



# CCS Senior Update

March 2019

Questions? See your Senior School Counselor and IKIC Advisor!

## Finding Money for College!

- Haven't completed your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) yet? *Every* student planning to attend college should do this. There is no need to try to do this alone. I Know I Can staff can help! Register for one of the remaining workshops at [www.iknowican.org](http://www.iknowican.org). Two workshops that anyone needing assistance may attend:
  - Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm at East HS
  - Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm at Mifflin HS
- **Bring copies** of all financial award letters and scholarship offers to your school counselor. We must track these and will print scholarship information for each senior in the Senior Awards & Honors and/or Graduation program(s).
- It's **SCHOLARSHIP** season- *many are due March 1!* Winter break is a great time to search for scholarships and apply for a few. Make sure to check out all of the scholarship info and featured scholarships with upcoming deadlines at the end of this Update. Here are some quick tips:
  - Many scholarships are offered by specific colleges, so consider submitting a few more college applications to colleges where you could get merit aid. Application deadlines still haven't passed for many colleges.
  - Many outside organizations offer scholarships and many of those are now available. Check the scholarship section in this Update, search the Naviance scholarship list and definitely keep up with scholarship matches through FastWeb and Cappex. Every dollar helps!!!!

## Graduation Requirements- What Do You Need to Walk the Stage?

NEW Graduation Pathways were approved by the Ohio Department of Education during winter break!

- Have you reviewed your Graduation Pathways with you counselor? All 2019 students and their parents must review their progress toward graduation with their school counselor.
- Call your school counselor with any questions or concerns!

## College Applications

- If you haven't applied to any colleges yet, it's not too late. There's still time for many colleges. See your counselor and IKIC advisor right away. We can help!
- Need a Mid-Year report for any colleges? See your counselor to request any updated grades or records required by any of your colleges OR that might improve your admissions chances.

## Don't give in to senioritis!

Finish strong in your senior classes. If you are getting ready for college, the military or an apprenticeship, or you want to get a great job out of high school, then you don't want to lose momentum now. Don't let poor attendance or one failed class keep you from graduating.

## Need a prom dress? Fairy Goodmothers to the rescue!

Personal shopping appointments are available 3/10-4/7! Schedule yours here: [Cinderella's Closet](#)

## Spring OST Testing

Retake any tests you need for graduation:

**OST Prep:** Curriculum Test Prep Website <https://www.ccsch.us/airbootcamp>

ODE Testing Resources <https://oh.portal.airast.org/resources/>

ODE Student Practice Test site (click on Student Practice Test, bicycle icon)  
<https://oh.portal.airast.org/users/students-and-families.stml>

## Other opportunities besides college!

**\*CCS Construction Trades Fair: April 4<sup>th</sup> at Fort Hayes Career Center (4-6:30 pm)**

Want a great paying career with unbeatable benefits? Consider a career in one of the construction trades. Employers will be there to recruit and give information about opportunities in their field (paid apprenticeships, job expectations...).

### **Military Service:**

Information and recruiter contacts are available from your counselor.

### **Apprenticeships (“the other four-year degree!”):**

Many trades (plumbing, electrical, welding...) offer apprenticeship programs. These may offer great alternatives to traditional college training and provide excellent career options. For more information, visit your counselor and go online to: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/apprenticeship/index.stm> .

### **Consider a year of service before college:**

Programs like City Year give high school graduates the opportunity to serve their community and earn money for college. Go to <http://www.cityyear.org/columbus.aspx> for more information.

For other gap year (taking a year between high school and college) opportunities, check out sites such as [www.gap-year.com](http://www.gap-year.com) or [www.usagapyearfairs.org](http://www.usagapyearfairs.org)

**COLUMBUS SHEET METAL WORKERS APPRENTICESHIP:** Accepting applications “MOST” Thursdays between 12:30 and 4:00. Phone: (614)-471-3107 [www.tinman24.org](http://www.tinman24.org) Application Requirements (You can come in without these- they can get them later if you are on track to get them) : • Must have a high school diploma or GED • Valid Driver’s License, Birth Certificate, SS number • Oral Interview with 2 or more trustee representatives • Pass drug test, background check and Join SMART LU#24

## Paying for College:

How will you pay for college other than writing a check each semester? Most people cannot pay full tuition out-of-pocket- that’s where different types of financial aid come into play. Each *Update* will feature various types of financial aid and tips to help you afford college. This edition will focus on the basics of earning **scholarships**. Look for *Scholarship Tips*, *How to Write Scholarship Essays* and other handouts in your Naviance documents section.

If you are an **undocumented student or renewed your DACA status**, you can share this with your school counselor and it will remain confidential! You can attend college. There are also resources for undocumented students in the Documents section on your Naviance Student site.

**Complete your FAFSA!** Families may fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) after **October 1** using 2018 tax return/financial information. IKIC FAFSA workshops will be held now through February. Go to the IKIC site for info.

## **Scholarships:**

### Scholarships offered by colleges:

- Carefully check the **websites of your colleges** for any scholarships for which you may qualify. Work with your school counselor, your college's admissions counselors and your I Know I Can advisor to understand how to apply for college's scholarships and various programs. **This is by far the BIGGEST source of scholarship (and grant) aid for students, so applying to the right colleges for you is key!**

### Outside scholarships:

- All local, regional (and some national) scholarships – Local and regional scholarships are often less competitive than national scholarships, and students should definitely apply for these if they meet the application criteria! Even a scholarship of \$250 can provide books for the semester for cash-strapped students- every bit of money helps enormously! And multiple smaller scholarship dollars can really add up. These are updated on your **Naviance Student** site under the “colleges” tab, then “scholarships and money,” then “scholarship list.” Please check regularly as new scholarships will arrive throughout the year. It is your job to read the information, determine if you fit the criteria for the various scholarships and MEET DEADLINES. Please see your counselor if you have questions or for any copies of paper applications. Make sure to give your counselor two weeks of notice to send transcripts!
- National scholarships - Register on Cappex and Fastweb (or use other scholarship sites listed below) for scholarships offered to students across the nation and world. These are very competitive- but our CCS students have won these every year! You can also complete the scholarship search in Naviance under the colleges tab (bottom of that page).
- Unpublicized scholarships - Check with your church, parents' workplaces, your internship site, your parents' banks/ credit unions, your current/past clubs organizations (scouting, cotillions...), Veteran's Affairs (if your parent qualifies), and any other connections you might have through your family and friends!

### **Featured Scholarships on your Naviance List (MORE in Naviance!):**

- The **I Know I Can Grant** is for Columbus City Schools seniors (and alumni currently enrolled in college). Students must have a 2.25 GPA, file for the FAFSA and be found Pell eligible, and be accepted into at least one college. [www.iknowican.org](http://www.iknowican.org) \$1200 each year **Deadline: 4/26**
- **Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship:** Any African American Senior in the Class of 2019 may apply. Students (or a representative) must attend a meeting at Columbus Downtown HS on March 3rd. Time: 12:00-2:00 PM. All information will be shared at the meeting. See flyer in Naviance.
- **AABE Scholarship:** For Columbus underrepresented students who have strong academic records and who plan to major in engineering. \$2500 [scholarship.aabe.org](http://scholarship.aabe.org) **Deadline: 3/15**
- **Lockheed Martin** has established a new scholarship program to provide opportunities to students studying engineering or computer science that demonstrate financial need and come from underrepresented or underserved communities. \$40,000 [www.lockheedmartin.com](http://www.lockheedmartin.com) **Deadline: 3/12**
- The Columbus Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (**COMTO Columbus**) is pleased to announce its Scholarship Program. 3 scholarships! COMTO Columbus Scholarship Eligibility: \* Minority students graduating high school this year, or current minority college student, pursuing a degree in the field of transportation (preferred). \$1000 [comtocolumbus.org](http://comtocolumbus.org) **Deadline: 3/15**

- **Ohio Gas Association Scholarship:** Must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident. • Must have a career goal in the crude oil and natural gas industry, or related energy field. \$1000 [www.ohiogasassoc.org](http://www.ohiogasassoc.org) **3/15**
- The Midwest/Great Lakes (MW/GL) **Lee J Brockway Scholarship** is a regional competitive, merit based award program designed to provide financial support for high school students. \$1000 [www.a4le.org](http://www.a4le.org) **Deadline: 3/15**
- **NCBW Central Ohio Trailblazer Scholarship:** The National Coalition of 100 Black Women is a non-profit 501C3 organization that advocates for the health, education, and economic empowerment of African American women and girls. \$2000, Download the application from Naviance. **Deadline: 3/22**
- **OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarships-** Are you an outstanding scholar-athlete? Ask your principal or Athletic Director to consider nominating you for this scholarship! **Deadline: 3/22**
- The **Columbus Administrators Association** is again sponsoring four \$1000 scholarships to CCS seniors who plan to enter the field of education. Download an application from Naviance! **Deadline: 3/29**
- **The First Service Foundation** is pleased to once again announce our offering of scholarships this year. The scholarships are available to graduating high schools seniors from Central Ohio counties who plan on pursuing an associates or bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university. \$2000 [www.firstcu.com](http://www.firstcu.com) **Deadline: 3/29**
- The Gamma Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa is offering the **Barbara A. Yarborough Scholarship** (\$1,000.00) to graduating seniors who plan to pursue the field of education. \$1000 Download an application from Naviance! **Deadline: 3/29**
- The **Greater Columbus Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants** will be awarding two scholarships to individuals who plan to pursue a major related to financial management. \$500 <https://www.agacgfm.org/chapters/GreaterColumbus/Home.aspx> **Deadline: 4/1**
- **OCIC Jerry Grier Scholarships:** Applicants must reside in housing through Ohio Capital Impact Organization and be an eligible resident in good standing of an affordable property of an OCCH member company. \$8000 Download applications from Naviance! **Deadline: 4/1**
- **William Squires Educational Foundation:** For seniors who have a specific career goal, demonstrated financial need and who have at least a 3.2 GPA. **\$4000 Deadline: 4/5** [wmdsquiresfoundation.org](http://wmdsquiresfoundation.org)
- The **Ohio Chapter Scholarship** is a state-wide competitive, merit based award program designed to provide financial support for high school students accepted into college & intending to enroll in a field related to educational facility planning and design. \$1000 Download an application in Naviance. **Deadline: 4/12**
- The **Central Ohio Club of the NANBPWC** is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship for exceptional young women of color who plan to pursue degrees in higher education. Download an application from Naviance. **Deadline: 4/21**

## **Helpful Websites:**

Remember to visit all of your colleges' websites **often** for the latest information. Check all deadlines, especially those for scholarships and honors programs!

### **Information about College Costs:**

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> The US Department of Education launched this site to provide families with college cost comparisons. You can also do a basic college search on the site.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/paying-for-college> Khan Academy takes on the challenge of paying for college!

<http://www.thecollegesolution.com/> features excellent information on how to cut college costs, including free webinars and reliable resources from Lynn O'Shaughnessy, college expert and higher-ed journalist.

<http://costoflearning.com/> uses Net Price Calculators to help you compare the cost of attending several of your top choice colleges.

<http://www.collegedata.com/> provides such tools as net price calculators, Estimated Family Contribution calculators, financial aid award comparisons and scholarship information.

<http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/> is a site maintained by the US Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency Center.

<https://collegeabacus.org/> College Abacus is a one-stop, secure search site that helps students and families compare the net price estimates of 5,000+ colleges before students apply and before any financial aid determination is made.

### **Scholarship Search Sites:**

\*Your Naviance Student site!

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) tailors scholarship searches based on students' profiles. Every student should register for this free service.

<http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/> Here you can uncover millions of dollars in scholarships from colleges, universities, private companies, foundations -- and more -- to help pay for school.

[www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarlink/index.aspx](http://www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarlink/index.aspx) is the link to the Columbus Foundation's list of scholarships. Type in your information, and they match you with possible scholarships!

[www.free-4u.com/minority.htm](http://www.free-4u.com/minority.htm) is an excellent site that lists scholarships for each ethnic background (Irish, Portuguese, Japanese, Jewish, African American....)

<https://scholarships.unconf.org/> provides information about UNCF (and affiliated) scholarships, including one for Central Ohio students. This site is updated on an ongoing basis.

[www.blackexcel.org/link4htm](http://www.blackexcel.org/link4htm) is a great site for minority students.

[www.freshinfo.com](http://www.freshinfo.com) allows you to conduct personalized searches for scholarships much like Fastweb.

[www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com) is a general scholarship site that searches based on your profile.

[www.jockscholarships.com](http://www.jockscholarships.com) This is a free site for students interested in pursuing collegiate athletics. It is supposed to be most helpful for students interested in non-revenue producing sports.

[www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com) is another good general scholarship search site.

<https://www.goldendoorscholars.org/> and <https://getschooled.com/dashboard/article/1320-scholarships-for-undocumented-daca-mented-students-get-that-money> provide scholarship resources for DACA and undocumented students

<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/> assists first generation and underrepresented students.

[www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.phtml) , [www.thepointfoundation.org](http://www.thepointfoundation.org), [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) and

[www.safeschoolscoalition.org/rg-scholarships.html](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/rg-scholarships.html) are all excellent sources of financial aid for GLBT students, students with GLBT parents and/or students involved in social activism.

### **Financial Aid Informational Sites:**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) is the site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You can file your FAFSA after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> is the first stop for students and parents who plan to complete the FAFSA online. An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. Your FSA ID application can take 1-3 days to process before you can begin using your number(s) to complete the FAFSA online. Both the student and one parent must each get an FSA ID. Contact the Social Security Administration first if you believe yours or your parent's names or other information needs to be updated! Your FSA ID and SSA information must MATCH!

[www.OhioMentor.org](http://www.OhioMentor.org) is a wonderful site full of information where students can fill out financial aid and admission applications online.

[www.ed.gov/OSFAP/Students](http://www.ed.gov/OSFAP/Students) deals with federal programs.

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) covers both federal and private loan options.

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) provides many answers to financial aid questions.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/paying-for-college> provides guidance on completing the FAFSA and CSS Profile.

[www.nasfa.org](http://www.nasfa.org) is a site sponsored by the National Assoc. of Student Financial Aid.

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) is the home page for the CSS Financial Aid Profile, a form required by many selective colleges. Click on CSS/PROFILE

[www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps](http://www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps) You may also register to win a \$1500 scholarship at this site. It features information on college planning, including financial aid.