Why College? Education Makes Life Better

- More job satisfaction. Individuals with a college degree are more likely to rate their work as important or very important.
- More money. Individuals with a college degree earn an average of $22,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma.
- Less unemployment. Someone with a four-year degree is much less likely to be unemployed than someone with only a high school diploma.
- More benefits. Jobs that require a college degree are more likely to offer health insurance and retirement plans.
- Better health. College graduates are more likely to exercise and report better health.
- More likely to vote. Thirty percent more college graduates voted in the 2008 election than those with only a high school diploma.
- Volunteer more. College graduates are twenty percent more likely to volunteer in their communities.
- Live longer. People with a college degree live almost nine years longer than those without a high school diploma.

Did You Know?

While 95 percent of the human brain has developed by the age of six, scientists report that the greatest spurts of growth after infancy occur just around adolescence.
**Myth Buster**

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

**REALITY:** In Washington State, nearly 69,000 low-income recipients received more than $305 million in SNG funds during the 2015-16 academic year. This does not include those students receiving scholarships and loans without need-based aid. Washington has ranked first in the nation in the level of need-based financial aid per undergraduate enrollments for the last three academic years. Cost doesn't have to be a barrier to attending college. There is money available to help.

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- **National GEAR UP Week:**
- **Student Orientation:**
- **Family Orientation:**
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**Student Checklist**

- **Try a new activity.** Now is a great time to try something new, whether it’s a sport, a club, or volunteer work.
- **Ask for help with schoolwork.** If you start to feel shaky in a subject, seek out tutoring. If you wait until you get a bad grade on a paper or big test, you may fall behind.

**Family Checklist**

- **Offer encouragement.** Encourage your child to do well in school and explore outside interests in sports, clubs, and volunteer work.
- **Review the school calendar together.** Note important dates and put them in a shared online calendar or in an easy-to-view place, such as a bulletin board in your kitchen.
- **Check in.** Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your child’s tests, papers, and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Find out about your child’s grades, assignments, and attendance on the school’s online system (like Skyward). If you don’t know how to access this system, contact your child’s counselor for assistance.

Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.