

Hello RS Seniors!

Are you applying to colleges and universities right now? Have you submitted the FAFSA or WASFA application? Here is what you need to know about the FAFSA or the WASFA!

The **FAFSA** is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**.

It is the required application that students need to fill out and submit each year that they intend to enroll in a 2-year or 4-year institution after they graduate from HS. This application is required for students to be considered for Federal Student Aid.

What is Federal Student Aid?

Federal Student Aid is the financial aid that the US federal government offers to eligible undergraduate students who submit their FAFSA application. There are three different types of Federal Student Aid.

1. **Grants**. Grants are free money that students are offered that they do not need to repay. These are for low-income students. There are two types of grants that are offered. The Pell Grant and the FSEOG. Students need to submit their FAFSA early in order to potentially receive these grants, if eligible, because these are offered on a first come first serve basis and funding is limited. [Click here to learn more about Grants.](#)
2. **Loans** Loans are money that the federal government loans to students that does need to be repaid. Federal student loans come in two forms: subsidized and unsubsidized. [Click here to learn more about Federal Student Loans.](#)
3. **Work Study**. Work Study is money offered on your financial aid letter from the school you apply to and is disbursed as a paycheck based on the Work Study job that you work. If you are offered Work Study on your Financial Aid award letter you need to work a Work Study job in order to earn this form of financial aid. [Click here to learn more about Work Study.](#)

After you submit your FAFSA, and all of your applications, in the spring if you are accepted to a school they will send you a Financial Aid Award Letter. This is where you will find information about what Federal Student Aid you are offered as well as if the school or state has offered you any financial aid.

The **WASFA** is the **Washington Application for State Financial Aid**.

Students who are ineligible to fill out the FAFSA should see if they are eligible to fill out the WASFA. **You will only fill out either the FAFSA or the WASFA. Not both.**

FAFSA or WASFA? Which one should I do?

If you are unsure which application you should do visit this website and take this quiz that will tell you which to fill out: <https://readyssetgrad.wa.gov/WASFAelig>

Need Help on your FAFSA or WASFA application?

Attached to this email are some presentations that review the FAFSA and the WASFA created by BC! Below I have linked some resources that also maybe helpful in answering your questions:

- How to Apply for Financial Aid WSAC: <https://wsac.wa.gov/apply>
- FAFSA Help webpage: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/help>
- FAFSA Application Walkthrough Resource: <https://www.nitrocollege.com/fafsa-application>

If you have questions or need help with your FAFSA or WASFA application please contact the Financial Aid Office at the school(s) you are applying to or check out your HS College & Career Center and they may be able to assist you!

What about Scholarships?

Scholarship season really begins in January of your senior year but if you are itching to start applying you can start searching for some scholarships using the resources below.

1. **Check out your High School website to find local scholarships.** Sometimes your HS will email out information about scholarships instead of posting it on their webpage so please check your HS email!

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- a. **See attached document “Scholarship List by HS”** for links to your HS’s webpage. If your HS is not linked there then you will have to go to your HS webpage for more information.
2. Do the research into the schools you are applying to and see if they award Merit based scholarships or have any other scholarships that students can apply for.
3. Check out the website listed below for other scholarships you can apply to:
 - a. [TheWashBoard.org: Smarter Scholarship Matches \(for Washington state students only\)](https://www.thewashboard.org/)
 - b. [Fastweb.com: Scholarship Search](https://www.fastweb.com/scholarship-search/)
 - c. [College Board Opportunity Scholarships: Win scholarships while you apply to colleges!](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity-scholarships/)
 - d. [Unigo.com: College Scholarships](https://www.unigo.com/college-scholarships/)
 - e. [Scholarships.com: College Freshman \(Class of 2024\) Scholarships](https://www.scholarships.com/college-freshman-class-of-2024-scholarships/)
 - f. [Colleges of Distinction: Scholarship Lists](https://www.collegesofdistinction.com/scholarship-lists/)
 - g. [Niche.com: Find College Scholarships](https://www.niche.com/find-college-scholarships/)
 - h. [Cappex.com: Scholarships](https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/)
 - i. [CollegeScholarships.org: Financial Aid](https://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/)

Stay Safe and Take care,

Erica Walker

Running Start Advisor, Center for High School Programs

[Click here to Schedule a RS Advising Appointment](#)

Center for High School Programs

Phone: (425)564-4151

Email: chsprograms@bellevuecollege.edu



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Bellevue School District

- Bellevue High School: <https://bsd405.org/bhs/counseling/college-career-center/college-planning/>
- Big Picture Learning School: <https://bsd405.org/bigpicture/resources/counseling/hs-counseling/scholarship-info/>
- Interlake High School: <https://bsd405.org/interlake/counseling/scholarship-information/>
- International School: <https://bsd405.org/international/counseling/college-and-career/>
- Newport High School: <https://bsd405.org/nhs/counseling/career-center/>
- Sammamish High School: <https://bsd405.org/sammamish/counseling/career-center/college-career-scholarship-list-current-5/>

Lake Washington School District

- East Lake HS: <https://ehs.lwsd.org/counseling/scholarships-draft>
- Emerson HS: <https://emhs.lwsd.org/counseling>
- International Community School: <https://ics.lwsd.org/counseling/college-career-planning>
- Juanita HS: <https://jhs.lwsd.org/counseling/career-college-center>
- LWHS: <https://lwhs.lwsd.org/counseling/scholarships>
- Lakewood HS: <https://www.lwsd.wednet.edu/Page/273>
- Redmond HS: <https://rhs.lwsd.org/counseling/career-center>
- Tesla STEM HS: <https://tesla.lwsd.org/counseling-central-boxes>

Issaquah School District

- Gibson Ek High School: <https://gibsonekcounseling.blogspot.com/p/college-planning.html>
- Issaquah High School: https://sites.google.com/site/issaquahhsccc/#h.p_jwJnHlOPkDRh
- Liberty High School: <https://sites.google.com/site/libertycollegecareercenter/>
- Skyline High School: <https://sites.google.com/site/skylinehsccc/college-planning/financing-college#h.x2tr587h2743>

Monroe School District

- Monroe High School: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/189_HruijofBpYq5kgfoBMs6Y-olRxqzlcu26EgqXN1Q/edit#gid=496911277

Renton School District

- Lindbergh high school: <https://lindbergh.rentonschools.us/career-center/welcome>
- Oliver Hazen High School: <https://hazen.rentonschools.us/career-center/welcome>
- Renton High School: <https://rentonhs.rentonschools.us/career-center/welcome>
- Talley High School: <https://talley.rentonschools.us/opportunity-center/welcome>

Riverview School District

- Cedarcrest High School: <https://sites.google.com/site/cedarcrestcounseling/college-career>

Snoqualmie School District

- Mount Si High School: <https://www.svsd410.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=7174>