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EAST ISLIP GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
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October 1, 2026

Dear Seniors and Families,

On behalf of the school counseling department, I would like to inform you of the financial aid resources that are available to you as you continue to plan for your child's future, whether that consists of applying to colleges, universities, and/or trade schools.

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** provides families with access to financial resources such as state, private, and/or federal aid, grants, loans, and work-study. Filing FAFSA is important because it allows the government to assess the financial needs of a family, and then communicate with the respective colleges and universities the amount of financial support a family may be eligible for (including funding that may be borrowed and paid back at a later time, and/or funding that is allocated to students and *do not* need to be paid back). To file FAFSA, both a student and parent must secure a federal student aid identification (FSA ID). Please also be advised that there is no cost to file FAFSA.

To create a student and parent FSA ID, please log onto fafsa.gov, then hover on 'FAFSA Form' (on the top of the page), then click 'Complete the FAFSA Form', then click on 'Log In To Start a New Form', then click on 'Create an Account' (on the bottom of the page), then 'Get Started', and complete the requested information. For easier access to the FSA ID page, [click here](#).

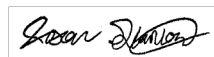
When creating the FSA ID, please be mindful that *both* the student and only one parent (if married and filed jointly) will need to create an individual FSA ID. Parents who are married but file separately or are divorced/separated and file separately, will need to create a separate FSA ID, in addition to creating a student's FSA ID. Should you require assistance when filing FAFSA, please visit the New York State Higher Education Services Corporate (HESC) website or [click here](#).

The **CSS Profile** is another financial aid form to be completed; however, this form is only applicable to select colleges. The CSS Profile provides access to non-federal aid for students who qualify, and colleges can internally assess the financial needs of their applicants. The CSS Profile is available now (since October 1st) and participating schools require that this form be completed for student applications to be considered for admission. Once the CSS Profile is submitted, colleges may begin the application review process. For a list of participating colleges, please [click here](#). If your child is applying to one or more schools that are affiliated with the CSS Profile, you will need to complete the online form by logging onto *your child's* College Board account (if one exists already). If your child never took the PSAT, SAT or an AP exam, he/she may not have created a College Board account, and you will then need to create one. Be advised that the CSS Profile charges a fee for each school a student files/applies to, if the school participates in this application program. To file the CS Profile, please log onto Collegeboard.org and in the search bar (top right) please enter CSS Profile. For direct access please [click here](#).

The **New York State HESC Program** also offers resources such as scholarships. A complete list may be found by logging onto their website or by [clicking here](#). Some of the opportunities available to students are listed below:

- *Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)* – Financial Aid grants allocated to students who qualify and students who plan to attend a New York school.
- *The Excelsior Scholarship Program* – Eligible students whose families earn \$125,000 or less per year and plan to attend a State University of New York (SUBY) or City University of New York (CUNY) school tuition free.
- *Enhanced Tuition Award* – Eligible students whose families earn \$125,000 or less per year and plan to attend a New York State private college, may be eligible to receive up to \$6,000 toward tuition costs at participating post-secondary schools.
- *New York State Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program*: Provides tuition awards for students who graduate in the top 10% of their class who attend SUNY or CUNY college and pursue a degree in STEM.
- *Aid for Part-Time Study* – Tuition award for students attending an approved undergraduate program at participating colleges.
- *Part-Time Scholarship* – Tuition award that covers up to the cost of six credits for students attending a SUBY or CUNY community college part-time.
- *New York State Math and Science Teaching Incentive Program* – Students who pursue careers as math and science teachers in secondary education may apply for scholarships.
- *Military Enhanced Recognition Incentive and Tribute (MERIT) Scholarship* – Scholarships available for children, spouses, and financial dependents of members of the United States Armed Forces or state organized militia who died or became disabled performing their military duties.
- *NYS Dream Act*- For information, Logon to the HESC website, click the search bar and enter NYS Dream Act

Sincerely,



Jason Stanton, Ed.D.
Director of Careers and Student Services

Paul E. Manzo
Superintendent of Schools

