WEEKLY BULLETIN

**April 1-5, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**  42% of tenth-grade students reported being absent from school for one or two days for any reason, compared to 36% in 2021.  [www.askHYS.net](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..872vNQrAIE1UpPKJW_ZGSSLAysY9Ckl3LaXMz5R9inM/s/421506233/br/239902794616-l) |
| * Program Updates * Student Recruitment & Outreach Events |
| * Optional Professional Development |
| * Resources |
| * In the News * Scholarships & Opportunities |

# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly newsletters for students by grade level. Pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! *Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.*
* [**Class of 2025: Financial Aid Night**](https://bit.ly/2025FinAidNite)**.** It's time to take your first steps to applying for financial aid! Learn more about your options for paying for education after high school and resources to support you. Take your first step at this event by creating your FSA ID or WASFA account with help from WSAC staff. English and Spanish. May 22, 5:30-6:30 PM.
* [**Class of 2024: Financial Aid Completion Night.**](https://bit.ly/2024FinAidNite) Get help correcting or completing your FAFSA or WASFA! English and Spanish. Apr. 10, 5:30-7:30 PM.
* [**White House, ED Announce FAFSA “Week of Action” April 15-19.**](https://www.ncan.org/news/668671/White-House-ED-Announce-FAFSA-Week-of-Action-April-15-19.htm) The Biden Administration is encouraging high school counselors, principals, and other school leaders, superintendents, after-school programs, parent groups, nonprofit organizations, and other local and state education organizations to commit to taking action to raise awareness about the FAFSA. This comes as calls are growing for a national, concerted effort to increase submissions.

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* **Webinar:** [**The Roadmap to Success: Preparing Early for Your Best College Experience**](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-and-career-planning-event-sessions.html). By ACT & Collegewise. Apr. 2, 4 PM.
* [**uAspire** **Virtual Financial Aid Help Events**](https://www.uaspire.org/FinAidEvents). Free virtual events to walk students and families.
* [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.42fu3w63mb46) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.
* [**NACAC Spring 2024 National College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** 4/21-Virtual.
* [**Class of 2024 Financial Aid Night**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.mb3m9x2w19io). Get help correcting or completing your FAFSA or WASFA. Hosted on Zoom in English and Spanish. Apr. 10, 5:30-7:30 PM.
* [**PNACAC Spring College Fair**](https://www.pnacac.org/spring-college-fairs). 4/19-Spokane ([Download poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/b74d23de-3e99-ba74-981a-1692c443e000/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Spokane.pdf)), 4/22-Seattle ([poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/bec53497-71ac-c046-cead-d8d534a03291/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Seattle.pdf)), 4/25- Everett ([poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/32fbdb15-9535-f42e-a247-30bf88776847/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Snohomish_Cty.pdf)), 4/30-Portland ([poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/bec53497-71ac-c046-cead-d8d534a03291/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Seattle.pdf)).

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **College Counseling 101 Webinar:** [**Tips for Advising Prospective Student-Athletes**](https://pnacac.memberclicks.net/webinars). Open to PNACAC members only. Intended for Secondary/High School Counselors. Apr. 11, 9:00 AM
* **Free & Virtual:** [**NCAN Spring Institute 2024: Pursuing Effective Advising For Every Student**](https://www.ncan.org/page/2024springinstitute). Open and free of charge to NCAN members and non-members alike! Includes a week of programming exploring how college access programs, K-12 districts and schools, postsecondary institutions, and states can best support students for a postsecondary pathway. Apr. 15-19.
* **Webinar:** [**Embarking on the Journey: Washington High Schools Guiding College Transitions.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ESaQZtPFQ4W9J8qdKRH58g#/registration) *Hosted by the Council of Presidents and Directors of Admissions at Washington’s public, four-year institutions.* April 25, 9:45-11:00 AM.
* [**The Rural Summit 2024: From Cradle to Career**](https://web.cvent.com/event/caec6588-98be-41fc-a1b4-d8ca65824869/websitePage:3d6d2182-5322-49db-bc62-7309541129c3)**.** Apr. 28 - May 1, Lexington, KY.
* **Virtual:** [**Annual Passport to Careers Conference**](https://www.washingtonpassportnetwork.org/2024-conference/). Early bird registration is open! May 14.
* [**PNACAC Conference: Where It All Began**](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference)**.** May 22 - 24, Salem, OR.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 21-24, Washington, DC.
* **Save The Date: GEAR UP West**. Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.

# Resources:

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Activity Guide: Preparing Students for the Transition to College**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/activity-guide-preparing-students-transition-college)**.** College access professionals can use this activity guide to help prepare students and families for the first year after high school, including what to expect and navigating common challenges.
* [**Getting To College: FAFSA Challenges For First Gen Students**](https://open.spotify.com/episode/2onFLrzPD1nMjpdRVVKhTa?si=0b06efa61e4f4e7c&fbclid=IwAR20KxTRwWQZgwawAsVz80Sxm46XoV-b3-N5niGWXJpPGNf0kbnSGP86Sac_aem_ASB40KsJsQ7z8bTwU903JFkBPt2aFjJvxYu7LO7n_UwyzJ1QdgA9VyLbtB5fO_wNozAfCcgARqm-OBSK_98dbo2e&nd=1&dlsi=bff36daf34724d5d)**.** Here are tips for how first-generation college students can navigate the financial aid process, especially with ongoing FAFSA challenges. iMentor CEO Heather Williams offers insight to help overcome barriers in this Harvard EdCast.
* [**10 Hacks to Boost Teen’s Executive Function Skills and Manage Screen Time**](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/63441/10-hacks-to-boost-teens-executive-function-skills-and-manage-screen-time)**.** When humans are distracted, it takes 23 minutes to get back to that previous level of focus. Get tips and hacks from MindShift.
* [**Zooming in on FAFSA Completion Rates in Washington**](https://wsac.wa.gov/research-digest-affordability)**.** Washington’s FAFSA completion rate is one of the lowest in the country, with only half of students applying for financial aid. We take a closer look what the data says about this problem in WSAC’s research digest.

**IN THE NEWS**

* [As Problems Continue To Beset The New FAFSA, Most Colleges Are Pushing Their Deposit Deadlines Into June. But Some Are Still Dragging Their Feet. What’s The Hold Up?](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2024/04/01/colleges-weigh-pros-and-cons-extending-deposit-deadlines)
* [Embracing Neurodiversity On Campus](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/03/embracing-neurodiversity-on-campus)
* [All Eyes On Loneliness](https://awsp.org/professional-learning/training-conferences/awsp-wasa-summer-conference)
* [Black Scholars Face Anonymous Accusations In Anti-DEI Crusade](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/diversity/race-ethnicity/2024/04/01/black-scholars-face-anonymous-accusations-anti-dei-crusade)
* [‘It Was The Most Unfair Thing’: Disobedience, Discipline And Racial Disparity](https://hechingerreport.org/disobedience-discipline-and-racial-disparity)
* [NCESD Helps Local Schools Navigate The School Improvement Process](https://www.ncesd.org/news/navigating-school-improvement-process/)
* [Artificial Intelligence Can Be Game-Changing For Students With Special Needs](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-artificial-intelligence-can-be-game-changing-for-students-with-special-needs)
* [Washington Youth Mental Health Shows Best Improvement In 20 Years](https://crosscut.com/news/2024/04/washington-youth-mental-health-shows-best-improvement-20-years)
* [Preventing Big College Enrollment Declines Means FAFSA Completion Support This Spring And Summer](https://www.ncan.org/news/668709/Preventing-Big-College-Enrollment-Declines-Means-FAFSA-Completion-Support-This-Spring-and-Summer.htm)

**SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES**

*Find more opportunities at:* <https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/scholarships>.

* **[Scholarship Junkies’ Free Scholarship Bank](https://www.scholarshipjunkies.org/scholarship-search)**. Scholarship Junkies has launched their brand-new Scholarship Bank! This organization is a reputable and safe source to search for scholarships.

* **[Summer Melt Scholarship](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelTofmBsJ--CTh2MI5ZFOz5Of3ZiA8ebzVP2P0w3C2v_X5CA/viewform?mc_cid=5638f38362&mc_eid=a2f060beda).** The GEAR UP Alumni Association is offering $500 scholarships to 25 GEAR UP high school seniors who will be entering a postsecondary education this fall. Students must be part of a GEAR UP program and provide proof of acceptance / enrollment at a higher education institution. Students who need support to pay for various fees are encouraged to apply. Due Apr. 7.
* [**Get Schooled’s Resilient Roots $2000 Scholarship**](https://getschooled.com/resilient-roots-scholarship/). For HS seniors/Class of 2024. The Resilient Roots scholarship celebrates young adults like you! The last 4 years have been a whirlwind of change, but you've demonstrated great strength and adaptability through it all. To apply, share an experience that has helped you grow resilient roots and how that resilience will help you achieve your future goals! Due Apr. 15.
* [**ETV Program is Accepting 2024-2025 Applications**](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/etv)**.** Do you know students experiencing foster care who are planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, technical, vocational, or dual credit high school program? The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program offers financial assistance to eligible youth (up to $5,000 per academic year and $2,000 for dual credit)! To learn more about the program, eligibility, and to apply for the 2024–2025 school year, please visit the [ETV webpage](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..i7d7ljqeGXFD69N_8KuRZPGSSmRaIK0LGY5_52yFGIM/s/421506233/br/238756012150-l) or feel free to email [ETVWash@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ETVWash@dcyf.wa.gov) with questions. To meet the priority deadline, apply by Apr. 30. All applications received after Apr. 30 will be awarded on a funds available basis.
* [**Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve.**](https://preservewa.org/programs/youth-heritage-project/) (Whidbey Island) Applications are currently open for student attendees and teacher/mentors. The application deadlines are May 17 for students and April 26 for teacher/mentors. Students will explore topics related to maritime heritage and the impact of climate change on the preservation of historic and cultural resources. There will be opportunities to engage in hands-on activities to help conservation efforts, visit historic sites throughout the Reserve, learn about co-management of cultural resources, and to better understand this historic area. July 16-19.
* [**National First-Generation Recognition Program**](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/communities-events/national-recognition-programs). From College Board. For HS students whose parent(s) does not have a bachelor’s degree or has some education that is less than a bachelor’s degree. Due Jun. 14.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1994-program) | The program provides full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, and room and board each year for up to 4 years to selected students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, food science, natural resource science, or a related academic discipline at one of 35 federally recognized tribal colleges and universities. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 4/10 |
| [KMR Group Foundation](http://kmrgrp.com/?page_id=2722) | ($1,000-$3,500) For HS seniors graduating in Southwest Washington. Applicant must be currently enrolled or will be enrolled in Clark College, Lower Columbia College, or Mt. Hood Community College. | 4/12 |
| [USDA/1890 National Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars) | Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition, as well as room and board, for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 4/15 |
| [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](http://www.barronprize.org/) | ($10,000) - Honoring outstanding young leaders (ages 8-18) currently working on an inspiring service project or have done so within the past 12 months. Student needs to be working as an individual to lead their service work. The Barron Prize does not accept applications from large groups of young people. | 4/15 |
| [Incight Scholarship](https://www.incight.org/scholarship) | ($500-$2,500) - Incight awards up to one hundred scholarships to students with disabilities, who have demonstrated outstanding merit in giving back to the community and overcoming obstacles to pursue higher education. These scholarships range in value from $500 to $2,500. Open to students who are residents of OR, WA, or CA. | 4/15 |
| [LEAP Rise Above (aka LEAP1%) Scholarship Fund](https://seamar.org/scholarship-leap1.html) | The Latine Educational Achievement Project Scholarship Fund provides financial support for students who demonstrate a history of advocacy, responsibility, accountability, and perseverance; are go-getters, and have shown or have the strong potential to be contributors to their community. | 4/15 |
| [SEA-MAR - Farm Worker Scholarship](https://www.seamar.org/scholarship-farmworker.html) | For students who work or have worked OR whose parent/legal guardian is or has worked as a farm worker. | 4/15 |
| [WWIN Star Scholar (Formerly - Washington Women in Need Education Grant)](https://wwin.org/star-scholars/) | Each WWIN Star Scholar receives up to $5,000 per academic year and up to $20,000 over her undergraduate college career at the approved Washington college or university of her choice. For females 18 and older. | 4/18 |
| [Chin: Shui Kuen & Allen Chin Scholarship](http://asianpacificfund.org/information-for-student-applicants#banatao) | For incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university. Student or parent currently/formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant. Any ethnic heritage. Community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian, and/or other progressive causes | 4/26 |
| [Washington Association of County Officials](http://www.countyofficials.org/247/How-to-Apply) | ($3,000) - The fund awards up to three $3,000 scholarships to eligible children of county employees and county elected officials in the following offices: assessors, auditors, clerks, coroners, medical examiners, prosecutors, sheriffs, and treasurers. Recipients must be full-time students in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certification program. | 4/30 |
| [All About Education Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/all-about-education-scholarship) | ($3,000) - In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: "How will a $3,000 scholarship for education make a difference in your life?" | 4/30 |
| [E-waste Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/ewaste-scholarship/) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form including a 140-character message about e-waste. The top 10 applications will be selected as finalists. The finalists will be asked to write a full-length 500- to 1,000-word essay about e-waste. | 4/30 |
| [cid:image003.jpg@01D341AB.22959DC0](http://www.facebook.com/gearupwa)[cid:image005.jpg@01D341AB.22959DC0](http://www.instagram.com/gearupwa)[cid:image015.jpg@01D341AF.8987B190](http://bit.ly/gearupwa) | | |
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| The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily represent those of Washington State GEAR UP, the Washington Student Achievement Council, or the Department of Education. You should not assume endorsement by these entities. | | |