

College Bound Updates

October 8, 2024









Clock Hours: https://www.pdenroller.org/esd113/catalog/175741

College Bound Updates Webinar

Tue, October 8 2024 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Presenters

Kathie Pham

Description

Hosted by WSAC and WCAN. This annual webinar is designed for school counselors and staff and college access professionals to learn about the College Bound program. WSAC/College Bound program staff will lead a session covering the auto-enrollment process, important resources, and recent changes. This knowledge will help attendees better support their College Bound students for education after high school.

Dates

Tue, October 8 2024 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Zoom

Registration

Event # 175741

Price

Free

Registration Ends

Tuesday Oct 8, 2024 11:30 PM

Register Now!

Professional Hours

Clock Hour Number: OLAI0118

1.50 Clock Hours

\$9.50

Contacts

Clock Hours 113

360-464-6724

☑ clockhours@esd113.org





We advance educational opportunities and attainment in Washington.



Integrated Support Networks

CSF:

National nonprofit - helps underserved, low-income students.

PARTNERSHIP

OSPI:

Primary state agency overseeing public K-12 education in WA (works with 295 public school districts + more)





WCAN:

CSF staff (CBROs) who support CB awareness & FA completion in WA.

CBROS:

Provide statewide support with regional training & resources for school staff & CBOs.

 Financial Aid Awarding
 HB 1835 - Financial Aid Outreach & Completion

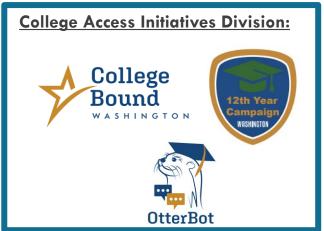
WA COLLEGES:

PARTNERSHIP

Cabinet-level state agency working to advance educational attainment through programs, partnerships, and policies.

WSAC:







WSAC's College Bound Team



Program Coordinator
Pablo Rodriguez



College Access Initiatives

Data Analyst

Sean Moran



Program SpecialistRashel Wise



Program AssociateKathie Pham



Key Takeaways

College Bound auto-enrollment: what it is and isn't

Resources: WSAC, CSF, others

Next Steps for everyone!



Reminder: College Bound Commitment



Works together with other state financial aid (usually the <u>WA Grant</u>) to cover the cost of tuition (at public rates), some fees, and a small amount for books = **commitment**.

New info sheet coming soon:
How the WA Grant & CB
Funds Work Together



Can be used at <u>over 65 two- and four-year</u> <u>public and private colleges and universities</u>.





Eligible Private

& Home School

students must

sign up

through our CB

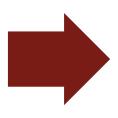
office.

Eligibility and Auto-Enrollment: A Two-Step Process

Step One Sign Up Requirements

- eligible public-school students.
- **Eligible** for FRPL in 7th, 8th, or newly
- Foster Youth* are

Based on **USDA** Income Guidelines, changes yearly



Step Two

Receiving College Bound

- Fulfill the College Bound Pledge.
 - Enroll in ANY college within one year of HS graduation.
 - Be accepted to & attend an eligible college.
 - Meet income & residency requirements.

Based on **Median Family** Income (MFI) Chart, changes yearly



- eligible in 9th grade.
- auto-enrolled through HS graduation.





College Bound Pledge Requirements

Graduate from a WA high school with a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher if attending a four-year college <u>directly</u> after high school.

• There is NO GPA requirement for students attending CTC.

Enroll in ANY college within **one year** of HS graduation to meet the **enrollment deadline**.

Students must attend one of 65+ eligible WA institutions to receive CB funds.

Complete the FAFSA or WASFA starting their senior year and meet income requirements. *2025-26 FAFSA & WASFA available December 1, 2024.*

Have no felony convictions.



How the College Bound Auto-Enrollment Process Works

Receiving vs. Being Eligible for FRPL

FRPL eligible students at public schools. Noted by:

- FRPL application & family income survey NOW called <u>CNEEB</u> (24-25)
 - School distributes& collects
- Direct certification (SNAP, TANF, and more!
- Other sources

OSPI Resource:

Meal Application & Toolkit

School reports 2024-25 enrollment data to OSPI via CEDARS

- Students noted as FRPL-eligible
- Enrollment data to CEDARS happens periodically starting Sept/Oct, annually
- Monthly reporting

OSPI sends
data to WSAC
with list of
newly FRPLeligible
students

 Monthly autoenrollment files, starting in November, annually. School staff
Portal users to
enter/update
student & parent
contact info via
WSAC Portal

 Monthly, recommended

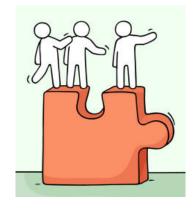
Changes Coming
Spring 2025:
HS Student Contact
Info!

WSAC mails certificates to auto-enrolled students with addresses

Monthly



A Bit More on Timeline ...



Current CB Students

Action: Regularly enter/update contact info **NOW**!

Note: WSAC receives weekly demographic updates from OSPI, including school enrollment, GPA, & more.

Newly Auto-enrolled 2024-25 CB Students (7th, 8th & newly eligible 9th Grades)

Action: Regularly enter/update contact info for NEW 24-25 auto-enrolled, starting November 2024.

Note: WSAC receives monthly updates from OSPI.



IMPORTANT:

Starting Nov. 2024, anticipate an increase in students on your WSAC portal list due to newly auto-enrolled students.



Using WSAC's CB Portal: Toolbox — 3 Easy Steps

Email us here

Step 1: Create a CB portal account for the <u>Toolbox</u>

Toolbox
Basics
Flyer

Step 2: Use the <u>Toolbox</u> to track your College Bound students progress & download live reports

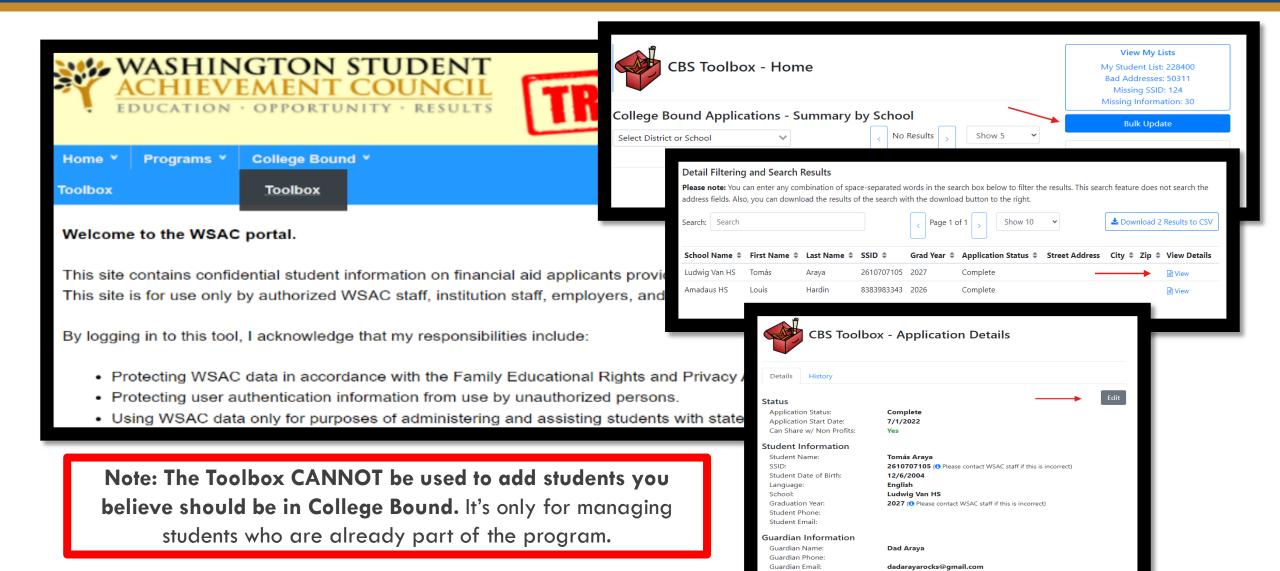
Portal FAQs & <u>Video</u> Tutorial Step 3: Enter/Update contact info & correct bad addresses (for schools/districts)







College Bound Portal — Toolbox View





CB Portal — Toolbox Resources



College Bound Toolbox

How to use the Toolbox

You can view the total number of College Bound students you have access to by using the "View My List" feature. By interacting with the portal to update student information, you can ensure we have the most up-to-date information possible.

You can find specific students not on your Student List using the "Student Lookup" tool. By providing specific information to narrow your search, you can look up any student in the system.

If you need to send College Bound staff a message or file containing private student information, use the "Secure Messages" feature.

Why use the Toolbox?

- 1. Edit student contact info.
- 2. Download up-to-date lists of your College Bound students.
- 3. Track student progress.
- 4. Send WSAC/College Bound staff secure messages.
- 5. Update your account settings and info.
- 6. View the history of activity on a student's College Bound application.

How to access the Toolbox

You can get a free WSAC Portal account by emailing <u>collegebound@wsac.wa.gov</u> and providing your name, title, school, district, and office phone number. To log in, visit <u>portal.wsac.wa.gov</u>. Each person using the Toolbox needs their own account, as access should not be shared with others.

For detailed information on how to use the Toolbox, check out our College Bound Portal FAQs.



Navigating the Toolbox - Video Tutorial



CB Portal User FAQs



College Bound Portal

Frequently Asked Questions for Portal Users 2024-25

Is There a Faster Way to Update Bad Addresses?

Yes! You can use the Bulk Update Tool to quickly update large amounts of student info.

Just enter the data into the correct columns— no columns can be removed, but values could be left out if the values are not required in the instructions.

Tip: Contact your school's IT or registrar's office to help gather the necessary info.



College Bound Legislative Updates

- <u>SB 5904</u> College Bound 5-year Window Elimination
 - Previously: 4-year award to be used within 5 years of HS graduation.
 - NOW: Up to 6 years of funding to align with federal programs and WA Grant. Doesn't expire IF enrolled in college within 1 year of HS graduation and still meets "other program requirements."
 - Note: Still funds up to a Bachelor's degree only.

- SB 6053 Data Sharing with OSPI for Contact Info
 - Allows WSAC to get high school student contact info from OSPI.
 - Purpose: Inform students about financial aid and educational opportunities in WA.
 - Implementation Date: Spring 2025 data to WSAC from OSPI.



Call to Action: Update CB Contact Information

- While we wait for the implementation of SB 6053 for HS student contact info, please continue updating student contact information using the College Bound Portal!
- This will give CB students and parents EARLY access to WSAC resources like OtterBot, resource mailings, email listserv, and MORE!





WSAC's Outreach to College Bound students



Certificate mailings monthly to newly auto-enrolled students with addresses



HS grade-level resource mailings and email campaigns



Collecting updated student contact info for OtterBot texting platform, designed to support CB HS students and their parents



Newly Auto-Enrolled Students Receive: CB Certificate & Letter



Congratulations!

As a College Bound student, you have a great start in preparing for your education after high school. Your college and career training after high school may seem like a long way off, but it is important to understand how College Bound works so you know how to receive your money.

Are you interested in health care? Construction? Video game design? Running a business? College Bound can help! College Bound is an early commitment of state financial aid, like Washington College Grant, to help pay for your education after high school.

You can use College Bound to help pay for your education at over 65 participating colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington.

Pledge Requirements:

- Graduate from a Washington high school or homeschool program with a cumulative 2.0 GPA if they plan to attend a four-year college directly after high school.
 - No high school GPA is required for students who plan to attend a community college or technical school.
- Enroll in one of over 65 participating colleges, universities, or programs within one year of high school graduation.
- · Have no felony convictions.
- Apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA or WASFA in their senior year of high school and each year they attend college or training.

All College Bound students must meet program income and state residency requirements.

Talk to your school counselor and family about College Bound today!

Contact us



collegebound.wa.gov collegebound@wsac.wa.gov 888.535.0747 (option 1)

OtterBot texting

OtterBot is a text service that supports all high school students and their parents/guardians. It is designed for students enrolled in College Bound.





(Back)

Use this QR code to sign up or update your contact info so we can stay in touch. It only takes a minute!



Dear College Bound student and family,

You are officially enrolled in the Washington State College Bound program! College Bound is a statefunded program administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council. This program can help pay for your education after high school. Eligible College Bound students who meet program requirements can receive tuition (at public college rates), some fees, and a small amount for books. Over 65 colleges, universities, and technical schools are part of this opportunity in Washington state.

What You Need to Do:

 Stay Connected: We want to keep you updated with the latest College Bound news. Please fill out this quick contact form using the QR code below to make sure we have your current info.



- Learn More: Check the back of your College Bound certificate or visit collegebound.wa.gov for details about how to qualify and what you need to do.
- Explore Schools: Find a list of participating WA colleges, universities, and technical schools at wsac.wa.gov/sfa-institutions.

A Few More Things to Know:

- Extra Support: You might get info from non-profit organizations that help College Bound students. If you prefer not to share your contact details, have your parent or guardian email your name and date of birth to collegebound@wsac.wa.gov. We do not sell your information; we only send useful updates about college planning and financial aid resources.
- We Want Your Feedback: We might reach out to learn about your experiences with College Bound and your plans after high school.
- Not Interested? If you are not interested or believe you are not eligible, let us know. Have your parent or guardian email your name and date of birth to collegebound@wsac.wa.gov, and we will remove you from the program.

Have Questions? Reach out to us at collegebound@wsac.wa.gov or call 888-535-0747, option 1. You can also talk to your school counselor or visit our website for more info.

We are excited to support you on this journey and cannot wait to see all you will achieve. We are with you every step of the way!

Sincerely.

Sah R. Wei

Sarah Weiss Director of College Access Initiatives



NEW RESOURCE: CB Student Confirmation Letter Template for School Staff



Dear [College Bound student first & last name],

🎉 Congratulations! 🎉 You are officially enrolled in the Washington State College Bound program!

You are receiving this letter as confirmation of your enrollment in the College Bound program. Your eligibility was confirmed by staff at our school. As a College Bound student, you will likely receive an email, mailing, or other form of communication in the years to come reminding you of this amazing opportunity. Now that you have been introduced, reach out to College Bound or school staff about what this means for you!

What is College Bound?

College Bound is an early commitment of financial aid from Washington State. It works with other state financial aid, like the Washington College Grant, to help pay for your education after high school. If you meet the program requirements, you could receive funding for:



- Tuition (at public college rates)
- Some fees
- · A small amount for books

This funding is available at over 65 colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington!

What does being a College Bound student mean? Scan the QR code above to learn what the College Bound Pledge requirements are.

Stay Connected!

OtterBot is a free texting service for College Bound high school students and their parents/guardians. You will receive regular messages about financial aid, college planning, and reminders. Plus, you can text anytime for help! Sign up now using the QR code or visit bit.ly/CBContactFormCertEng!



Got Questions?

You can reach the College Bound staff at coll 888-535-0747, option 1. Visit the College Bound website at collegebound.wa.gov for more information.

This is a fantastic opportunity, and I'm excited to support you on this journey!

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at (insert counselor or school staff's email address) or (insert phone number)

Thank you,

Counselor Name Counselor at (School Name)

- MS & HS staff: Personalize this template with your school info and share it with your College Bound students and their parents!
- Student focus groups show that students prefer receiving information from trusted sources/messengers.





OtterBot Texting Service - Help with Financial Aid & Postsecondary Navigation

OtterBot is a free texting service created to support high school students and their parents/guardians.

OtterBot is Al-informed, but always human powered.
Messaging is designed for high school students who are enrolled in College Bound.

wsac.wa.gov/otterbot

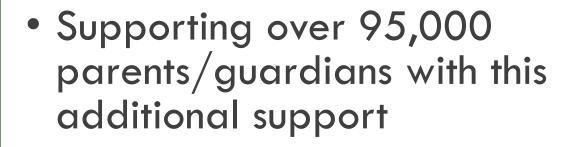






OtterBot - Where We Are

 Supporting over 33,000 9-12th grade College Bound students – growing every day!







OtterBot Content Areas

CONTENT AREAS

Financial Aid

- FAFSA completion
- WASFA completion
- Verification
- Award letters
- Appeals
- Scholarship search

Admissions & Enrollment

- Admissions applications
- Admissions requirements
- Enrollment steps

College-going Info

- Terms and definitions
- Campus navigation
- Transition prep
- Socioemotional support

Reminders & Notifications

- Orientations
- Class registrations
- Scholarships
- Priority application dates



MEET THE COLLEGE BOUND REGIONAL OFFICERS

BRE OLASON Northwest & Peninsula Regions



MELISSA KA'IULANI PICO Seattle & King County





RAUL SANCHEZ **Spokane, Northeast & North Central** Regions



AMBER GOODRICH Yakima, Southeast & South Central Regions



Partnering with CBRO's

College Bound Awareness

Financial Aid Completion

Student + Family Events

Trainings for Practitioners

Support + Resources

Webinar Series Coming Spring 2025

- 1. College Bound 101: Intro to College Bound
 - Overview of College Bound Program
- 2. College Bound 201: Best Practices and Actionable Resources
 - Create Your Future worksheets
 - Middle and High School Checklist
- 3. College Bound Updates: Key Changes Affecting Students
 - Legislative Changes







Help Students Create Their Future!

Student facing activity worksheets with educator notes

Topics Include:

- CB 101 Review
- Explore your Road Map
- Fit and Match
- Goal Setting
- Scholarship Exploration

WEBSITE UPDATES

Create Your
Future w/
CB materials are
posted here!





Washington College Access Network (WCAN)



Overview

College and Career Knowledge \vee Materials

Student Materials

Educator Materials

Student Engagement Initiatives

CSF Convening Sessions

Financial Aid Completion Event Marketing

Contact Us

College Bound is a tool for students to begin thinking about college early.

Washington State ranks #1 in need based financial aid, with the College Bound program being a unique state financial aid program designed to encourage and inspire to prepare for their post-secondary pathways early on. Through the state's early commitment of financial aid, students can begin dreaming of their futures early on.

The Create Your Future with College Bound Project

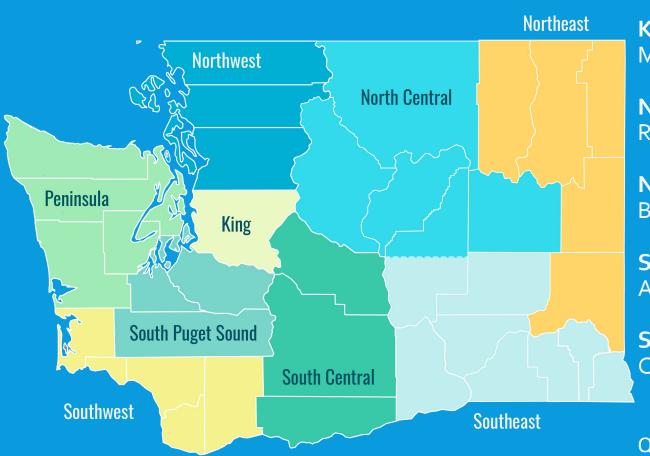
The Create Your Future with College Bound materials were designed as tools for students to continue pondering what kind of future they want to create for themselves. In addition to paying for college, there are many considerations students should make when deciding their path ahead. As students are being auto enrolled into the College Bound program, the Create Your Future with College Bound materials are designed to help students learn about College Bound and start thinking of their journey ahead.

The Create Your Future with College Bound materials is part of a collaborative project between the Washington College Access Network team at College Success Foundation and the Washington State Achievement Council to provide materials to practitioners to help increase both College Bound awareness and post-secondary mindsets.

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wcan



Contact CSF WCAN Team



King:

Melissa Ka'iulani Pico | mpico@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Northeast & North Central:

Raul Sanchez | rsanchez@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Northwest & Peninsula:

Bre Olason | BOlason@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Southeast & South Central:

Amber Goodrich | agoodrich@collegesuccessfoundation.org

South Puget Sound & Southwest:

Cennady Coleman | crcoleman@collegesuccessfoundation.org

Questions? Email info@wcan.org for more information!

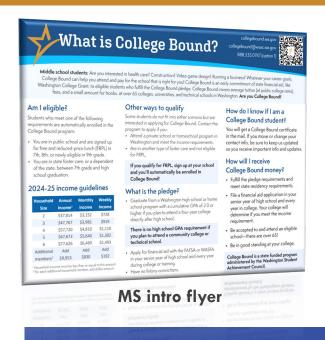
https://bit.ly/WCANteam

WSAC Resources



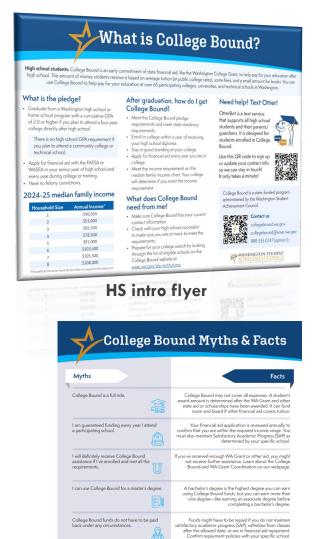


Additional Resources: collegebound.wa.gov





MS & HS CB Student PPT





College Bound Commitment for Washington State Students!

Are you interested in health care? Construction? Video game design? Running a business? No matter your career dreams, College Bound can help you get to and pay for the school that is right for you!

Who is eligible for College Bound?

If you get free and reduced-price lunch in 7th, 8th, or just became eligible in 9th grade, you are automatically enrolled in College Bound.

What is College Bound?

- <u>College Bound</u> is an early commitment of Washington state financial aid, that works in combination
 with other state financial aid, such as the <u>Washington College Grant</u>, to help pay for eligible students'
 education after high school.
- Students who meet the program requirements receive the average cost of tuition (at public college rates), some fees, and a small amount for books.
- There are 65+ colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington for students who meet the <u>eligibility requirements</u> when they graduate high school.

What are the College Bound requirements?

- Graduate with a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher to attend a four-year public or private college directly after high school.
 - No GPA requirement to attend community college or technical schools, but check school district graduation requirements.
- · Have no felony convictions, and
- Meet income requirements each year in college or training when you apply for financial aid starting your senior year in high school.

Important WA State Student & Family Resources:

OtterBot: Get answers to your financial aid and college planning questions with OtterBot, our 24/7 texting service! If you aren't receiving messages already: Students, text "Hi Otter" to 360-928-7281. Parents or guardians, text "Hi Otter" to 360-634-0354.

College and Career Knowledge Book: This digital handout, available in 7 languages, is designed to guide you in planning for college and careers. Get the tools you need to shape your future!





Questions?

- Contact [school staff's name], [title] at [email] / [phone]
- Visit www.collegebound.wa.gov
- Email collegebound@wsac.wa.gov or call 888-535-0747, option 1.

Please start using for 2024-25: School/Org Webpage Template



RESOURCE: SHORT, ANIMATED COLLEGE BOUND VIDEOS







Available in English & Spanish!

College Bound Video Project





Learning Outcomes and Discussion Questions

Chapter 1: You are already College Bound (CB)! What does that mean?

Learning outcomes

After watching chapter 1, students will know...

- How they are signed up
- CB is a state financial aid program for education after high school, covering average tuition (at public college rates), some fees, and a small amount for books
- CB can be used at over 65 schools in WA
- That school and WSAC staff can help students and their families prepare for college

Chapter 1 discussion questions

- What is the CB program, and how does it help students?
- How do students get signed up for CB?
- Who can you contact if you have questions?
- Bonus activity: check out the list of participating institutions at wsac.wa.gov/sfa-institutions

Chapter 2: What are the requirements of College Bound?

Learning outcomes

After watching chapter 2, students will know...

- The CB pledge requirements
- They must meet income requirements and apply for financial aid during senior year and each year in college
- Must enroll in college or career training within one year of high school graduation

Chapter 2 discussion questions

- What are the requirements to use CB funds?
- Why do students need to apply for financial aid?
- When is the college enrollment deadline?

Chapter 3: How Much is the College Bound Commitment?

Learning outcomes

After watching chapter 3, students will know...

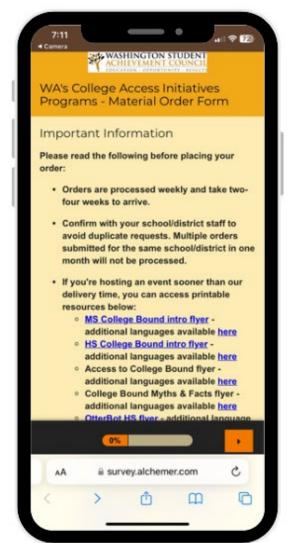
- Maximum amount (mostly met with WA Grant funds) that students can receive with the CB Commitment
- College tuition changes year to year so staying connected is important as the amount of money students can get varies.
- There are other grants and scholarships they can apply for to help with other college expenses

Chapter 3 discussion questions

- Why is it important to stay updated on yearly changes in college?
- What other financial aid options can help cover college expenses besides the CB funds?
- Bonus activity: Check the maximum award amounts for CB at wsac.wa.gov/collegebound#using-college-bound



New: College Access Initiatives Material Order Form











Order Materials from OtterBot, College Bound, and 12th Year Campaign at the same time!

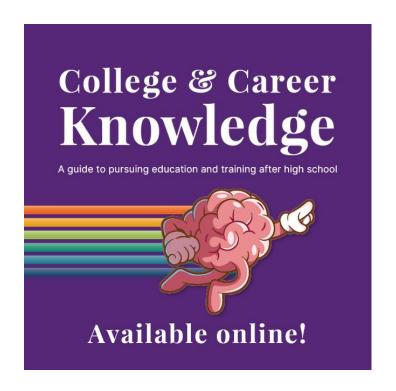
Orders are processed weekly and take 2-4 weeks to arrive.

Please coordinate with school and district staff when placing orders.



Resource: College & Career Knowledge + Student Lessons









Hard copy workbooks available in English & Spanish!



The 12th Year Campaign

The 12th Year Campaign boosts college and financial aid application rates in Washington by helping those working with high school seniors and their families complete applications for college admissions and financial aid.

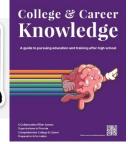
- Free training
- Printed and digital resources
- Online financial aid events

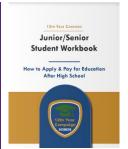














wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign



FAFSA and WASFA in December 2024

The 2025-26 <u>FAFSA</u> & <u>WASFA</u> will be available

December 1st 2024

Class of 2025 will complete the 2025-26 FAFSA or WASFA using 2023 income information







2025-26 Financial Aid Changes

The questions on the 2025-26 FAFSA will mirror the 2024-25 FAFSA.

Federal Student Aid is developing new tested resources to support completion efforts.

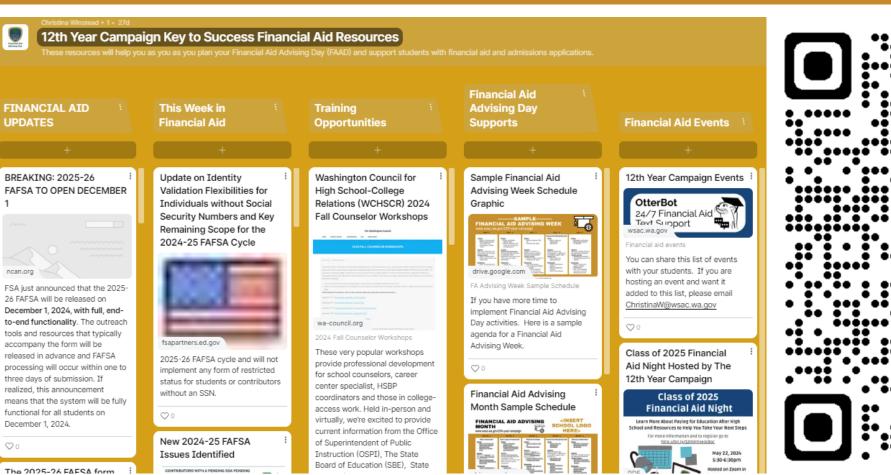
Some flexibilities from 2024-25 will be extended for 2025-26.

Subscribe to the padlet for update alerts!





College Access Resource Padlet







Financial Aid Training Opportunities

Free Financial Aid Training



FAFSA Simplification

August 21st at 10-11:30 am

Financial Aid Basics

September 25th at 10-11am

Financial Aid Navigation

October 10th at 9-11am



For more information and to register for these free trainings go to wsac.wa.gov/aim-higher-training or scan the QR code

This partnership is a strategy central to our efforts to achieve racial equity in higher education. In alignment with each of our own organization's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion commitments, the Aim Higher Training initiative is a step in the direction to providing all of Washington students with access to financial aid resources, information and support.



Trainings are available in English and Spanish

Coming Soon –
Trainings to support special populations



Join Us For WSAC Wednesday

College Bound

WSAC Wednesdays

10:00-11:00am 1st Wednesday of the Month







FAFSA Completion Status

To be compliant with some of the new data sharing regulations, FAFSA completion status is not available in the CB Toolbox

The FAFSA Completion Status can still be found in the FAFSA Completion Portal. To request access, you can reach out to fafsa@wsac.wa.gov

CB app is mentioned as a column in the FAFSA Completion Portal

Non-profits that serve the entire senior class at a school can receive FAFSA Completion Portal access



2024 Counselor Survey — Your Voice Matters!

Survey Closes:
October 15,
2024

Shape the Future of Student Success!

Your Voice Matters – Complete Our 10–Minute Survey!

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is on a mission to improve the tools and resources available to help you guide students through their financial aid journey. We need YOUR insights to make sure we're providing the right support.



Take the Survey NOW Scan the QR Code!

Be entered for a chance to win one of five Amazon gift cards \$50 just for completing the survey!





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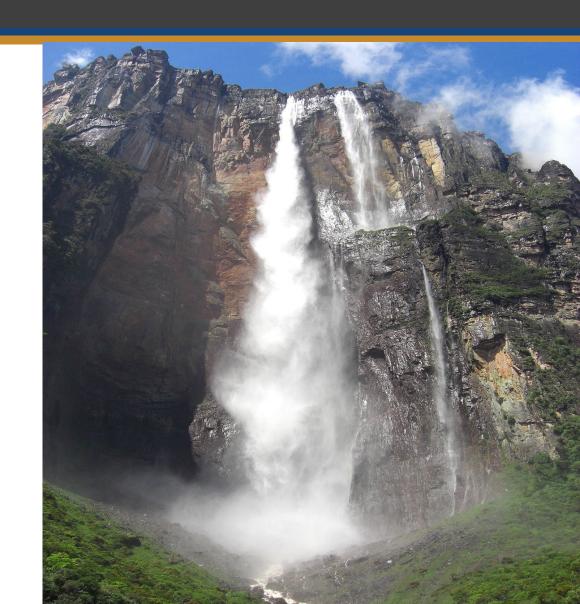
Clock Hours 113

360-464-6724

☑ clockhours@esd113.org



Think of something you will bring back to your school or organization to use this fall and type it in the chat, but don't hit enter yet.





Quick post-webinar survey! Thank you for your feedback ©



bit.ly/CBWebinarSurvey2024







bit.ly/collegeboundnewsletter

Email

collegebound@wsac.wa.gov

Call

• 888-535-0747, Option 1

Website

Collegebound.wa.gov

Sign up for our e-newsletter



Thank You from your CSF & WSAC Teams!











