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| Issue: December 23-January 10, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Please welcome our two newest WSAC GEAR UP teammates!** Our updated [Program Staff contact sheet](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/program-staff) is on our website.
	+ **Sandra Larios (she/her/ella), GEAR UP Associate Director of Capacity Building**

Hello! My name is Sandra Larios, and I use she/her/ella pronouns. My professional experiences have been dedicated to advocating for and supporting underrepresented students in educational spaces. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, baking, and spending quality time with my family. I am very excited to be joining the WSAC team and contributing to this meaningful work!

* + **Adelina Grageda (she/her/hers), GEAR UP Associate Director of Implementation**

Hola! My name is Adelina "Addie" Grageda. I've been serving students in post-secondary education for over 20 years. I earned my BA from Gonzaga University and my Master of Social Work from Eastern Washington University. Helping individuals from diverse backgrounds navigate their educational paths and engage with their communities has been incredibly fulfilling. Outside of work, I love traveling and cherish spending quality time with my family and friends.

* **Customizable** [**Quarterly Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/1433)**.** These templates provide college/career readiness information for students by grade level (7-12). They are available in English and Spanish*. More translations will be coming soon!*

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* [**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.

## Optional Professional Development

* [**2025-26 Difficult FAFSA Scenarios E-Learning Course Available**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F458rl1jp.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.ncan.org%252Fstore%252FListProducts.aspx%253Fcatid%3D797860%2F2%2F01000193d44d9362-e6e93b78-0ff5-49cc-9087-528172d9b260-000000%2FJdAAkdb-ydv62qspkO2M6CkqxCM%3D404&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cd6dfb83db8c24ed9948208dd1e8b0e8d%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638700304777675180%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NlHpXoszUqcIPFHVdgKp12xlkGLHHSMrPPrN0iaYPew%3D&reserved=0). This NCAN course will help you support students with complex FAFSA situations with hints and tips about completing the form. Complete the trifecta of FAFSA 101, FAFSA 201, and Difficult FAFSA Scenarios, and you will be ready to take on any FAFSA situation. All e-learning courses are free for NCAN members.
* **Webinar:** [**College Financing 101: Tips on Loans, Scholarships and Financial Aid**](https://www.pnacac.org/professional-development/webinars). By PNACAC. Get essential tips to help students with financial aid in this 101 series designed for high school counselors. Open to PNACAC members only. PNACAC [membership](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foregongoestocollege.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D2f8d5fa6686219d36cc349dfd%26id%3D87d6881d45%26e%3Dc4902e16a9&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C28426aaba5a64cc7035808dd1a059218%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638695333422996310%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Okl7VT0L0MUyUE1MAQ5uuAk7iJKUQqbvqhabR4wxS6A%3D&reserved=0) is free for public secondary schools. Jan. 9, 9 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**How to Host a College and Career Day.**](https://site.act.org/act-ccrday-2025-webinar?utm_campaign=K12%20%7C%20FY24%20College%20and%20Career%20Readiness%20Day&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9wVigndhBd2TiSWxb4JqI1r4lvil8hSoLKWeP3NvQ6Tfy65aWiIBox2vuArwaUZjzWl-_eVYpVQrGCUMm3EWr1AOPng3KMu0265Ufim8sZqDHYJoc&_hsmi=337227816&utm_content=337227816&utm_source=hs_email) By ACT. Jan. 16, 9 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Waitlists, Defers, and Holds: What to Do and What to Avoid.**](https://www.pnacac.org/professional-development/webinars) By PNACAC. Learn best practices and pitfalls to avoid in this 101 series designed for high school counselors. Open to PNACAC members only. PNACAC [membership](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foregongoestocollege.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D2f8d5fa6686219d36cc349dfd%26id%3D826877f5eb%26e%3Dc4902e16a9&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C28426aaba5a64cc7035808dd1a059218%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638695333423023498%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Cok8HJ671DZnrXkhltnCQ40uvyJu2DmOdgwgL61mq9Y%3D&reserved=0) is free for public secondary schools. Feb. 13, 9 AM.
* [**WSCA Conference**](https://www.wscaconference.org/). Mar. 5-7. Seattle. The call for proposals is now open!
* **Virtual:** [**NCCEP GEAR UP Academy.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/academy) Feb. 3-6. Reg is now open!
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 13–16, San Francisco. [Apply to present!](https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/0f5e9c32-85ce-490e-81d1-14a54a133ffa)

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Getting Ready for Campus Visits**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/getting-ready-campus-visits-gear-handbook-providing-campus-visits-middle-and-high-school) **and** [**Grade-Level Campus Visit Benchmarks**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/grade-level-campus-visit-benchmarks)**.** This resource provides best practices and resources from various sources.
* [**National Mentoring Month 2025 Resources**](https://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month). From MENTOR. Download toolkits, take the pledge, and explore the resources to get involved.
* [**Stay the Course: A Winter Messaging Toolkit.**](https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/messaging/stay-the-course-a-winter-messaging-toolkit) From Attendance Works. Find tips for communicating with students and families.

## In The News

* [A Troubling Trend. Seattle Reports Another Nearly 20% Increase In Homeless Students.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOUj4n5Nu9trXHkKz_qlYL4cp95x8R8ye2597FNWEUZPjLwExhhrZVwllD0QBZp_0_9mQC_MBnUdlICI8Rp5X-w6a6FM_aVaJSzJAa9UrMirt6y8wJ4Pc-bYdTn5G55fzvqcxHiJxKhLyIPckHeokZI7zRDtV3GHuHFN6soUDIHgaRsmoUEFqKsHeov9oR2jHBa%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361890963624%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=123wHucGyv%2Bfgu99u6qi2pIJS%2F5SxaNzPW6hRoS%2FCjU%3D&reserved=0)
* [A 1975 Law Helped Kids With Disabilities Access Education. Schools Now Need More Help](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOUX3EeqRJk_O6wZ8dnMcEjAWXi4IvS138fKga1nOmC8W5Iu2aZzYTONvT3Yc6yLLPOlBPBc3By5ilg0Jfk6Oe6QK8jYzUYnFWscj-go6-WnJaSN_autLDpf0T66JqyNn13BFrvxtU6kxc_gC9xVJtf5ODG1K8bLZRpSUyJilmLfyFAFuSTaTmY9_zwIq-hHDXsErfrN0Mt1opDF45HN2GxeQ%3D%3D%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361890977167%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n1q4J3MqYYd6L8bcAYU2KVEDLpbVDxJPEWZ6M6JrIMQ%3D&reserved=0)
* [Phones Must Be Off And Away All Day At North Thurston Schools. How’s It Going So Far?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOUEw97xP9lXaBnodCwNBVXLMqaJYKTQeOxXpwQi-C-02metiDfMI9GVFSaRx-yGtVGLx2JenVfo2tg4SPv9rMoAUrr2cfg10OL5HkiPw4bsMlL3Kj0CVntdBn5afmlA5rQlIQ9tdfHQa2-XZzQZpJbhjLPn13pHWbdfprqg-j88UiEx0aH-w3JJg%3D%3D%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361891023800%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yGC2jItjwluxMNWNxMavU8LJxoyILGpAD0IReWu%2BJJE%3D&reserved=0)
* [Difference Makers: Middle Schools Salk And Flett, Trailblazers For School Phone Bans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOU22YqtRjkzVoL8EZEKnipu238Q12mJ35_X74ADIgjwR495EVDcHxl6Fwx2o7xMJfy7CqIsDLKxR6xWijbJfvycaKIKf3Jt62_SMp674GY0ZhoG9cRPoN66K54IUXKyzJkuztcxTEMJd_bw-NuV1c3n_RQL_4tQl5z_rZO1f0Y8lzQrNwa7k9337LIV3OnOAYmTpgxECzVAh0%3D%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361891080412%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Vk%2BXtMTRZz26HqOYUPjx4je9wknSz9SgCI92WgLf3Hw%3D&reserved=0)
* [Difference Makers: Middle Schools Salk And Flett, Trailblazers For School Phone Bans](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOU22YqtRjkzVoL8EZEKnipu238Q12mJ35_X74ADIgjwR495EVDcHxl6Fwx2o7xMJfy7CqIsDLKxR6xWijbJfvycaKIKf3Jt62_SMp674GY0ZhoG9cRPoN66K54IUXKyzJkuztcxTEMJd_bw-NuV1c3n_RQL_4tQl5z_rZO1f0Y8lzQrNwa7k9337LIV3OnOAYmTpgxECzVAh0%3D%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361891080412%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Vk%2BXtMTRZz26HqOYUPjx4je9wknSz9SgCI92WgLf3Hw%3D&reserved=0)
* [One State Tried Algebra For All Eighth Graders. It Hasn’t Gone Well](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOU6iTadoGFaeqt4VXcjdMLRn7YQSoj2d1g-amSH2GqQSHC5RO9SLYPgUaZmlb8dMD2Dmvtry6j89-ymNtyX9KmvV_GOlPByJrM1h24TNGTvrSb7U_h8PR2V-ZV91P7D5bq2E_1tdz1_ciHEdWHG1FCKI8DQpNMeBCZ1wsSVDdM5ssQdRPFOfD0FA%3D%3D%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361891593875%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jAuVpdXLCoib%2FOGs%2B5aXJ2dm88SAmJFjTcKgy%2BjkOcU%3D&reserved=0)[How AI Is Changing Education: 2024's Top 5 Stories](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOUZJ3bWhE7TjuhHYcJlQLGJhegMcEVTsAVf_6aIZccE0P2K0WCJ7nhTPeiZx9sgpzoAwmgm4eRoq5pRt60VzjaN1cl_0ksonsMMptTPxyX3qpNbnTGosSoy_svoONoyYGO1TvVa-moyQea_CYQwxpjyc3i96eW3fIkp3OFxpbhjSM9DlCv-vlLIN6S5M7QY90_%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361891667580%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n7McYvTwyXN0peM9YI2v4P%2F14sf0cC8NwKM0t75dONQ%3D&reserved=0)
* [What Works In Social-Emotional Learning? Teachers Share Their Best Strategies](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001nAFxMzmr-Z2i4-Pl8VWqfMC2q5-AUCUMwbywnyk0xG9DBa2ZQtGnmgiw7EpHfTOUScxyKdOOBRhBpVYW9_BDLICM4WSOAUnSwBDarqnarhhW_bV6Qu5PD4iUiGh6Fail0KkfzjPi4YKC6IlmHR5vwpRuREn6p-lJZfjNyITwS4HdcARmz796SsiUtSHkV1ugdmccqAOHQ6VFel_VcAXz_u-a9B-NZNWMzVrxoeCK53_oX5V_qQAAtIMduJcN8QxHgajLL6MWGU2YNK3vQLkrOeNM-pCMUrb1-jB5hedyxOk%3D%26c%3DtmCyP6uYeT-RQbzx8-LTlZmgaab40X_aZ-Pax2LfgGhGmbfHhPz8Hw%3D%3D%26ch%3Dg7g_4-Hxu8SChPbcwawPtgvvaWt4gyEjIBMTeHVh5eXHB7YnYHxMzA%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C04404a1a4d814de7dd6008dd2b53fbcc%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638714361891681628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GYb1EmiCwLUDAvUwntKSujVYSWlRxHTJ95z55KsLQWk%3D&reserved=0)
* [Why Generation Z Gives These Professors Hope](https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-generation-z-gives-these-professors-hope)
* [Here's What Can Be Gained When Students With Disabilities Are Included In Classrooms](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001zp2Hj_Fn_DqqeAogoxYF-Ua0pwekt4sPHhBqtu2SE2XRH4_hge0CDsm9LdLG6xgkl--IPLWiq0cVW1ElvEq4Rj6rmjVnT6xrMobZK95s5Xqr6N38thAsrdGZlRkSb9h9U2va2rPgh8zlKBd5ha2-qM-O-28GlyrR3osdtrGJn9UvMl_rDM0J_pxFjF7JelkX6zwvHzsOVySCTUE804uks4slA4bCl8Fv09XVQ3ZRv0LW9oeph_22jysa5gS6WfQ874bH5k3Bmw6TNXLm5wSCvw%3D%3D%26c%3D5XT6pSzvaDIAw5XC2igPkTd3pPIJ38Bw0VR1yNuk5kHC3nmTuu6mgA%3D%3D%26ch%3DIn90bSh2HxsLZFkSMSmH0V3qFm3lr3DChDAOC0utobhK0wgOXwDCFw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccb556faf2ce943659d7508dd2c1cfd9e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638715225206806298%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RxXWPhIriXwI3qBpsBA7Mz%2Fp19Jva%2Bi1NSON6opYe6Y%3D&reserved=0)
* [AI Is A Game Changer For Students With Disabilities. Schools Are Still Learning To Harness It](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001zp2Hj_Fn_DqqeAogoxYF-Ua0pwekt4sPHhBqtu2SE2XRH4_hge0CDsm9LdLG6xgkmCKpXphyzOgZ9y1_mMkgcOEhFvKt15Vxqiq40HoPlFckJqKd-n248ifBopw44tJVFKkvOqsu2HU3CwFZAoy1prDJcP8WtReiu2Z5dNNE-nnSmUKY-FszN_3U7a5KqD5urv3HeWpq4T-NDjbA7C196ZgA-SzaVy2Q25xDIsN4ZyzAI9WM85plQoXVr7PzNOOUcW1SPNeGBKfGxmNNiH09Pmg7zNv7A2JEICxUYIlTnkI%3D%26c%3D5XT6pSzvaDIAw5XC2igPkTd3pPIJ38Bw0VR1yNuk5kHC3nmTuu6mgA%3D%3D%26ch%3DIn90bSh2HxsLZFkSMSmH0V3qFm3lr3DChDAOC0utobhK0wgOXwDCFw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccb556faf2ce943659d7508dd2c1cfd9e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638715225206971628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=D%2BHqRmu%2BlGl5W4yXpzMhbc2j6hA1i4rb3HRzkb8u3Ao%3D&reserved=0)
* [WA School District Failed To Protect Black, Latino, & LGBTQ+ Students From Harassment](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001zp2Hj_Fn_DqqeAogoxYF-Ua0pwekt4sPHhBqtu2SE2XRH4_hge0CDsm9LdLG6xgkChmvmgeq-_l3PYvMk_PgPcqb27LurRye3urvDRkqxD3H1Wg3ndN79UmLIMOaBM5ekhUSedpRnjY7HRC7W9Y_fJCYLY1aoQKMeC6ItUgVw3xGC-65K-kg2YxlZ3eRQjRvCD2pQr1vhj0ehnmXZ4Pe3kVIzYZjKIctY-Y29PG3j9JTU20yfa9g22v04eG2X3ufgLdt5CqAqBVsEJ-HHa1nbzxrspubNRQ-1Q0cPy3IWnY%3D%26c%3D5XT6pSzvaDIAw5XC2igPkTd3pPIJ38Bw0VR1yNuk5kHC3nmTuu6mgA%3D%3D%26ch%3DIn90bSh2HxsLZFkSMSmH0V3qFm3lr3DChDAOC0utobhK0wgOXwDCFw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccb556faf2ce943659d7508dd2c1cfd9e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638715225206989965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=H9yZP8fbk%2FwbtKocGNtDxLaFCNEYq%2BaH%2BBaxWzkC15o%3D&reserved=0)
* [Difference Makers: Hometown Heroes From Lewis Clark Save Their Coach’s Life With CPR](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001zp2Hj_Fn_DqqeAogoxYF-Ua0pwekt4sPHhBqtu2SE2XRH4_hge0CDsm9LdLG6xgkV12WaMpevWf5ONjGWi0jC67IukusLtFRxwuqa8KKPpTIMw_zE63Q22xy5Fcy8cvZlNGtKZCGDENzLgGfVHt0T8K1Awere5G6y0jx_bLNztQDVpvFP1qY3lVEZDLqG-Z_Oyf6__uDHtHI5v_X5zCecBpzzp1bAUfkDZ1tiakhvcjhqZcyyK2m04DmEoJ1u8oLGHSYLW0Ky5s%3D%26c%3D5XT6pSzvaDIAw5XC2igPkTd3pPIJ38Bw0VR1yNuk5kHC3nmTuu6mgA%3D%3D%26ch%3DIn90bSh2HxsLZFkSMSmH0V3qFm3lr3DChDAOC0utobhK0wgOXwDCFw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccb556faf2ce943659d7508dd2c1cfd9e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638715225207019842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6EouI1MQ9ws64nnr1g7endL4jXpHyZyuMSIuKgrIkcs%3D&reserved=0)
* [Seeking A College Scholarship In WA? A Guide To Programs, Resources, and Tips For Applying](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001zp2Hj_Fn_DqqeAogoxYF-Ua0pwekt4sPHhBqtu2SE2XRH4_hge0CDsm9LdLG6xgkdjAhyDUiv59oMO_Pl-SxQmbXrZJutoaCH9ec7Hp28tspAJHCsLb4VzYhjGfr3pkBg1Ez5CIm2iSGCuYtUzXWtMvtN4UKGEK76V3WVXGUOl0O3eMm9lKJgNsKzKtuS8uJ-oRHtnq72W25YfNk_I9Ldy6XJi2ikbxI1lxyNEqnScYW-aGKSH2wHACIGv0j1s2JdcZ5G9z5grvXbjCGqRpJ-OJPpCtwTSXVROggK6dYr_CQApQOb5WoyJ7hoCPnt4O1uOFEL6GogzkRvxtZNQ7YEtEJSdu1na-UFXfrQsVL0Jk%3D%26c%3D5XT6pSzvaDIAw5XC2igPkTd3pPIJ38Bw0VR1yNuk5kHC3nmTuu6mgA%3D%3D%26ch%3DIn90bSh2HxsLZFkSMSmH0V3qFm3lr3DChDAOC0utobhK0wgOXwDCFw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccb556faf2ce943659d7508dd2c1cfd9e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638715225207048725%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iqoeiM8bbCb7OvAYjkVAFnrgqN72xzoPqek6sNvbA%2B0%3D&reserved=0)
* [Special Education Students Launch First Newspaper At Evergreen Elementary](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2025/jan/06/special-education-students-launch-first-newspaper-/)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

* [Get Schooled’s Scholarship Finder](https://getschooled.com/scholarships/).Thisfree scholarship search database for students is safe and legit and will never sell or share their personal information.

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [FFA Scholarships](https://www.ffa.org/scholarships) | Over 1,000 scholarships with/ just one application available to FFA members. | 1/9 |
| [Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Award](https://jackierobinson.org/scholarship/) | ($35,000) - The JRF scholarship awards outstanding high school graduates who plan to earn a baccalaureate from an accredited four-year college or university. Additional Scholars are given JRF fellowships to pursue opportunities to work and study abroad and for post-graduate education. | 1/9 |
| [GSBA Scholarship Fund](http://www.thegsba.org/scholarship-home) | ($8,000) - The GSBA Scholarship Fund awards educational scholarships to Washington State LGBTQIA+ and allied students who exhibit leadership potential, demonstrate strong academic abilities, and are actively involved in school and community organizations. | 1/10 |
| [Paid, Multi-Year Summer Fellowship For Minority Student- Emma L. Bowen Foundation](http://www.emmabowenfoundation.com/) | Minority HS seniors & first-year college students with a min. 3.0 GPA & an interest in media careers (business, creative, journalism, technology, or sales) are eligible to apply. During this multi-year internship, students in the program receive an hourly wage & matching scholarship. We recommend that students apply early in the application season to maximize consideration for opportunities.  | 1/10 |
| [Pride Foundation Scholarship](http://www.pridefoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/) | For current and future leaders in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and straight ally community from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Open to 1079 students. Applicants must pursue post-secondary education in the coming school year. This includes community college, four-year public or private college or university, certificate programs, vocational/technical/trade programs, law school, medical/dental/veterinary school, or graduate education.  | 1/10 |
| [Foot Locker Scholar Athletes](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarships/foot-locker-scholar-athletes) | ($20,000) - The Foot Locker Scholar Athletes program recognizes student-athletes who demonstrate academic ability and strong leadership skills in sports, school, and the community. Students participating in high school, intramural, or community-based sports and seeking an associate or bachelor's degree are welcome to apply. | 1/13 |
| [APIASF Scholarship Program](https://apiascholars.org/scholarships/) | ($2,500-$20,000) - APIA Scholars provides scholarships to underserved APIA students with a special focus on those who Live at or below the poverty level or are otherwise of low socioeconomic status; Are the first in their families to attend college; Are representative of the APIA community’s diversity (geographically and ethnically), especially those ethnicities that have been underrepresented on college campuses due to limited access and opportunity; and have placed a strong emphasis on community service, leadership, and solid academic achievement.  | 1/15 |
| [John Lennon Scholarship - BMI Foundation](https://bmifoundation.org/by-application/johnlennonaward) | ($20,000) - The John Lennon Scholarships are an annual competition open to student songwriters and composers of contemporary musical genres, including alternative, pop, rock, indie, electronica, R&B, and experimental. Three scholarships are presented annually for the best original songs submitted to the competition. | 1/15 |
| [The Neurodiversity Scholarship](https://thendalliance.org/scholarships/) | For those who identify as neurodivergent, including one or more challenges related to learning such as Dyslexia, ADHD, Processing Disorders, Autism, or similar learning disabilities.  | 1/15 |
| [Bezos Scholars Program](https://www.bezosscholars.org/apply) | Successful applicants are public high school juniors and staff members from their school who serve as educators and participate fully in the program. Successful applicants have a strong drive and commitment to their education and demonstrate maturity, curiosity, resilience, and leadership.  | 1/21 |
| [The UW DO-IT Scholars Program](http://www.washington.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html) | DO-IT Scholars are Washington State high school students with disabilities planning to continue their education after graduation. Scholars prepare for their transition to college—which includes exploring careers, independence, self-advocacy, and leadership. It is open to high school sophomores or juniors. | 1/30 |
| [Mas Family Scholarship](http://jmcff.org/#apply) | ($32,000) - Applicants must be of Cuban descent and have min. 3.5 GPA, & be financially needy.  | 1/31 |
| [Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship](https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/Apply/) | Selected Navy ROTC Scholarship Program applicants are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process and receive full tuition, book stipend, educational fees, and other financial benefits at many of the country's leading colleges and universities. Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve. | 1/31 |
| [EngineerGirl Essay Contest](http://www.engineergirl.org/10209.aspx) | This essay contest is for K-12 students – in grades 3 through 12 (ages 8-18). To apply, applicants must write an original essay on a given topic related to engineering.  | 2/1 |
| [John F. & Anna Lee Stacey Scholarship Fund for Art Education](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/education/staceyfund/) | ($500-$5,000) - For students ages 18 -35 pursuing a profession in visual arts & be skilled & devoted to the classical or conservative tradition. | 2/1 |
| [Naomi Winston Scholarship in Art](https://www.nsalwashington.org/the-winston-scholarships-in-voice-and-art/naomi-winston-scholarship-in-art/) | The National Society of Arts and Letters bestows the scholarship on young visual artists aged 16 to 22. Applicants must demonstrate exceptional talent and promise of future success. | 2/1 |
| [The American Legion National HS Oratorical Contest Scholarship](http://www.waconstitutionalspeechcontest.org/) | The American Legion’s National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest,” aims to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, the preparation for accepting duties and responsibilities, and the rights and privileges of American citizenship. | 2/4 |
| [HACER® National Scholarship](https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer.html) | For HS seniors planning to attend a 2- or 4-year college or university. Must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage, have a min. 3.0 GPA, and be a legal resident. | 2/6 |
| [WSECU Scholarship](https://wsecu.org/scholarships) | WSECU members of all ages are welcome to apply. $2,000 is awarded for two-year colleges and vocational schools. $3,000 is awarded for four-year undergraduate programs and graduate programs. | 2/10 |
| [The Christophers’ Poster Contest](https://www.christophers.org/highschoolpostercontest) | Open to 9-12 graders. Must create an original poster that interprets the theme "You Can Make a Difference" & illustrates the idea that one person can change the world for the better. $100-$1,000. | 2/13 |
| [Washington State PTA Scholarship](https://wastatepta.org/events-programs/scholarship-program/) | Washington State PTA offers four $2,500 scholarships to graduating seniors from WA public high schools with an active PTA starting college (two-year or four-year) in the fall. | 2/13 |
| [Princeton Summer Journalism Program](https://psjp.princeton.edu/about-program/apply) | Free residential journalism and college preparatory program for high-achieving current juniors from low-income backgrounds interested in journalism. All program expenses, including meals, housing, and transportation, are covered. | 2/15 |
| [Gordon A. Rich Memorial Scholarship](http://www.gordonrich.org/html/index.html) | ($12,500) - The recipients of GAR scholarships are exceptionally qualified high school students with demonstrated financial need whose parents or guardians have, or had, a career in the financial services industry. | 2/20 |
| [Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarship](http://www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm) | Due to the generosity of anonymous donors, The Vegetarian Resource Group each year will award $50,000 in college scholarship money to graduating U.S. high school students who have promoted veganism in their schools and/or communities. Vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, or fowl. Vegans are vegetarians who do not use other animal products such as dairy or eggs. One award of $10,000, six awards of $5,000, and additional runner-up prizes will be given. Entries may only be sent by students graduating from high school in SPRING 2025 | 2/20 |
| [Washington Opportunity Scholarship- Baccalaureate](https://waopportunityscholarship.org/applicants/baccalaureate/) | WSOS supports low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible high-demand STEM majors or health care. It encourages recipients to work in WA once they complete their degrees. | 2/26 |
| [Indian Health Services Scholarships](https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/apply/) | Scholarships are available for qualified American Indian and Alaska Native students who plan to enter or are pursuing degrees in the health profession. | 2/28 |
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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. |