

# Washington Council for High School-College Relations

2025 Fall Counselor Workshop





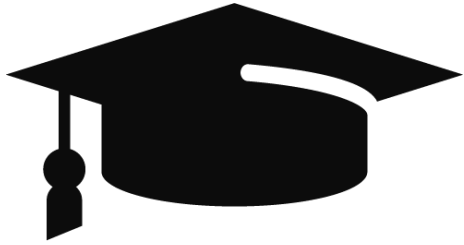
# About WSAC



We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington.



# Washington's Attainment Goals



**100%**

High school diploma  
or equivalent



**70%**

Postsecondary  
credential

Washington population ages 25-44



# Key Takeaways

Financial Aid Terms, Financial Aid and Programs

Financial Aid Updates

Events, Workshops, and Support

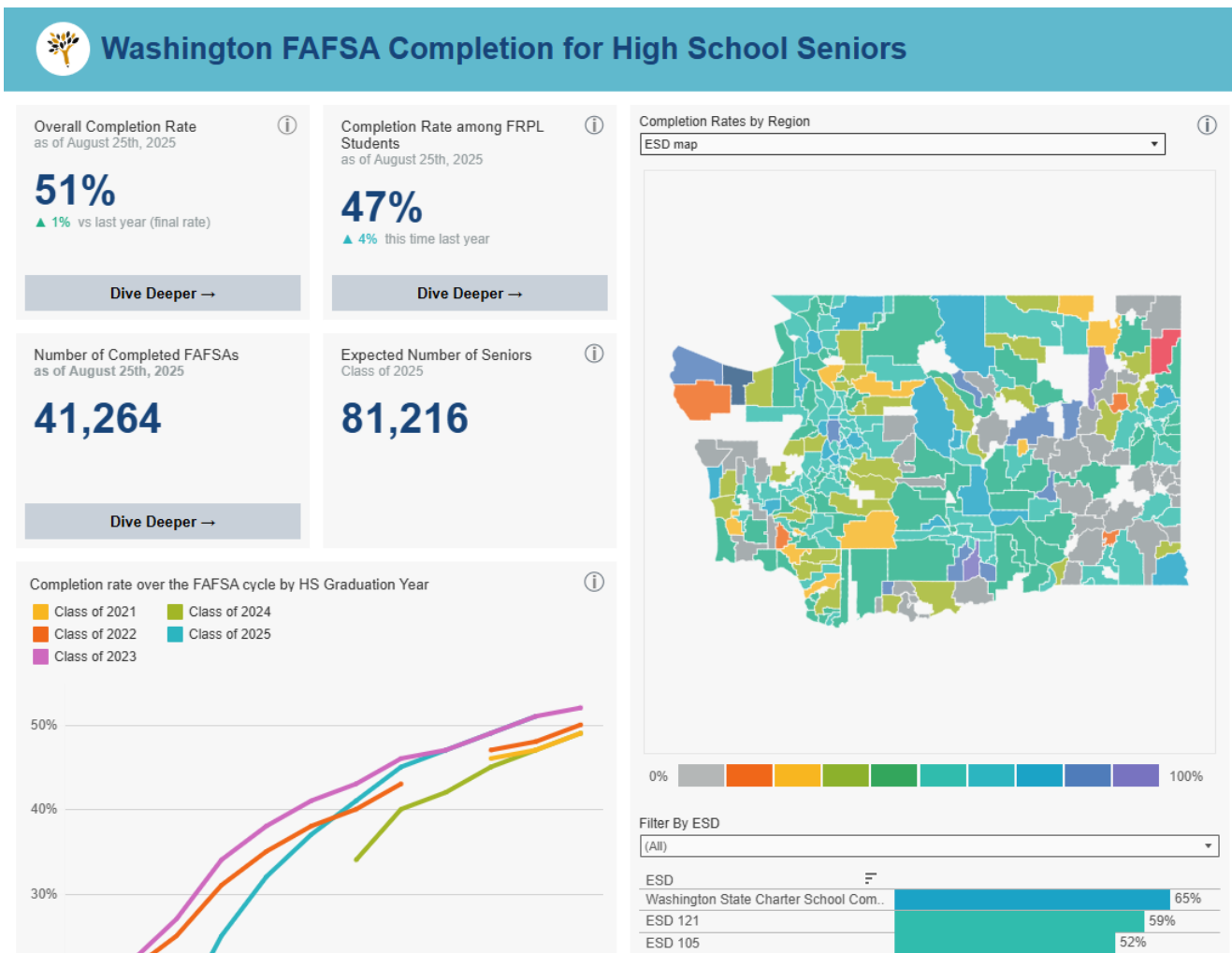
Resources

# **Financial Aid Programs and Applications**





# FAFSA Completion Dashboard for WA High School Seniors



WASHINGTON STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

College Access Initiatives

[wsac.wa.gov/fafsa-completion](https://wsac.wa.gov/fafsa-completion)



# Takeaways

The Umbrella

FAFSA/WASFA: Rule of One

State vs. Federal Programs and Updates



# Financial Aid As An Umbrella



Grants

- Income-based, federal, state and institutional.

Scholarships

- Merit and income-based, from public, private, and nonprofit sources.

Loans

- Income-based, federal and private.

Work Study

- Income-based, federal, state and institutional.





# FAFSA/WASFA: Rule of One

## FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- FAFSA.gov

OR

## WASFA

- Washington Application for State Financial Aid
- [wsac.wa.gov/WASFA](https://wsac.wa.gov/WASFA)



# Federal Financial Aid Programs

Pell Grant

Federal Work-Study

Unsubsidized/Subsidized Student Loans

Parent Loans





# Washington State Financial Aid

Washington College Grant

College Bound

State Work-Study

Passport to Careers

Opportunity Grant





# Washington College Grant





Washington State has made a groundbreaking commitment to financial aid for low- and middle-income people of all ages with the **Washington College Grant** (WA Grant). This grant gives eligible people more money for more types of education like certificate programs, job training, apprenticeships, or college.



# Washington College Grant Provides a Unique Opportunity

With the Washington College Grant (WCG), more families are eligible for financial aid than ever before.

Family Size	Full Award	Partial Award
 <b>Eligible Student</b> Family of 1	<b>Income</b> \$41,000 or less	<b>Income</b> Up to \$68,000
 <b>Eligible Student</b> Family of 4	\$78,500 or less	Up to \$131,000

Award amounts vary based on income, family size, and the school or program attended.





# Passport to Careers -

Supporting Former Foster Youth and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



## Passport to College Promise Scholarship

- Comprehensive supports from high school to higher education

## Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities

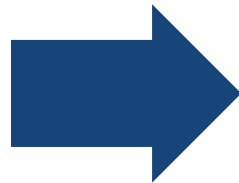
- Career-related training under state approved pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs



# College Bound Commitment Eligibility and Auto-Enrollment: A Two-Step Process

## *Step One*

- Auto-enrollment for eligible public-school students.
- Eligible for FRPL in 7th, 8th, or newly eligible in 9th grade.
- Foster Youth are auto-enrolled through HS graduation.



## *Step Two*

- Fulfill the College Bound Program Requirements.
- Meet income and residency requirements.
- Be accepted to and attend an eligible college within one year of graduation.
- College Bound award usage is limited to six years following initial enrollment/receipt.



# College Bound Program



**Combines** with other state financial aid to cover the average cost of tuition (at public rates), some fees, and a small book allowance = **commitment**.



Can be used at about 60 two and four-year public and private colleges and universities.



[collegebound@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:collegebound@wsac.wa.gov)





# Important Information for the Class of 2026

2026-27 FAFSA and  
WASFA will open  
October 1st 2025

Class of 2026 will  
complete the 2026-  
27 FAFSA or WASFA  
using 2024 income  
information



Apply Every Year



# Supporting the Class of 2025

2025-26 FAFSA and  
WASFA opened in  
December 2024

Class of 2025 will  
complete the 2025-  
26 FAFSA or WASFA  
using 2023 income  
information



**The 2025-26 FAFSA/WASFA Closes on June 30, 2026**



# 2025-26 Financial Aid Update

Federal Student Aid is currently on its second and final wave of beta testing for the 26-27 FAFSA.

Students can sign up now to participate in beta II or wait until October 1st to start applying.

Students participating in beta II can complete a 26-27 FAFSA that will be processed like a regular FAFSA.

## 2026-27 FAFSA Early Access Participation

You can now sign up to participate in the beta for the 2026-27 FAFSA form. We will approve requests for access depending on testing needs.

[Request Early Access](#)

## 2026-27 FAFSA® Beta Participation

Accepted

You've been selected to participate in early testing. You can now start a 2026-27 FAFSA form.

[Start New 2026-27 FAFSA® Form](#)



Need to accept an invitation to join a 2026-27 FAFSA® form?

If a student invited you to their FAFSA form, you can follow the link in the invitation email. Or you can accept the invitation using the code provided in the invitation at the link below.

[Accept Contributor Invitation](#)



# 2026-27 Financial Aid Application Changes

Real-time identity verification

Updated contributor invitation process

Identity validation flexibilities for individuals without Social Security Numbers extended into the 26-27 application year

Changes to Assets

FSA ID now called StudentAid.gov account



# Federal Financial Aid Updates (Real-time identity verification)

There is no longer a one-to-three day waiting period to verify a StudentAid.gov (FSA ID).

Beginning in August, all users who create a StudentAid.gov account with a Social Security number will have their accounts verified immediately.

Users who do not have a SSN will continue to follow last year's process.





# Federal Financial Aid Updates (Contributor Invitation Process)

## Contributor Invitation Process Updated (2026-27 FAFSA)

- Contributors will be invited after the student or parent completes their section, but before signing
- Only an email address will be required to invite a contributor
- The system will generate an invitation code for contributors to use when joining via StudentAid.gov



Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

*As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent. We may ask them to invite their spouse or partner.*

[Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?](#)

A screenshot of the 'Invite a Parent Contributor' form. At the top, there is a header with a green person icon and the word 'Parent'. Below this, the title 'Invite a Parent Contributor' is centered. Under the title, the word 'Email' is followed by a text input field. To the right of the input field is a small question mark icon. Below the input field is a blue button with a white envelope icon and the text 'Send Invite'.

Two buttons at the bottom of the form: a light blue 'Previous' button on the left and a dark blue 'Continue' button on the right.



# Federal Financial Aid Updates (Contributor Invitation Process)

Progress bar: 1 Student Section (checked), 2 Parent Section (active)

## Pending Submission

Check with your contributor

Parent Contributor

### Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA form can't be submitted until your contributor(s) fill out their section of the form and sign it. Keep track of contributors for your FAFSA form and make sure it is submitted after all sections are complete.

Contributor	Role	Invite Code	Status
alcina.tran@email.com	Parent	j7xt2y4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invite Sent

[Manage Invitations](#)

## 2026–27 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Start a 2026–27  
FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

Edit a 2026–27  
FAFSA® Form

Edit Existing Forms

Accept an Invitation for a  
2026–27 FAFSA® Form

Accept an Invitation

Need the 2025–26 FAFSA Form?

[Start New Form](#)

[Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation](#)

The student will also have access to the invitation code. If the parent does not receive the code the student can give it to them.



## 2026-27 Assets

Beginning with the 2026–27 award year the following from current net worth of business and farms and should not be reported as assets on the FAFSA form:

- The net worth of a **family-owned business** with 100 or fewer full-time (or full-time equivalent) employees.
- The net worth of a **farms on which the family resides**.
- The net worth of a **commercial fishing business** and related expenses, owned and controlled by a family.



# Resources

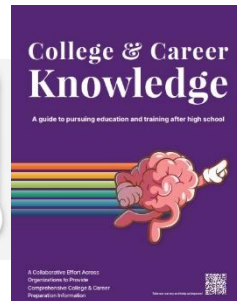




# The 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign

The 12th Year Campaign boosts college and financial aid application rates in Washington by helping those working with high school seniors and their families complete applications for college admissions and financial aid.

- Free training
- Printed and digital resources
- Online financial aid events



[wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign](https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign)



# Hello From Your 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign Team!



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[christinaw@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:christinaw@wsac.wa.gov)



Yaslin Torres-Peña  
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12th Year Campaign



# Financial Aid Advising Day

## Inform Students and Families

- Use FAAD Advising Day lesson plans to talk to your students about financial aid and how to apply.
- Gather documents for when the application opens.

## Create an StudentAid.gov or WASFA Account

- StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID) Worksheet and presentations are available
- Students and parents can create an StudentAid.gov account at 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign events this fall.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign FAAD Planning Session

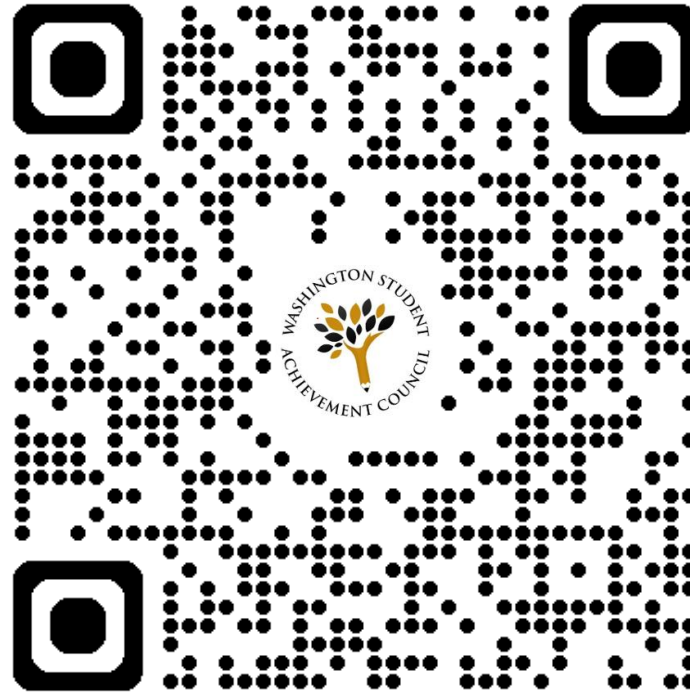
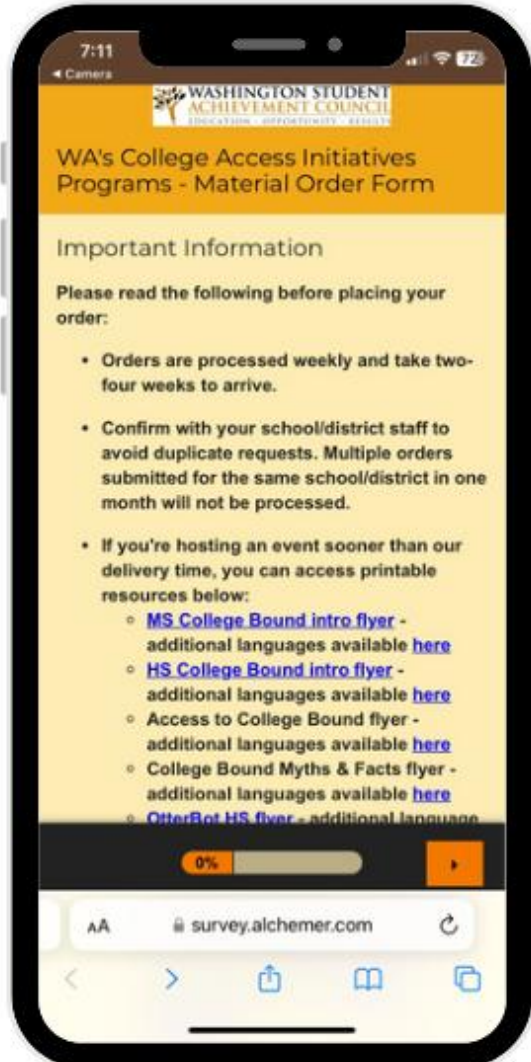
- Learn how others are doing similar work!
- Walkthrough of resources, supports, and opportunities to partner with FA completion work regionally.

[wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign](https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign)





# College Access Initiatives Material Order Form



Order Materials from OtterBot, College Bound, and 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign at the same time!

Orders are processed weekly and take 2-4 weeks to arrive.

Please coordinate with school and district staff when placing orders.



# College Access Resource Padlet

Christina Winstead + 1 • 27d

## 12th Year Campaign Key to Success Financial Aid Resources

These resources will help you as you as you plan your Financial Aid Advising Day (FAAD) and support students with financial aid and admissions applications.

### FINANCIAL AID UPDATES

**BREAKING: 2025-26 FAFSA TO OPEN DECEMBER 1**

FSA just announced that the 2025-26 FAFSA will be released on **December 1, 2024, with full, end-to-end functionality**. The outreach tools and resources that typically accompany the form will be released in advance and FAFSA processing will occur within one to three days of submission. If realized, this announcement means that the system will be fully functional for all students on December 1, 2024.

### This Week in Financial Aid

**Update on Identity Validation Flexibilities for Individuals without Social Security Numbers and Key Remaining Scope for the 2024-25 FAFSA Cycle**

2025-26 FAFSA cycle and will not implement any form of restricted status for students or contributors without an SSN.

**New 2024-25 FAFSA Issues Identified**

### Training Opportunities

**Washington Council for High School-College Relations (WCHSCR) 2024 Fall Counselor Workshops**

2024 Fall Counselor Workshops

These very popular workshops provide professional development for school counselors, career center specialist, HSBP coordinators and those in college-access work. Held in-person and virtually, we're excited to provide current information from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), The State Board of Education (SBE), State

### Financial Aid Advising Day Supports

**Sample Financial Aid Advising Week Schedule Graphic**

FA Advising Week Sample Schedule

If you have more time to implement Financial Aid Advising Day activities. Here is a sample agenda for a Financial Aid Advising Week.

**Financial Aid Advising Month Sample Schedule**

### Financial Aid Events

**12th Year Campaign Events**

**OtterBot 24/7 Financial Aid Text Support**

Financial aid events

You can share this list of events with your students. If you are hosting an event and want it added to this list, please email [ChristinaW@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:ChristinaW@wsac.wa.gov)

**Class of 2025 Financial Aid Night Hosted by The 12th Year Campaign**

**Class of 2025 Financial Aid Night**

Learn More About Paying for Education After High School and Resources to Help You Take Your Next Steps

For more information and to register go to [www.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign](https://www.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign)

May 22, 2024  
5:30-6:30pm  
Hosted on Zoom in



[padlet.com/christinaw12/cxbz1z64bch5jbsf](https://padlet.com/christinaw12/cxbz1z64bch5jbsf)



# Student Loan Advocate



The Student Loan Advocate collaborates with other state agencies to support current and future student loan borrowers in Washington State by:

- Addressing student borrowers' questions and complaints.
- Providing borrowers information and resources about student loans.
- Educating the public about the rights and responsibilities of student loan borrowers.

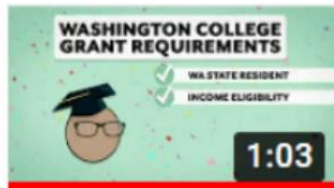




# Washington Financial Aid for Education and Training Videos

Informational videos about education after high school in the following languages:

- English
- Mandarin
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese





# **Events, Workshops, and Support**





# Training Opportunities

We are expanding our training opportunities! Starting this fall, we will be providing asynchronous financial aid basics with clock hours.



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College Access Initiatives

## PRACTITIONER TRAININGS & SUPPORTS



### FINANCIAL AID BASICS

IN THIS SESSION, PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN THE BASICS OF FINANCIAL AID. WE WILL COVER FEDERAL AND STATE AID PROGRAMS INCLUDING GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, WORK STUDY AND LOANS. THIS SESSION WILL PREPARE PARTICIPANTS TO HELP WITH BASIC FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS.

• SEPTEMBER 18TH, 12:30-1:30PM



### FINANCIAL AID NAVIGATION

IN THIS SESSION, PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS AND HOW TO HELP OTHERS NAVIGATE APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID. WE WILL WALK THROUGH HOW TO APPLY FOR POSTSECONDARY FUNDING WITH THE FAFSA AND THE WASFA. WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS COMMON CHALLENGES AND ERRORS AS WELL AS NEXT STEPS.

• OCTOBER 8TH, 10:00AM-12:00PM



### WSAC WEDNESDAYS FOR PRACTITIONERS

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 10-11AM, WSAC OFFERS DEDICATED TIME FOR PRACTITIONERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE UPDATES ON FINANCIAL AID, THE COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARSHIP, AND OTTERBOT.



### COLLEGE BOUND UPDATES WEBINAR

UNDERSTAND THE AUTO-ENROLLMENT PROCESS AND LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS. WE WILL ALSO COVER RECENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES. THE EVENT IS HOSTED BY WSAC AND THE COLLEGE SUCCESS FOUNDATION. Q&A TIME IS INCLUDED.

• OCTOBER 7TH, 1:00PM - 2:45PM





# Training Opportunity: Financial Aid Navigation

October 8<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In this session we will discuss how to apply for aid, common challenges, and errors as well as next steps. This sessions will prepare participants to assist students as they apply for financial aid and train others.





# Join Us For WSAC Wednesday

## WSAC Wednesdays



Practitioners, do you have questions about financial aid?

WSAC's College Access Initiatives is here to help! Join us the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00-11:00am for an open Q&A.

Register in advance  
<https://bit.ly/WSACWednesday>



**10:00-11:00am 1st Wednesday of the Month**







# 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign Student and Family Financial Aid Events

## CLASS OF 2026

### Financial Aid Nights

Join the 12th Year Campaign to learn more about financial aid and take your first step creating your FSA ID or WASFA account.

Hosted on Zoom in English and Spanish



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12th Year Campaign

TO REGISTER GO TO [HTTPS://WSAC.WA.GOV/FINANCIAL-AID-EVENTS](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events)

## CLASE DEL 2026

### Noche de Ayuda Financiera

Únase a la campaña del duodécimo año para obtener más información sobre la ayuda financiera y dé el primer paso para crear su FSA ID o cuenta WASFA en este evento.

Esta presentación está disponible en inglés y español



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REGÍSTRATE EN [HTTPS://WSAC.WA.GOV/FINANCIAL-AID-EVENTS](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events)

[wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events)

Open to everyone

All sessions are in English and Spanish

WASHINGTON STUDENT  
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12th Year Campaign

### FINANCIAL AID 101 FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

September 24, 2025 5:30-6:30 PM  
November 18, 2025 5:30-6:30 PM

Join us on zoom as we talk about types of financial aid, how students apply, and the parent's role in the application process.



To register scan the QR code or go to <https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events>



# Statewide Financial Aid Events Calendar

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

info@wsac.wa.gov | (360) 753-7800

ABOUT US MEETINGS POLICY FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATION OUTREACH & INITIATIVES NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

home

## 12TH YEAR CAMPAIGN

### 12th Year Campaign

The 12th Year Campaign boosts college and financial aid application rates in Washington by helping those working with high school seniors and their families complete applications for college admissions and financial aid. This page contains information and resources designed to help schools and partners host a successful financial aid advising day. Explore the different sections below to learn more.

### Supporting Washington's Financial Aid Advising Day

Financial aid matters. Nationally, seniors who complete a financial aid application are 84 percent more likely to enroll in postsecondary education. The rate is even higher for students from lower-income families. From an apprenticeship program to a two-or-four-year college degree, education beyond high school prepares students for jobs that move them beyond minimum wage. Even a one-year credential program at a community or technical college can increase future earnings.

Districts across Washington have an exciting opportunity to provide students with new support by sharing critical information for planning life after high school. Financial aid advising day, created with the passage of [ESSB 6141](#) in the 2020 Legislative session, is an opportunity to focus on educational equity related to students pursuing postsecondary education.

### What is a financial aid advising day?

Learn about the details and requirements of financial aid advising day, as well as the resources the 12th Year Campaign has to support schools.

[What is a financial aid advising day?](#) [The 12th Year Campaign is here to help](#) [What should the notification include?](#)

[Getting out](#)

### Financial aid advising day lesson plans

Use these easy to implement lesson plans to support your financial aid advising day activities.

[Financial Aid 101: Paying for education](#) [Understanding the Washington College Grant](#) [Using the Washington financial aid calculator](#)

[Which financial aid application should I use](#) [Creating an FSA ID or WASFA account](#)

### 12th Year Campaign and partner materials

[OneBot](#) [Financial aid event materials](#) [More materials](#)

[Federal student aid infographics](#) [College and Career Pathways handouts](#) [Translated resources](#)

### 12TH YEAR CONTACT INFORMATION

Christina Winstead  
Associate Director for College Access Initiatives  
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360.485.1133

## Financial Aid Events

## 12th Year Campaign Sign up

## Financial Aid Resources

## FINANCIAL AID EVENTS



Do you know the steps you need to take to apply for college?  
Do you need money for college?

The 12th Year Campaign can help you with two important steps you need to take to go to college: applying for college and applying for financial aid. The first step is to file a FAFSA or WASFA financial aid application.

Join one of the events listed below to learn more and get help. Please note: Most events are offered virtually.

### Calendar of upcoming financial aid events

Today < > September 2025 Month						
SUN 31	MON Sep 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
	1pm Highline College	1:30pm WorkSource I	1pm Highline College			
7	1pm Highline College	1:30pm WorkSource I	1pm Highline College	11	12	13
14	1pm Highline College	1:30pm WorkSource I	1pm Highline College	18	19	20
21	1pm Highline College	1:30pm WorkSource I	1pm Highline College	25	26	27

Register your events with the 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign and we will add them to our calendar.



# OtterBot Texting Service - Help with Financial Aid & Post-secondary Navigation

- Free, statewide, state managed, AI-powered texting service
- 24/7 support to WA high school students and their parents/guardians
- Guidance on the financial aid and college application processes, career exploration, reminders, and more!
- Available in multiple languages



[wsac.wa.gov/otterbot](https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot)



# OtterBot Content Areas

## CONTENT AREAS

### Financial Aid

- FAFSA completion
- WASFA completion
- Verification
- Award letters
- Appeals
- Scholarship search

### Admissions & Enrollment

- Admissions applications
- Admissions requirements
- Enrollment steps

### College-going Info

- Terms and definitions
- Campus navigation
- Transition prep
- Socioemotional support

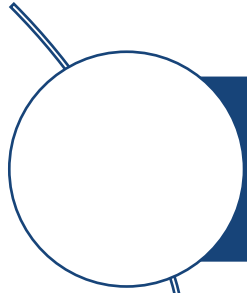
### Reminders & Notifications

- Orientations
- Class registrations
- Scholarships
- Priority application dates

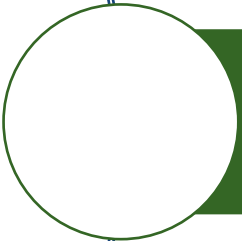




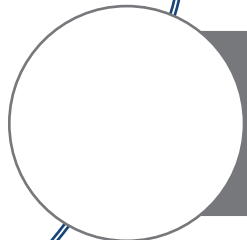
# [www.wsac.wa.gov/actionplan](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/actionplan)



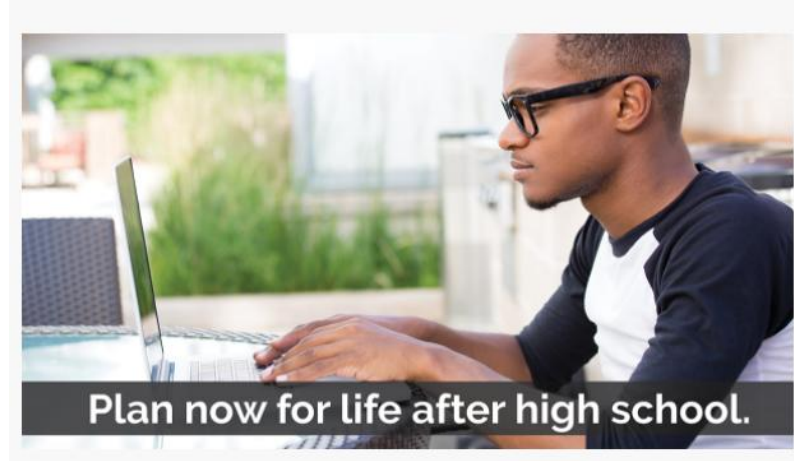
One-stop site for juniors and seniors



Career exploration resources to  
application information



Financial aid resources





# Thank You From the College Access Initiatives Team!



We are here to support you!



Your College Access Initiatives team