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| Issue: September 9-13, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Media Release:** Washington’s GEAR UP Program receives a $35 million grant to help low-income students prepare for college. >>[Keep reading](https://wsac.wa.gov/media-2024-09-03-GEAR-UP-funding).
* (For Grant 4 WAGU schools) **Deadline:** Budget allocation plans are due Sept.15. If you have questions or need help, please contact [Marcie.](mailto:marciem@wsac.wa.gov)
* **Upcoming Website Redesign!** We are thrilled to announce that gearup.wa.gov is being redesigned and will be unveiled this fall. Stay tuned for updates!
* [National GEAR UP Week](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D79ae46de28%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cb4b6edec0eca42ad728908dbfbee5407%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638380773276189820%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v%2F0B04E%2FzPLynNv9fVxpF2I941GFulEB8IYKeQWUzt0%3D&reserved=0) will occur September 23–27, 2024. Feel free to use our resources to plan for this week.
* **2024-25 FAFSA Updates:** Stay up-to-date on [FAFSA changes](https://wsac.wa.gov/2024-25-FAFSA-Updates).

## 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.
* [Free FAFSA/WASFA Help To 2024 High School Graduates.](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/our-approach/financial-aid/) College Success Foundation (CSF) offers free, virtual one-on-one sessions through September! Sessions are available in English, Spanish, or other languages upon request. Book a meeting at the link—in-person events in Spokane and Yakima.
* [College Possible Washington](https://collegepossible.org/) also offers in-person and virtual FAFSA/WASFA [completion workshops and individual appointments](https://sites.google.com/collegepossible.org/finaid-event-registration/home) for students and family members to drop in and get support.
* Virtual Workshop Series on Selective College Admissions. GEAR UP students, families, and educators are invited to a virtual workshop series with the Consortium for College Opportunity.
* September 17: [Selective Colleges 101: What, Why, and How?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D5c3e84925b%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C7c4a93bfb2ef4f1539c208dccce1b910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638610517107590986%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cBFwa6VLgcUADK5yIc2IoNOwAp4%2FY7xY9JEPGrlv8OA%3D&reserved=0)
* September 24: [Small Liberal Arts Colleges: The Advantage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D3f989f5a38%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C7c4a93bfb2ef4f1539c208dccce1b910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638610517107597330%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bvGSBGmuHjjT4YvBF7l%2FLUfuXKYLVA21g1rRkObla3w%3D&reserved=0)
* October 1: [Selective College Application and Admissions Process](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Daac74de71a%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C7c4a93bfb2ef4f1539c208dccce1b910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638610517107603533%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vOtTE76f%2Fkk3dusT0mE3oVZd8f8qCo9urUIR5Ez%2BS3Y%3D&reserved=0)
* Virtual: [College Admissions 101 - Ace Your Application](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-and-career-planning-event-sessions.html). By ACT. Get insights on optimizing your high school experience, researching colleges, crafting standout applications, and navigating the admissions process. Sept. 18, 4 PM.
* [Thurston County NACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 23.
* [Pierce County PNACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 24.
* [Seattle NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 25 & Oct. 26.
* [Portland NACAC Fair.](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) Oct. 27 & Oct. 28.
* [Spokane NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 29.

## Optional Professional Development

* [WCHSCR Fall Counselor Workshops.](https://www.wa-council.org/)  For school counselors, career center specialists, HSBP coordinators, and those in college-access work. Held in-person and virtually. Hear updates from OSPI, SBE, SBCTC, COP, ICW, and WSAC, as well as from our public and private four-year institutions and community and technical colleges.
  + Sept. 11– [Vancouver @ WSU Vancouver](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-vancouver-wsu-vancouver-tickets-919693998507)
  + Sept. 12–[Lakewood @ CPT](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-lakewood-clover-park-technical-college-tickets-919706154867)
  + Sept. 13– [Bothell @ UW Bothell](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-bothell-uw-bothell-tickets-919719173807)
  + Sept. 17– [Virtual Option](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-fall-counselor-workshop-virtual-tickets-920287593967)

* [Universal HSBP Platform Listen & Learn Sessions](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=z1z-sqUQ_kauRaAmdBKveusnGjSqecFPjqSL79aKBp1UMUU2VEVFTkhaWUQyMFQ0UVo5TTlXQzdaNC4u). By OSPI. Learn about the statewide transition to a universal HSBP platform beginning in Fall 2025.
  + **In-Person:** 9/19- Anacortes, 9/24-Tumwater, 9/26-Vancouver, 9/30- Renton, 10/1- Wenatchee, 10/2- Bremerton, 10/7-Pasco, 10/8-Yakima, 10/23-Spokane.
  + **Virtual:**10/21, 1:30 – 3 PM-School Staff and Partners, 10/21, 4-5 PM- Families, Students, & Community, 10/28, 3-4:30 PM- School Staff and Partners, 10/28, 5-6 PM- Families, Students, & Community
* [2024-2025 Financial Aid Application Training](https://www.pdenroller.org/psesd/catalog/173986). By PSCCN and WSAC. Sept. 20, Green River College Kent Campus.
* Virtual: [Grad Team Office Hour Returns](https://oercommons.s3.amazonaws.com/media/editor/389544/Grad_Team_1.pdf). Sept. 25, 2:30 PM
* Webinar: [Financial Aid](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017224477823/WN_Djqiwc-qSdiJ75LV-9eFgw#/registration). By OSPI/WSAC. 1.5 Clock Hours. Oct. 2, 9 AM.
* [Webinar Series for K-12 by WA Public 4-Year Universities](https://councilofpresidents.org/_admissions/). For K-12 practitioners by COP.
  + [Oct. 9: Understanding Success from the College Admissions Perspective](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P8WZpWT4SNSL4tHBznJGMw)
  + [Nov. 4 Diving Deep into Admissions](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_36e5tUOJTgaysucrdSYevw)
  + [Apr. 9: The Final Stretch: From High School Graduation to College](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hiuQz5GoTLWX4iZ2Rtlrvg)
* [WSCA Fall Leadership Conference](https://leadership.wscaconference.org/registration/). For all school counselors and their administrators. Oct. 11-12, Spokane.
* [GEAR UP West.](https://go.wsuprofed.com/website/72800/) Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [College and Career Pathways: You Have Options](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/college-and-career-pathways-you-have-options). This handout accompanies the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook and guides students through college admissions and financial aid.
* [2024 WCHSCR Handbook](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wa-council.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2021%2F11%2FTO-POST-FINAL-WCHSCR-2024-25-Fall-Counselor-Workshop-HE-Book.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C46b021af9ad14f863ab208dccdd89af2%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638611579244924142%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y45CVG2BailwYV0QxGR64y7HDqIfjIC%2F4XttI%2F250D8%3D&reserved=0). It is now live! Dates, data, and contacts are all at your fingertips. NEW this year is a CTC program locator chart that is so easy to read, and transfer student information that lists resources, tools, dates, and data by college.
* [Building Relationships With Empathy Maps](https://www.edutopia.org/video/building-relationships-empathy-maps). From Edutopia. Use this simple visual tool to make better instructional decisions, keeping students' strengths and needs in mind.

## In The News

* [Community Colleges Have A Terrific Story To Tell. Here’s How To Showcase Their Strengths.](https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/community-colleges-have-a-terrific-story-to-tell-heres-how-to-showcase-their-strengths)
* [OSPI Issues Guidance On Cellphone Use In WA Classrooms](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/ospi-issues-guidance-on-cell-phone-use-in-wa-classrooms/)
* [Kids Who Use ChatGPT As A Study Assistant Do Worse On Tests](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64575/kids-who-use-chatgpt-as-a-study-assistant-do-worse-on-tests)
* [How To Set Up Your Classroom To Support Students’ Executive Function Skills](https://www.edutopia.org/article/designing-executive-function-friendly-classroom)
* [Datapoints: Job Growth Over The Next Decade](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/09/datapoints-job-growth-over-the-next-decade)
* [Can AI Help A Student Get Into Stanford Or Yale?](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/artificial-intelligence/2024/09/04/stanford-students-train-ai-help-college)
* [Just 29% Of Families Say The Updated FAFSA Was Easier To Complete, Survey Finds](https://www.highereddive.com/news/fafsa-easier-complete-ipsos-sallie-mae-survey/725430)
* [A Community College Promises A Rural County It ‘Hasn’t Been Left To Die’](https://hechingerreport.org/a-community-college-promises-a-rural-county-it-hasnt-been-left-to-die)
* [From Struggles To Middle Class Success With Auto Tech Training](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-o42dqd0GU)
* [What Did The US Surgeon General Say About Parental Stress, And What Can We Do About It?](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64605/what-did-the-surgeon-general-say-about-parental-stress-and-what-can-we-do-about-it)
* [How To Set Up Your Classroom To Support Students’ Executive Function Skills](https://www.edutopia.org/article/designing-executive-function-friendly-classroom/)
* [Too Few Middle-Skills Credentials To Meet Future Job Demand](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/alternative-credentials/2024/09/05/too-few-middle-skills-credentials-meet)
* [QuickStart To College 2024 At Western Washington By Futures NW](https://www.futuresnw.org/blog/c6n82g24s5h22yd69rerhxzx6s3gyl-rt964)
* [Workforce Training Program Scholarships Available](https://www.applevalleynewsnow.com/news/wsu-tri-cities-workforce-training-program-scholarships-available/article_ed07ff9c-6ca7-11ef-9cad-a3b3b6316449.html)
* [Native-Led Suicide Prevention Program Focuses On Building Community Strengths](https://www.npr.org/2024/09/10/nx-s1-5100913/suicide-prevention-program-alaska-native-community-mental-health)
* [Here’s Where Trump And Harris Stand On 6 Education Issues](https://www.npr.org/2024/09/08/nx-s1-5103698/trump-harris-election-platforms-education-views)
* [A Vision For Equitable Pathways: Enhancing Support And Innovation In College And Career Counseling](https://edtrust.org/rti/a-vision-for-equitable-pathways)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

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| ***Scholarship*** | ***Brief Description*** | ***Due*** |
| [Don’t Text and Drive Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form, including a 140-character message about texting while driving. 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 texting while driving. | 9/30 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Winter Issue](http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions) | ($100-$500) - Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. | 9/30 |
| [Shout It Out Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/shout-it-out-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit an online response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the world at once, what would it be and why? | 9/30 |
| [Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/#programs) | ($20,000) - High school seniors with a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA may apply on our website in August of their senior year until the September 30 deadline. 150 Coca-Cola Scholars are selected each year to receive this $20,000 scholarship. | 9/30 |
| [NSHSS Foundation STEM Scholarship](https://nshssfoundation.org/scholarships) | $1,000 scholarships for underrepresented students with a 3.0 GPA or higher who plan to study a STEM field. | 10/15 |
| [National YoungArts Foundation Scholarship](https://youngarts.org/apply/) | Up to $50,000 for young artists in grades 10-12 or ages 15-18 with talent in cinematic arts, dance, design arts, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. | 10/17 |
| [U.S. Bank Scholarship Program](https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/student-scholarship.html) | Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win. $2,500-$20,000 | 10/30 |
| [Disney Dreamers Academy Applications.](https://www.disneydreamersacademy.com/be-a-dreamer/apply/) | (Academy) - Disney Dreamers Academy is a 4-day, power-packed event in which 100 select high school students, ages 13 to 19, are inspired, motivated, and prepared to dream big. | 10/31 |
| [Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship) | ($2,000) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "Imagine that your high school or college has been overrun with zombies. Your math professor, the cafeteria ladies, and your best friend joined the Walking Dead. Flesh out a plan to avoid the zombies, including where you’d hide and the top five things you’d bring to stay alive." | 10/31 |
| [Voice of Democracy Scholarship.](https://www.vfw.org/VOD/) | ($35,000) Voice of Democracy audio-essay program gives high school students the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first-place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college, or vocational/technical school. | 10/31 |
| [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) | | |
| 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. | | |