

# College Scholarship Information



Get Ready!  
Get Organized!  
Get Going!

# Where to Start?


- ▶ [www.waynecountyschools.org](http://www.waynecountyschools.org)
  - Individual HS websites
  - [www.waynecountyschools.org](http://www.waynecountyschools.org) →
    - navigate to “*Academics*” in the top toolbar, then “*Military Child Education*”
    - Click in left toolbar = “*Scholarships & Grants*”
- ▶ Scholarship search engines
  - [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org) – general information and also refer to “*Military/Military Dependent*” section
  - [www.FASTWEB.com](http://www.FASTWEB.com)
  - [www.Scholarships.com](http://www.Scholarships.com)
  - [www.collegeexpress.com](http://www.collegeexpress.com)
- ▶ Students should check ***OFTEN*** with their School Counselor—they’re a helpful resource. 😊

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid


[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

- ▶ Student & parent must have a username & password to apply
- ▶ IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer financial information for eligible applicants (tax info)
- ▶ As early as October, as late as June...First come, First served
- ▶ **Step 1 in paying for college!**
  - i.e. federal grants, work–study programs, loans


# Helpful Tidbits

- ▶ Searching for scholarships = a full-time job!
    - reading through all eligibility requirements
    - filling out lengthy applications & writing essays
    - obtaining recommendations
  - ▶ Never pay for scholarship searches!
  - ▶ Scholarships → need-based or merit-based
  - ▶ Scholarships may also involve other factors: choice of major; gender; religion; talents; race; disability; parental affiliations (employment, organizations); student affiliations (clubs, hobbies, employment).
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# Helpful Tidbits

- ▶ Volunteer/community service is almost always an eligibility requirement.
  - ▶ Dropping/failing courses can adversely affect your chances of getting a scholarship.
  - ▶ Leadership and experiential programs can greatly benefit.
  - ▶ Scholarships are VERY competitive!
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# Do's and Don't's

- ▶ *Don't* miss your deadline!
  - ▶ *Do* read & follow directions carefully.
  - ▶ *Do* check your grammar!
  - ▶ *Do* have a general essay prepared in advance that highlights you—and you can enhance for various scholarship essays.
  - ▶ *Do* let your essay be a true reflection of you, not what you think they want to hear.
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# Do's and Don't's

- ▶ *Don't* be overly confident or arrogant in your essay – humility goes a long way.
  - ▶ *Do* have a teacher review the essay or a parent/counselor review the application to make sure that nothing is missed.
  - ▶ *Don't* ask teachers/counselors for recommendations at the last minute!
  - ▶ *Do* have a student résumé to give to your recommender.
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