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| Issue: November 11-15, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **[Fee Waivers for GEAR UP Students](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-blogs/2024/10/22/xfs60sji2uyrqm2lqp6heidewd61sr).** NCCEP has partnered with the Common App and NACAC to provide GEAR UP families with fee waivers for college applications. *Access the Educator* [*College Application Fee Waiver Resource Guide*](https://mcusercontent.com/a0d96cacbd72776b465181daf/files/3db561a3-8453-c377-5cef-dbc5d80b0ec8/Educator_FeeWaiver_V4.pdf?mc_cid=0acaf88806&mc_eid=06e838aba2&mc_cid=726e01d077&mc_eid=a2f060beda) *and the Student* [*Fee Waiver Flyer*](https://mcusercontent.com/a0d96cacbd72776b465181daf/files/11da894d-ad8a-81af-7e0c-fa1052a12e64/Student_FeeWaiver_V5.pdf?mc_cid=0acaf88806&mc_eid=06e838aba2&mc_cid=726e01d077&mc_eid=a2f060beda)*.*
* **NOTE:** *All GEAR UP students qualify for a fee waiver on the Common Application. There are no exceptions. Please let WSAC know if you have any issues with this or if an Admissions staff member tells you otherwise. See the links above.*
* **Customizable** [**Quarterly Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/1433)**.** These templates provide college/career readiness information for students by grade level (7-12). Available in English and Spanish*.*
* **FAFSA Updates:** To prepare for the December 1 release of the 2025–26 FAFSA form, Federal Student Aid has provided resources to streamline this year's process:
	+ [2025–26 FAFSA Roadmap](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2025-26-fafsa-roadmap): Key dates and resource timelines for the FAFSA cycle.
	+ [Pro Tips for Completing the FAFSA:](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/pro-tips) Updated guidance for submission.
	+ [2025–26 FAFSA Preview Presentation](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/pro-tips): PowerPoint download with screenshots for counselors.
	+ [Federal Student Aid Estimator:](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator) Calculates estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant eligibility.
	+ [Setting up Your Student Aid Account](https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/creating-your-account): A step-by-step guide.
	+ [“Who’s the Parent on the FAFSA Form?” Tool](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents): Helps identify required contributors.
	+ [2025–26 FAFSA Prototype:](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-09-03/2025-26-fafsa-prototype-now-available) Early look at the user experience for financial aid professionals.
	+ [FAFSA Videos on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/%40FederalStudentAid): Updated content explaining the FAFSA process.
	+ More resources are available for counselors and advisors in the [Financial Aid Toolkit.](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/)

## 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

* 3-Part Series: [School Counselors as Agents of Change](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XPK9lpxwa75EkZD5WHDCeyLyyt5JRfacEavpPKZicaQ/edit?tab=t.0). By OSPI. 11/20, 9AM and 12/4, 9AM.
* Discussion Lab: [College Enrollment Data](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024/11-14-discussion-lab). For GEAR UP staff. By NCCEP. Nov. 14, Noon.
* Webinar: [FAFSA Update and Maximizing Financial Aid](https://www.pnacac.org/webinar). By PNACAC. Get the latest FAFSA updates and strategies to maximize student 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%3D8e64483ce5%26e%3Dc4902e16a9&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C6763e1a47a0345c6c65408dcf91d748e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638659152135602944%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UN1xhTXheLTMnGB651V41G1DsZvwsQ1bXj6P1tOdz2s%3D&reserved=0) is free for public secondary schools. Nov. 14, 9 AM.
* Webinar: [Ensuring Students Can Pursue Postsecondary Pathways](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F458rl1jp.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.ncan.org%252Fevents%252FEventDetails.aspx%253Fid%3D1899970%2526group%3D%2F2%2F0100019301236f25-ddedc30e-6dff-43d3-a42f-85ea71f7e8c5-000000%2FBCwJWxc1IOYwCCNsKbJKmxS1yKU%3D399&data=05%7C02%7CBethK%40wsac.wa.gov%7C1dd6b9c2b8f84671a2d108dd000ef4e7%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638666786420579706%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fwP9rXKorEdSUvRZqd9gaP10lf2kzlRUI1pCITKcHBM%3D&reserved=0). By NCAN & Dr. Mandy Savitz-Romer. Dec 5, 11 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:** [GEAR UP Senior Contact Tracker](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/gear-senior-contact-tracker). Use or customize this template to keep track of seniors and their post-high school plans.
* [Where Are You Going? Career Guides](https://wtb.wa.gov/career-resources/order-publications/). These free guides feature a career quiz and include hundreds of occupations, projected growth rates in Washington, education requirements, and average pay in our state. Order from Workforce.
* [GetMyFuture.org](https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/) From U.S. Department of Labor’s CareerOneStop. Free interest assessments, career and job search resources, and occupation profiles for more than 800 careers.
* [Career Bridge Washington](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/). WA’s one-stop source for career and education planning.
* [Career Explore NW.](https://www.careerexplorenw.org/) Provides educational and career resources to explorers in and outside the classroom.
* [United We Dream.](https://unitedwedream.org/) United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led community in the country. They offer resources such as the [UndocuHealth Program](https://unitedwedream.org/our-work/undocuhealth-wellness/) to help with mental health and well-being resources. Text UHEALTH to 787-57 to access these resources.

## In The News

* [What the election means for school funding in Washington state](https://www.kuow.org/stories/what-the-election-means-for-school-funding-in-washington-state)
* [‘We’re Here for You’: Election-Fueled Calls to LGBTQ Teen Suicide Hotlines Spike](https://www.the74million.org/article/were-here-for-you-election-fueled-calls-to-lgbtq-teen-suicide-hotlines-spike/)
* [No More School Lunch Fees for Low-Income Families, USDA Says](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/no-more-school-lunch-fees-for-low-income-families-usda-says/2024/11)
* [Report: More Targeted Support for Former Foster Youth Needed](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/college-experience/2024/10/30/most-former-foster-youth-unaware-college-aid)
* [How one Pennsylvania college navigated the turbulent FAFSA season](https://www.highereddive.com/news/widener-university-advice-for-navigating-fafsa-season/732510/)
* [College Is Worth It to Black, Latino and Indigenous Students](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/college-experience/2024/10/31/13-ways-improve-higher-ed-bipoc-students)
* [It used to be a notoriously violent prison. Now it’s home to a first-of-its kind higher education program](https://hechingerreport.org/it-used-to-be-a-notoriously-violent-prison-now-its-home-to-a-first-of-its-kind-education-program)

## 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, legit, and will never sell or share their personal information.

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| Scholarship | Brief Description | Due |
| [Elks Most Valuable Student Competition](http://www.elks.org/ENF/scholars/mvs.cfm) | Ranging from $1,000 to $7,500 per year. Most Valuable Student scholarships are for full-time students pursuing a four-year degree (minimum of 12 semester hours) in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award, conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university. | 11/12 |
| [Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship Program](http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/college-scholarship/) | The Cooke College Scholarship Program is an undergraduate program available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial needs who seek to attend and graduate from the nation's top four-year colleges and universities. Each award is intended to cover a significant share of the student’s educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books, and required fees. Awards vary by individual, based on the cost of tuition and other grants or scholarships they may receive. | 11/14 |
| [Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship](http://www.odenzascholarships.com/awards/8/eligibility_odenza_marketing_group_scholarship.phphttp%3A/www.odenzascholarships.com/) | ($500) Must submit two small essays, one related to travel, & the other on why they deserve a scholarship. Must be 16-25, w/ 2.5 GPA or greater. US citizenship is required.  | 11/15 |
| [10 Words or Less Scholarship](https://www.studentscholarships.org/easy.php#sthash.2vdhoRcz.dpbs) | ($500) - In 10 words or less, say why you deserve the scholarship. | 11/15 |
| [National Honor Society Scholarship](https://www.nationalhonorsociety.org/advisers/the-nhs-scholarship/) | Up to $25,000 for high school seniors who are members in good standing of an affiliated National Honor Society chapter. | 11/26 |
| [Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wagovernors) | ($2,000-$4,000) - The Washington State Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth is a scholarship program that helps young men and women from foster care continue their education and earn a college degree. | 11/30 |
| [Leadership 1000 Scholarship](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wa/scholarships/leadership-1000) | The Leadership 1000 Scholarship awards funding to high school seniors attending eligible high schools and planning to enroll in a Washington state college or university. The scholarship is renewable, and it is available in amounts up to $5,000 per academic year. In addition to the scholarship, scholars receive guidance regarding career, financial aid, and networking opportunities with CSF alums and scholarship donors to ensure students graduate with a four-year degree and succeed in life. | 11/30 |
| [Education Matters](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-scholarship) | ($5,000) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "What would you say to someone who thinks education doesn't matter or that college is a waste of time and money?" This award is for U.S. students. You must be 14 years of age or older to apply. Must be a legal U.S. resident. Must reside in the 50 United States or the District of Columbia. | 11/30 |
| [Dell Scholars Program](https://www.dellscholars.org/scholarship/) | ($20,000) - The Dell Scholars Program emphasizes a student’s determination to succeed beyond academic record and test scores. Our GPA requirements are Grit, Potential, and Ambition. We reward low-income, highly motivated students who are better than their numbers indicate and demonstrate the drive to succeed despite personal obstacles.  | 12/1 |
| [Point Foundation: The Point Flagship Scholarship](https://www.pointfoundation.org/point-apply/apply-now/) | The Point Flagship Scholarship empowers LGBTQ students to earn their undergraduate, graduate, & doctoral degrees at accredited colleges in the United States. Amount: Financial award based on need, renewable for up to four years of support. | 12/5 |
| [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Scholarships](https://www.artandwriting.org/scholarships/) | Teens in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. See the link for local deadlines: http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/guidelines-deadlines | 12/5 |
| [Dedication to Education](https://getschooled.com/dedication-to-education-scholarship/) | From Get Schooled. Who’s Eligible?: Current High School Juniors and Seniors (Classes of 2025 & 2026). Award: $2,000 Scholarship (Five (5) Scholarships in Total) | 12/8 |
| [Reach For Your Peak](https://getschooled.com/peak-scholarship/) | A $2,500 scholarship for a high school junior or senior living in Oregon or Washington. | 12/8 |
| [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 |
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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. |