



PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

January 11, 2024





Helping students
go to college and succeed...

Enrolling in college, or some type of education and training beyond high school, is one of the best ways to achieve your dreams and secure a bright future. There are many options available, such as...

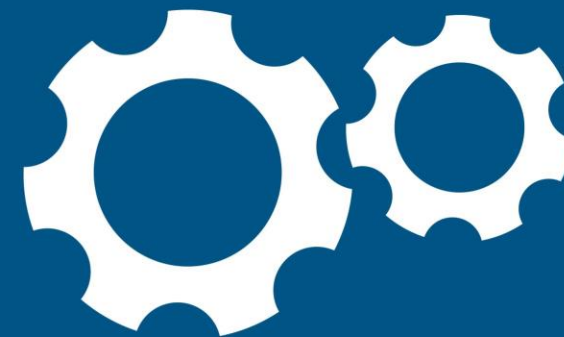
- two-year degrees
- four-year degrees
- skillset certificates
- career and technical programs
- apprenticeships
- military service

Learn more about these opportunities at West Virginia's free college and career planning website, CFWV.com.

wvgearup.org



Giveaway



What are our program goals?

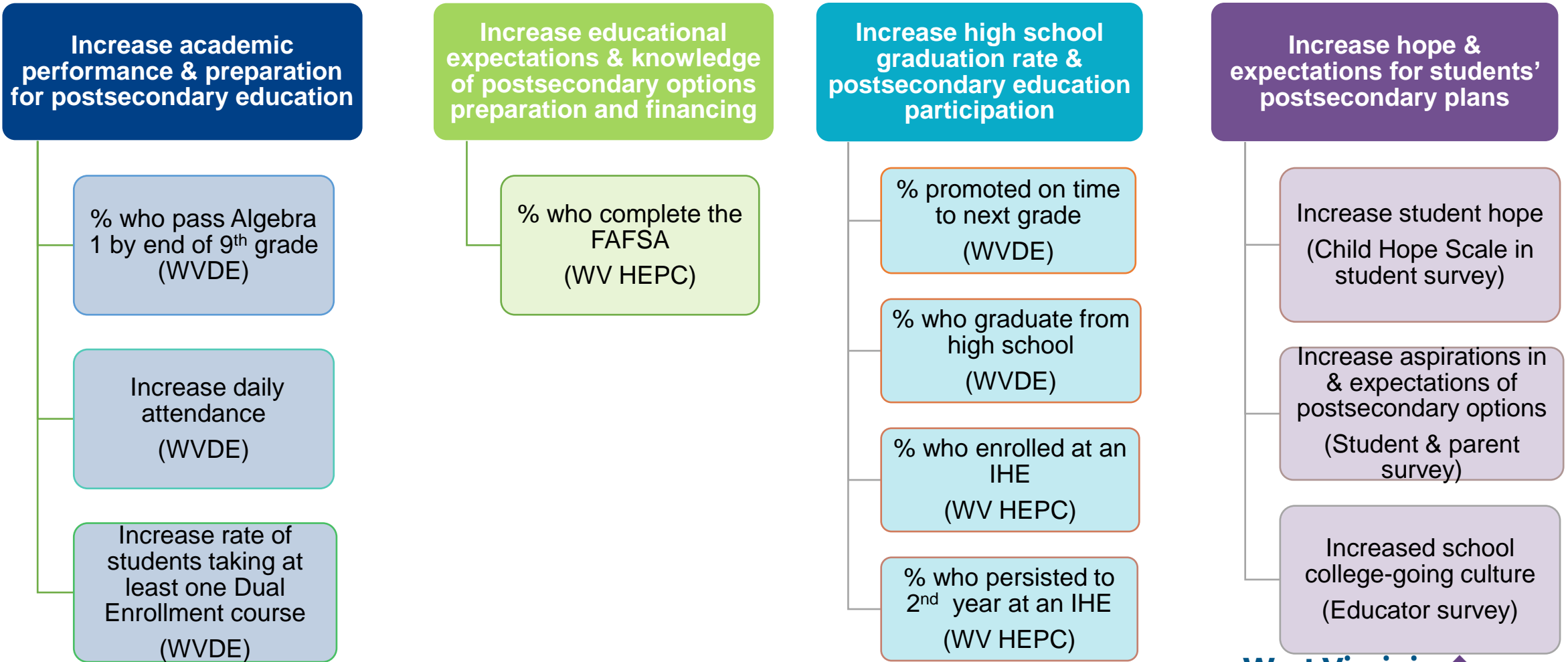
**Increase academic
performance & preparation
for postsecondary
education
(National)**

**Increase high school
graduation rate &
postsecondary education
participation
(National)**

**Increase educational
expectations & knowledge
of postsecondary options
preparation and financing
(National)**

**Increase hope &
expectations for students'
postsecondary plans
(WV GEAR UP)**

How do we measure objectives?



What data are analyzed?



21st Century Scholars



CLASS OF 2024
Become a GEAR UP 21st Century Scholar!

Set yourself up for future success by becoming a GEAR UP 21st Century Scholar! Scholars will be recognized at the end of the school year with an award certificate, commemorative pin, and a graduation chord. Scholars must complete the requirements below in order to be recognized.

Sign up for TXT 4 Success
Sign up to receive college reminders via text by going to cwv.com or by texting "CPWV" to (304) 912-2398. Students ask college-related questions via text and college access advisors will respond.

Apply to West Virginia Invests Grant or the Promise Scholarship
The West Virginia Invests Grant and the Promise Scholarship are both state aid programs that make attending an in-state school more affordable. To learn more about the Invests Grant and the Promise Scholarship, visit collegeforwv.com.

File the FAFSA
To qualify for financial aid, you must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the most important step towards your most important goals because all postsecondary goals because all federal financial aid programs, most programs offered by the State of West Virginia, and many programs offered by colleges require you to submit the FAFSA. You can file the FAFSA for FREE at studentaid.gov/fafsa.

Plan. Apply. Pay. Succeed.
On your road to becoming a 21st Century Scholar, you will set your future on the path towards success after high school.

West Virginia GEAR UP

West Virginia
GEAR UP

“TXT 4 SUCCESS” & **START YOUR COLLEGE** EXPERIENCE!

Opt in today by texting “**CFWV**” to **(304) 912-CFWV (2398)**
and receive special text messaging services:

- College Tips
- Important Reminders
- Help from a College Access Advisor
- And More



**NEW VANITY
NUMBER!**



6 CORE OBJECTIVES

- 1 Increase students' awareness of the financial aid, application and acceptance processes.
- 2 Smooth the transition from high school to college by connecting students to on-campus resources during their senior year and providing a continuous point of contact through their freshman year of college.
- 3 Reduce summer attrition or "summer melt" rates by providing students with increased support in addressing common questions or challenges faced during the summer months following high school graduation.



6 CORE OBJECTIVES

- 4 Expand the capacity of two-year and four-year higher education institutions in West Virginia to provide direct student support services through the implementation of low-cost, low-maintenance text messaging technologies.
- 5 Increase students' utilization of on-campus services to help them succeed during their first and subsequent years of college.
- 6 Build on the body of research regarding the effectiveness of utilizing next-generation and emerging technologies to provide student support and counseling.



Region	School	Senior Enrollment	Text Opt-Ins	Text %
Central	Clay County High School	125	95	76%
Central	Nicholas County High School	155	62	40%
Central	Richwood High School	86	63	73%
Central	Roane County High School	110	77	70%
Central	Webster County High School	84	83	99%
Central	Wirt County High School	72	57	79%
Southern	Chapmanville Regional High School	159	116	73%
Southern	Logan Senior High School	110	67	61%
Southern	Man Senior High School	75	57	76%
Southern	Mingo Central Comprehensive High School	158	108	68%
Southern	Scott High School	114	101	89%
Southern	Sherman High School	66	55	83%
Southern	Tug Valley High School	64	44	69%
Southern	Van Junior/Senior High School	21	15	71%
Southwestern	Hannan Junior/Senior High School	47	44	94%
Southwestern	Lincoln County High School	153	126	82%
Southwestern	Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School	178	134	75%
Southwestern	Spring Valley High School	224	170	76%
Southwestern	Tolsia High School	87	30	34%
Southwestern	Wahama Junior/Senior High School	36	32	89%
Southwestern	Wayne High School	129	99	77%



TXT 4 SUCCESS

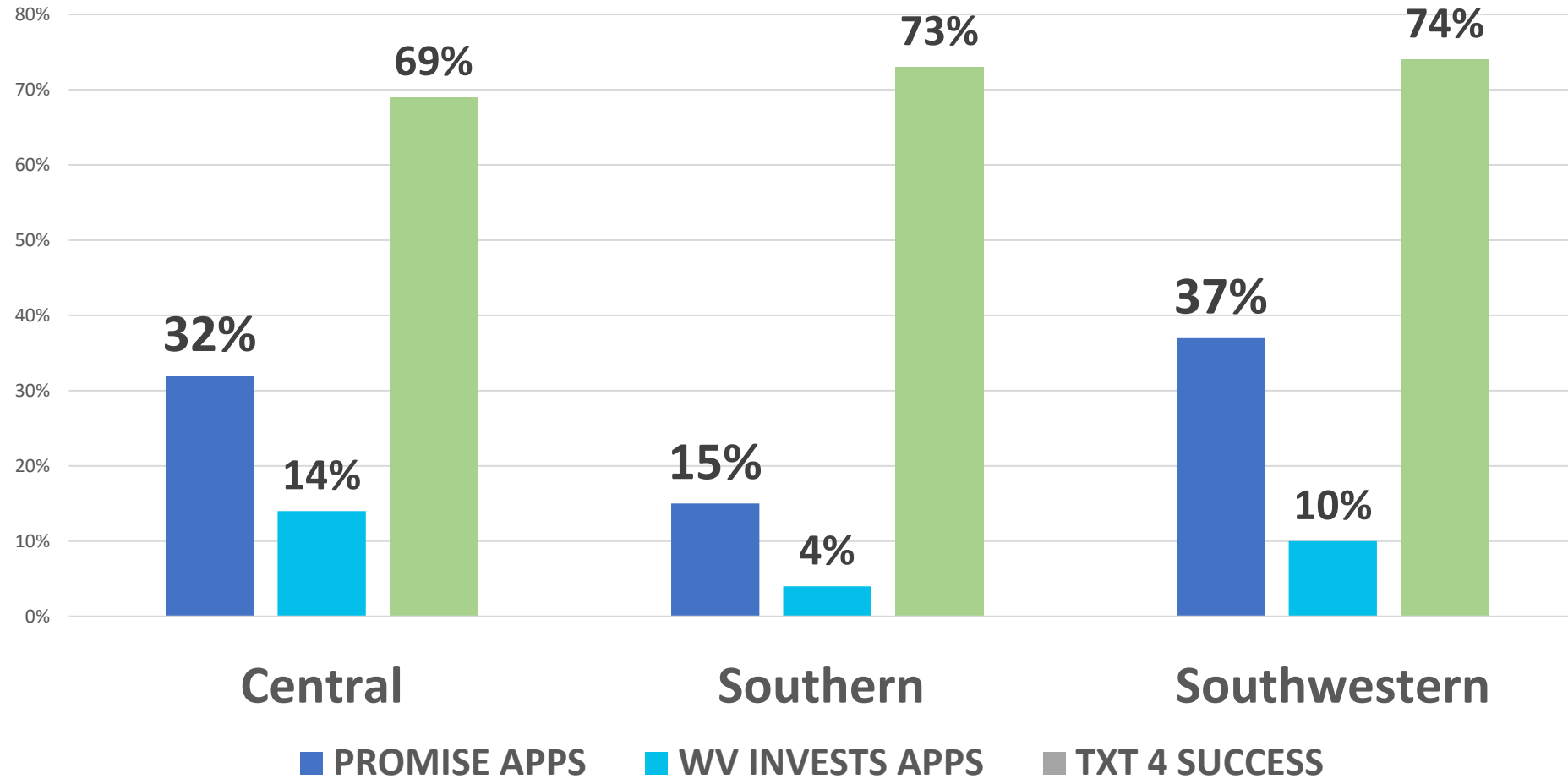
Region	School	Senior Enrollment	Promise Applications	Promise %
Central	Clay County High School	125	40	32%
Central	Nicholas County High School	155	18	12%
Central	Richwood High School	86	18	21%
Central	Roane County High School	110	35	32%
Central	Webster County High School	84	43	51%
Central	Wirt County High School	72	48	67%
Southern	Chapmanville Regional High School	159	3	2%
Southern	Logan Senior High School	110	33	30%
Southern	Man Senior High School	75	2	3%
Southern	Mingo Central Comprehensive High School	158	12	8%
Southern	Scott High School	114	30	26%
Southern	Sherman High School	66	16	24%
Southern	Tug Valley High School	64	18	28%
Southern	Van Junior/Senior High School	21	3	14%
Southwestern	Hannan Junior/Senior High School	47	24	51%
Southwestern	Lincoln County High School	153	8	5%
Southwestern	Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School	178	97	54%
Southwestern	Spring Valley High School	224	100	45%
Southwestern	Tolsia High School	87	8	9%
Southwestern	Wahama Junior/Senior High School	36	11	31%
Southwestern	Wayne High School	129	69	53%



Region	School	Senior Enrollment	Invests Applications	Invests %
Central	Clay County High School	125	37	30%
Central	Nicholas County High School	155	0	0%
Central	Richwood High School	86	0	0%
Central	Roane County High School	110	35	32%
Central	Webster County High School	84	6	7%
Central	Wirt County High School	72	10	14%
Southern	Chapmanville Regional High School	159	2	1%
Southern	Logan Senior High School	110	4	4%
Southern	Man Senior High School	75	0	0%
Southern	Mingo Central Comprehensive High School	158	1	1%
Southern	Scott High School	114	15	13%
Southern	Sherman High School	66	6	9%
Southern	Tug Valley High School	64	4	6%
Southern	Van Junior/Senior High School	21	1	5%
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Southwestern	Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School	178	23	13%
Southwestern	Spring Valley High School	224	19	8%
Southwestern	Tolsia High School	87	2	2%
Southwestern	Wahama Junior/Senior High School	36	5	14%
Southwestern	Wayne High School	129	38	29%



Percentage by Region





Fiscal Updates

Joanne Rutherford, Coordinator of Fiscal and Administrative Services



Research and Evaluation

Lesli Taylor, Assistant Director of Research and Evaluation





Current Survey Update

Student Survey Update – January 10, 2024

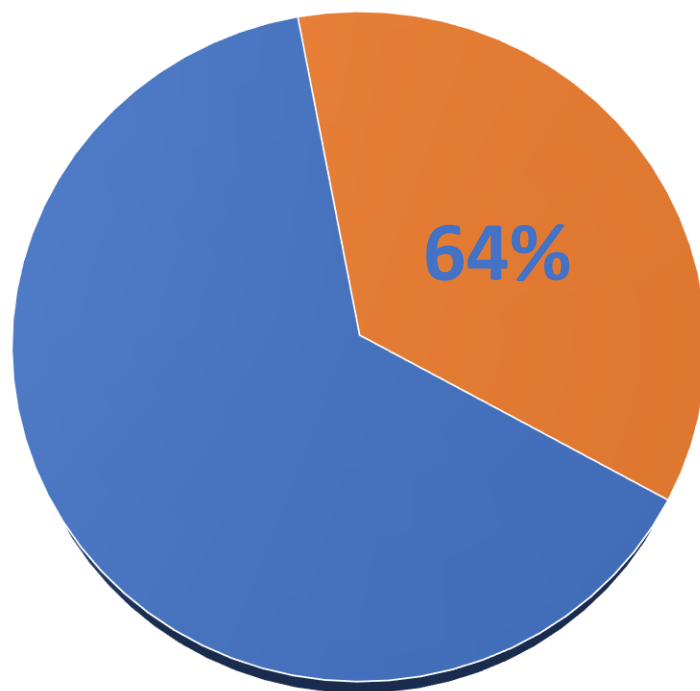
Grade	Completed	Statewide Percentage
Eighth Grade	2,091	84.1%
Ninth/Tenth Grade	4,046	76.1%
Twelfth Grade	1,774	78.7%



Year 2 Results – Financial Aid Knowledge

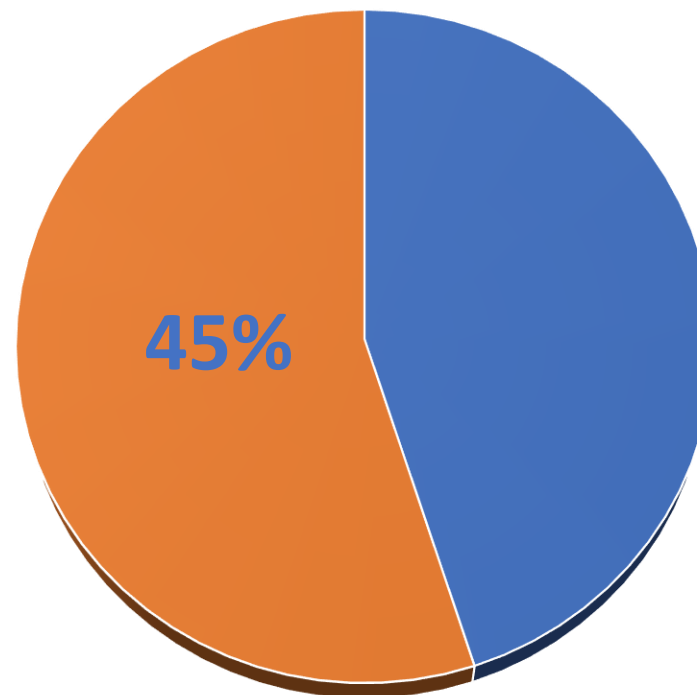
Students Who Spoke With Someone About College Entrance Requirements and Availability of Financial Aid to Help Pay for College

Plan to Continue
Spoke with someone about financial aid



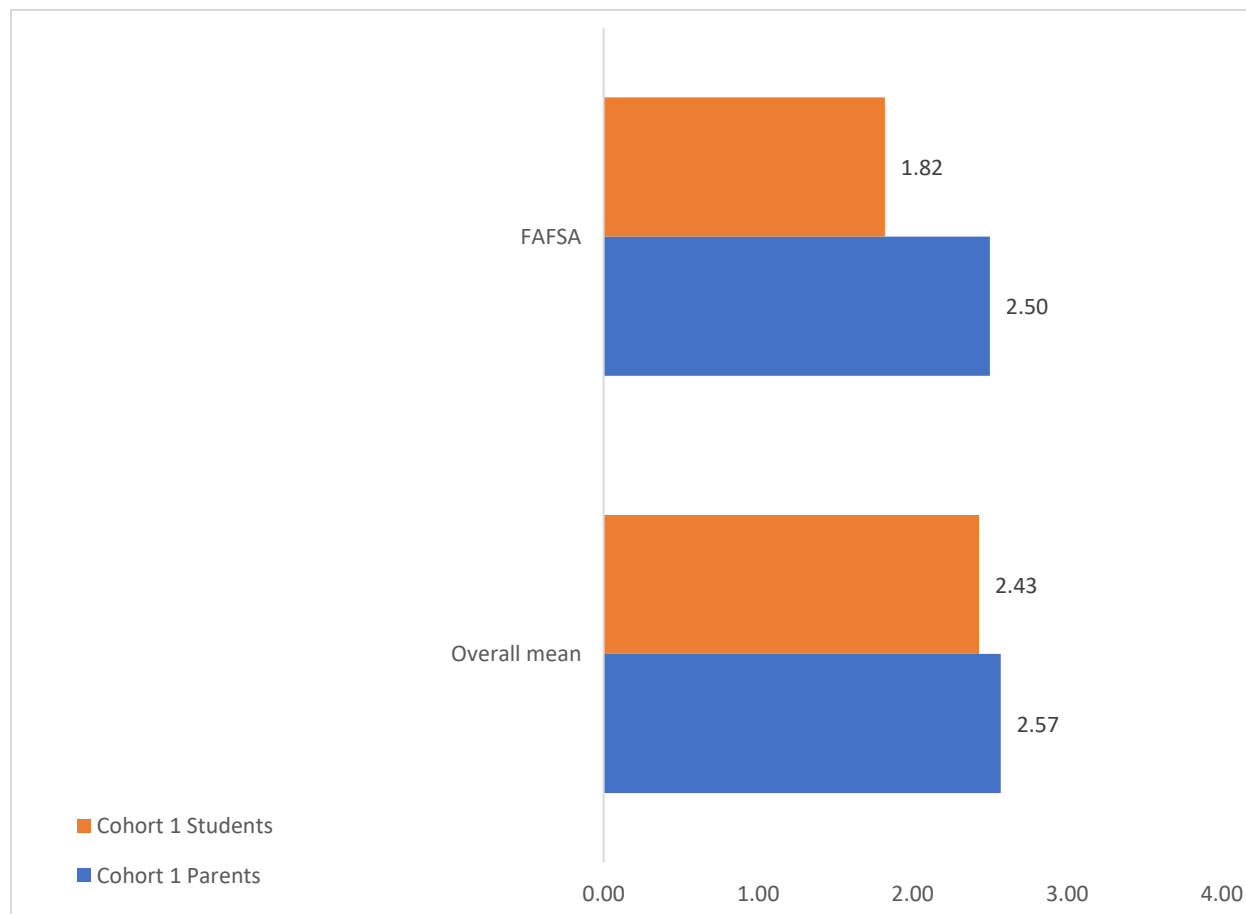
■ Yes

Do Not Plan to Continue
Spoke with someone about financial aid



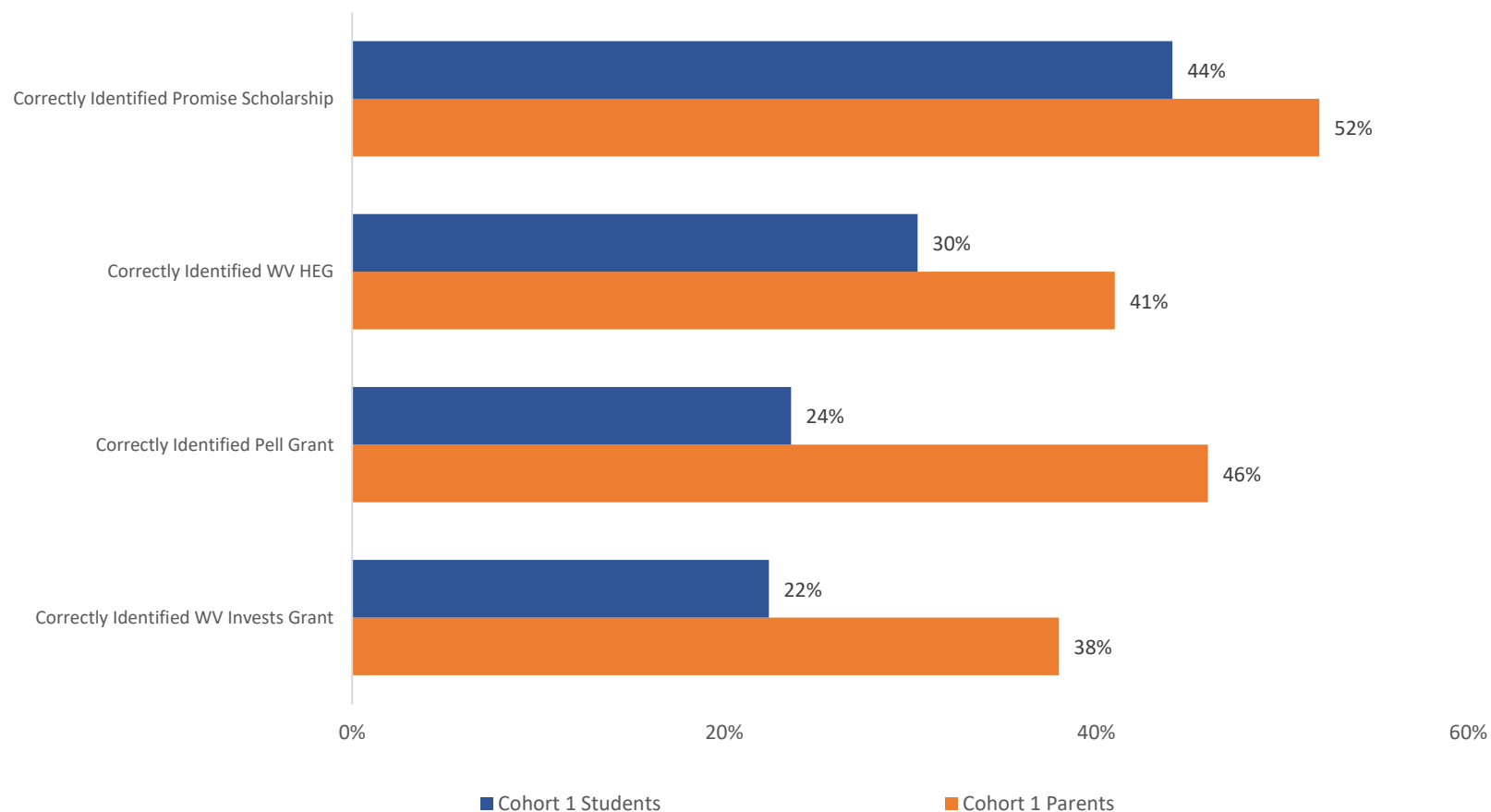
■ Yes

Knowledge of Postsecondary Topics



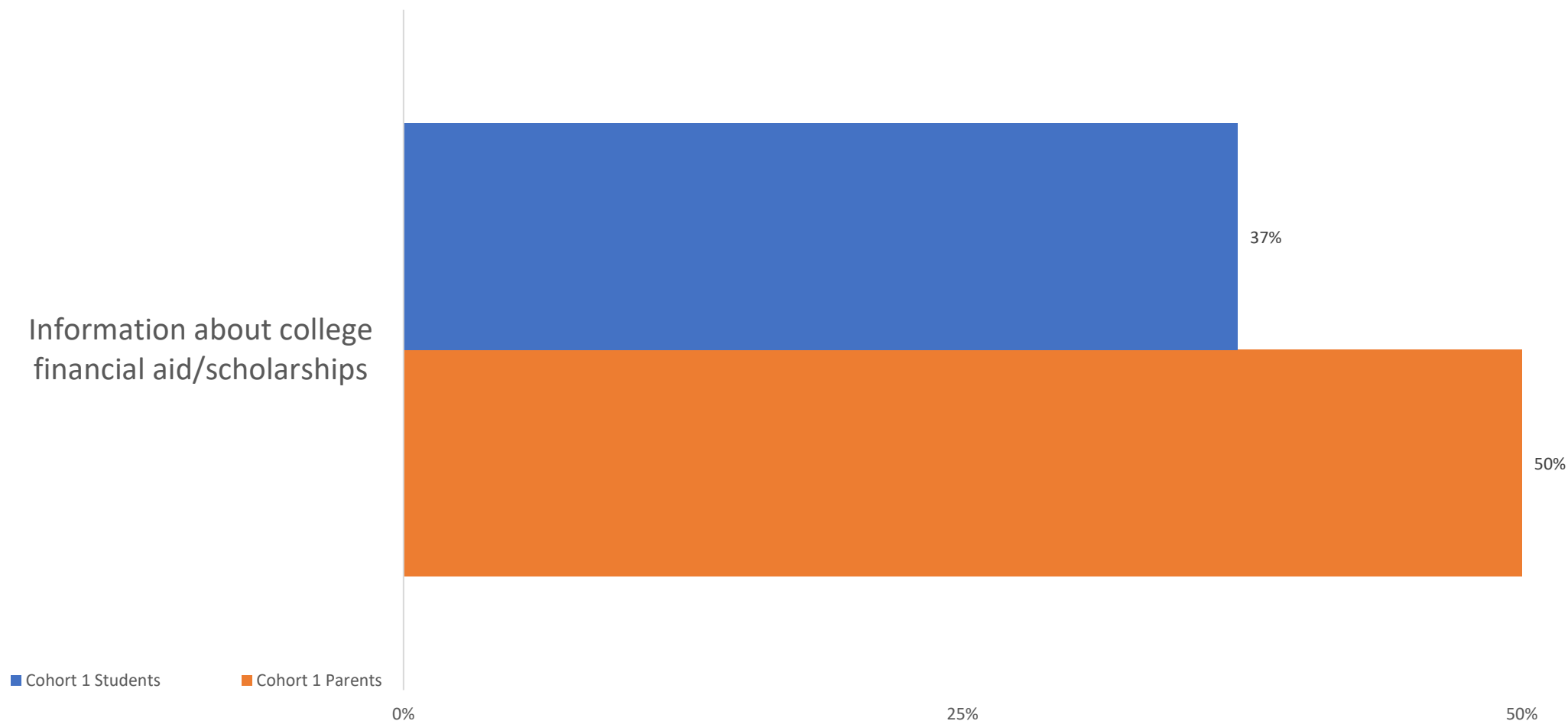
Source: WV GEAR UP Year 2 Student Survey and WV GEAR UP Year 2 Parent Survey.

Percentage of Students and Parents Who Correctly Identified Financial Aid Sources



Source: WV GEAR UP Cohort 1 and R-Comp student surveys and WV GEAR UP Cohort 1 and R-Comp parent surveys.
Note. *Statistically significant compared to the R-Comp group ($p \leq .001$).

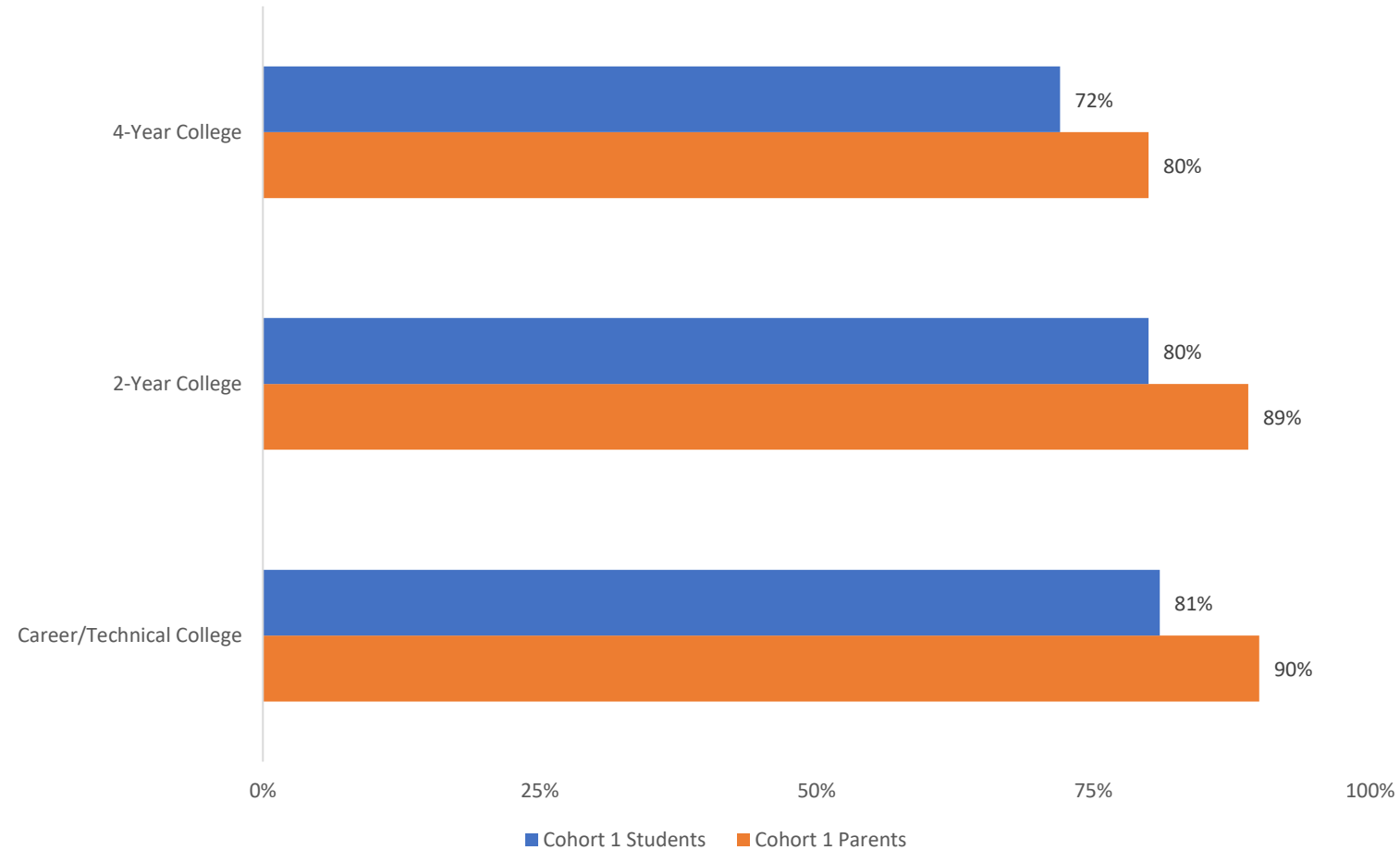
Resources Needed by Students and Parents to Succeed in High School and Prepare for College



Source: WV GEAR UP Year 2 Student Survey and WV GEAR UP Year 2 Parent Survey.

Note. Response percentages will not add up to 100% because respondents were able to select multiple responses.






Students and Parents Who Perceived They Probably or Definitely Can Afford College









Current Application & Texting Update

Current Txt 4 Success Opt-In

School	Enrollment	Promise Applications	% of Students Who have opted in
Chapmanville Regional High School	159	116	73%
Clay County High School	125	95	76% 
Hannan Junior/Senior High School	47	44	94% 
Lincoln County High School	153	126	82% 
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Current Txt 4 Success Opt-In cont.

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Wahama Junior/Senior High School	36	32	89% 

Current Txt 4 Success Opt-In cont.

School	Enrollment	Promise Applications	% of Students Who have opted in
Wayne High School	129	99	77% 🍷
Webster County High School	84	83	99% 🍷
Wirt County High School	72	57	79% 🍷

Current PROMISE Applications

School	Enrollment	Promise Applications	% of Students Who have applied
Chapmanville Regional High School	159	3	2%
Clay County High School	125	40	32%
Hannan Junior/Senior High School	47	24	51%
Lincoln County High School	153	8	5%
Logan Senior High School	110	33	30%
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Current PROMISE Applications cont.

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Current PROMISE Applications cont.

School	Enrollment	Promise Applications	% of Students Who have applied
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Wirt County High School	72	48	67%

Current WV Invests Applications

School	Enrollment	Promise Applications	% of Students Who have applied
Chapmanville Regional High School	159	2	1%
Clay County High School	125	37	30%
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Lincoln County High School	153	1	1%
Logan Senior High School	110	4	4%
Man Senior High School	75	0	0%
Mingo Central Comprehensive High School	158	1	1%
Nicholas County High School	155	0	0%
Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High School	178	23	13%

Current WV Invests Applications cont.

School	Enrollment	Promise Applications	% of Students Who have applied
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Current WV Invests Applications cont.

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Wirt County High School	72	10	14%



GEAR UP U!



Application, Review, Selection Processes

1. Interested students will need to complete the online application
 - Application is LIVE until **February 1st**
 - Applications will be sent to SCs no later than **February 2nd**
2. Site Coordinators review and rank applicants using GUU Scoring Sheet
 - Score sheets should be completed and uploaded to GoAnywhere by **February 9th**.

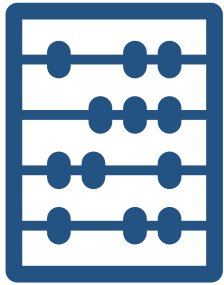
Applicant Scoring Procedure

1. SCs will be sent a spreadsheet of their school's applicants.
2. GUU 2024 Applicant Scoring Sheet will be completed for each applicant.
 - a) Can be completed electronically via Excel or printed and completed manually.
3. All Scoring Sheets to be returned to Regional PDs via GoAnywhere by February 9th.

GUU 2024 Applicant Scoring Sheet



Important Information



Allotment =
Enrollment

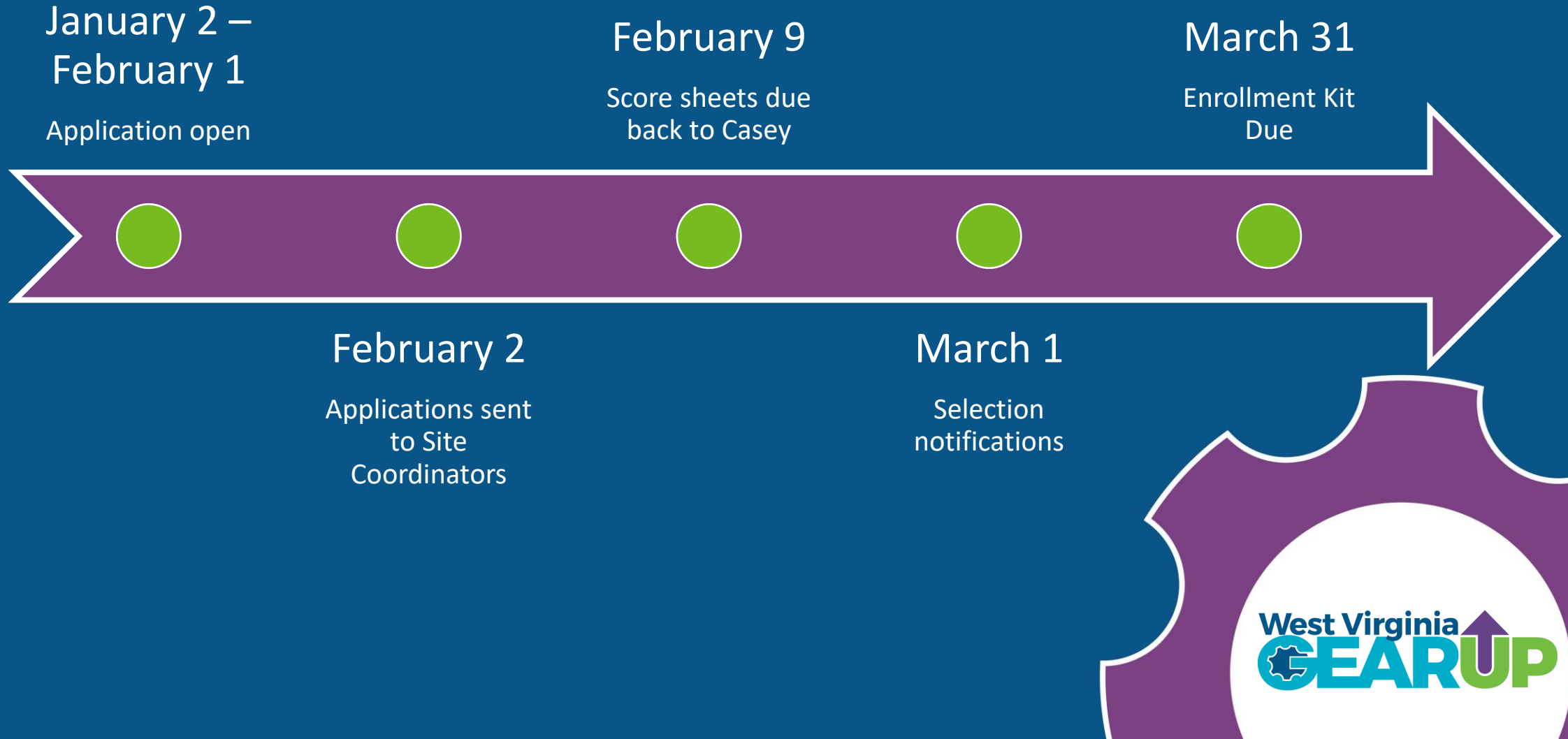


Student Notifications
March 1



Enrollment Kit
March 31

Timeline



Important Information



Registration Event



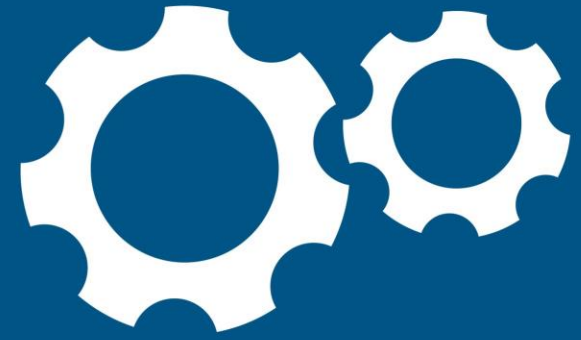
Camp Supervisor
Application opens
February 1



GUU Website
Coming Soon!



TBD



SPRING EVENT





LUNCH BREAK



WEST VIRGINIA FAFSA DAY

FEBRUARY 1, 2024



Program Staff Meeting January 11, 2024



West Virginia FAFSA Day is scheduled for February 1, 2024.
This is a collaborative effort between





WHAT IS WEST VIRGINIA FAFSA DAY?

This initiative aims to heighten awareness surrounding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), underscoring its significance for both high school seniors and returning college students. The focal point of this year's event is the unveiling of the #BetterFAFSA that launched in December 2023, representing a transformative shift from previous iterations. Given the essential nature of FAFSA completion, the West Virginia FAFSA Day seeks to emphasize the FAFSA's significance for accessing federal, state-sponsored, and collegiate financial aid programs.

Learn more and download the toolkit at:
cfwvconnect.com/wvfafsaday/

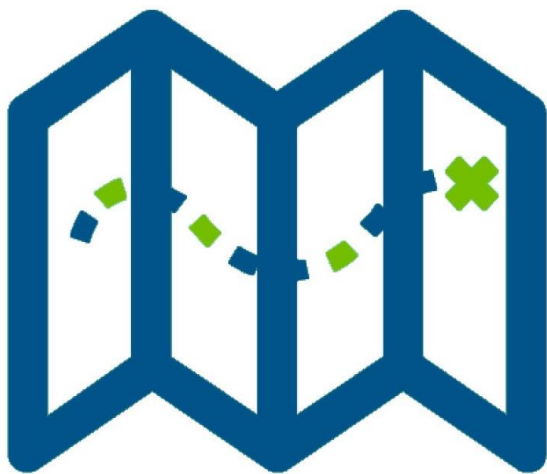
Register a FAFSA event:
eventbrite.com/e/wv-fafsa-day-event-registration-registration-789214169827



HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WEST VIRGINIA FAFSA DAY?

CONTACT:

Emily Hammond
Emily.Hammond@wvhepc.edu
304-558-0655 ext. 56071



COLLEGE DECISION DAY

April 1, 2024 – June 1, 2024

Registration Opened January 8th!

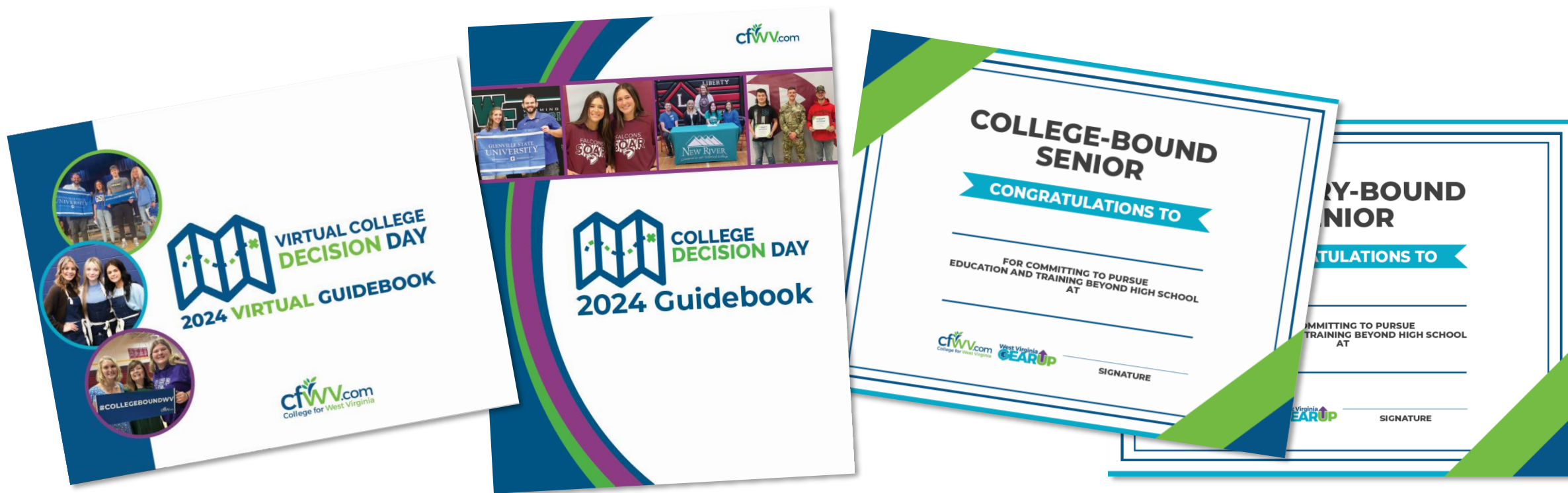


You can register at:
college-decision-day-2024-registration.eventbrite.com

Schools must register no later than April 1, 2024.

Those who register by March 15, 2024 will receive a printed copy of the College Decision Day toolkit.

Resources Available to You!



Download the College Decision Day Guidebook, Virtual Toolkit and Additional Resources at:
cfwvconnect.com/college-decision-day

**For more information on College Decision Day,
Contact:**



Kaci Foster
Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist
Kaci.Foster@wvhepc.edu

CHAMPION

OF COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS

3 ANNUAL COLLEGE-
PLANNING
MILESTONES



COLLEGE DECISION
DAY



COLLEGE
APPLICATION AND
EXPLORATION WEEK



FAFSA COMPLETION
CAMPAIGN

45



CHAMPION

OF COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS

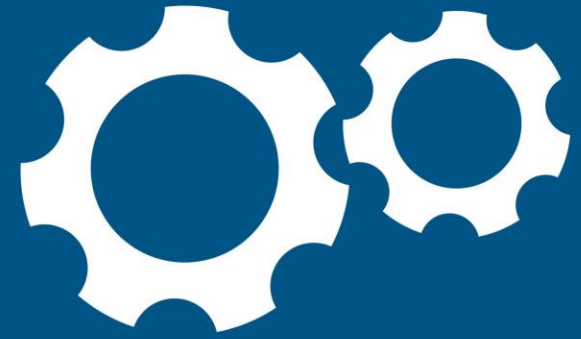
2023

Chapmanville High School
Hannan High School
Logan High School
Mingo Central High School
Nicholas County High School
Point Pleasant Jr./Sr. High School
Scott High School

Spring Valley High School
Tug Valley High School
Van Jr./Sr. High School
Wahama High School
Webster County High School
Wayne County High School
Wirt County High School

14

BRAINFUSE DEMO



CONOR ANDERSON
DANINEL PARK



CAREER SPOTLIGHT



Ennis B. Smith
Director

WV DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT



Success Stories

WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP
FAMILY ACTION NETWORK

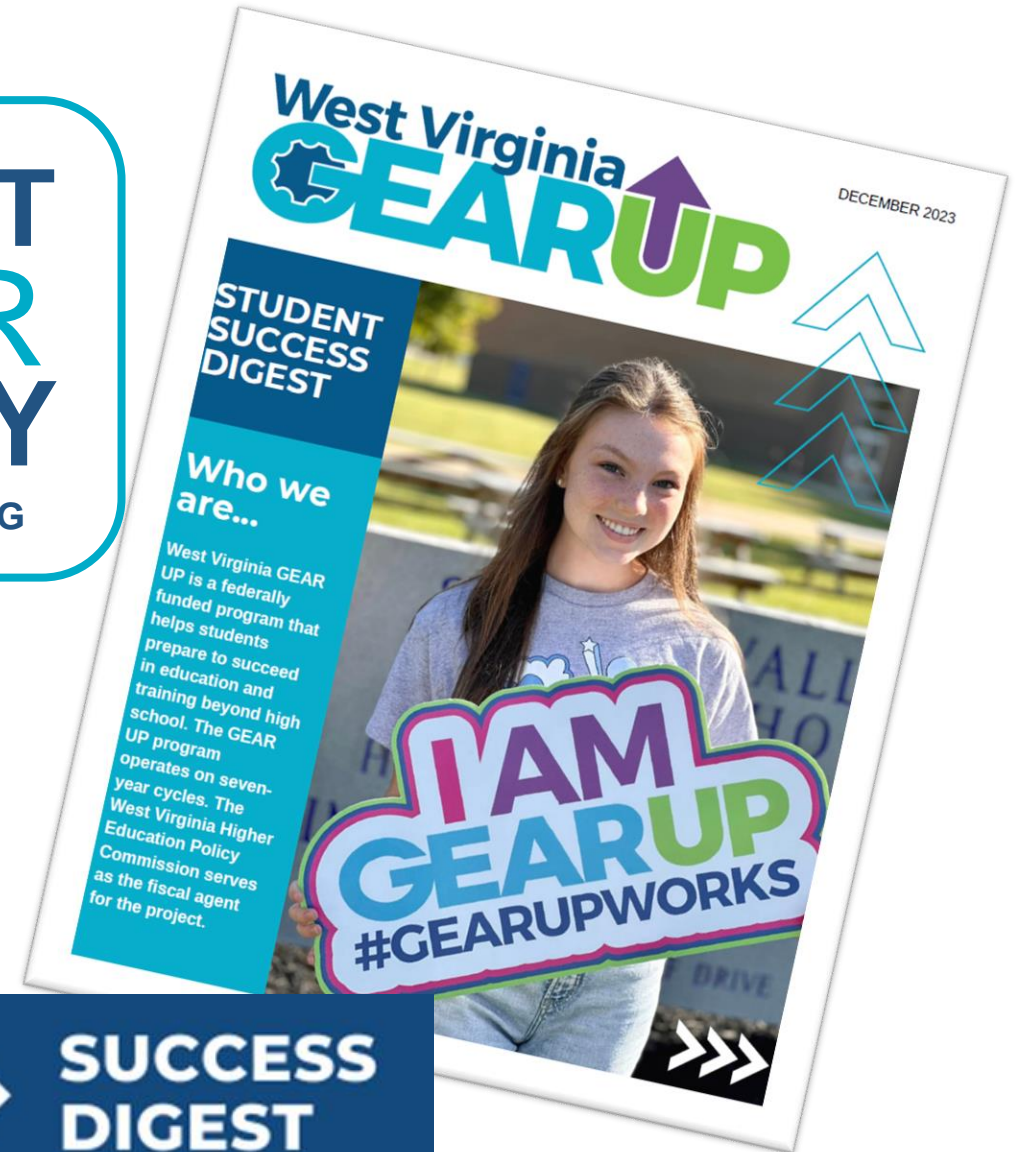
WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP
HEROS

WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP
STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

WEST VIRGINIA GEAR UP
STUDENT SUCCESS SOCIETY

**SUBMIT
YOUR
STORY**

@ WVGEARUP.ORG



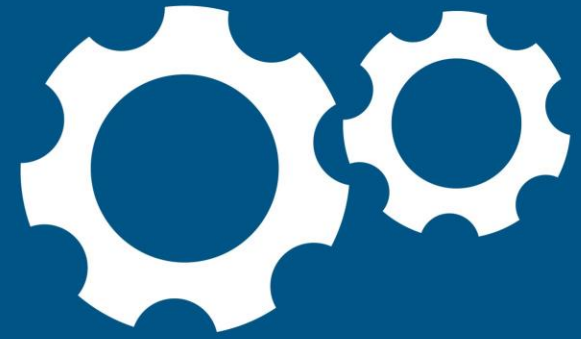
West Virginia
GEARUP

**SUCCESS
DIGEST**

West Virginia
GEARUP

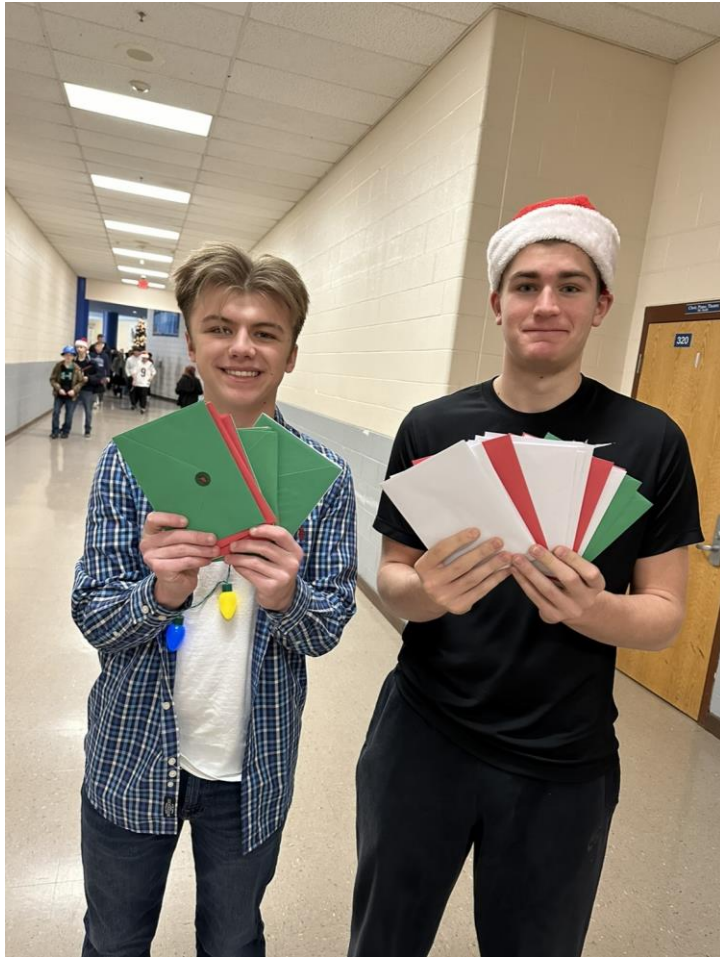


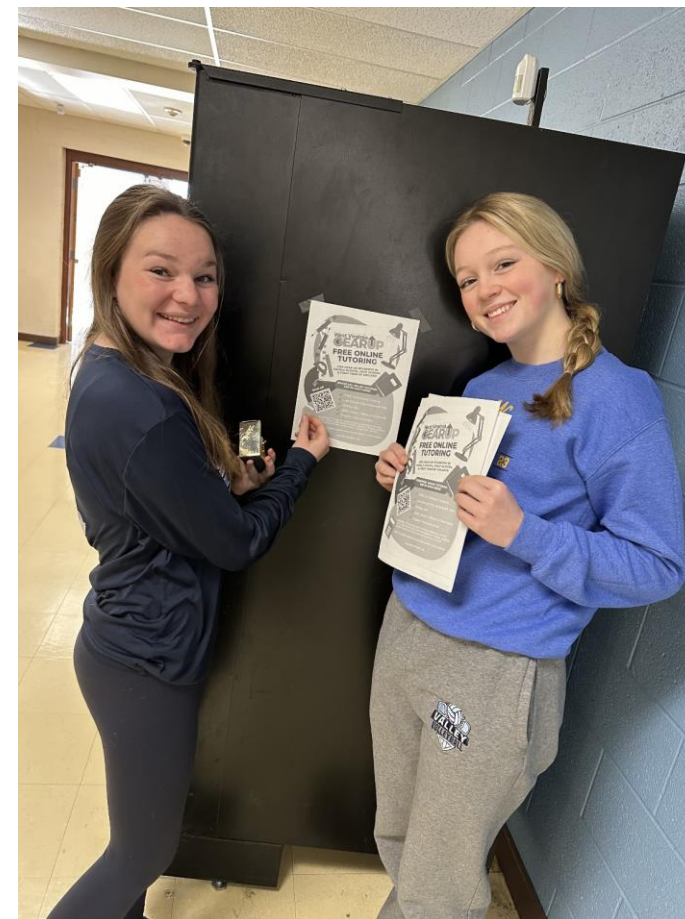
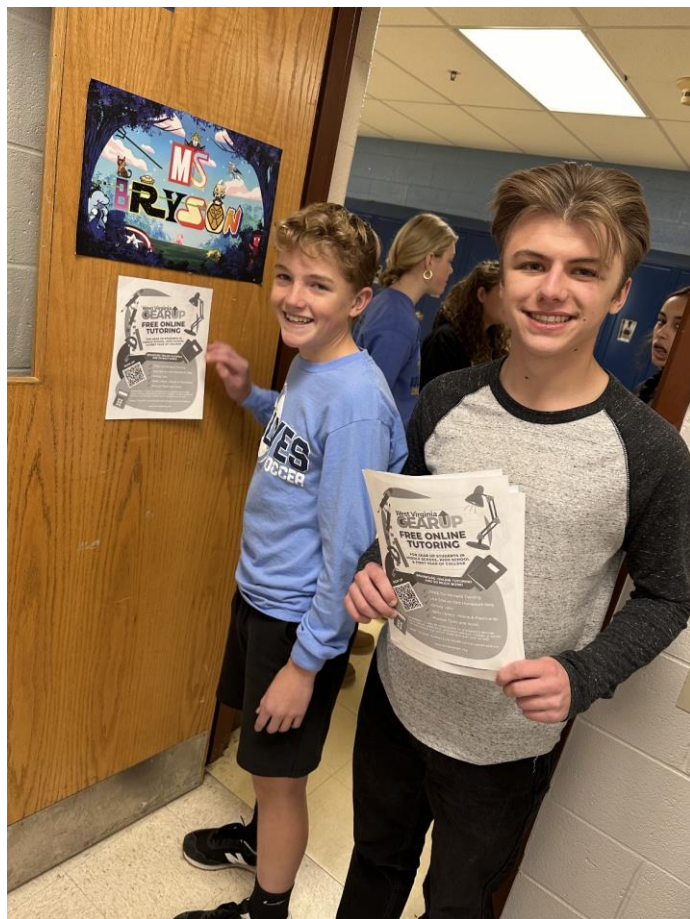
SUCCESS STORIES





Spring Valley High School's HEROs





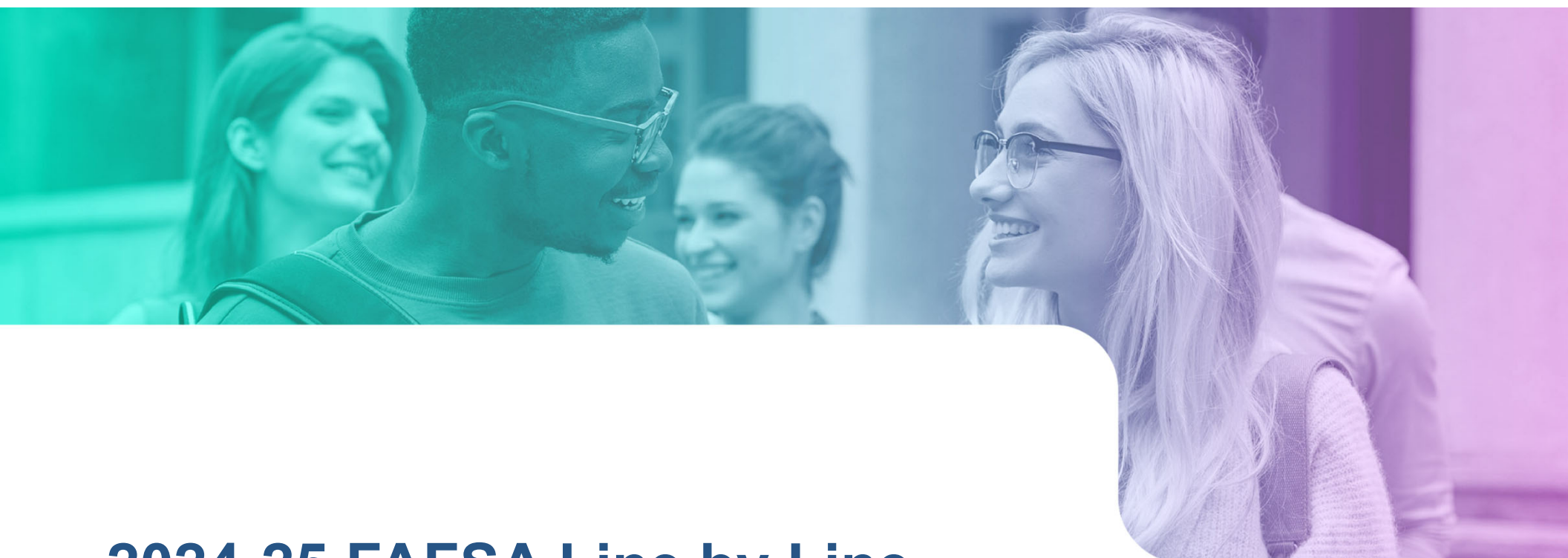




Regional Breakouts



THANK YOU!!!



2024-25 FAFSA Line by Line

January 11, 2024



Soft rollout January 2024

- The 2024-25 FAFSA will have planned maintenance in January
- There is a waiting room
- 2024-25 FAFSA will not be processed until at least February 2024 by U.S. Department of Education
- West Virginia has moved deadlines to May 1, 2024 for 2024-25 for the Promise Scholarship and WV Higher Education Grant



FSA ID Changes

- FSA IDs require verification/authentication before being used
 - Takes 3 days
 - No longer able to start or log into FAFSA with identifiers
- All “contributors” required to have FSA ID to give permission for FTI to be transferred from IRS
- Those without SSN will have to have FSA ID. Process still being developed



January 2024 for 2024-2025

FederalStudentAid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA ▾

Loans & Grants ▾

Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾

🔍 🔔 👤 Raya ▾

Get Money To Help Pay for School

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

2024–25 FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

Edit Existing Form

Need to access last year's form? [Start or Edit a 2023–24 FAFSA Form](#)



[Studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/FAFSA)

Welcome, Brian,
to the FAFSA[®] Form

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

☐ Student



☒ Parent



Previous

Continue

Student Information

Enter the student's information below to start a FAFSA[®] form on their behalf. They will receive an email inviting them to this FAFSA form.

If they already have a StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID), the information entered here must exactly match that account. Only the email address does not need to match.

First Name ⓘ

Last Name ⓘ

Date of Birth

Month

Day

Year



Social Security Number (SSN) ⓘ

☐ The student doesn't have an SSN.

Email Address ⓘ



Understanding the FAFSA® Form

1 of 4

What is the FAFSA® form?

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans for college or graduate school.



Student Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

Mobile Phone Number ?

Permanent Mailing Address ①

Include apartment number.

City ①

State ?

Zip Code ?

Country ?



Continue



Student State of Legal Residence

State ⓘ

West Virginia (WV)

Date the Student Became a Legal Resident of West Virginia (WV)

Month

Year



Previous

Continue



Student Personal Circumstances

We'll ask you questions that help us determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. This information can affect the types of federal student aid they're eligible to receive.

→ Sometimes we need to collect information from other people after we review the student's answers. We'll let you know if this is the case.



Previous

Continue



Student Current Marital Status ⓘ

☐ Single (never married)

☐ Married (not separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

Previous

Continue



Student College or Career School Plans

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, what will their college grade level be? ⓘ

☐ First year (freshman)

☐ Second year (sophomore)

☐ Other undergraduate (junior and beyond)

☐ Master's, doctorate, or graduate certificate program (such as MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.)

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, will they already have their first bachelor's degree? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☐ No

Previous

Continue



Student Personal Circumstances

Select all that apply.

☐ The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training. ⓘ

☐ The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces. ⓘ

☐ The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. ⓘ

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent). ⓘ

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court. ⓘ

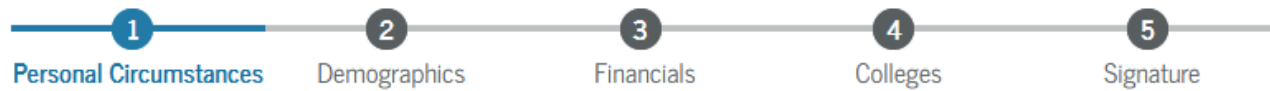
☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care. ⓘ

☐ The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ⓘ

☐ The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ⓘ

☐ None of these apply.





Student Other Circumstances

At any time on or after July 1, 2023, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☐ No

Previous

Continue



Student Unusual Circumstances

This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school.

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student? ①

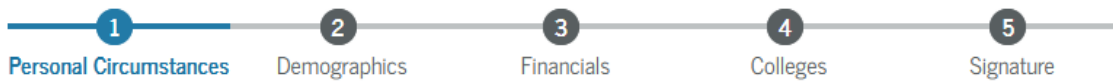
A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they

- left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;*
- are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;*
- have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;*
- are a victim of human trafficking;*
- are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or*
- are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.*

If the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless.

☐ Yes

☐ No



Student Dependency Status



Dependent Student

The student is a dependent student. This means information about the student's parent(s) must be provided on the FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive.

Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn't have an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting or obtaining their parents' information? ⓘ

If you select "Yes," a financial aid administrator at the student's school will determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Parent Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.



Provide Consent and Approval or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid ⓘ

Summary

Your consent and approval is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

- Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

- FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval?



If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?



What happens after I provide consent and approval?



What happens if I decline consent and approval?



Select "Approve" to consent and approve to using your federal tax information to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous

Decline

Approve



Parent Demographics

We'll ask questions about you and your family. These questions will help determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive for school.



Previous

Continue



1

Demographics

2

Financials

3

Signature

Parent Current Marital Status ^①

☐ Single (never married)

☐ Unmarried and both legal parents
living together

☐ Married (not separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

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Parent State of Legal Residence

State ⓘ

West Virginia (WV)

Date the Parent Became a Legal Resident of West Virginia (WV)

Month

Year



Previous

Continue



Parent Finances

The FAFSA[®] form helps determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. In this section, we ask about your financial information.

What if you have special financial circumstances?



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[Continue](#)



Federal Benefits Received

Questions Don't Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers to these questions will not affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid or these federal benefits.

At any time during 2022 or 2023, did the parent or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs? ⓘ

Select all that apply.

☐ Earned Income Credit (EIC) ⓘ

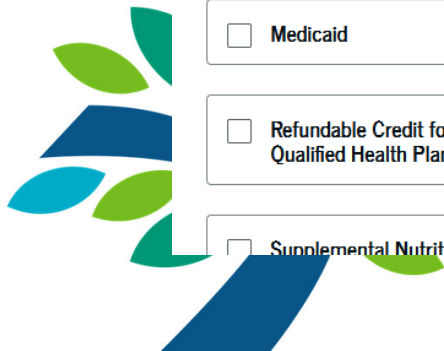
☐ Federal Housing Assistance ⓘ

☐ Free or Reduced Price School Lunch ⓘ

☐ Medicaid ⓘ

☐ Refundable Credit for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) ⓘ

☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance ⓘ





Parent Tax Filing Status

Did or will the parent file a 2022 joint tax return with their current spouse? 

☐ Yes

☐ No

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✓
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Family Size

Is the parent's family size different from the number of individuals claimed on their 2022 tax return? ⓘ

Family size includes: The parent (and their spouse), The student, other people, if they live with the parent and the parent will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. This includes dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Previous

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☒ Yes

☐ No

Based on answers to previous questions, we've made some assumptions about your family. The student and the student's parent (and parent's spouse, if married) are always included in the family size. The box below shows your family sized based on our assumptions and the number of children or other dependents you report.



The parent's family size is **3**.

Parent: 1 Parent Spouse or Partner: 1 Student: 1 Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 0

Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Do not include the student applicant.

0



Previous

Continue



Number in College

How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025?

Do not include parent(s).

 ⓘ

Previous

Continue



✓
Demographics

2
Financials

3
Signature

Parent 2022 Tax Return Information

Refer to the parents's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.

Convert all currency to U.S. dollars



Report Combined Taxes

Please report the combined tax information for the parent and their spouse.

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorp Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS

The parent paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA® form, not to first-time applicants. If married, include amount parent's spouse/partner received.

\$.00 ⓘ

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

\$.00 ⓘ

Previous

Continue

Annual Child Support Received

Enter the total amount of child support the parent received for the last complete calendar year.

\$	0	.00	①
----	---	-----	---

Parent Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student financial aid.

\$.00	①
----	--	-----	---

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include the home the parent lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00	①
----	--	-----	---

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms

Enter the net worth of the parent's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00	①
----	--	-----	---



If they already have a StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID), the information entered here must exactly match that account.



Parent Spouse or Partner

First Name ⓘ

Last Name ⓘ

Date of Birth ⓘ

Month

Day

Year

Social Security Number (SSN) ⓘ

Email Address ⓘ

Confirm Email Address ⓘ

Sign and Complete Your Section ⓘ

Summary

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing the student's application electronically using your account username and password, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

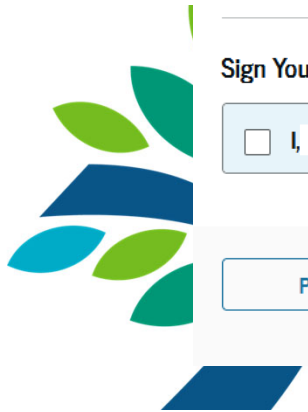
- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

Sign Your Section

☐ I, agree to the terms outlined above.

[Previous](#)

[Sign](#)



You're Almost There!

The parent section is complete!

Requirements for FAFSA® Submission

This FAFSA® form is not complete until all required contributors fill in their sections of the form and sign it. Once completed, the FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.

Contributor(s)

Role

Date Added

Status

Email Student Receives

Completing the FAFSA form is how you qualify for student aid. This may include the following types of aid:

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal student loans
- State financial aid
- School financial aid

Create an account or log in with an existing FSA ID (account username and password) to access and complete your section of the form. Creating a new FSA ID takes 10-15 minutes, but it can take up to three days for approval.

Note: Forms are deleted after 45 days of inactivity.

Don't recognize Brian? Read about [what to do if you got an invite and don't recognize the sender](#).

Get Started

**Started a FAFSA® Form on
Your Behalf**

has started a 2024–25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form on your behalf. Accept this invitation to join the form and apply for financial aid.

[Visit the 2024–25 FAFSA Help Center](#)

Accept Invitation

Decline Invitation



By accepting this invitation, you agree to share your personal and contact information from your StudentAid.gov account on the student's FAFSA form. Once you accept, your information will be linked to this form.



Review Student Information

1

Personal Circumstances

2

Demographics

3

Financials

4

Colleges

5

Signature

Mobile Phone Number ⓘ

Permanent Mailing Address ⓘ
Include apartment number.

City ⓘ

State ⓘ

Zip Code ⓘ

Country ⓘ

Student Current Marital Status ⓘ

☐ Single (never married)

☐ Married (not separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

Student College or Career School Plans

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, what will their college grade level be? ⓘ

☐ First year (freshman)

☐ Second year (sophomore)

☐ Other undergraduate (junior and beyond)

☐ Master's, doctorate, or graduate certificate program (such as MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.)

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, will they already have their first bachelor's degree? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☐ No

Student Personal Circumstances

Select all that apply.

☐ The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training. ⓘ

☐ The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces. ⓘ

☐ The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. ⓘ

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent). ⓘ

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court. ⓘ

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care. ⓘ

☐ The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ⓘ

☐ The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ⓘ


☐ None of these apply.


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 WEST VIRGINIA
Higher Education
Policy Commission

 WEST VIRGINIA
Community & Technical
College System

Provide Consent and Approval or Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid ^①

Summary

Your consent and approval is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

→ Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.

→ Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, as described below, and further affirmatively approve of the receipt and use of my federal tax information and to the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) redisclosure of my federal tax information, as described below. By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:



Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval?



If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?



What happens after I provide consent and approval?



What happens if I decline consent and approval?



Select "Approve" to consent and approve to using your federal tax information to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

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Decline

Approve

Your Personal Circumstances

We'll ask you questions that help us determine your eligibility for federal student aid. This information can affect the types of federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

- Sometimes we need to collect information from other people after we review your answers. We'll let you know if this is the case.



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Student Demographic Information

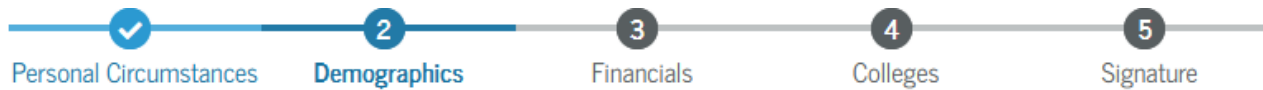
Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any aid calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

What is the student's gender? ①





Student Race and Ethnicity ⁱ

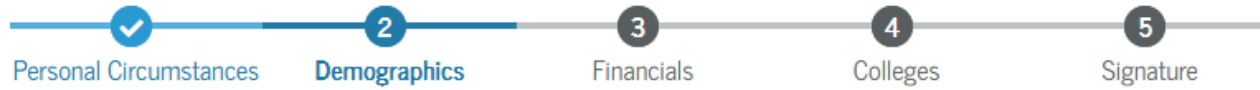
Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any aid calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

Is the student of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?





Student Citizenship Status ^①

☐ U.S. citizen or national

☐ Eligible noncitizen

☐ Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen

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Continue



Parent Education Status

Did either of the student's parents attend college or complete college? ⓘ

☐ Neither parent attended college

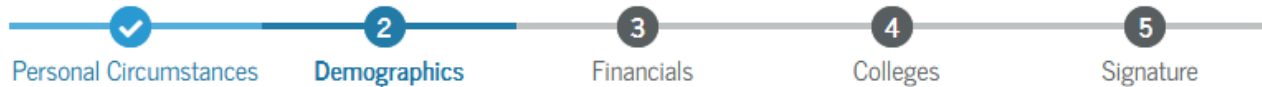
☐ One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college

☐ One or both parents completed college

☐ Don't know

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Parent Killed in Line of Duty

Was the student's parent or guardian killed in the line of duty while either (1) serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed forces on or after the events of 9/11, or (2) performing official duties as a public safety officer? ⓘ

Public safety officers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service workers.

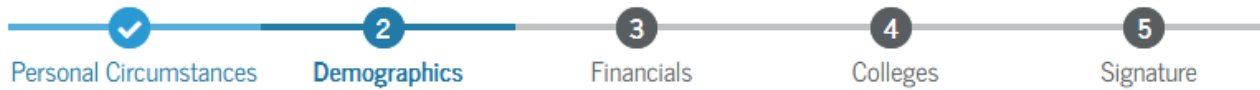
☐ Yes

☐ No

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Continue





Student High School Completion Status

What will the student's high school completion status be at the beginning of the 2024–25 school year? ⓘ

- ☐ High school diploma
- ☐ State-recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED certificate)
- ☐ Homeschooled
- ☐ None of the above

[Previous](#)

[Continue](#)



Policy Commission



Student High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate? ⓘ

State

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Your Finances

The FAFSA® form helps determine your ability to pay for school. In this section, we ask about your financial information.

What if you have special financial circumstances?



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[Continue](#)



Student Tax Filing Status

Did or will the student file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

Did the student earn income in a foreign country in 2022, were they employed by an international organization, but not required to report their income on any tax return, or did they file a tax return with Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory? ⓘ

If the student filed or will file a tax return with Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory, select "Yes."

Examples of international organizations include the United Nations, World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Continue

Student Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student financial aid.

\$.00 ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00 ⓘ

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms

Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00 ⓘ

Previous

Continue



Select Colleges

Search for and select colleges and career schools you're considering so they automatically receive an electronic copy of the FAFSA® form.



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[Continue](#)





Where should we send the FAFSA® information?

Search and select colleges and career schools.

If you can't find your school when searching by School Name or State, try searching by School Code.

You can add up to 20 colleges and career schools to the FAFSA® form.




0 out of 20 schools selected

[View Selected Schools](#)

[Search by School Name](#)

[Search by School Code](#)

State

 Search






Selected Colleges and Career Schools

These are the colleges and career schools that you've selected to receive the FAFSA[®] form.

To change the position of a school on your list, use the up and down arrow buttons to the left of the school's name.

School List Guidelines for West Virginia Residents

You must list an eligible West Virginia college to be considered for state grant aid. Grant awards will initially be made for your first-choice college in the first position. If you update your school choice later, notify your state agency by contacting the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission at 304-558-4618.

 1 out of 20 schools selected



Take a Moment To Review Before Signing

Expand the sections below to review and edit the information you've entered before you sign your portion of the form.



Student Sections

Expand All 



Introduction

Personal Identifiers



Section 1

Personal Circumstances



Section 2

Demographics



Section 3





Sign and Submit the FAFSA Form

Summary

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA[®] form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you

- will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,

Sign Your Section

☐ I, agree to the terms outlined above.

[Previous](#)

[Sign](#)

Congratulations,
The FAFSA® Form Is Complete!



My Activity

Open

2024–25 FAFSA® Form

In Review Submitted: 01/10/2024





Parent

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month	Day	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Social Security Number (SSN)

Hide

☐ My parent doesn't have an SSN.

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Send Invite



Parent Spouse or Partner

optional

First Name

Last Name

Date of Birth

Month	Day	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Social Security Number (SSN)

Hide

☐ My parent doesn't have an SSN.

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Send Invite



You're Almost There!


The student section is complete!

Parent Contributor

Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA[®] form is not complete until your parent(s) fill in the contributor section of the form and sign it. Once completed, your FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.

[Manage Contributor Information](#)

Contributor	Role	Date Added	Status
 brian weingart	Parent	10/17/2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invite Sent

Special Circumstances (Professional Judgement)

- When information on the FASFA no longer reflect your family's current situation.
- Contact college's financial aid office
 - Submit written explanation and documentation
- Examples include but not limited to:
 - Change in employment status
 - Medical expenses not covered by insurance
 - Change in parent or student marital status
 - Number in college



FAFSA Resource Page at CollegeforWV

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**, or **FAFSA**, is your first step in applying for financial aid. This is your application for federal grants, federal student loans, and work-study funds. It is also used to determine eligibility for the WV Higher Education Grant and required for other state aid programs, such as the Promise Scholarship and WV Invests Grant. Many institutions also use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for institutional financial aid.

You can learn more about and complete the FAFSA at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)!



Applications

Make sure you complete the correct year **FAFSA** for the academic year you are attending college during.

- The 2023-2024 FAFSA for the 2023-2024 academic year is currently available.
- The 2024-2025 FAFSA For the 2024-2025 academic year will open in December 2023.

FAFSA Changes Coming

Check out these **10 Important Changes Coming With the 2024-2025 FAFSA**.

10 Common FAFSA Mistakes to Avoid



You'll have a better chance at receiving money for college if you avoid several common mistakes when filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Such mistakes include not completing the form on time, not filling it out correctly, or forgetting to sign and submit.

[Check out this short article!](#)

7 Things You Need Before Filling Out the FAFSA Form



FAFSA Prototype

The 2024–25 FAFSA Prototype URL:

<http://fsapartners.ed.gov/fafsa-prototype/2425>

Password: prototype2425



www.socialpresskit.com/cfwv



FACEBOOK POSTS



#BetterFAFSA launches
December 2023

Better FAFSA is delayed

The new #BetterFAFSA is set for a delayed launch in December 2023, rather than October 1. What will this mean for your FAFSA completion efforts this fall? <https://tinyurl.com/ydrun36k>

Post to timeline



#BetterFAFSA launches
December 2023

10 Changes Coming to the FAFSA

The new #BetterFAFSA is bringing plenty of changes with it. Here are the top 10 you should know about to be prepared for the new form & process. <https://tinyurl.com/yc6v4ch3>

Post to timeline



#BetterFAFSA launches
December 2023

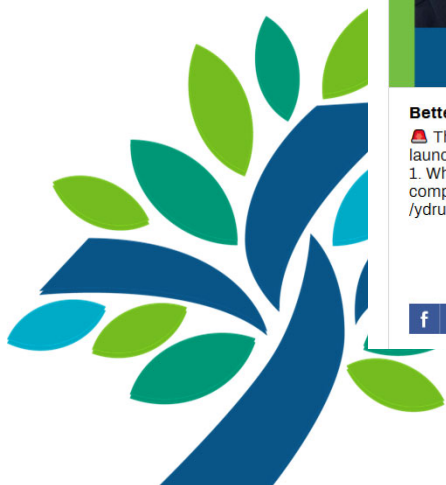
Benefits of #BetterFAFSA

A lot of positive change is coming with the new #BetterFAFSA, including:

- Increased #PellGrant eligibility
- Reduction in verification
- FSA IDs for those w/out SSNs

<https://tinyurl.com/4hwwef8e>

Post to timeline



FAFSA Questions?

U.S Department of Education

1-800-433-3243

studentaid.gov

WV State Financial Aid

1-877-987-7664

collegeforwv.com





VIRTUAL COLLEGE DECISION DAY

2024 VIRTUAL GUIDEBOOK

About College Decision Day

The idea for College Decision Day was inspired by sports events, such as the NCAA national signing day and the NFL draft. College Decision Day events provide schools and communities with the opportunity to showcase the academic excellence of students with the same enthusiasm and pride as are devoted to sports.

West Virginia's College Decision Day initiative is part of a growing national effort to celebrate seniors for their postsecondary plans and assist them and their families in enrolling in and transitioning to college. The event was first piloted in the Mountain State by Summers County High School (SCHS). The school showed that College Decision Day events can inspire communities and help strengthen a college-going culture. As a result, this year's College Decision Day continues to be celebrated in high schools statewide.

The College Decision Day initiative is one of West Virginia's three statewide college-planning milestone events that, along with College Application and Exploration Week and statewide FAFSA completion events, help guide 12th grade students in planning, applying and paying for college.

College Decision Day events recognize students who plan to pursue...

- a two-year degree
- a four-year degree
- a skillset certificate
- a career or technical program
- an apprenticeship
- military service

Important Dates to Remember

- Registration opens on January 8, 2024.
- College Decision Day events must occur between April 1 and June 1, 2024.
- The survey must be completed within seven days after your school's event.



How to Host a Virtual Event

The only limitation to virtual events is your own imagination! They allow for us to come together as a group when we can't physically be there in person. Also, an event's content can be instantaneously accessed repeatedly, allowing students, family and friends to relive that happy moment after the event is over.

Outline Your Plan

All events require a great deal of planning and virtual events are no exception. Allow yourself 2-4 weeks to plan your virtual event. This will also give you time to get the word out and promote it. Please note that some people may need additional time to get their plans in order. If anyone is helping you work on the event, make sure they know their roles and responsibilities in accordance with your timeline.

You should send out at least three reminders. Send one reminder the week prior to the event, a second reminder a day prior to the event, and also a reminder the morning of the event. Consider and use all digital tools available including email, online posts, eNewsletters and social media when spreading the word about the event. When you send out reminders, please communicate that this is a recognition event and encourage parents to participate, as well.

Think of what supplies you may want or need for the event. Four items that you will definitely want to include are a microphone, camera, a reliable internet connection and good lighting.

Helpful Tips

- Don't include features for the sake of including them. Make sure everything has a purpose.
- Remember that every small detail needs addressed, not unlike a physical event.
- Do a dry-run. You want to test all of the functionality of your virtual event.
- Pay attention to your background. Remember that your audience sees everything around you.



Picking a Platform that is Right for You

There are many platforms available for virtual events. We will discuss a few here, but feel free to explore the abundance of options.

Facebook Live

Facebook Live launched in 2016 and since then more than 3.5 billion broadcasts have been sent from the platform. If you haven't used

this platform, it is easy to learn. Going Live is as simple as a click of a button. Facebook Live is a live video streaming service that lets anyone broadcast from their mobile devices and desktop computers straight to their Facebook feed.

First, you want to create an event page on Facebook. You will need to put a description of the event and also adjust your settings for who you would like to see your event when we you go live. Create it as early as possible to build interest and get the word out about your event. Share the link to the event on other sites such as X or LinkedIn and ask others reshare the event, as well.

When you are ready for the event to begin, go to your event page. Instead of typing text, look for the “LIVE VIDEO” button. A Facebook Live event can only run for 90 minutes. If you run out of time, you are off the air. Please note, when it comes to audio, avoid using any music clips that could trigger copyright filters that might shut down your live event.

Helpful Tip

Think about guest speakers. Invite high school alumni, elected officials, college admissions and financial aid representatives, local businesses and leaders to do an Facebook Live or X chat. Both formats will allow students to ask questions in real time. Be sure to advertise the time and date of the event, so students know when to tune in.

3.5 BILLION
BROADCASTS SINCE FACEBOOK LIVE LAUNCHED



Zoom Video Conferencing

Zoom is a web conferencing service that is free to use for group meetings up to 40 minutes. You can have up to 50 participants. If you would like to download the Pro version, you can have unlimited minutes for your event for a small fee. In order to utilize Zoom, you need to first set up a Zoom account. You will be required to download Zoom onto your computer and/or phone.

Complete the Following Steps

- Set your audio and video settings.
- Review and edit your profile settings.
- Schedule your event and add details about it.
- Send out invitations.
- Set up your desktop with documents and material that you would like to share.
- Start your event!



A tutorial for Zoom can be found at:
support.zoom.us.com

YouTube and YouTube LIVE

YouTube is a video-sharing platform created in 2005. With YouTube, you can pre-record your event and post it on your Youtube channel. Then, you can invite people to watch. If you do not have a YouTube channel, one is easy to create. You must create an account on YouTube and then click on the user icon at the top right of your screen. Click on the gear icon to get to your account's YouTube settings. Then, choose "Use a business or other name". After that, you will need to add a title to your channel and click "create".

YouTube Live is an easy way to reach your audience in real time. Live streaming on YouTube began in 2011. If you already have an account set up, click the camera icon and you will have the options of either recording or going live. You can live stream up to 12 hours.

Other platforms include WebEx, GoToMeetings, Skype, ClickMeeting and Google Hangouts. Remember to be creative, enthusiastic and have fun!

Capturing Participation

You will need to complete the post-event survey at surveymonkey.com/r/CollegeDecisionDay24 following College Decision Day.

Here are some ways to collect participation information.

- If your Zoom meeting has registration or polling enabled, you can generate a registration or polling report.
- With YouTube, you can use Live stream metrics. Metrics are available between 48-72 hours after your Live stream ends.
- During Facebook Live, you are able to see anyone who interacts with you on video. If you are friends with them on Facebook, you will be notified when they start watching the video. After your event is over, you can see demographics of the viewers, but not names. It is recommended that you ask questions, request feedback and opinions, and encourage your viewers to engage with the video.

Ideas and Tips to Make Your Virtual College Decision Day a Success

- Include quotes from students about their plans.
- Highlight students by requesting photos to include.
- Create slideshows.
- Fill out certificates in advance.
- Invite students to submit photos of a teacher or mentor who has been instrumental in their lives.
- Encourage families to get involved in the celebration.
- Ask students to dress in college colors on behalf of the institution they plan to attend.
- Invite students to share advice for younger students.
- Extend an invitation to alumni to share their experiences.
- Post students' college acceptance letters on your school's social media pages.
- Host a celebration parade! Schools can celebrate seniors' postsecondary plans by decorating their vehicles and driving by the school, student homes, etc.
- Suggest students create "College Decision Day reveal videos" with hats, cupcakes, homemade college flags, or "Superman reveal" with a college shirt under a button down, revealing their final decision. Invite them to share their creation on social media or submit to the school to share.

Spread the Word with Social Media

Showcase the Accomplishments of Your Students on Social Media

- Ask your students to share pictures of themselves holding signs and wearing college gear to celebrate College Decision Day.
- Post shared photos on social media with the hashtags #CollegeBoundWV and #MyClimbWV.
- Tag us @cfwv in your post, so we can all celebrate together.
- Start a TikTok challenge focused on a college fight song or an "I Decided" reveal.
- Ask students to post pictures of their college acceptance letters.
- Encourage parents to join in and share about their student's successes and future plans on social media.

Other Ways to Celebrate on Social Media

- Post photos of alumni in their college gear or throwbacks of their days on campus.
- Share fond memories and experiences from your days on campus.
- Share facts about the importance of postsecondary education.



Sample Social Media Posts

- Seniors! Next week is College Decision Day. Be sure to tell us where you plan on going to college.
- On College Decision Day, we're recognizing your hard work and decision to pursue a postsecondary education. Look out for our grads as they continue to shine.
- Today is College Decision Day! Cheer on our grads as they embark on their post-high school journey. #CollegeBoundWV
- Seniors, our school is celebrating all students who are planning to enroll in some type of education and training after high school. What are your plans? Tell us using #MyClimbWV or #CollegeBoundWV!
- Those long nights of studying and planning for the future were worth it. Check out where our students are headed. #CollegeBoundWV
- Get ready because College Decision Day is tomorrow, and we're pumped! Let's celebrate all your hard work to get to this point, you deserve it. Share your big plans for next year in the comments.
- It's College Decision Day and our seniors are telling the world where they're headed. Join us in our celebration. #CollegeBoundWV
- Tomorrow is College Decision Day. Be sure to wear your favorite college gear or colors!
- They said it. They did it. Now, they are headed to college and beyond. Congrats to our #classof2024! #CollegeBoundWV
- Cheer on our grads as they embark on the next step of their educational journey during College Decision Day!
- We couldn't be prouder of our seniors who have committed to pursuing an education or training beyond high school!
- The future is here and these grads are going to college. We can't wait to see what great things they accomplish. #CollegeBoundWV
- Congrats to our #CollegeBoundWV seniors! @CFWV

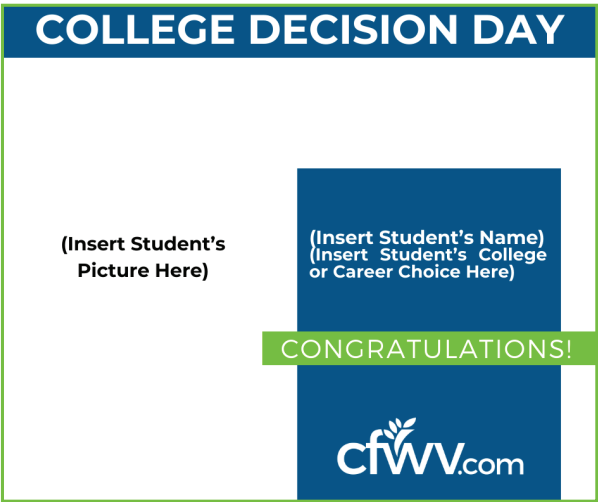


Sample Social Media Templates

Insert your student's picture, name, and college decision into these templates and post to your social media outlets! Feel free to customize these graphics using your high school's colors!



Example



Example

Sample Social Media Posts and Invitations

Insert the date and any activities that you have planned for College Decision Day. If possible, organize and advertise giveaways and drawings. These items can be something from the school's office like college swag, prizes, or even scholarships. Plug in pictures of your school's mascot or even pictures of your students from previous years. Make sure you tell them to use the hashtags #MyClimbWV and #CollegeBoundWV in their posts and tweets, so we can all celebrate together! Also, check out online graphic design platforms such as Crello or Canva for more great ideas and templates!

WE'RE CELEBRATING COLLEGE DECISION DAY!

Post a picture on Facebook, tag us, and let us know your plans for after high school. The winner will be announced at the end of the day. Contact (counselor's name) for details.

**You Could Win
(Insert Prize!)**

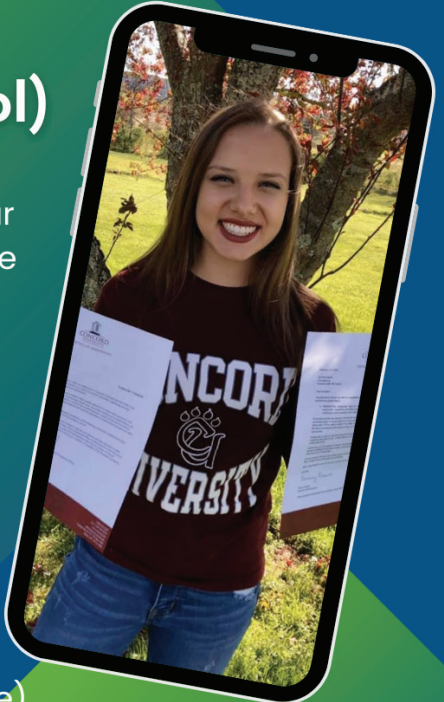


cfwv.com

COLLEGE DECISION DAY

(Name of School)

We want to hear about your postsecondary plans. To be included in our slideshow, send us your selfies. Our celebration is taking place on (Date and Time).

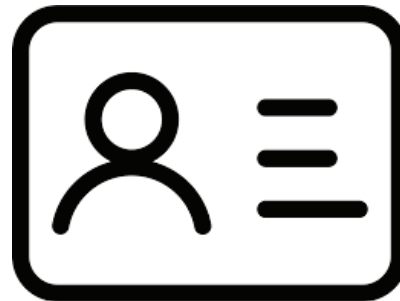


Contact (Counselor's Name) for details!

cfwv.com



If you have questions about this toolkit or West Virginia's College Decision Day effort, please contact:



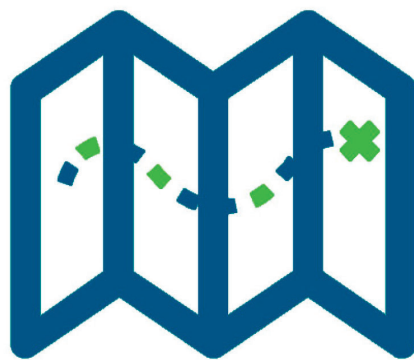
Kaci Foster

Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist
WV Higher Education Policy Commission

Email: Kaci.Foster@wvhepc.edu

Phone: 304.558.0655 (ext. 26403)





**COLLEGE
DECISION DAY**

2024 Guidebook

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Letter from Elizabeth A. Manuel, Senior Director of Student Services

College Decision Day Coordinators,

On behalf of College for West Virginia (CFWV), thank you for registering to host College Decision Day at your school. These events will take place in West Virginia from April 1 through June 1, but celebrations all across the country will be happening throughout the spring months.

The goal of this initiative is to celebrate high school seniors who have committed to continuing their education after graduation by going to college. When we say the word “college”, we mean any form of high-quality education or training after high school. This includes trade and professional certificate programs, career and technical programs, and two- and four-year degree programs, formalized apprenticeship programs, and military service.

It is our firm belief that every West Virginian should pursue some type of postsecondary education. Less than one-third of West Virginians currently hold an associate degree or higher, yet 60 percent of working-aged West Virginians will need one of these credentials in order to meet future workforce demands. For this reason, we are proud to host a statewide celebration that recognizes these students who have wisely chosen to invest in their futures.

As supplies last, schools that register to participate before the March 15 registration deadline should receive printed College Decision Day toolkits in the mail to help students and families prepare for their next steps. If you do not receive these guides or need to download additional guides, please visit cfwvconnect.com/college-decision-day.

Once you host your event, please be sure to take the post-event survey which can be accessed here: surveymonkey.com/r/CollegeDecisionDay24. This survey is mandatory and must be within seven days after the event, for high schools to fulfill the College Decision Day requirements to be recognized as an official CFWV Champion of College Access and Success.

Thank you again for your dedication to helping our students pursue and succeed in postsecondary education!

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Manuel

Senior Director of Student Services

About College for West Virginia

College for West Virginia (CFWV) provides FREE resources to help students and families pursue and succeed in education and training beyond high school. CFWV coordinates dozens of college awareness and readiness efforts, including a series of statewide college pathway events that schools can adopt to strengthen a culture of college-readiness within their school buildings and communities. These pathway events include the annual College Application and Exploration Week, FAFSA completion workshops and College Decision Day. CFWV is coordinated by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission working in partnership with the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, and the West Virginia Department of Education.

About College Decision Day

The idea for College Decision Day was inspired by sports events, such as the NCAA national signing day and NFL draft. College Decision Day events provide schools and communities with the opportunity to showcase the academic excellence of students with the same enthusiasm and pride as are devoted to sports.

West Virginia's College Decision Day initiative is part of a growing national effort to celebrate seniors for their postsecondary plans and assist them and their families in enrolling in and transitioning to college. The event was first piloted in the Mountain State by Summers County High School (SCHS). SCHS showed that College Decision Day events can inspire communities and help strengthen a college-going culture. As a result, this year's College Decision Day will be celebrated in high schools statewide.

The College Decision Day initiative is one of West Virginia's three statewide college-planning milestone events that, along with College Application and Exploration Week and statewide FAFSA completion events, help guide 12th grade students and their families in planning, applying and paying for college.

College Decision Day events recognize students who plan to pursue...

- a two-year degree or a four-year degree
- a skillset certificate
- a career and technical program
- military service
- an apprenticeship

What's in a name? What we mean by “college”...

College is important. 70% of West Virginia's future job openings will require more than a high school diploma,¹ yet only 32% of West Virginians aged 25-64 hold a college degree.² On average, four-year college graduates earn 66% more than individuals who stopped their education after high school.³ And students who complete some form of postsecondary education are far less likely to be unemployed than those with just a high school diploma.⁴ But what does that mean for students?

We use the word “college” to include any type of postsecondary education or training beyond high school. That means students have several options when it comes to attending college. One of the goals of College Decision Day is to help students and their families understand the various postsecondary pathways. Some form of college should be the ultimate path for all West Virginia students.

West Virginia's Climb

Less than one-third of West Virginians currently hold an associate degree or higher, yet 70 percent of working-age West Virginians will need a certificate or degree in order to meet future workforce demands. Less than half of West Virginia's high school class of 2020 enrolled in college the following fall. CFWV is proud to support West Virginia's attainment goal to equip 60% of West Virginians with a certificate or degree by 2030. To find out more about this initiative, visit wvclimb.com.⁵

Requirements for participation

To be recognized as an official CFWV College Decision Day participant, schools must register at cfwvconnect.com/college-decision-day. Additionally, the event must occur sometime between April 1 and June 1 and event coordinators must complete a brief online survey following their local event.

College Decision Day events must include two primary components:

- a celebration to recognize students who have chosen to pursue postsecondary education
- a workshop or presentation to assist students in enrolling in and transitioning to college

1. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED605044.pdf>

2. <https://luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/#/progress/state/WV>

3. <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2021/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>

4. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2021/unemployment-rate-3-7-percent-for-college-grads-6-7-percent-for-high-school-grads-in-march-2021.htm>

5. <https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/cgr/>

CFWV Champion of College Access and Success

High schools that participate in this year's College Decision Day celebration can strive to become a **CFWV Champion of College Access and Success!**

High schools that complete all the required steps will be recognized in the Fall of 2024.

To be recognized, high schools must do the following:

- Participate in College Decision Day
- Complete the post-event survey immediately following the event
- Participate in CFWV's two other postsecondary pathway events (College Application and Exploration Week, which occurred last fall, and the statewide FAFSA Completion Campaign)
- Complete all post-survey events
- Meet the statewide FAFSA completion goal OR improve your school's FAFSA completion rate by 5 percentage points compared to the previous year

You can check your school's progress toward the goal and learn more about this initiative at cfwvconnect.com/champion.



Post-event survey

NOTE: Following College Decision Day, the required post-event survey can be accessed at surveymonkey.com/r/CollegeDecisionDay24. The survey below gives site coordinators an idea of what data to collect to be able to complete the online survey.

Information collected and questions

- Coordinator name/email address/phone number
- School name
- How many students are enrolled in the senior class at your high school?
- How many seniors at your school participated in College Decision Day?
- How many parent(s) or guardian(s) participated in College Decision Day?
- Do you plan on participating in College Decision Day next year?
- Did you participate in the statewide College Application & Exploration Week campaign?
- Rank how much you agree with this statement: I believe College Decision Day positively impacts supporting a college-going culture in our school.
- How helpful was the College Decision Day toolkit in planning and implementing your event?
- What resources would you like to see added to the toolkit for next year?
- What other resources can we provide or what improvements can we make in supporting you in College Decision Day?
- Did any media outlets cover your College Decision Day event? If so, please describe the media coverage and provide links when applicable.
- What went well for you at this event?
- What could be improved for next year's event?

Planning checklist

One to three months before your event...

- ☐ Go to the College Decision Day website at cfwvconnect.com/college-decision-day and review the College Decision Day guidebook.
- ☐ Recruit colleagues and volunteers at your school to staff your College Decision Day planning team.
- ☐ Determine the type of event you will host (see best practices section of this guide).
- ☐ Schedule your event with your building principal and arrange for chaperones and custodians as needed.
- ☐ Work with your school counselor to distribute the student questionnaire to gauge students' postsecondary plans.
- ☐ Set up counseling sessions to assist students who need assistance finalizing their plans or who do not yet have a plan for after high school.
- ☐ Reach out to admissions officers at schools your students plan to attend. Invite them to send materials for display or to attend your event. Please note: although admissions officers may want to attend your event, their schedules may not allow them to participate. It is a good idea to let them know you are inviting them as a courtesy, but that you and your students will understand if they are unable to make it. Hanging college pennants or signs can be a very effective way to demonstrate a college's presence and support, even if a representative is unable to attend the event in person.
- ☐ Work with your planning team to determine what topics you will cover during your college transition workshop (see best practices section of this guide). Prepare materials for your workshop presentations.
- ☐ Schedule any guest speakers or presenters for your college transition workshops. Secure an appropriate space to conduct the workshop and any audio and visual equipment needed.
- ☐ If you plan to provide food or door prizes at your event, work with community members and your committee to make arrangements.

Two to three weeks before your event...

- ☐ Invite students, parents and family members, faculty and staff, and community members to your College Decision Day event.

- ☐ Work with your counselor to confirm that all seniors have returned the postsecondary plans questionnaire and that you have notes on each student in the senior class. Reach out to any students you feel are still struggling to make or follow through on their postsecondary plans.
- ☐ Post information about College Decision Day on your and/or your school's social media channels and websites. Consider engaging community partners in generating buzz online.

Seven to ten days before your event...

- ☐ Distribute the press release announcing your College Decision Day event to local media representatives.
- ☐ Print students' certificates and organize college signs, pennants, etc.

One to two days before your event...

- ☐ Distribute the media alert to remind reporters about your event.
- ☐ Make announcements encouraging students to post their college decisions online using the hashtags #CollegeBoundWV and #WVClimb. Students planning to enter the military may want to use variations such as #ArmyBound, #NavyBound, etc.
- ☐ Email Kaci Foster at Kaci.Foster@wvhepc.edu to let her know about any media coverage you expect for your event.
- ☐ Check in with volunteers and staff and remind them of details.
- ☐ Schedule an "all call" home reminding students and families of your upcoming event.

The day of your event...

- ☐ Post photos of your event online using the hashtags above and encourage students to do the same. Tag [@CFWV](#) (and [@wvgearup](#) if your school is a West Virginia GEAR UP school) so that we can find and share your photos! Be sure to follow your school's media release and image publication policies before posting, and do NOT post photos without participants' permission.
- ☐ Remind seniors to update their CFWV.com account to indicate the schools at which they've been accepted. Remind them to change their status from "high school" to "college" student and link their accounts to the schools they plan to attend.

After your event...

- ☐ Email photos and links to media stories to Kaci Foster at Kaci.Foster@wvhepc.edu. Only send photos that are “ok” for publication and distribution, according to your school’s media and image release policies.
- ☐ Send thank you notes to individuals who helped make your event success. Consider sending a note to any media representatives who attended.

Sample College Decision Day agendas

We have provided a sample agenda below for each of the two required components (a celebration activity or event and a college transition workshop). These are merely suggestions. School coordinators are welcome to be as creative as they’d like in planning their celebration and workshop activities, and coordinators should build a game plan that will fit the needs and interests of school staff, students and families.

Celebration event agenda

Welcome and overview

Suggested speakers include the principal, superintendent, or member of the school board.

Guest speaker

Remarks from an individual highlighting the importance of postsecondary education and/or inspiring students to continue their education. Suggested speakers include motivational speakers, community leaders who have graduated from college, alumni from the school who benefited from postsecondary opportunities and/or overcame obstacles to pursue their dreams...

Recognition of students who are college bound

Make sure all students are recognized individually... for example, by calling their names and having them walk across stage, sign a letter of intent at a signing booth, etc. It is also a nice touch to set up photo ops allowing each student to pose for pictures with family members and/or admissions staff or college gear.

Group photo

Taking a group photo of your college bound students with their college gear, signs and certificates is a great way to highlight your school’s commitment to a college-going culture. Hang these photos with pride around school and send them to CFVW staff members to post online and showcase statewide!

Transition workshop agenda

Welcome and overview

Congratulate students on their college plans and their decision to continue their education. It is important that students understand that there are many steps that students need to complete during the summer months to transition to college. Use College 101 as a reference guide.

Activity/Discussion/Speaker

To assist students and their families in making the transition to college please ensure your workshop includes topics associated with the transition to college like, next steps, understanding financial aid award packages or any other special topics. For example, you could host a workshop or a student alumni panel where students share their stories about transition to college. For more ideas on topics to cover during your workshop refer to the College Transition Workshop Topics page in this guide.

Provide resources

Make sure students and parents walk away with resources that will assist them through the transition process. Provide resources about financial aid award packages and next steps. CFWV has many great resources like the College 101 and the Transition 101 guide.

There are people here to help

Students and parents need to know that there are people to help them during this process. Provide students and parents with the contact information for CFWV staff (and GEAR UP staff if your school is a West Virginia GEAR UP school or other professionals who can assist them in the summer months.



Senior Questionnaire

FULL NAME (PRINTED):

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

☐ **Attend a college or university**

Which college?

Have you been accepted? ☐ yes ☐ no

What is your intended major and/or minor?

☐ **Complete a skillset certificate or career and technical training program**

Where will you complete your program?

☐ **Enlist in the military**

Which branch?

Has your enlistment been confirmed? ☐ yes ☐ no

☐ **Become an apprentice**

Please describe your apprenticeship:

☐ **Go directly to the workforce**

Do you have a job lined up? What will you do?

☐ **Other:**

☐ **Not sure or don't know**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO THANK ANYONE?

Is there a teacher or other staff member that you would like to recognize for helping you along the way in school? This could be anyone who helped you, past or present, from pre-K through high school.

Can we share your "thank you" publicly? ☐ yes ☐ no

Senior Questionnaire, Continued**HOW CAN WE HELP?**

We want to make sure you succeed in the future. What questions do you have about preparing for your next step? Can the counseling office or school staff help you in any way?

CAN WE CONTACT YOU NEXT YEAR TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING?

☐ yes ☐ no

Contact person:

Phone:

Email:

Mailing address:

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO COME BACK TO TALK TO OTHER STUDENTS ABOUT LIFE AFTER GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL? ☐ yes ☐ no

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUNGER STUDENTS?

Can we share your advice publicly? ☐ yes ☐ no

COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FOR COMMITTING TO PURSUE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL
AT



SIGNATURE

COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FOR COMMITTING TO PURSUE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL
AT



SIGNATURE

MILITARY-BOUND SENIOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FOR COMMITTING TO PURSUE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL
AT



SIGNATURE

MILITARY-BOUND SENIOR

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FOR COMMITTING TO PURSUE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL
AT



SIGNATURE



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

To celebrate the senior class of 2024 and students' commitments to pursue education and training beyond high school, our school is hosting a "College Decision Day" on [<insert date/time>](#) at [<insert location>](#).

Seniors who have been accepted to college, a trade, career or certificate program, apprenticeship program or the military are invited to attend College Decision Day to declare their intent to continue their education. Students and family members will have the opportunity to [<insert details here, such as photo ops, recognition ceremonies, transition workshops, financial aid counseling, etc.>](#) Additionally, students may choose to recognize a teacher or staff member — past or present — who helped them along the way.

College Decision Day Program
[<insert agenda here>](#)

All [<school name>](#) students are invited to attend the event to celebrate the successes of their classmates and friends.

If you wish to be recognized at College Decision Day, please fill out the form below and return it to [<insert name>](#) no later than [<insert deadline>](#).

Student name: _____

What college, program or military service branch will you enter after high school?

Will your parents/guardians attend? ☐ yes ☐ no

If so, parent/guardian names: _____

Estimated number of other family members or friends who will attend: _____

Teacher or staff member you would like to invite and recognize:

Media Outreach Guide

Inviting local reporters to your College Decision Day event is a great way to recognize the successes of your students and increase awareness of your school's work to promote a college-going culture. Here are some tips for working with the media.

Send a news release: Use the news release template in this kit to develop a news story about your school's College Decision Day event. Send the news release to local media outlets seven to ten days in advance of your event. If your local newspaper or outlet publishes once a week, send the release ten days in advance. If they publish or air stories daily, a week is sufficient.

If you or someone on staff at your school has a relationship with a media outlet or a specific reporter, have that person reach out when sending the release. Also try contacting reporters who have covered stories about your school in the past.

When you send the release, make sure you note in the body of your email that media representatives are invited and encouraged to attend! It is also a good idea to copy and paste the release into the body of your email instead of sending it as an attachment. This will help you avoid spam filters and allow the reporter to scan your news story quickly without having to download and open an attachment.

Follow up: A day or so after you've sent your news release, call the media outlet to confirm that they received it and ask if they have any questions. You can ask them if they think they will be able to send someone to cover the event, but avoid pushing for a firm commitment. News rooms are often short staffed, so be understanding of their time constraints.

Send a media alert: Use the template in this guide to write a media alert. Your media alert will serve as a reminder of the key details for your event. Send the media alert one to two days in advance of your event.

Designate a media point-of-contact: Ask a staff member or volunteer to keep an eye out for any reporters who come to your event. The point-of-contact should greet the reporter, provide him or her with a copy of your news release, offer to arrange interviews and direct reporters to key activities.

Prepare your staff and students: Consider in advance staff members, students and family members who might represent your school well in a media interview. Ask their permission to refer reporters to them. Make sure they understand key information about College Decision Day, including its purpose and who is being recognized. You may also want to provide them with information about why education and training beyond high school is important, your school's current college-going rates and the number of students who are participating in College Decision Day.

Send a "thank you": After your event, send a thank you note to reporters who provided media coverage. This will help your school maintain a good relationship with media outlets.

Share your success: Send information, pictures, and any links to any media coverage to Kaci Foster at Kaci.Foster@wvhepc.edu. We'd love to share your successes on our CFWV and GEAR UP websites and social media channels!

For Immediate Release

Send date

Contact:

Name, Title

Organization

Phone

Email address

NEWS RELEASE**<High School> to celebrate graduating seniors during ‘College Decision Day’**

<CITY>, W.Va. – <High school> will recognize seniors who plan to pursue some form of education or training beyond high school as part of a statewide “College Decision Day” campaign. College Decision Day is organized by College for West Virginia (CFWV), an initiative coordinated by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) to help students go to college and succeed.

The event, which is inspired by sports events such as the NCAA national signing day and the NFL draft, ensures that students who commit to pursuing education or training beyond high school are celebrated and praised for their efforts. In 2014, the first College Decision Day event was piloted in West Virginia.

Elizabeth A. Manuel, Senior Director of Student Services at the Commission stated, “These students have made the important decision to further their education. College Decision Day not only celebrates the decisions these students have made, but it serves as an opportunity for students and families to learn about the financial aid resources available to them, and also serves as an encouragement to younger generations.

<High school’s> College Decision Day event will be held <insert date, time and location>. School staff, students and families will recognize and celebrate each senior who plans to pursue some form of postsecondary education, including certificate programs, workforce training and apprenticeship programs, two-year degree programs, four-year degree programs and military service. Additionally, <insert other activities that are occurring, such as transition workshops, financial aid counseling, or specifics regarding how you will honor your students.>

The College Decision Day initiative is one of West Virginia’s three statewide college-planning milestone events that, along with College Application and Exploration Week and statewide FAFSA completion events, help guide 12th grade students and their families in planning, applying, and paying for college. To learn more about College Decision Day, visit cfwvconnect.com/college-decision-day.

- ### -

For Planning Purposes

Send Date

Contact:

Name, Title
Organization
Phone
Email

<High School> to recognize graduating seniors during 'College Decision Day'

When: **<Date and time>**

What: **'College Decision Day' Celebration**
<High school> will recognize seniors who plan to pursue some form of education or training beyond high school as part of a statewide "College Decision Day" campaign. These students have made the important decision to enter trade and professional certificate programs, career and technical programs, and two-and four-year degree programs, formalized apprenticeship programs, and military service. Additionally, students and families will have the opportunity to participate in workshops and counseling sessions to help them make the transition from high school to college.

Who: **<High School> students, family and staff**
Members of the community and the media also are invited to join us in celebrating the success of our students!

Where: **<School Name>, <Room # or Location (e.g. Auditorium)>**
<Physical Address>
<City, State, Zip>

Context: High schools statewide are participating in College Decision Day events. The campaign is organized by College for West Virginia (CFWV), an initiative coordinated by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. In 2014, the first College Decision Day event was piloted in West Virginia.

College Decision Day events, which will occur between April 1 and June 1, celebrate seniors who have committed to pursuing an education or training beyond high school in the same way that national signing day events celebrate students who wish to commit to playing sports after graduation. College Decision Day events ensure that students who plan to continue their education or training beyond high school.

- ### -

Social Media Guide

Social media is an excellent way to recognize your students and share your school's work with the community. You can also use social media to engage students and families and build excitement for your event. Here are a few tips for maximizing your social media efforts. Also, be sure to check out our College Decision Day Virtual Guidebook for even more great ideas and suggestions on ways to reach out!

Tag it! Just like an in-person conversation, it's hard to participate if you can't follow what's happening. Hashtags and mentions make it possible to find and follow posts from a wide variety of sources and link together the conversation. For College Decision Day, the following hashtags can be used:

- **#CollegeBoundWV:** Students across the country are using this hashtag to share their college-going plans.
- **#MyClimbWV:** This hashtag is used by students to describe their "climb" to pursue postsecondary education.
- **#ArmyBound, #NavyBound, #AirforceBound** (etc.): As with #CollegeBound, students across the nation are sharing their pride in enlisting in the military using these hashtags.
- **@CFWV** and **@WVGearUp**: Students can mention CFWV and West Virginia GEAR UP on Instagram, X and Facebook to share their stories with us.
- It's important to remember to check your privacy settings on your social media accounts if you want your posts to be seen and shared by others. For CFWV to retweet and share your stories, remember to make your posts public!

Encourage students and parents to share: Students often love to share info about themselves — and parents love talking about their kids! Here are a few ideas to get students and parents talking online:

- Ask students to post their postsecondary plans.
- Ask students to post pictures of their college acceptance letters.
- Ask students to share why they chose the pathway they plan to pursue.
- Encourage parents to brag a little about their student's successes and future plans.
- Ask students to share a bit of advice to help younger students prepare for the future.

Sample Social Media Posts

Seniors! <Insert date> is College Decision Day at <insert school>! Tell us where you're going to college!

On College Decision Day, we're recognizing your hard work and decision to pursue a postsecondary education. Look out for our <insert school> grads as they continue to shine! #CollegeBoundWV

Today is College Decision Day! Cheer on our <insert school mascot/nickname> grads as they embark on their post-high school journey! #CollegeBoundWV

Seniors, our school is celebrating all students who are planning to enroll in some type of education and training after high school! What are your plans? Tell us using #CollegeBoundWV or #MyClimbWV!

Those long nights of studying and planning for the future were worth it. Check out where our <insert school> students are headed! #CollegeBoundWV

Get ready because College Decision Day is <Insert date>, and we're pumped! Let's celebrate all your hard work to get to this point, you deserve it. Share your big plans for next year in the comments!

It's College Decision Day and our seniors are telling the world where they're headed! Join us in our celebration. #CollegeBoundWV

Tomorrow is College Decision Day at <insert school>. Don't forget to wear your favorite college gear or colors!

<Insert number> of seniors at <insert school> are heading on to some form of education or training beyond high school! Congrats, #classof2024!

They said it. They did it. Now, they are headed to college and beyond! Congrats, #classof2024! #CollegeBoundWV

Cheer on our grads at <insert school> as they embark on the next step of their educational journey during College Decision Day!

We couldn't be prouder of our seniors at <insert school> who have committed to pursuing an education or training beyond high school!

The future is here and these <insert school> grads are going to college! We can't wait to see what great things they accomplish! #CollegeBoundWV

CFWV and West Virginia GEAR UP Social Media Channels

CFWV

- ✓ **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/collegeforwv
- ✓ **X:** www.twitter.com/cfwv
- ✓ **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/collegeforwv
- ✓ **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/user/collegeforwv

West Virginia GEAR UP

- ✓ **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/wvgearup
- ✓ **X:** www.twitter.com/wvgearup
- ✓ **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/wvgearup
- ✓ **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/c/wvgearuporg



Activity and event ideas

We encourage schools to have fun with this event and make it their own. There's no right or wrong way to host College Decision Day as long as you incorporate a celebration of ALL college bound students and provide them with resources to transition and succeed! To get your creative juices flowing, here are a few bright ideas!

Activities:

- ✓ **Display a “where are you going?” map:** Post a map of West Virginia (or the U.S.) and let your students mark where they are going. You can leave the map up next year to inspire younger students!
- ✓ **Pledge to go:** Hang a “College Bound” banner in a prominent area of the school and have seniors who are planning on furthering their education sign it.
- ✓ **Post college acceptance letters:** Hang copies of your students' college acceptance letters around school or post them on your school's social media pages.
- ✓ **Create a “college wall”:** Hang banners or signs for each college that students from your school plan to attend. Put students' names alongside their intended college.
- ✓ **Dress the part:** Encourage students and staff to wear their favorite college gear leading up to College Decision Day.
- ✓ **Invite a panel of past students:** Invite alumni from your school to come back and share their experiences in college.
- ✓ **College slideshow:** Play a slideshow on your school's televisions that highlights each college bound student and his or her postsecondary plans.
- ✓ **Giveaways and contests:** These items can be something from the school's office like college swag, money, or even scholarships!
- ✓ **Photo booths:** Design a backdrop and adopt college-themed props for seniors to use to take photos.
- ✓ **“Real world” preparation:** Plan activities around your College Decision Day event that will help students prepare for life beyond high school. Some examples might be a chance to learn dining etiquette, professional networking, and financial literacy.
- ✓ **Door decorating contests:** Have students work together to decorate doors based on the college or university they plan to attend. Have staff and faculty vote for their favorites.
- ✓ **Video challenges:** Issue a video challenge to students focused on their plans after high school. They can perform the college's fight song or have an “I've Decided” reveal. Upload videos to the school's social media accounts.

- ✓ **Car parades:** Have a car parade! Teachers can celebrate seniors' plans for after high school by decorating their vehicles with signs, balloons, and window chalk and drive a specific route to pass by seniors' home.
- ✓ **Baby photos:** Have seniors send in a baby photo saying what they wanted to do when they were younger and a current photo saying what they are thinking about now. You can post them on social media or put them on a bulletin board.

Event ideas:

- ✓ Recognize each student who plans to pursue some form of education and training beyond high school on stage. Present them with a certificate and have them sign a commitment to finish their degree or program.
- ✓ Have each student pose for a photo at a "signing" booth, similar to those used when student athletes sign a letter of intent to play a sport. Decorate the booth with signs and gear from the student's chosen college and have them sign a letter of commitment to complete their degree or program.
- ✓ At a school pep rally, call students down from the stands by the name of the college or program they plan to attend. Have them sign a banner with the name of their intended college or program. Display the banners around school.
- ✓ Host a pep rally with the band, cheerleaders, etc. Call each student's name over the microphone and announce his or her college plans. Ask the band to crash symbols and the cheerleaders to cheer for each student.
- ✓ Host a "red carpet" event for students prior to a senior awards ceremony. Have a backdrop where students can pose for pictures with their family and friends and gear or signs from the college they plan to attend. Instead of asking students "who are you wearing?," ask them "where are you going?"
- ✓ Host a picnic, breakfast or lunch for students and their families. Seat students according to their intended college or plans after high school so they can get to know other students pursuing the same path.
- ✓ In addition to recognizing the student and his or her family, ask each student to recognize a teacher or staff member — past or present — who inspired them or helped them along the way.
- ✓ In addition to recognizing students, ask them to share a bit of advice for younger students or share why they chose their intended pathway.
- ✓ Plan a senior walk around your College Decision Day event. Have seniors visit their former elementary or middle school so the graduating class can feel nostalgic and the younger class can get excited about graduation!
- ✓ Allot time before your event begins for undecided students to speak with college representatives who attend your College Decision Day event.

Encouraging Community Collaboration

Getting the community involved in the celebration is a great way to make your students feel special. Here are a few ideas for encouraging community collaboration.

- ✓ Work with your local newspaper to include seniors' postsecondary plans alongside published senior photos.
- ✓ Ask local business leaders to post signs congratulating college bound seniors and wishing them luck.
- ✓ Ask local businesses to post your school's college-going rate or the number of students pursuing some form of education and training beyond high school on their marquees.
- ✓ Ask community leaders to "adopt" a college bound student for the next year. Ask them to check in with their adopted student to see how they're doing in college and offer to help them with any issues they're having. Ask them to send cards or care packages to their adopted student to encourage them to keep pursuing their dreams!



College Transition Workshop Topics

Many students graduate high school with intentions of pursuing postsecondary education but fail to enroll in a college program the following fall. To help combat this issue, known as “summer melt,” we ask that all College Decision Day sites provide workshops or counseling sessions to assist students and their families in making the transition to college. Here are some ideas for topics you may want to cover:

College 101: Utilize CFWV’s College 101 guide to walk students and families, step-by-step, through the process of enrolling in and preparing for college. You should have received some of these guides in the mail if you registered to participate in College Decision Day prior to March 15. If you need additional guides, they are available for download at cfwvconnect.com/request-resources.

Financial aid: Applying for financial aid is only the first step. Students often need help understanding financial aid award letters or finding additional money to close gaps in college funding. It can be useful to bring in a financial aid counselor to discuss these issues with students and families.

Study skills and time management: Set expectations that students will need to study more in college and provide them with strategies to study smarter (and harder!)

Self-advocacy and networking: Set expectations that students must take a proactive approach to managing their education, build relationships with professors and administrators on campus, and take responsibility for their own learning. Students arriving on college campuses are often afraid to ask questions or ask for help — talk to them about strategies for navigating this new environment.

Life skills: Paying bills, setting a budget, living with a roommate...doing laundry! Many students will be living on their own for the first time in college. Host workshops to have conversations about these topics.

Individual rights and safety: Students often do not understand the legal and social environments they are entering when they enroll in college. For example, many students are expelled for academic misconduct that may not seem like “a big deal” to them. Additionally, students often do not understand their rights to privacy or the judicial procedures available to them if they find themselves in trouble. Finally, students may lack “street smarts” in navigating a new city or area. Remind students of basic safety concepts such as traveling in groups at night. Make sure students are aware of campus safety procedures and resources.

Responsible lifestyles: Many students are overwhelmed by the social aspects of college, and, as a result, fall into negative situations such as engaging in drug or alcohol abuse, developing sedentary habits, entering into abusive or unhealthy personal relationships, or failing to manage their emotional and physical health. Discuss these issues with students and parents and point them toward resources to help them stay on track.

WV Colleges and Universities Admissions and Financial Aid Office Contact List

Appalachian Bible College

Admissions Office: 1-800-678-9222

Financial Aid Office email: financialaid@abc.edu

Bethany College

Center for Enrollment and Financial Aid:
1-800-922-7611

Bluefield State University

Admissions Office: 304-327-4507

Admissions email: cnunley@bluefieldstate.edu

Financial Aid Office: 304-327-4020

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

Admissions Office: 304-3260-4380, Ext. 2000

Admissions email: admissions@blueridgectc.edu

Financial Aid Office: 304-260-4380

Financial Aid email: finaid@blueridgectc.edu

BridgeValley Community & Technical College

South Charleston Campus

Admissions and Financial Aid Office: 304-205-6600

Admissions email: admissions@bridgevalley.edu

Financial Aid email: finaid@bridgevalley.edu

Montgomery Campus

Admissions and Financial Aid Office: 304-734-6600

Admissions email: admissions@bridgevalley.edu

Financial Aid email: finaid@bridgevalley.edu

Concord University

Admissions Office: 888-384-5249

Financial Aid Office: 304-384-6069

Davis & Elkins College

Admissions Office: 304-637-1230

Financial Aid Office: 304-637-1366

Eastern WV Community & Technical College

Admissions Office: 304-434-8000

Financial Aid email: finaid@easternwv.edu

Fairmont State University

Office of Admissions: 800-641-5678

Admissions email: recruit@fairmontstate.edu

Financial Aid Services: 800-641-5678, Option 2

Financial Aid email: financialaid@fairmontstate.edu

Glenville State University

Admissions Office: 800-924-2010

Admissions email: admissions@glenville.edu

Financial Aid Office: 304-462-4103

Financial Aid email: financial.aid@glenville.edu

Marshall University

Admissions Office: 800-642-3499

Admissions email: admissions@marshall.edu

Office of Student Financial Assistance:

304-696-3162

OSFA email: sfa@marshall.edu

Mountwest Community & Technical College

Office of Student Services: 304-244-1424

Office of Student Services email:

admissions@mctc.edu

Financial Aid: Office: 304-710-3370

Financial Aid email: ofa@mctc.edu

New River Community & Technical College

Advanced Technology Center

Admissions Office: 304-929-3315

Nicholas County Campus

Admissions Office: 304-883-2437

Greenbrier Valley Campus

Admissions Office 304-647-6565

Raleigh County Campus

Admissions Office: 304-929-5469

Mercer County Campus

Admissions Office: 304-818-2012

Financial Aid email for all campuses:

finaid@newriver.edu

Admissions email for all campuses:

admissions@newriver.edu

WV Colleges and Universities Admissions and Financial Aid Office Contact List

Pierpont Community & Technical College

Admissions Office: 304-333-3684
Admissions email: admit@pierpont.edu
Financial Aid: 304-367-4907
Financial Aid email: financialaid@pierpont.edu

Shepherd University

Admissions Office: 800-344-5231
Admissions email: admissions@shepherd.edu
Financial Aid Office: 304-876-5470

Southern WV Community & Technical College

Admissions Office: 304-896-7443
Financial Aid Office: 304-896-7060

University of Charleston

Admissions Office: 304-357-4750
Admission Office email: admissions@ucwv.edu
Financial Aid Office: 304-357-4944
Financial Aid email: ucfinancialaid@ucwv.edu

West Liberty University

Admissions Office: 304-336-8076
Financial Aid Office: 304-336-8016

West Virginia Northern Community College

Wheeling Campus
Admissions Office: 304-233-5900
Weirton Campus
Admissions Office: 304-723-2210
New Martinsville Campus
Admissions Office: 304-455-4684
Financial Aid number for all campuses:
304-214-8844

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Admissions Office: 800-356-7836
Financial Aid Office: 304-647-6231

West Virginia State University

Admissions email: admissions@wvstateu.edu
Financial Aid Office: 304-204-4369
Financial Aid email: fadics@wvstateu.edu

West Virginia University (Main Campus)

Admissions Office: 304-296-2121
Financial Aid Office: 304-293-1988

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Admissions Office: 800-722-9933
Admission email: admissions@wwwc.edu
Financial Aid Office: 800-343-2374

Wheeling University

Admissions Office: 800-624-6992
Admissions email: admiss@wju.edu
Financial Aid Office: 800-624-6992
Financial Aid email: finaid@wju.edu

WVU-Parkersburg

Admissions Office: 304-424-8310
Admissions email: admissions@wvup.edu
Financial Aid Services: 304-424-8310
Financial Aid Services email:
finaid@wvup.edu

WVU Potomac State College

Office of Enrollment Services: 800-262-7332
Office of Enrollment Services email:
go2psc@mail.wvu.edu
Financial Aid Office: 1-800-262-7332
Financial Aid email: psc-finaid@mail.wvu.edu

WVU Institute of Technology

Admission Office: 888-554-8324
Admissions Office email:
tech-admissions@mail.wvu.edu
Financial Aid Office: 304-292-0311
Financial Aid email: tech-finaid@mail.wvu.edu

Contact

If you have questions about this toolkit or West Virginia's College Decision Day effort, please contact:

Kaci H. Foster

Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist
Division of Student Affairs
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
(304) 558-0655 (ext. 26403)
Kaci.Foster@wvhepc.edu



DO THE MATH!

COLLEGE IS AFFORDABLE.

West Virginia GEAR UP believes every student is capable of pursuing education after high school. It is our mission to provide you and your family with all the tools and resources you need to make the best decision to ensure a successful future.

How can I get help paying for college?

File the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. When West Virginia students file the FAFSA at studentaid.gov, they may qualify for many types of state- and federal-level financial aid, this can include...

\$7,395 per year

Federal Pell Grant



\$5,200 per year

West Virginia Promise Scholarship

Separate application on collegeforwv.com



\$3,300 per year

West Virginia Higher Education Grant



More than \$15,500 per year to pay for college*

*Based on maximum award amounts for 2023-2024. Award amounts may change each year.

Did you know...

College refers to any form of high-quality education or training beyond high school. What is important is that you decide which pathway best suits your lifestyle and future goals.

"College" means...



Trade/Professional Certificate Programs



Career/Technical Programs



Two- and Four-Year Degree Programs



Formalized Apprenticeships



Military Service

Go Tuition Free with West Virginia Invests!

The West Virginia Invests Grant may cover your tuition to any West Virginia Community and Technical College (CTC) for your certificate or associate's degree in an in-demand, high-paying field. Learn more and apply at collegeforwv.com.



Discover
Your Future

UP TO

\$1,600

IN GRANT FUNDS!

Tourism

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

\$\$\$

Empower students to Discover Their Future in West Virginia by applying for this travel grant. Schools may apply for up to \$1,600 in grant funds to embark on an unforgettable tourism field trip in West Virginia! Awarded schools will be notified by February 9th, 2024.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 9
Tourism Regions
in West Virginia!

**TO APPLY,
CLICK HERE**

Deadline: February 1st, 2024

For more information, contact Lisa Wilson at lisa.wilson@k12.wv.us

Filing the **FAFSA**: The First Step Towards a Bright Future

The most important financial aid application is the **FAFSA**, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All federal financial aid programs, most programs offered by the State of West Virginia (including those listed in this flyer), and many programs offered by colleges require you to complete and submit the FAFSA. The FAFSA is available online at studentaid.gov/fafsa.



WV Financial Aid Programs

Most West Virginia students receive some form of financial aid to help pay for college. Here we list just a few West Virginia programs that can help make college more affordable. To learn more about financial aid programs, visit [CFWV.com](https://cfwv.com)—your one-stop-shop for planning, applying and paying for college.



The West Virginia Invests Grant Program is available for West Virginia Residents enrolled or planning to enroll in eligible certificate and associate degree programs at participating institutions. Invests is a “last dollar in” grant that covers tuition, mandatory fees and approved academic program fees not covered by other scholarships and grants. Award amounts vary. To apply and obtain a full list of eligibility requirements, visit collegeforwv.com/wvinvests.



The West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program is a need based financial aid program that awards up to \$3,300* to West Virginia residents. The award amount changes each year, and can cover tuition, housing, and supplies. To apply, file the FAFSA each year by April 15th. For eligibility requirements, visit collegeforwv.com/wvgrant.



The West Virginia Promise Scholarship Program is a merit-based financial aid program for West Virginia residents that covers up to \$5,200* annually to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at eligible West Virginia colleges and universities. To qualify, You must have both a core and cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and meet the minimum test score requirement for the ACT and SAT. To apply and view the full list of requirements, visit collegeforwv.com/promise.

*Based on maximum award amounts for 2023-2024. Award amounts may change each year.



@WVGearUP

SCIENCE ON A SPHERE



📍 South Charleston, WV

The West Virginia Regional Technology Park and the National Weather Service offer FREE Science on a Sphere® (SOS) presentations to K-12 students and community groups! This 2-hour (approx.) program features:

EXTREME WEATHER | WEATHER TRACKING | NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS TOUR | METEOROLOGY AS A CAREER PATH & MORE!

To learn more or schedule a visit, email Jordan Ferrell, WVRTP Director of Communications & Park Programs at jordan.ferrell@wvrtp.com.

**FREE STEM
EDUCATION
RESOURCE
FOR K-12!**