

Your dream, your plan, your future

Navigating Your Financial Future offers many free financial resources such as online workshops, helpful links, audio presentations, a monthly E-newsletter, and more!

Questions? Outreach Representatives are available to answer your questions. Simply visit our website (www.navigatingyourfuture.org) and choose the "Contact Us" tab to locate an Outreach Representative near you.

Additional Resources:

- www.flvc.org
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.fastweb.com
- www.finaid.org

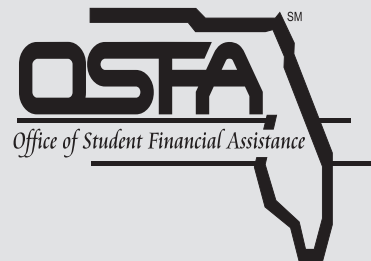
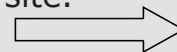


Florida Department of Education

www.fldoe.org

www.navigatingyourfuture.org

Scan the QR code with your SMART phone to access our site.



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Searching for Scholarships



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NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Where to Start

Grants and scholarships are a form of gift aid – gifts of money to pay for college that you don't have to repay. Money is out there, but you must seek it! It is never too early to begin searching for scholarships and grants. There are four main sources for scholarships: federal, state, institutional, and local.

1 Federal Resources

The following websites provide important information for obtaining scholarships and grants through the federal government:

www.fafsa.gov
www.studentaid.gov
www.nationalservice.gov
www.hhs.gov
www.va.gov

2 FLORIDA Grants and Scholarships

State grant and scholarship eligibility may be based upon academic achievement, financial need, minority, or heritage.

Scholarship programs:

- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
- Jose Marti Scholarship
- Rosewood Family Scholarship
- Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship
- Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers

Grant and Tuition Assistance programs:

- First Generation Matching Grant
- Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant
- Florida Student Assistance Grant
- Access to Better Learning and Education Grant
- William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant

For more information, please visit:

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org and select "State Grants, Scholarships & Applications," and then click on "Programs Offered." The Florida Financial Aid Application is available beginning December 1st.

3 Institutional Grants and Scholarships

Apply for gift aid directly through the school's financial aid office, website, or affiliated institutional foundations. Many alumni and private donors set up scholarships and grants for particular majors or participation in specific organizations.

4 Local Resources

Many local businesses and organizations offer gift aid for students. The high school counselor is a great contact for these types of scholarships. Other avenues to try are local employers, non-profit agencies, religious organizations, and professional groups related to your field of interest. Also consider the online source Fast Web which matches your personal profile to a national clearinghouse of scholarships. Visit www.fastweb.com for more details.

Avoid Scholarship Scams!

Be aware of scholarship scams by remembering the following:

- You should not have to pay to file the FREE *Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*.
- "Guaranteed scholarships" do not exist.
- You should not have to pay money to get money.

For more information about scholarship scams or to report a scam, contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by visiting www.ftc.gov or calling toll-free at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or TTY 1-866-653-4261.

Writing the Essay

Many scholarship committees are looking for students who have the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Essays are an excellent way for scholarship judges to choose the most qualified, deserving candidates.

The following tips should help you conquer this not-so-easy aspect of the scholarship application process:

Give yourself time. It takes time to construct a quality essay—usually at least two weeks.

Follow directions. Read the instructions carefully for eligibility requirements, word limit, font and type size (if specified), and answer the question that is being asked.

Focus on the topic. Scholarship essays usually require students to write about a particular topic or answer a specific question. Show the scholarship committee why they should choose you! Include extracurricular activities, highlight major accomplishments, and describe how you overcame a difficult situation to demonstrate your critical thinking skills and show your willingness to succeed when times are tough.

Create an outline. An outline helps to provide a framework for your essay and helps you focus on your thoughts.

Edit and proofread your work. Your essay should be clear and concise. Proofread several times and correct any errors. Make sure the essay flows as smoothly as possible.

Get feedback. Ask friends and family to read your essay and provide you with feedback. This process ensures that your ideas are clearly interpreted.