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## College Now Parent and Student Newsletter- November 2024

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### November 2024

Welcome to the November edition of the Parent and Student Newsletter! Read on for tips on preparing for the 2025-2026 FAFSA, upcoming financial aid webinars that'll help you get more money for college and more.

Be sure to pass along this information to your parent(s)/guardian(s) and reach out to your [College Now advisor](#) for any questions or additional details. College Now is dedicated to supporting YOU as you embark on your path toward a successful career.

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## FINANCIAL AID CORNER



## Get a head start on the 2025-26 FAFSA

We are less than a month away from the release of the [2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)! The FAFSA opens doors for students to receive aid for school such as federal grants, work-study funds and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA is completely free!

**The FAFSA opens December 1, but in the meantime, here's how you can prepare:**

- Create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. The FSA ID is a username and password combination you use to log in to U.S. Department of Education (ED) online systems. Learn more about creating your FSA ID [here](#).
- Calculate how much federal student aid you may be eligible to receive using the new Federal Student Aid [estimator](#).

As always, College Now is here to guide you through the financial aid process. Find your College Now advisor [here](#)!

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## COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM TEST PREP



### Upcoming Test Dates

Have you registered for the ACT or SAT yet? It is recommended that students take at least two entrance exams before submitting college applications.

#### ACT

**Saturday, December 14**

- Registration deadline:  
**Friday, November 8**

[Register for the ACT here](#)

#### SAT

**Saturday, December 7**

- Registration deadline:  
**Friday, November 22**

[Register for the SAT here](#)

***What's the point of testing?*** Scoring well on entrance exams can increase a student's eligibility for merit-based aid and special scholarships. While many institutions across the nation no longer require entrance exams, we encourage students to take at least two exams before graduating. Plus, colleges/universities sometimes require a test score for specific academic majors and scholarships.

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## COLLEGE NOW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WEBINARS

### **Mastering FAFSA: Your Key to Financial Aid**      **Scholarship Secrets: Finding and Winning Free Money**

**Tuesday, November 12  
6 - 7:30 p.m.**

Get a comprehensive overview of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Understand the steps to complete the application and the importance of meeting deadlines. Completing the FAFSA accurately and on time is crucial for securing the financial aid you need.

[Register here](#)

**Tuesday, November 19  
6 - 7:30 p.m.**

Learn how to find and apply for scholarships that can help reduce the cost of college. Get tips on writing winning scholarship essays and standing out to selection committees. Scholarships can significantly reduce your student debt and financial burden.

[Register here](#)

Unable to make these webinars? See future events [here](#).

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## FIRST-GEN WEEK EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that many of our advisors at College Now are the first in their families to graduate college? In honor of First-Gen week, November 4 - 8, College Now is highlighting the stories of our first-gen employees and how they got to where they are today.



**Joshua Perez**  
College & Career Advisor

[Read Joshua's story here](#)



**Chloe Shafer**  
College & Career Advisor

[Read Chloe's story here](#)

Being a first-generation college student can be both exciting and challenging, and it's something to be proud of! Whether you're already dreaming about college or just starting to explore your options, higher education can have a powerful impact on your life and your family's future. Through education, you'll gain skills, discover new passions and create opportunities for others to follow in your footsteps.

College Now is here to support and cheer you on every step of the way.

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

**Scholarships are an incredible source of financial assistance for college students. Unlike loans, scholarship funds are free money. That means you don't have to pay them back over time -- an assurance that can vastly reduce financial stress and help you focus more on your studies.**

Check out the opportunity below!



### Big Future Scholarships

Did you know that CollegeBoard gives away multiple scholarships every month to students like you? Each month Big Future by College Board selects two students and awards them a \$40,000 scholarship for completing steps within their BigFuture profile. Students that complete tasks within their profile are also entered into a drawing for multiple \$500 awards each month.

No essay, no minimum GPA or test score requirement. Students must be enrolled in the grades 10, 11 or 12.

[Apply here](#)

**Remember:** As you are searching for scholarships, it's important to also consider institutional scholarships that may be available to you upon admission. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships based on academic performance, leadership and extracurricular involvement. Be ready to submit essays, letters of recommendation or other documents that may be required. If you need any assistance applying for scholarships, reach out to your College Now [advisor!](#)

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## STUDENT CHECKLIST

**What should you do now to support your future?**

**Stay on track for the school year by checking off the items in your grade's checklist!**

### Freshmen

- Review first quarter grades and develop a plan to improve or maintain your GPA before the end of the semester.
- Attend a college and career fair and visit a college campus (either in-person or virtually).

### Sophomores

- Take the [PSAT](#) or Pre-ACT (your results will not be used for college admission).
- Look for volunteer opportunities such as food drives or supporting elderly individuals in your community.
- Continue working on your resume and keep a record of your involvement, volunteer work and employment.

### Juniors

- Check in with your school counselor and teachers with any questions regarding help with study strategies, test taking, organization skills, etc.
- Begin preparing for end-of-semester exams.

### Seniors

- Continue to work on and complete college applications and essays.
- Create your [FSA ID](#). Save your login information in a secure place.

- Keep up your grades. Offers of admission may be revoked based on drops in grades during your senior year.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you haven't done so already. Institutions will consider exams taken during the fall for admissions decisions.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Begin collecting documentation needed for your FAFSA.

## FAMILY CHECKLIST

**What should you be doing with your student to support your future?**

***As the end of the semester approaches, check your student's progress, look for areas of improvement or support that are needed and gauge their interest in out-of-school activities and endeavors.***

### Sophomores

- Follow up with your student and ask them about their PSAT score.
- Research College Credit Plus or similar programs that help your student earn college credit while they're in high school.
- Explore Career Technical Education (CTE) options for your school.

### Juniors

- Help your student make a list of colleges, career technical schools and/or military options. Begin by talking about what they like to do, their interests and career goals.

### Seniors

- Begin to prepare to file the [FAFSA](#) (application is set to open December 1). Create an FSA ID and collect information such as tax returns, as well as bank and investment balances.
- Search for scholarships with your student.
- Check if your student's prospective institutions require them to fill out the [CSS profile](#).

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***See you next month! In the meantime, reach out to your College Now [advisor](#)!***



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Greater Cleveland

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