FutureReady California

FutureReady Focus

Campaign Details

Please be sure to keep us up-to-date with your school's campaign details including dates and times on our Campaign Google Sheet. Each county has a tab at the bottom of the sheet where you can find your school. You will also see contact information for volunteers on the page.

UC and CSU College Application Workshops and Counselor Workshops

CSUF and UCI are offering FREE virtual application workshops to take you through the changes to this year's application process and address questions and concerns. Join us for updates, general requirements, tips, and resources.

- CSU Application - September 19, 2023, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Register at http://ocde.k12oms.org/1235-239822
- UC Application - September 26, 2023, 4:00-5:30 p.m. Register at http://ocde.k12oms.org/1235-239758

Counselor Conferences are now open.

- UC Counselor Conference $45 - Virtual - September 5, 2023
- CSU Counselor Conference $140 - Virtual - October 11, 2023

FREE ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop

ACT offers state-specific virtual ACT College and Career Readiness Workshops. This year they are offering in-person and online options. The closest in-person event is in Costa Mesa on September 20, 2023. For more information visit https://pages2.act.org/ccrw-2023.html

EVENTS & DEADLINES

SEP. 19 – CSU APPLICATION WORKSHOP

SEP. 26 – UC APPLICATION WORKSHOP

DEC. 6 – FALL DATA DUE

ACAC WEBSITE
FUTUREREADY CA WEBSITE

FutureReady CA Resources Website

You may now access FutureReady Focus, data forms, exit surveys, and more on our FutureReady CA Resources website.

Did You Know?

UC Application fees are now $80 per application for Fall 2024 applicants.

Welcome Shelby!

Shelby Rommelfanger is the new Advancing Learning Coordinator. Shelby joins us from Canyon High School in Orange Unified. We are excited to have Shelby joining our team. You may see her around at the campaigns this year.

#WhyApply Day - Friday, September 22nd

We are excited to participate in the annual #WhyApply Day celebration, led by our friends at the American College Application Campaign! It's important to pause and remind students of opportunities a college education brings, as well as to remind students that they are not alone in the process.

Gear up and check out the downloadable resource **toolkit** to help promote and inspire your own celebration with your students. **Learn more** about how to participate in this year's celebration on Friday, September 22.

FINANCIAL AID

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Finding financial aid can seem overwhelming when you're trying to get ready for college or career school. The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid is here to help you get the money you need to pay for your education.
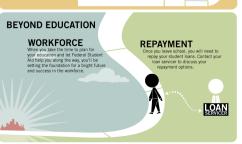
PREPARATION
Scholarships and state aid can help cover the cost of college or career school, but you may find yourself in need of federal assistance.

START → SAVINGS
Begin saving early.

STATE AID
Many states have college funding programs. Ask a guidance counselor or your college financial aid office for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Look for scholarships through your state or college as well as national and community organizations.

It's time to apply for financial aid.

FAFSA®
The FAFSA is the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* and is the only way to apply for federal student aid. The schools you list on your application will use FAFSA information to evaluate your financial need and determine how much federal aid you are eligible to receive. Many states and colleges also use information from your FAFSA to provide their own financial aid.

Each October, the FAFSA is available for the next school year. It is best to fill it out as early as you can because some aid is first come, first served.

When you complete the FAFSA, you'll need to provide personal and tax information. You may be able to automatically retrieve your tax information from the IRS.

FAFSA.GOV

Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov. Make sure to fill out and submit the FAFSA each year you are in college.

After you submit your FAFSA, you'll receive your *Student Aid Report* (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the information in your FAFSA. Review it and make corrections if needed.

Your FAFSA helps your school determine the types of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

TYPES OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID
As the largest provider of financial aid, the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds.

GRANTS
Grants are free money that do not have to be repaid.

LOANS
Student loans are real loans (like a car or home loan) that need to be repaid with interest.

WORK-STUDY
A work-study job gives you the opportunity to earn money to help pay your educational expenses.

AWARD
Your award letter explains the combination of federal grants, loans, and work-study a college is offering you. The offer might also contain state and institutional aid. If you receive award letters from multiple colleges or career schools, you should compare them and decide which school works best for you.

COLLEGE
Every year, millions of new students attend college or career school for the first time. Your college or career school has a financial aid office to help guide you along the way.

BEYOND EDUCATION

WORKFORCE
When you take the time to plan for your education and let Federal Student Aid help you along the way, you'll be setting the foundation for a bright future and success in the workforce.

REPAYMENT
Once you leave school, you will need to repay your student loans. Contact your loan servicer to discuss your repayment options.

LOAN SERVICER

Important FAFSA News
The 2024–25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) includes unprecedented changes to how students and families apply for federal student aid and how we determine eligibility, giving students a better and simpler experience with the FAFSA form. Improvements include a direct data exchange with the IRS for income data elements, a new "Who's My Parent?" wizard, and a single consolidated portal for all FAFSA help resources. **Due to the changes, the FAFSA will not be available until December 2023**.

Financial Aid Workshop
With the FAFSA changes and the graduation requirement for seniors to complete it, you will want to attend a FAFSA workshop to hear about the changes as soon as possible. The California Student Aid Commission and the California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators are hosting the 2023 Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshops. These free workshops will assist in providing information and updates on state-funded financial aid programs and provide a comprehensive overview of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For information visit: https://www.csac.ca.gov/annual-statewide-financial-aid-workshops

Financial Aid Toolkit for Counselors
Federal Student Aid has created a resource for counselors called the Financial Aid Toolkit. This resource includes fact sheets, videos, infographics, PowerPoint presentations, sample tweets, and other resources to help you advise students about financial aid. Find the toolkit at https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources/all.jsp

2024-25 FAFSA Preview Presentation

College Board Scholarship Program

Earn entries in monthly drawings for $500 and $40,000 scholarships by completing steps on BigFuture. Log in to your account, complete steps on your dashboard, and earn entries to win. One step completed = one entry in each monthly scholarship drawing. There are scholarship drawings starting January of sophomore year until February of senior year. For more information go to: https://opportunity.collegeboard.org

Common App Updates

50 new members have joined the Common App this year. See the list of new schools here.

Watch a webinar on What's new with the Common App at bit.ly/2023CommonAppupdates

Slate.org

Do you use slate.org? Slate.org is a platform designed to strengthen communication between undergraduate admission offices, school counselors, community-based organizations, and students during the college search and application process. Slate is directly integrated with more than 1,700 colleges and universities using Slate. Slate extends this relationship to where the conversations about college start. In speaking with our higher education partners, they highly suggest connecting to Slate as they use this platform for communication.

Student Search Services

Student Search Services is a tool used to help colleges and scholarship partners find students. Typically, students may opt in to this service via the SAT. Given the SAT will not occur for many, students can sign up at https://studentsearch.collegeboard.org/
Student Search Services offers opportunity for colleges and scholarships to connect with students. When opting in, limited student information is shared in an encrypted form with colleges and scholarships that match their interests.

Resources for Students

Don't forget about these great resources for you and your students.

- **Up Next** - What's UpNext? It's a free texting tool that offers personalized support on all things college access: college search and application, federal student aid, even student loan repayment information, all through text messages. Click here for additional information.

- **Choosing a Major**- If you're not sure what you'd like to major in, download the Encourage app (encourageme.com) or visit MyACT (www.my.act.org), myOptions (www.myoptions.org), or College Board's Big Future (www.bigfuture.org) to explore and learn more about careers and majors that align with your interests and talents.

- Need help finding which UC and CSU campuses have the majors you are interested in, check out these resources:

  - **UC Check majors** https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/majors/

  - **CSU Degrees search** https://www.calstate.edu/attend/degrees-certificates-credentials/Pages/search-degrees.aspx

CalKIDS: The first step towards college

CalKIDS is a children's savings account (CSA) program administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, an agency of the State of California that is chaired by the State Treasurer. CalKIDS will provide each child born in California and eligible low-income public school students with up to $1,500 in a CalKIDS account to help jumpstart their savings for higher education and career training! Check out the Fast Facts for details and use resources from the CalKIDS toolkit to spread the information, including flyers that can be sent to families.

FUTUREREADY CA
CONTACT INFORMATION

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