SUMMER FOR FAMILIES OF 11TH GRADE STUDENTS

What Your Child Should Do During the Summer
Encourage your teen to do as much of the following to make your college admissions process go as smoothly as possible.

• **Think about and outline a college essay.** Get tips and see samples at BigFuture or see the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook on ReadySetGrad.org
• **Make a list of the qualities you desire in a college.**
• **Develop your personal interests.**
• **Work to improve your standardized test scores.** If your scores are not in a school's 50% range, you may want to retake the SAT and/or ACT in the fall.
• **Get a summer job.** Personal responsibility is an important trait and nothing says responsibility quite like a job.
• **Take summer classes at a local college/university.** Enrolling in summer courses will show admissions officers that you're capable of being an academic success at their school.
• **Practice your interview skills.** If you're shooting for a top ten school, or if your GPA and SAT scores are at the lower end of your dream school's applicant pool, an interview moves from being an option to a requirement for you.
• **Volunteer.** Admissions counselors are looking for certain personality traits, compassion being one of the most important.
• **Visit two or three colleges.** Use these summer visits to figure out what kind of college you want to attend.
• **Think about potential careers.** This isn't entirely necessary, since most people have no clue what they want to do for the rest of their lives at the age of 17! But, if you've never thought about it, putting some time into thinking about careers that match your interests can't hurt.

**Did You Know?**
Washington State allows undocumented students to apply for state financial aid such as the State Need Grant or the College Bound Scholarship if they meet eligibility requirements. Undocumented students or DREAMers are also allowed to pay in-state tuition if they go to a public college or university in this state. You may hear this referred to by college staff or your high school counselor as HB 1079.

For more info, go to: [www.readysetgrad.org/residency-citizenship](http://www.readysetgrad.org/residency-citizenship) & [www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa](http://www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa)
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** The cost of college is so high it’s not even an option anymore!

**REALITY:** If students want to go to college, they are living in the right state!

Washington is number one nationally for students receiving undergraduate financial aid.

157,000 students with financial need received $1.9 billion in assistance in 2014-15. This does not include students receiving scholarships and loans without need-based aid.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- **Family Event:**
  
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**Student Checklist**

- Begin thinking about your applications. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August. Work on the essay before you return to school.
- Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you most.
- Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college’s early decision or early action program. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.
- Use the FAFSA4caster financial aid estimator and compare your results to the actual costs at the colleges to which you will apply.

**Family Checklist**

- Take a look at your financial situation and learn about ways to help pay for college. Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Financial Aid 101.
- Explore financial aid options. These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs. Find out more about how financial aid can make college affordable.

Visit readysetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.