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| Issue: December 9-13, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **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 to come soon!*
* [**FAFSA Live Webinar Series**](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd3ngWhoRlrdJtBmAowp9kZxUMThEUjFPQzlGSDVQQjcyNEpSQzQ2UUlRVy4u&route=shorturl&mc_cid=eab6ab115c&mc_eid=a2f060beda)**.** Join Federal Student Aid **TODAY, Dec. 10,** for a free, one-day virtual event to guide students, parents, and college/career professionals through submitting the 2025–26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The live webinar series offers tailored sessions for independent and dependent students, featuring:
	+ The Student Aid AccountOverview (10:30 AM)
	+ Navigating the 2025–26 FAFSA Form for Dependent Students (1:30 PM)
	+ Navigating the 2025–26 FAFSA Form for Independent Students (3:30 PM)

## 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.
* **Virtual College Tours for GEAR UP Students**. The Consortium for College Opportunity invites you and your GEAR UP students to explore member colleges. Sign up for a virtual tour and information session using the links below:
	+ [Colgate University](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D5e4c22b69f%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C4390a0bd4fb846ed5b2708dd146c0841%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638689176456562949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=COr2JqhkdH4y8h5ddB3mSW9d9Dk98M3U7WTxsvsbG%2Bo%3D&reserved=0) in Hamilton, NY
	+ [Dartmouth College](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Dd5cf279156%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C4390a0bd4fb846ed5b2708dd146c0841%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638689176456575262%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=A9buHSgKEmmYhmejhTIIPB4z9xsl022k%2FX9IGgbbGO4%3D&reserved=0) in Hanover, NH
	+ [Macalester College](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Deb7d4289ae%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C4390a0bd4fb846ed5b2708dd146c0841%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638689176456587716%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rhjSBVO3CDx8n0K2tmyMUGmgRiMPTBmDHFjxOKhIVNk%3D&reserved=0) in St. Paul, MN
	+ [Tufts University](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D103bb22ade%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C4390a0bd4fb846ed5b2708dd146c0841%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638689176456599604%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FNj9R3GXrghDXE81pMU6pQkDrff%2BMIYVetRFjsHeMIM%3D&reserved=0) in Medford, MA
	+ [University of Pennsylvania](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D38f19d1324%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C4390a0bd4fb846ed5b2708dd146c0841%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638689176456612035%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jOxoCyDfo30l615Tc%2F69CUAvcTGewC%2Bn7gbdvjTM0mw%3D&reserved=0) in Philadelphia, PA
	+ [University of Southern California](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Db2b2b5d864%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C4390a0bd4fb846ed5b2708dd146c0841%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638689176456625760%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wpTmrCwp3n6pU%2BUBhAyrBnG7ktlyqtk%2BFQvDTDgQubM%3D&reserved=0) in Los Angeles, CA

## Optional Professional Development

* Webinar: [College, Career and High School Success Tools](https://members.schoolcounselor.org/event-details?id=c7427a33-5086-ef11-9443-000d3ae38381%C2%A0&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=agorapulse&utm_content=ap_ds2non4ll4&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0Bze4mdImre7tnE7c1puMzd2QgDsgAISyyuuRdg6LEOTUDzXTx8Iaxoz0_aem_8vpQ1i3e0BvePN-bfPFk9Q&reload=timezone). Dec. 10, 9 AM.
* Discussion Lab: [Communication Tools](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024/12-12-discussion-lab?mc_cid=e26c651d82&mc_eid=a2f060beda). For GEAR UP staff. Dec. 12, 11 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.
* [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**: [Tri-Fold: Financial Aid 101: How to Pay for Education After High School](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/financial-aid-101-how-fund-education-after-high-school)(Available in [Arabic](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/101-almwnt-almalyt), [Chuukese](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/aninisin-moni-101-ifa-usun-ren-meni-sukun-murin-high-school), [English](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/financial-aid-101-how-fund-education-after-high-school), [Marshallese](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/jaan-jiban-101-waween-am-kolla-wonnen-jelalokjen-alikin-high-school), [Russian](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/finansovaya-pomosch-101kak-nayti-denezhnye-sredstva-na-obrazovanie-posle-okonchaniya-sredney), [Somali](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/caawimaada-dhaqaalaha-101-sida-lagu-helo-mal-gelinta-waxbarashada-dugsiga-sare-kadib), [Spanish](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/ayuda-financiera-por-donde-comenzar-como-financiar-la-educacion-despues-de-la-escuela), and [Vietnamese](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/ho-tro-tai-chinh-101cach-nhan-tien-de-theo-hoc-sau-trung-hoc-pho-thong).)
* WA State College and Career Lessons: [Create Your Future with College Bound.](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/our-approach/partnerships-initiatives/washington-college-access-network-wcan/#create-your-future-with-college-bound-materials-student-materials) Download five student-facing activities for use in middle school. [College and Career Knowledge.](https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign#college-career-knowledge-handouts) Find the latest version on WSAC. Access and download the [College and Career Knowledge Scope and Sequence for student lessons and their corresponding lesson plans.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CHUMoXewdbR0C_wuYiJtQC_-0C3t9b20SVyM8KS4CC0/edit?tab=t.0)
* [Get Schooled Essay Review](https://getschooled.com/college-review). Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.
* [Free Social Media Assets Available to Encourage FAFSA Completion](https://www.ncan.org/news/688685/Free-Social-Media-Assets-Available-to-Encourage-FAFSA-Completion.htm). NCAN has free social media images and messages for you to use as you work to bounce back from last year’s challenging FAFSA season
* [Enhance College Decision-Making with the Latest College Scorecard Toolkits](https://www.ncan.org/news/688217/Enhance-College-Decision-Making-with-the-Latest-College-Scorecard-Toolkits.htm). In addition to [continued improvements](https://blog.ed.gov/2023/04/updated-college-scorecard-will-help-students-find-high-value-postsecondary-programs/) to the College Scorecard, ED also recently released two new helpful [toolkits](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/resources); [one](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/resources#:~:text=on%20Google%20Drive-,FOR%20ADVISORS,-Professional%20Development%20Toolkit) tailored specifically for school counselors and college access advisors and [another](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/resources#:~:text=the%20Advisor%20Toolkit-,FOR%20EDUCATORS,-College%20Scorecard%20for) for teachers.
* [Family Resources](https://www.commonapp.org/family). Easy-to-use resources from Reach Higher and the Common App. Available in English and Spanish to guide you through the application process.

## In The News

* [Washington Will Start Automatically Guaranteeing Effectively Free Tuition At Public Colleges And Universities](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/state-to-guarantee-college-aid-for-low-income-families/)
* [FSA Announces Updates To Support Individuals Without Social Security Numbers](https://stateofwa.sharepoint.com/sites/WSAC-gearup/Shared%20Documents/GEARUP/Grant%20IV/Weekly%20Bulletins/can.org/news/688741/FSA-Announces-Updates-to-Support-Individuals-Without-Social-Security-Numbers.htm)
* [Howard Expects To Gain R-1 Status. Other HBCUs Will Follow.](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/institutions/minority-serving-institutions/2024/12/05/howard-expects-gain-r-1-other-hbcus-soon)
* [How A Staffing Shortage Can Make Special Education Jobs More Dangerous](https://www.npr.org/2024/12/05/nx-s1-5213613/disabilities-special-education-students-staff)
* [More Data On Good Jobs For CC Baccalaureate Grads](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/12/more-data-on-good-jobs-for-cc-baccalaureate-grads)
* [What Happens To Students When Rural Colleges Cut Programs And Majors](https://hechingerreport.org/what-happens-to-students-when-rural-colleges-cut-programs-and-majors)
* [The Longer-Term Impacts Of Early-College High Schools](https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/longer-term-impacts-early-college-high-schools)
* [States Say, Forget FAFSA. We Got You](https://hechingerreport.org/states-say-forget-fafsa-we-got-you)
* [Three Barriers To Learning Algebra In High-Poverty Middle Schools](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64980/three-barriers-to-learning-algebra-in-high-poverty-middle-schools)

## 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** |
| [Equitable Excellence Scholarship](https://equitable.com/foundation/equitable-excellence-scholarship) | $5,000 renewable scholarship for students who show potential by demonstrating leadership, determination, and resilience as critical enablers of their future success. | 12/18 |
| [NASA Student Art Contest](https://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/) | This year’s theme encourages students to recognize the relationship between art, science, and technology around them and discover new ways to connect the dots. NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, invites students in grades K-12 to participate in the 2024 NASA Langley Art Contest, using the theme “Connect the Dots.” The contest is open to all children who are residents of the United States and currently in grades K-12 | 12/31 |
| [Top Ten List Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "Create a Top Ten List of the top ten reasons you should get this scholarship." | 12/31 |
| [Unigo $10K Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship) | ($10,000) - Submit an online written response to the question: "Would you rather be smart, funny, or rich? Why?" (250 words or less) | 12/31 |
| [Mann Lake Beekeeping Scholarship](https://www.mannlakeltd.com/scholarship/) | Mann Lake’s scholarship is for college students who aspire to be outstanding and extraordinary. We are looking for academically excellent students pursuing a better education who are currently enrolled in or about to enroll in an apiology program, majoring in agriculture and environmental sciences or related studies. | 12/31 |
| [Stromberg’s Scholarship Program](https://www.strombergschickens.com/scholarship/) | The Stromberg’s Chicken scholarship provides a one-time reward of $1000 for tuition, books, computers, accommodation, or any education-related expense. There’s no GPA requirement and no application forms. | 12/31 |
| [American Fire Sprinkler Association High School Senior Scholarship Contest](https://www.afsascholarship.org/)  | Open to HS seniors. Citizenship/legal residency is required. A total of $20,000 is awarded. Ten (10) winners will receive a scholarship of $2,000 each. | 1/1 |
| [GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship](https://www.reaganfoundation.org/education/scholarship-programs/ge-reagan-foundation-scholarship-program/)  | For college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Through the generous support of GE, this national program annually awards numerous students $10,000 in renewable scholarships - up to $40,000 total - for tuition, school fees, books, supplies, and on-campus room and board | 1/4 |
| [Washington World Fellows Domestic Advocates](https://waworldfellows.org/) | Fellows will participate in our Domestic Program in Eastern Washington during the summer between their sophomore and junior years. This immersive experience includes studying Spanish history and language, cultural integration through living with Spanish peers, and engaging in various activities related to academic and college preparation and cross-cultural exchange. Between their junior and senior years, fellows will engage in a local advocacy project and participate in our College boot camp. This boot camp offers crucial elements such as college application assistance, insightful college tours, and preparation for financial aid consideration. The fellows will also have access to leadership opportunities, including civic engagement activities, internship/externship experiences, and international student forums. | 1/6 |
| [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 |
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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. |