

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR'S FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE & CHECKLIST (Fund Your Future, CSAC.CA.GOV)

- Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and School Verified Cal Grant GPA after October 1 and before March 2.* If your parents (or you) haven't yet completed a federal tax return, use estimates. Make updates or corrections later
- Check with each college you're considering about other financial aid deadlines and mark your calendar.
- Free help completing financial aid applications is available; never pay for the FAFSA or to have it completed for you. Attend a Free Cash for College workshop between October 1 and March 2 for help completing the FAFSA or California
- Keep all your FAFSA or CADAA and Cal Grant online account information, ID numbers, and passwords in one place for easy access
- After you've completed your FAFSA or CADAA wait 3-5 days, visit www.webgrants4students.org and open an online account
- Use webgrants4students.org to review your California Aid Report (CAR), which you'll receive in an email notification after you apply and are approved for a Cal Grant. Use webgrants4students.org to make email and postal mail, phone number or other corrections, updates on final school choice, and to confirm your high school graduation.
- College acceptance letters and financial aid offers are sent out in the spring. Review each offer and compare offers and ask questions. Use the "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool at www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org.
- Consider grants, scholarships, work-study, and other aid you don't have to repay before accepting a student loan. If needed, borrow only what you must, and check out low interest federal student loans at www.studentloans.gov.