

Scholarships & Financial Aid

INFORMATION



A Go-To Guide For Scholarships & Financial Aid

Paying for college can feel like a big challenge, but you don't have to tackle it alone. This newsletter is here to make things easier by guiding you through what you need to know. We'll share scholarship information, walk you through the basics of the FAFSA, and connect you with resources to help every step of the way.

Scholarships

There are **3 types of scholarships** you can apply for throughout your senior year:

1 LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

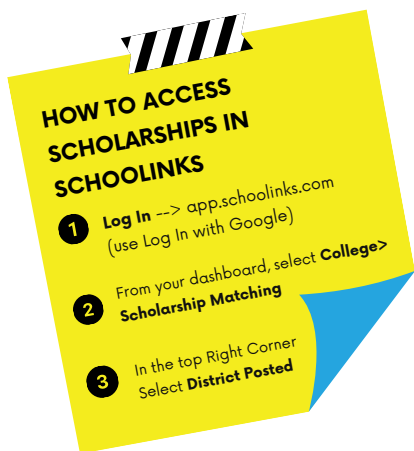
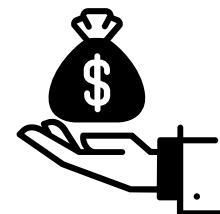
Don't pass up on these opportunities. Less people apply for them, so you have a better chance of receiving one!

LPS Community Scholarship Program

Information about these will come out in October, but just know this is guaranteed money to LPS students ONLY. Over 35 scholarships available. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

Local/Regional Scholarships

When we are notified of these opportunities, we post it to the scholarship page on Schoolinks! Scholarships come in throughout the year, so get in the habit of checking scholarships list regularly.



2 SCHOOL SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The colleges/university/schools you are applying to all have scholarships. Some are automatic, some are departmental. Check your college/university websites and search for scholarships or financial aid to see what's available! Pay specific attention to due dates.

3 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

More students apply for these, but that doesn't mean you can't get one! Check out scholarship search engines like www.goingmerry.com or www.fastweb.com. You can also look in Schoolinks (see above).

Financial Aid

The FAFSA opens October 1st!

The FREE Application for Federal Student Aid

HOW TO PREPARE:

Gather your materials!

- FSA ID – all contributors
- 2023 Tax Returns
- Asset Information
- Amount of child support received in past year
- Value of cash, savings, and checking
- Net worth of investments
- Net worth of any business/farms
- List of federal benefits received
- List of colleges (up to 20)

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 1: FAFSA officially OPENS!

October 20: FAFSA Night @6PM in the Black Box
- this event is during parent/teacher conferences

February 1: Missouri's priority deadline!

TIPS & TRICKS

Our friends at the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP) shared a few tips and tricks that may help you when filling out the FAFSA.

- Triple check name, Date of Birth, and SSN – this is the cause of most FSA ID issues!
- Verifiable email and phone number are both required when setting up FSA ID
- Make sure student has distinct email – same email cannot be used in multiple FSA ID accounts
- Encourage students to establish new email – do not use school email
- Check in to make sure FSA ID is verified with the Social Security Administration prior to filling out the FAFSA
- Helpful for both parents to establish FSA ID, even if married filing jointly to overcome any FSA ID issues that might arise

FAFSA STEPS

STEP 1:

Create an FSA ID. You can create one [here](#). It does require verified identification, so it may take a few days to process. Make sure to create one before you attempt to complete the FAFSA.

STEP 2:

Complete the [FAFSA](#). The FAFSA forms for both the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years are now open. Make sure you are filling out the correct one.

STEP 3:

Your FAFSA will process a few days after you submit. The colleges you listed on your FAFSA will also receive your FAFSA data.

STEP 4:

Colleges will process your FAFSA and create a financial aid package for you. Colleges will also let you know if you need to provide any additional information.

What is an SAI?

The Student Aid Index (SAI) is the eligibility index number that your college's or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal aid you're eligible to receive.

To calculate a Student Aid Index (SAI), the financial aid office will review the information on your FAFSA. This analysis considers the income, assets, and family structure reported on the FAFSA. This will include your information and information related to your parents.

Need help filling out your FAFSA?

The Educational Opportunity Center is always available to help! They provide free guidance to anyone who needs help filling out the FAFSA Contact them anytime!

As we hear about more local opportunities to help you with the FAFSA, we will notify you!