WEEKLY BULLETIN

**June 17-21, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**When 9th graders pass all their classes, they are 4x more likely to graduate from high school within 4 years. Learn more: [https://ow.ly/sWwi50OKCkG](https://ow.ly/sWwi50OKCkG?fbclid=IwAR2DCItH3bfngvZ0qnwjWhFbNjSCJ1w6raiZmm6iNkFIiYW4yC06VtyAeE8) |
| * Program Updates
* Student Recruitment & Outreach Events
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| * Optional Professional Development
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| * Resources
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| * In the News
* Scholarships & Opportunities
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# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* **Deadline: Final Work Plan & Budget Revisions** are due June 30. Please send to featherw@wsac.wa.gov
* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters). Monthly newsletters for students by grade level. Pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
* **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.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 21-24, Washington, DC.
* [**MTSS Fest 2024**](https://wasa-oly.org/WASA/WASA/5_0_Professional_Development/Events/WASA_Events/MTSS/2024%20Integrated%20MTSS%20Conference#gsc.tab=0). July 31 - August 2, Pullman.
* [**National GEAR UP Week**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nguw)**.** September 23–27, 2024
* [**GEAR UP West**.](https://airtable.com/app7jdN8h1uHg1qhT/shr54I5G3Xrqcfyyv) Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.

# Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Supporting Transgender and Nonbinary Students: College Admissions & Financial Aid.**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/supporting-transgender-and-nonbinary-students-college-admissions-financial-aid-resource-guide) Designed to assist college access professionals who work with high school students. The information provided emphasizes supporting transgender youth who plan to continue their education at a postsecondary institution.
* [**Understanding Aid Options and Comparing Award Letters**](https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov/courses/understanding-aid-options-and-comparing-award-letters/)**.** WSAC’s student loan education site contains modules with information on specific topics. You can also find short videos, a glossary, and instructions on deciphering award letters.
* [**13 Things to Know When Evaluating Your Financial Aid Offers.**](https://studentaid.gov/articles/evaluating-financial-aid-offers)Understanding how to interpret and learn what you’re committing to could save you future surprises, not to mention thousands of dollars in payments. Here’s what you need to know.
* [**SwiftStudent**](https://formswift.com/swift-student). This free digital tool helps students with the financial aid appeals process and allows them to write an appeal letter. Learn more about financial aid appeals on the [WSAC website.](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-appeals)

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Skilled Trades On The Rise As College Enrollment Sags. ‘Ticket To The Middle Class’](https://www.columbian.com/news/2024/jun/17/skilled-trades-on-the-rise-as-college-enrollment-sags-ticket-to-the-middle-class/)
* [College Board President Will Oversee FAFSA Launch](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2024/06/14/education-dept-taps-college-board-president-oversee)
* [The Answer To The Righteous Anger That Roils College Campuses Is Purposeful Change](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-the-answer-to-the-righteous-anger-that-roils-college-campuses-is-purposeful-change)
* [Reaching Rural Students: The Stars Network Hits The Road](https://www.chronicle.com/featured/student-success/the-stars-network-hits-the-road)
* [Getting Pronouns Right](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/06/getting-pronouns-right)
* [Teens Are Looking To AI for Answers About Their Personal Lives, Not Just Homework Help](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64014/teens-are-looking-to-ai-for-answers-about-their-personal-lives-not-just-homework-help)
* [Students Take Congressional Candidates To Task: Here Are The Teenagers Who Organized The North Central High School Fifth Congressional Debate](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/jun/10/students-take-congressional-candidates-to-task-her/)
* [This Library Is Offering Free LGBTQ2+ Books Amid The Wave Of School Bans](https://nbcuacademy.com/lgbtq-books-digital-library/)
* [While Women Outnumber Men On Campus, Their Later Earnings Remain Stuck](https://www.npr.org/2024/06/13/g-s1-4038/women-outnumber-men-colleges-earnings)
* [New Partnership Empowers California Students To Earn Civic Seal Through Service-Learning](https://nylc.org/california-civic-seal-service-learning)
* [After LGBTQ Resolution Failed, This Pierce County School Board Meeting Got Heated](https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/education/article289261245.html#storylink=cpy)
* [Want To Close America’s Learning Gaps? First, Strengthen Students’ Relationships](https://www.the74million.org/article/want-to-close-americas-learning-gaps-first-strengthen-students-relationships/)

**SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES**

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

* **[Scholarship Junkies’ Free Scholarship Bank](https://www.scholarshipjunkies.org/scholarship-search)**. Scholarship Junkies has launched their brand-new Scholarship Bank! This organization is a reputable and safe source to search for scholarships.
* [**Washington State Youth Arts Leadership (WAYAL) program**](https://www.arts.wa.gov/youth-arts-leadership-program/)**.** Do you know a creative young person ready to grow as a leader? Apply or nominate now. WAYAL is an annual cohort of youth and young adults (ages 16-19) across Washington State. WAYAL leaders work with the Arts in Education (AIE) team at [ArtsWA](https://www.arts.wa.gov/) to explore and amplify the role of arts engagement in their communities. Young artists build community among their peers, gain leadership and communication skills, and explore arts careers with mentors in the field. Youth leaders receive a stipend for their participation. Due July 11.

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [2024 Breakthrough Junior Challenge](https://breakthroughjuniorchallenge.org/) | Win a life-changing $250,000 college scholarship! For 13–18-year-olds who are good at explaining math or science. To enter, they must create a minimum of less than 2 minutes. Video explaining a key concept in math, physics, or life sciences for a chance to win a prize for them, their teacher, and their school. | 6/25 |
| [Navigate Your Future Scholarship](http://www.nata.aero/Scholarships/Navigate-Your-Future-Scholarship.aspx) | A $2,500 scholarship is offered to an HS graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry. | 6/28 |
| [Geoscience IDEA Scholarship (formerly AWG Minority Scholarship)](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.awg.org/resource/resmgr/awards/student_awards/geoscienceideascholarship22.pdf) | The scholarship provides up to $5000 in awards annually, typically split between two or more undergraduate students, and matches them with AWG mentors to enhance their careers. It also includes a one-year, sponsored AWG student membership. | 6/30 |
| [Do-Over Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/do-over-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "If you could get one 'do-over' in life, what would it be and why?" | 6/30 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Fall Issue](http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions) | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to $500. | 6/30 |
| [Flavor of the Month Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/flavor-of-the-month-scholarship) | ($1,500) -Summer and ice cream go hand-in-hand. July is National Ice Cream Month, and that's the inspiration behind this award. People are very similar to ice cream; some are nutty, others a little exotic, and some are very comforting. If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?" (250 words or less) | 7/31 |
| [Make Me Laugh Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/make-me-laugh-scholarship) | ($1,500) - Make Me Laugh is a fun scholarship that lets you cut loose and lighten things up. Looking for a scholarship for comedians? Now is your chance to show us your funny bone. Perhaps you always have an embarrassing - but funny - story to share. Great! We'll promise to laugh with you, not at you. Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. | 8/31 |
| [Beauty & Wellness Professionals Scholarship](https://www.beautyschoolsdirectory.com/cosmetology-school-scholarships) | ($2,500) This is for students currently enrolled in an eligible program and prospective students planning to enroll in an eligible program before the scholarship deadline.  | 9/1 |
| [American Fire Sprinkler Association Second Chance Scholarship Contest](https://www.afsascholarship.org/) | Open to anyone who has graduated high school or equivalency and wants to pursue a college degree or trade school education. Enter for the chance to win 1 of 5 $1,000 College Scholarships. | 9/1 |
| [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 written response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why? | 9/30 |
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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. |