023)¹

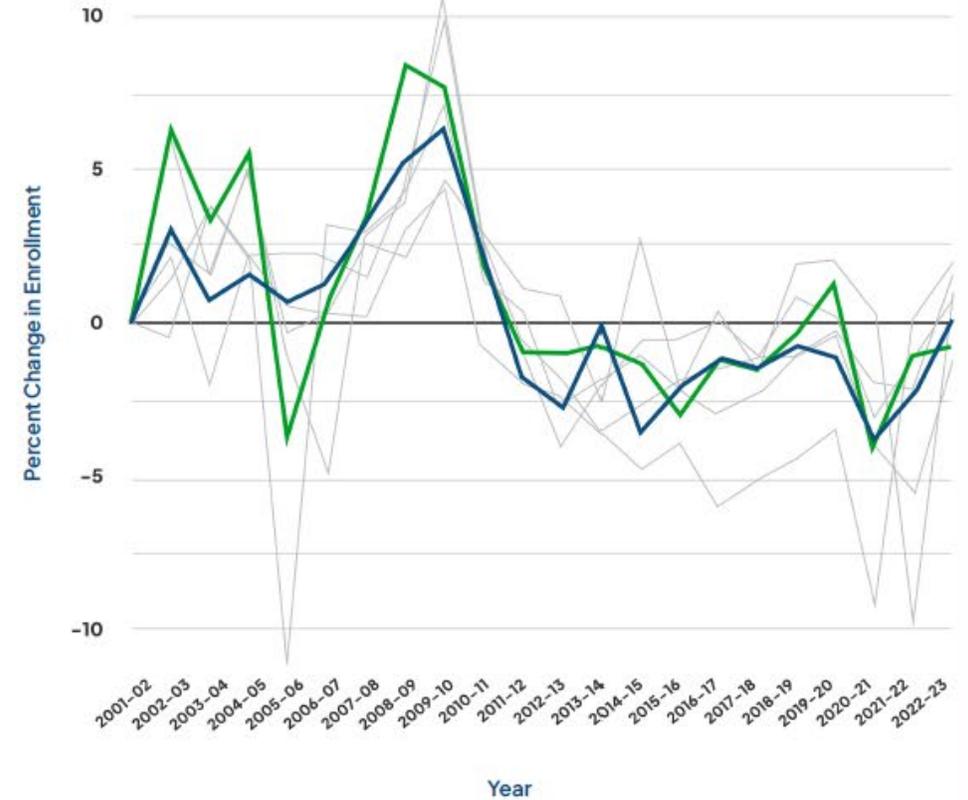
■ NC ■ U.S.



1. National Center for Education Statistics <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/2/2?i=6%3D37>

Year-to-Year Percent Change in Enrollment by State²

■ NC ■ U.S. ■ Top 5 States³

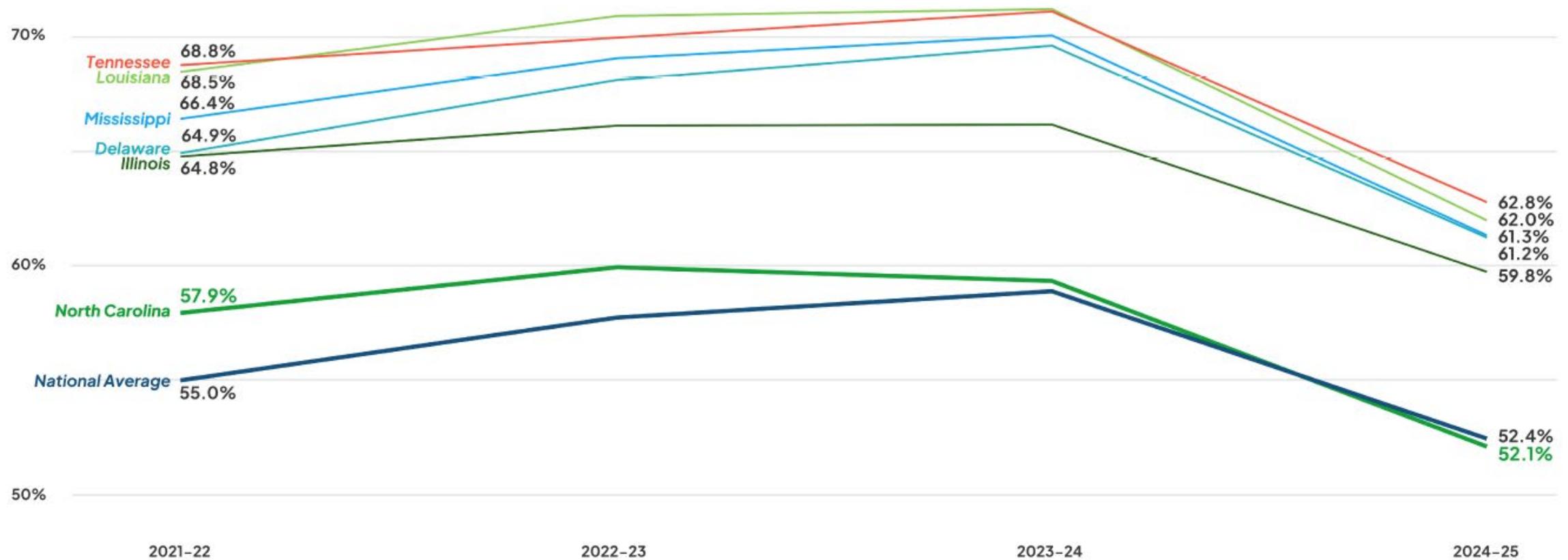


2. Top 5 FAFSA performing states in 23–24, plus NC and National, National Center for Education Statistic <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/2/2?i=6%3D37>

3. Top 5 performing FAFSA completion states include Tennessee, Delaware, Louisiana, Illinois, and Mississippi

Estimated Percent of Seniors Completing a FAFSA (2021–2024)¹

Estimations through September 2024

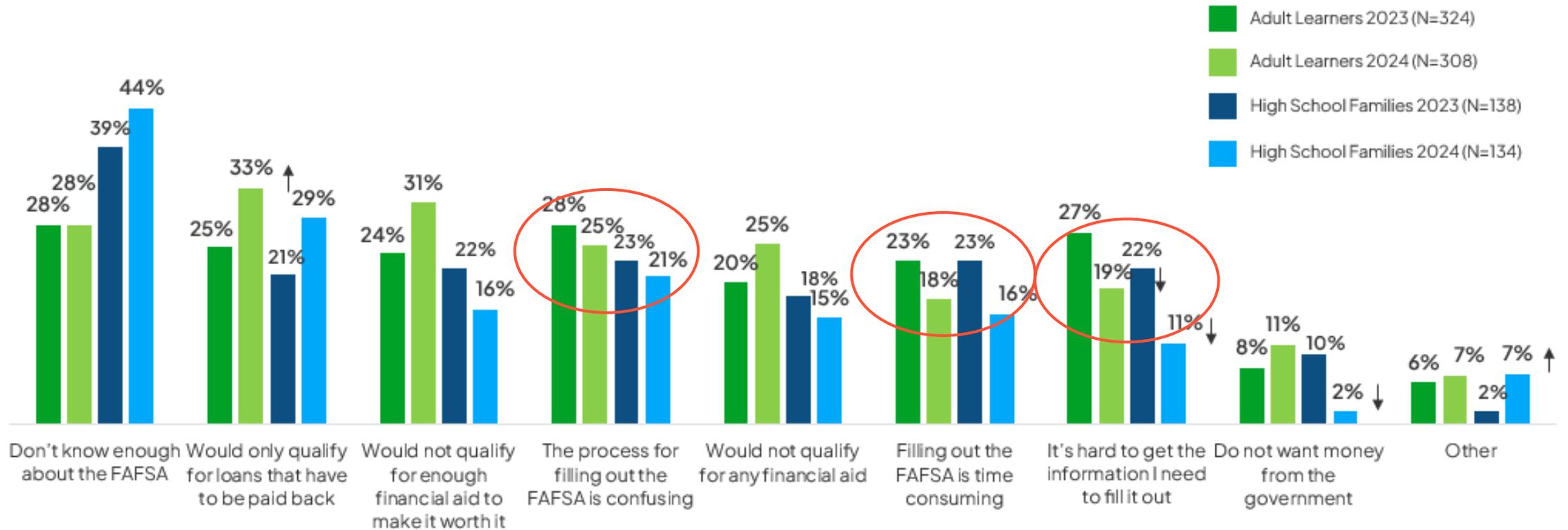


¹ NCAN FAFSA Tracker, US/States by Cycle <https://www.ncan.org/page/fafsatracker>

Year

Barriers to FAFSA Completion YOY

Among those uncertain they would complete

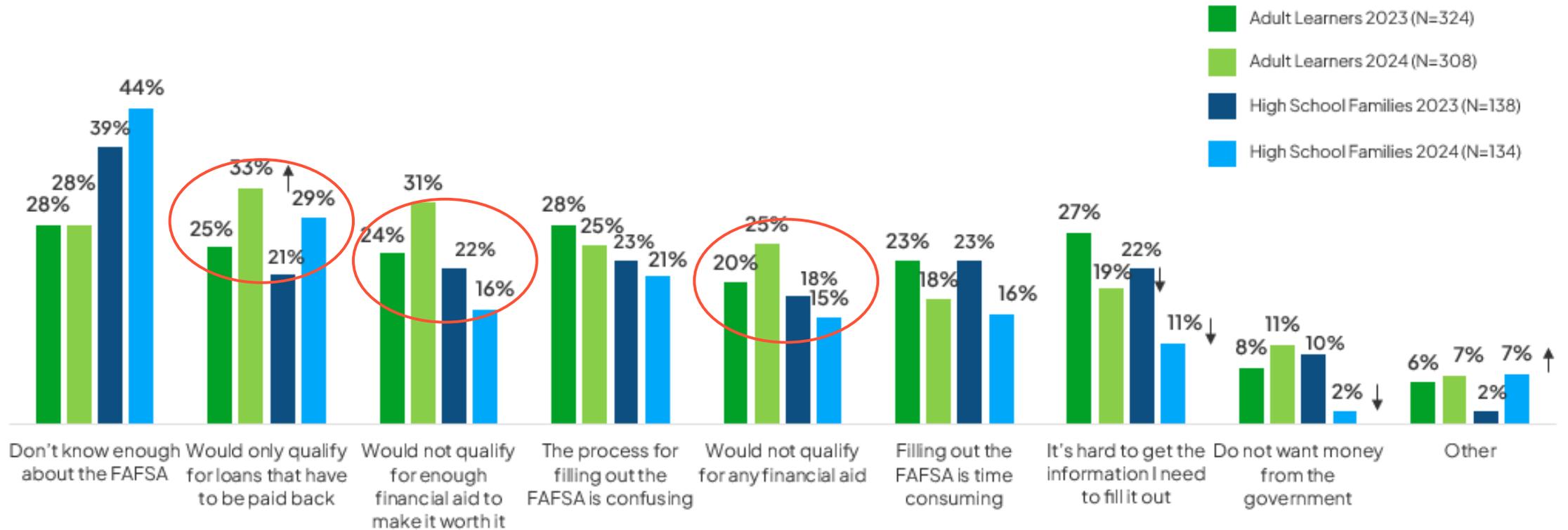


Q: For what reasons might you/your family not complete the FAFSA form?

↑↓ P<.05 Between waves by audience

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Debrief

- What did you notice?
- What surprised you?
- What explains what you are seeing?
- What is the data not telling you?
- What do you want to know more of?



Time to vote on a
statewide FAFSA
completion goal!



What should the
statewide FAFSA
completion goal be?

- A. 60%
- B. 61%
- C. 62%
- D. 63%
- E. 64%
- F. 65%
- G. 66%
- H. 67%
- I. Other?





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Thank you!

Questions?

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