



FINANCIAL AID

College Access Fairfax partners with Fairfax County Public Schools to provide families with access to information through evening presentations and weekend workshops.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHTS

Learn about the Financial Aid process (scholarships, grants, loans, etc.), when and how to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other financial aid forms. A Spanish interpreter will be available.

- Thursday, September 20th, 7-9pm – West Springfield HS
- Thursday, October 25th, 6:30-7:30pm – Mt. Vernon HS

FAFSA Completion Workshops

FAFSA Completion Workshops are offered on multiple Saturdays and some weekday evenings from October through February at high schools throughout Fairfax County. Parents and students who bring the required documents to the workshop receive one-on-one assistance completing and submitting the FAFSA online.

- Saturday, October 13th, 9am-12pm – Justice HS
- Saturday, November 3rd, 9am-12pm – Mt. Vernon HS
- Saturday, November 17th, 10am-2pm – Edison HS
- Thursday, December 6th, 6-8pm – SOUTH COUNTY HS

FAFSA Line-by-Line

This program is designed for seniors and parents of seniors who will be attending college in the fall of 2018. This is not a FAFSA completion event (where counselors can help you individually complete the FAFSA), but rather an explanation of what information is needed for each line of the FAFSA.

- Wednesday, November 7th, 7-9pm – Woodson HS
- Saturday, November 17th, 9am-10am – Edison HS

CSS Profile

This program is designed for seniors and parents of seniors who have applied to a school which requires the CSS profile. Not all schools require this form. It is primarily designed to give private member institutions of the College Board a closer look into the finances of a student and family. It is much more detailed than the FAFSA, and there is a fee.

- Saturday, November 17th, 10:30-11:30am – Edison HS

These dates were selected based on proximity to South County High School. A complete list of all workshop dates and registration details are available at www.collegeaccessfairfax.com.

Money Talks: A Conversation Starter for Students and Families

- Looking at our savings and finances, our family has \$_____ to support (student's) college education.
- The cost of attendance at Top Choice College is \$_____, which leaves us a difference of \$_____.
- What is the likelihood of our family qualifying for need and/or merit-based aid? How do we find that out?
- In case we don't get financial aid, is a debt of \$_____ worth the investment in Top Choice College? Who will repay these loans?
- Should we consider that (student) work at least part-time during the school year to support their education? What is our expectation for work during the summer?
- What are the realities of getting a job immediately after graduation? What would that entry salary look like? Is that worth the investment in _____ College or _____ College?
- What will happen if our financial need is not met by Top Choice College?
- How much time can be spent applying for scholarships with the understanding that receiving them is not guaranteed?

Adapted from Having "The Talk" Winter 2013 Journal of College Admission

Scholarships

Most two and four-year colleges maintain institutional scholarships, although the process for consideration varies from school to school. It is very important to find out how to be considered at each school a student applies to. Many schools will consider students for scholarships once they have submitted a FAFSA, and other schools will require additional scholarship applications. Information is typically found in the financial aid section of the school website.

SCHS and FCPS also maintain an online scholarship database through Naviance Student, which is accessed through a student's Blackboard account. In addition, several databases exist to help students search for scholarships that can be accessed at:

<https://southcountyhs.fcps.edu/student-services/college-and-career-center/scholarships>

Scholarship Scams - Warning Signs: If you find in your search that a scholarship includes any of the following, it is wise to be wary of a potential scam:

- Scholarship has "fees"
- Scholarship is "guaranteed"
- Scholarship is exclusive - "you can't get this information anywhere else"
- Scholarship is unsolicited - "you're a finalist"
- Application requires credit card or bank account information