Searching For Scholarships

Scholarships for college are given to students for good grades, athletic ability, community service, or other qualities, traits, or abilities. Businesses, organizations, and universities award scholarships to a variety of students.

Scholarships range in both amounts and competitiveness. For example, a local scholarship may offer $500 for one year, but will only be open to seniors at your high school, while a national scholarship may offer $10,000 for four years of college, but will be open to students across the country. Here’s how your student can get the most out of the scholarship application process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DO</strong></th>
<th><strong>DON’T</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Search (and apply) for scholarships on sites like thewashboard.org, bigfuture.collegeboard.com, scholarship 360, fastweb.com, and scholarships.com  
  o After answering a few questions, the sites will automatically match you with scholarships you’re eligible to apply for.  
  • Apply for local scholarships at the high school, in the community, from employers, and at the college.  
  • Continue to apply for scholarships while you are in college. | • Pay money for information or assistance with scholarship searches. There are plenty of free options online, or ask the school counselor for help.  
  • Procrastinate! Deadlines are firm, and it’s important to get paperwork and applications submitted on time.  
  • Waste time and energy. Make sure you meet eligibility requirements for scholarships before you apply. Also, many scholarship applications require essays on similar topics – it’s okay to reuse your work where applicable! |

Did You Know?

If your child applied for the College Bound Scholarship in middle school and completed the program pledge requirements, they should make sure their college knows they are a College Bound student.

The college’s financial aid office will determine if your family’s current income meets the requirements to receive the College Bound Scholarship.

Get more info at: www.collegebound.wa.gov
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** The school that my child wants to go to has an estimated cost of $20,000. My child will never be able to pay that much money.

**REALITY:** While students may not be able to pay that cost out of pocket, there is financial aid available for them from multiple sources.

This means everyone (including your child) can afford to go to college.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is a great opportunity for students to apply for financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans.

Students can also apply for scholarships to help cover the costs of attending college. Check out theWashboard.org to find scholarships.

---

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- **Family Event:**

---

**Student Checklist**
- If you haven’t filled out the FAFSA or WASFA, Do it this month!
- **Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) online at** www.fafsa.gov. Check that you listed all the colleges you are considering. If your SAR asks for additional information, or if you need to make a correction, do so ASAP.
- **Register for the SAT or ACT test if needed.** Talk to your counselor if you need a test fee waiver.
- **Complete scholarship applications.**

**Family Checklist**
- **Encourage your senior to take SAT Subject Tests.** These tests can showcase your child’s interests and achievements — and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Tests. Read more about SAT Subject Tests.
- **Encourage your child to take AP Exams.** Seniors, who take AP or other advanced classes, should talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the AP Program.

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