



“We are very proud of the streamlined effort afforded by Naviance to enable our office to be more technology driven”

Rhonda Ramirez,
Counselor

Naaman Forest High School Increases FAFSA Submissions by over 10% in One Year

Using Technology to Create a College-Going Culture

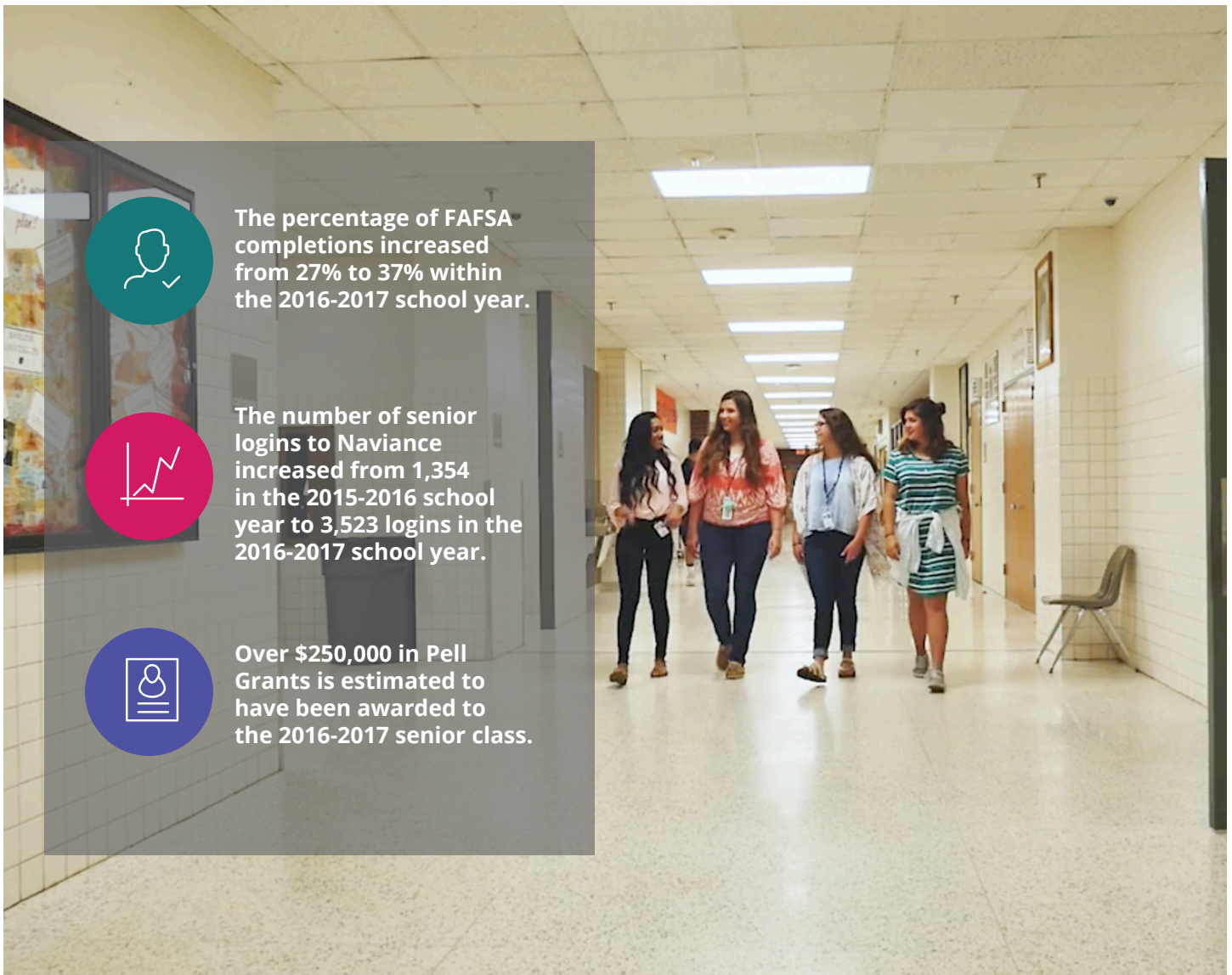
Increasing Student Opportunity Through Naviance

Before implementing Naviance in early 2016, only a small percentage of Naaman Forest seniors were applying to college. With 51% of students receiving free or reduced lunches, the counseling staff was astonished to find out that only 27% of students were completing the FAFSA, leaving many seniors to believe that their dreams of going to college were impossible due to high tuition costs. The Naaman Forest Counseling Office created a list of goals for themselves and their students to increase college and career readiness, and chose Naviance as the means by which to reach those goals.

Making the College Process Easier

The goals of the counseling staff were to have all students log into Naviance, all seniors add three colleges in “Colleges I’m Thinking About,” one college to “Colleges I’m Applying to,” and three scholarships to “Scholarship Applications.”

Because so many students are from lower-income families, the counseling office created a campaign to encourage all seniors to fill out the FAFSA. By posting the FAFSA application in Naviance and sending out reminders to students and parents,



The percentage of FAFSA completions increased from 27% to 37% within the 2016-2017 school year.



The number of senior logins to Naviance increased from 1,354 in the 2015-2016 school year to 3,523 logins in the 2016-2017 school year.



Over \$250,000 in Pell Grants is estimated to have been awarded to the 2016-2017 senior class.

many more students applied. Counselors also provided additional help with FAFSA applications by inviting students and their families to FAFSA Fun Nights, a dedicated time to complete the FAFSA and ask questions. It is estimated that over \$250,000 in Pell Grants were awarded to Naaman Forest High School seniors due to this initiative.

Obtaining Student Success

While Naviance has only been in use at Naaman Forest for a short time, the counseling staff is encouraged by the increasing number of students applying to college and completing the FAFSA. Several seniors received large amounts of financial aid by completing the FAFSA, and realized their dreams of attending college. The Counseling Office is especially proud of their efforts and use of Naviance because of the direct effect it has had on student success on their campus.

Naaman Forest High School received an Education Advances Award during the Naviance Summer Institute 2017 for its dedication to student success and the enhancement of the college and career readiness culture on its campus.

See more about Naaman Forest High School's FAFSA initiative [here](#)



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