

Beachside High School



Financial Aid and Scholarships

Presented by your school counselors

What is Financial Aid ?

Financial aid is ANY Resource that can help you pay for college.

- Grants (you don't have to pay back)
- Scholarships (you don't have to pay back)
- Work-Study (you don't have to pay back)
- Loans (you DO have to pay back)

You can use financial aid to help pay for:

- Tuition
- Books
- Room & Board
- Supplies
- Transportation

There are FOUR ways to apply for Financial Aid

- **Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
- **Florida Financial Aid**
- **Institutional Financial Aid**
- **Private Scholarships**

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Who should apply?

- EVERYONE who wants to go to any type of school after high school

When should you apply?

- October 1st of your senior year AND every year after that while enrolled in college (check with your college for specific deadlines)

What does this application cover?

- Grants, Federal Guaranteed Student Loans, and Work-Study provided by the Federal Government

What do you need?

- Tax forms/records, social security number, and W-2 forms

How do you apply?

- Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Florida Financial Aid

Who should apply?

- EVERYONE

When should you apply?

- Application opens October 1 of students senior year

What does this application cover?

- 14 different Grants and Scholarships provided by the State Government, including Bright Futures!

How do you apply?

- Go to <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>

Florida Bright Futures Requirements

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /CLT [®] /SAT [®])	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours	
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2025-26 Graduates ² : 29/95/1330 2026-27 Graduates ³ : 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	100% of tuition and specific fees
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2025-26 Graduates ² : 24/82/1190 2026-27 Graduates ³ : 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours	75% of tuition and specific fees

Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GVS) can only be used to fund: an Applied Technology Diploma, Technical Degree Ed Program (Associate in Applied Science or Associate in Science), or a Career Education Certificate Program.

Students who earn the AICE Diploma Award by passing at least 7 exams (with one in each category) will automatically earn 100% Bright Futures (FAS).

Institutional Financial Aid

Who should apply?

- Talk to the college/university financial aid office to determine what programs you will qualify for

When should you apply?

- Contact college/university as every school has different deadlines

What does this application cover?

- Grants and Scholarships provided by the University or College

What do you need?

- Usually, the FAFSA has to be filled out first but contact the college/university to find out more information

How do you apply?

- College and Universities generally have a separate application process for financial aid

Private Scholarships

Who should apply? EVERYONE

When should you apply? Now and continue searching for scholarships even when you're in college

What do you need? Academic history, letter(s) of recommendation, essay(s), scholarship application

How do you find scholarships?

- <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- <https://www.raise.me/>
- Xello
- Beachside High School Counseling Website
- Parents' Employers
- Church and Civic Organizations
- Unions



Scholarship Tips

- Start searching for scholarships early and continue searching throughout college.
- Apply to EVERY scholarship for which you are eligible.
- Essays can be reused and tailored for each new application.
- Review your social media accounts and remove inappropriate material.

Get Organized!

Make a list of deadlines and don't miss them.

Keep a folder/file/binder with everything that is needed to apply for multiple scholarships.

- ACT/SAT/PERT scores
- High school transcript
- Letters of recommendation (because you may be able to use one for multiple scholarships)
- Resume of activities, community service, and leadership roles
- Essays (because you may be able to use one essay for multiple scholarships)

Create a new email account solely for college information and make sure you have an appropriate email address.

- JohnSmith01@gmail.com (YES)
- BigDaddy01@gmail.com (NO)

Beware of Scams!



- NEVER pay for scholarships or searches.
- Scholarships are never “guaranteed”.
- Feel too good to be true? It probably is! Do more research and ask around.
- Trust your instincts.
- Scholarships are gifts; they never have to be repaid.
- Never give out bank account, credit card, or social security information.

Ways To Find Private Scholarships

- Raise.Me – <https://www.raise.me/join/5778868440>
- College Board – <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- Other schools' scholarship pages/social media
- Parents' Employers
- Church and Civic Organizations
- Unions – <https://www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship>
- <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/scholarships/>
- Xello – Login through Clever, Click Explore and then Scholarships