

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

FAFSA is the starting point to apply for many student financial aid programs. Many schools also use the FAFSA as part of their application process for non-federal aid. FAFSA is a comprehensive form; be prepared to provide extensive information about family income and income taxes from the previous year; assets, family size, the number of family members attending college, and more.

By law, the FAFSA cannot be submitted before January 1. However, it's a good idea to gather the paperwork and fill out the FAFSA in December. That way, when January 1 rolls around, you are ready to submit the application.

Remember student aid is generally awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. So the more time that passes after the January 2 start date, the higher the risk of missing out on available funding.

Submitting the FAFSA is an annual process. Every year students are in college, they'll need to submit the FAFSA.

All the information you need is available at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Prince William County has a feature that enables you to do a scholarship search at <http://www.pwcs.edu/Scholarships/>.

Fairfax County Scholarship Database is now on-line. This database is supported by all the FCPS Career Centers. It's user friendly and offers many local scholarships.

<http://www.fcps.edu/ssseapps/scholarshipdb/>

The **College Board** and **ACT** web sites also offer information on college planning, career exploration and scholarships

<http://www.actstudent.org/college/index.html>

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/>

Scholarship Resources:

[FastWeb: Matching Students to Scholarships](#)

[FinAid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid](#)

[FindTuition: A service of CareerBuilder.com](#)

[The College Board Scholarship Search](#)

Sallie Mae provides a good overview of the college planning process, check it out at

<http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp>

Virginia Mentor is a student services website representing the public and private colleges and universities of Virginia. <http://www.virginiamentor.com/>