

## Hello Students and Parents/Guardians of CHS

This message is mainly for the Class of 2024, however the class of 2025, 2026, and 2027 families are welcome to review Financing College/Technical School information and anticipate for future years.

### Happy NEW YEAR!

As you know from our previous email, there are changes to Financial Aid (FAFSA/WASFA) this year. FAFSA is open, but is a soft open, so it may take some time to get through.

The CCRC and Counselors have provided FAFSA/WASFA information to, and opportunities for your Seniors at the Senior Meetings, Senior Classroom Presentations and CCRC Workshops.

If you are looking for support in funding your student's education, please attend our **Financial Aid Night on January 25th 2024 in the CHS Library from 6-8pm**

- Before attending the Event on January 25th, please make sure to have your FSA ID account (it takes 3-5 days to verify) so you can get help completing your FAFSA. If you are completing the WASFA-you will not need to have a FSA ID you will need to create a WASFA account.
- Help completing FAFSA/WASFA will be available
- Other resources on funding College or Technical school will be available
- Here is a flier about the [FAFSA/WASFA 2024-25](#) [Spanish](#)

### Other Financial Aid Resources that you may want to check out!

#### Financial Aid Resources:

##### Materials & Tools

- [Financial Aid Padlet for Students](#): This digital information board includes all the links to financial aid applications and where students can find support applying.
- [College Knowledge Materials](#): These comprehensive resources were created with student feedback, and are available in English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- [Financial Aid Calculator](#): Use Washington's financial aid calculator to estimate your Washington College Grant and Federal Pell Grant awards.
- [Otterbot](#): Otterbot is a free texting service created to support high school seniors who have signed up for the **College Bound Scholarship**. Otter sends financial aid info and reminders to College Bound seniors
- [CSS Profile](#): The CSS Profile is a supplemental financial aid form from the College Board, that SOME colleges require in order to determine how much institutional, need-based scholarship money to award. Watch this [short video](#) for more information on what to expect when filling it out. Here is the list of [Participating Institutions with CSS Profile](#)
- [Parent/Guardian Financial Aid Glossary](#): Helpful resource for understanding the language related to financial aid.

## Websites

- [How to Apply for Financial Aid](#): Applying for financial aid is a crucial first step toward an affordable degree or credential. This is especially true for students from low- and middle-income families. If students don't apply for financial aid, they can't get scholarships, grants, or loans from schools or state and federal financial aid programs. This web page provides information on both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).
- [Washington College Grant](#): The Washington College Grant is one of the most generous financial aid programs in the country. The grant gives more money to more people for more kinds of education and training beyond high school. Funding is guaranteed for eligible students. The guarantee of financial aid can help reduce the affordability barriers that currently prevent students from pursuing college and career education.
- [Plan Your Future](#): The Plan Your Future page provides information on career exploration, applying to colleges, state financial aid programs, and more for high school juniors and seniors.
- [College Bound Scholarship](#): The College Bound Scholarship is an early commitment of state financial aid to eligible students who sign up in middle school and fulfill the scholarship pledge. Visitors to the site can find information on College Bound eligibility and access. Counselors will also find a host of resources to help parents and students understand and access the program.
- [Passport to Careers](#): The Passport to Careers program helps students who have experienced foster care or unaccompanied homelessness to prepare for and succeed in college, apprenticeships, or pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Visit the [Federal Student Aid Resources site](#) for downloadable resources in English and Spanish on a variety of topics from "Who's my parent?" to "Understanding dependency".

*Please feel free to reach out to the CCRC with Mrs. Smith or to your student's counselor if you have any questions.*

[CCRC Page](#) or [CHS Counseling Page](#)