



WEST COVINA

Unified School District

1717 W. Merced Avenue West Covina, CA 91790 626.939.4600 WCUSD.ORG

December 2025

Dear 11th Grade Parent or Guardian,

As senior year approaches, exciting opportunities await your student after high school, including post-secondary education at colleges, universities, vocational, or technical schools. Our teachers, counselors, and administrators are committed to guiding students through selecting and applying to these institutions.

To help cover the cost of post-secondary education, we strongly encourage all seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required for eligibility for federal aid, such as grants, work-study, and loans. Students without proper immigration documentation can apply through the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The application window opens each December.

California students who submit the FAFSA or CADAA may qualify for Cal Grants, which provide free financial aid for college based on financial and academic eligibility. **Per California Ed Code 69432.9, 11th grade students and parents must be notified of the option to “opt-out” of being automatically considered for a Cal Grant award during senior year.** Without opting out, verified GPAs will be submitted to the California Student Aid Commission to determine eligibility.

We strongly discourage opting out, as many students receive Cal Grants even when they assume they won't qualify. **If you choose to “opt-out,” an official form must be submitted to the student's counselor by June 5, 2026.** Forms are available in the Counseling Office and must be completed by a parent or guardian if the student is a minor.

The following documents and resources may assist you with the financial aid process:

[Federal Student Aid: Filling out the FAFSA Form](#)
[FAQs about the FAFSA and CADAA](#)
[California Student Aid Commission: CA Dream Act](#)

Please contact your student's counselor if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important part of your student's 11th grade year.