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| Issue: November 25-29, 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*.*
* **The FAFSA is now Open for 2025-26!** In Washington State, there are two ways to [apply for financial aid](https://wsac.wa.gov/apply) for college or career training. U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens can apply for federal and state aid with the FAFSA. People who can't file the FAFSA due to immigration status can apply only for state aid with the WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid), as can people from mixed-status families who prefer not to file the federal form. Both FAFSA and WASFA are pathways for Washington State residents to apply for [Washington College Grant (WA Grant)](https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg) and other financial aid.
* [**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 **on 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.

## 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. Dec. 4, 9 AM.
* Webinar: [McKinney-Vento: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Panel](https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/177685). By OSPI. Dec. 4, 1 PM.
* 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:** [Financial Aid Information for Youth in Foster Care](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/financial-aid-information-youth-foster-care). This handout accompanies the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook and guides students through college admissions and financial aid.
* [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)*.*
* [FAFSA Tips for the Class of 2025](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/get-help-paying-for-college/class-2025-fafsa-tips). From BigFuture. Help your high school seniors secure their financial aid by following these steps.
* Need more help? [Contact Otter](https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot)! Otter, the OtterBot, is a free texting service designed to help Washington high school seniors navigate financial aid for college and career education. Access OtterBot by texting “Hi Otter” to 360-928-7281.

## In The News

* WSAC’s Christina Winstead and Michele Shepard Zampini of The Institute for College Access and Success [were quoted in a story about how to complete the FAFSA.](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/completing-the-fafsa)
* [A Bill To Kill The Education Department Is Already Filed. Here’s What It Says](https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/a-bill-to-kill-the-education-department-is-already-filed-heres-what-it-says/2024/11)
* [Trump Picks Linda McMahon To Lead, And Possibly Dismantle, Education Department](https://hechingerreport.org/trump-picks-linda-mcmahon-to-lead-and-possibly-dismantle-education-department)
* [What A Trump Presidency Might Mean For Student Loan Forgiveness](https://www.npr.org/2024/11/14/nx-s1-5188122/trump-biden-debt-student-loans)
* [Students Can Now Apply For Federal College Aid. Officials Hope For A Smoother Rollout This Year](https://www.seattletimes.com/business/students-can-now-apply-for-federal-college-aid-officials-hope-for-a-smoother-rollout-this-year/)
* [Red States Back Trump’s Plan To Abolish Education Department](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/state-policy/2024/11/25/republican-states-back-trump-plan-abolish-education-dept)
* [College Uncovered: What Comes Next On Campus?](https://hechingerreport.org/college-uncovered-what-comes-next-on-campus)
* [Native Students—And Non-Native Students—Deserve To Learn About The True Experiences Of Indigenous People](https://edtrust.org/blog/students-deserve-to-learn-about-true-experiences-of-indigenous-people)
* [Linda McMahon: What Do We Know?](https://www.ncan.org/news/687438/Linda-McMahon-What-Do-We-Know.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* [Common App’s Early Application Trends Reveal Encouraging Signs For Underserved Students](https://www.ncan.org/news/687661/Common-Apps-Early-Application-Trends-Reveal-Encouraging-Signs-for-Underserved-Students.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* [The FAFSA Is Live, Tested, And ‘Already Working’](https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-fafsa-is-live-tested-and-already-working)
* [Despite High-Cost Toll, Pell Institute Study Finds Students Of Color Believe Higher Education Well Worth The Investment](https://narratives.insidehighered.com/pell-institute-students-of-color-believe-higher-education-valuable/index.html)
* [Despite Challenges, Long-Run FAFSA Trends Show Promise](https://tcf.org/content/commentary/despite-challenges-long-run-fafsa-trends-show-promise)
* [Supporting Student Success Beyond Academics](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/11/supporting-student-success-beyond-academics)

## 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.
* The Attorney General’s Office is recruiting youth to serve on a statewide [Youth Advisory Group for the HearMeWA Program.](https://www.research.net/r/youthadvisorygroupapplication) HearMeWA is a free statewide program for youth up to age 25 who are dealing with a range of challenges, from stress and anxiety to threats and abuse

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [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 |
| [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 |
| [GSBA Scholarship Fund](http://www.thegsba.org/scholarship-home) | ($8,000) - The average annual award amount for each scholar is $8,000. In addition, GSBA invests in our scholars' leadership development through annual programs and workshops. | 1/3 |
| [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/) | WWF Domestic Advocates is a leadership and future preparation program that develops leadership skills through cross-cultural connection and state-wide advocacy.During the summer between their sophomore and junior years, fellows will participate in our Domestic Program in Eastern Washington. This immersive experience includes the study of Spanish history and language, cultural integration through living with Spanish peers and engaging in a variety of 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 |
| [Paid, Multi-Year Summer Fellowship For Minority Student- Emma L. Bowen Foundation](http://www.emmabowenfoundation.com/) | Minority HS seniors & college freshmen 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 |
| [Mas Family Scholarship](http://jmcff.org/#apply) | ($32,000) - Applicants must be of Cuban descent and have min. 3.5 GPA, & be financially needy.  | 1/15 |
| [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 |
| [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 |
| [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. |