

**Senior Guidance Notes  
February 12, 2011**

Hopefully, many of you and your parents will take advantage of College Goal Sunday to be held at the Reese Center at COTC/OSU, Newark on Sunday, February 13. There will be many financial aid representatives to go through the FAFSA step by step. To register for the event, go to: [www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org](http://www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org) or call 1-888-833-1133

The Plumbers and Pipefitters Apprenticeship and Training School will be handing out applications on February 7 - February 11 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and February 12 from 9 a.m.-12p.m.

Performance Training Services offer training programs for graduating students that have chosen not to attend a two or four year university, but instead have chosen to enter the work force. There are scholarship opportunities for students who want careers as heavy equipment operators in the mining, waste management, manufacturing, and construction industries.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CAREER COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS is offering more than 280 scholarships. These schools are associate degree schools (2 years) or shorter periods of one year to a few months. I have information and applications in my office. Deadline: April 1, 2011

The Builders Exchange Scholarship Program provides tuition assistance to deserving college students in construction-related fields of study with majors ranging from architecture, to landscaping, to engineering, to project management. Awards can be as much as \$2,000. I have applications in my office. Deadline: February 25, 2011

Abbot and Fenner Business are offering \$1000 scholarships. Students are to submit an essay on the topic that appears on the scholarship page of their web site: <http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm> Deadline: June 18, 2011

Valuable scholarships for students seeking a career in the graphic imaging industry are being offered by Printing Industries Education Funds, Inc. Apply now online at [www.pianko.org](http://www.pianko.org) and click on The Student Tab. Deadline: February 28, 2011

Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program provides financial assistance and encouragement to a student of Italian descent to pursue a course of study in a two or four year college. A minimum of 10 seniors will each be awarded a minimum of \$1,500. I have applications in my office or you can download one on the internet at <http://www.columbusitalianfestival.com>. Deadline: March 21, 2011

Columbus Italian Club Scholarship awards at least two scholarships, typically in the amount of \$1,000 to high school seniors of Italian descent. Applicants are evaluated on four principal areas: academics, life activities, financial need, and an essay on "What it means to me to be an Italian-American. Deadline:

March 31, 2011

The William D. Squires Scholarship will offer 12 scholarships. The scholarship is primarily need-based. Only students from Ohio may apply. Items which must be included with the certified application are a transcript, an essay, and 2 letters of recommendation. The scholarships are \$3,000 per year, renewable for a total of \$12,000. Requirements include having a specific career goal, be highly motivated, have good character, and have a minimum GPA of 3.2. A scholarship application and detailed information are available on their web site [www.wmdsquiresfoundation.org](http://www.wmdsquiresfoundation.org). Deadline: April 5, 2011

Operation Round Up Scholarship Program for students living with parents or guardians who have The Energy Cooperative service and participate in the Operation Round Up program on their monthly billing. Scholarships are \$2,500. Criteria given consideration are accountability, integrity, innovation, and community involvement. Nomination form may be downloaded at [www.theenergycoop.com](http://www.theenergycoop.com), click on "Operation Round Up" and then scroll down to the "operation Round Up Scholarship" packet. Deadline: March 11, 2011

BioOhio Annual Scholarship - 5 one-time \$1,300 scholarships are being offered to high school seniors. Requirements include being a resident of Ohio and plan to pursue bioscience-related studies in college, complete application including essay, transcript, 2 letters of recommendation, be enrolled in an Ohio college. I have the application. Deadline: March 11, 2011

Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa is offering two \$750 educational supply scholarships to students entering the education profession. Requirements include, transcript, 3.0 GPA, attending a school which offers programs in educational licensure, 2 references, and autobiography. I have the application. Deadline: April 15, 2011

Buick Achievers Scholarship Program. 100 scholarships for up to \$25,000 a year, 1,000 scholarships at \$2,000 a year renewable for up to 4 years. Applicants should apply who plan to major in one of the following: science, technology, engineering, math, business administration, finance, marketing, or design, and are interested in the automotive or related industries. For more information visit the website at [www.buickachievers.com](http://www.buickachievers.com). Deadline: March 31, 2011

Ohio Forestry Association Memorial Scholarship to provide assistance toward forest resource education to quality students. The scholarships are grants with no requirement for repayment. Preference will be given to students attending Ohio colleges. I have the application. Deadline: April 15, 2011

The AAA Ohio Auto Club is offering the opportunity to high school seniors who were members of their school safety patrol to apply for one of ten \$1,000 grants. Applicants must complete an application with information about their academic record, safety patrol experience, in and out of school activities, and references. They must also write a 500 word essay, provide school transcripts and a letter of recommendation. I have the applications. Deadline: April 4, 2011

The Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers will award 3 scholarships to top essay writers. The topic of the essay is focused on the recent tragic shootings in Tucson. I have the applications and instructions in my office. Deadline: April 1, 2011

The Altrusa Club of Newark/ Granville will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to female graduating seniors. Requirements are completing the application, attaching a recent photograph, and a transcript. Applicants should have grades in the upper percentiles and should have demonstrated good character and citizenship. I have the application. Deadline: April 1, 2011

The consulting firm of AES Engineers is providing scholarships to deserving students. To be eligible students need to answer one of the essay questions which can be found on their site at <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm>. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of character, as determined by evaluating the essays. The amount of the award is \$500. You are not required to be taking Engineering courses to be eligible. Deadline: October 7, 2011

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 55, Licking County is offering two \$500 scholarships to Licking County students this year. Applicants must be the child or grandchild of a Veteran of anytime and any conflict. Applications must include the following: SAT/ACT scores, transcript, letter of recommendation, letter of acceptance from college, 250 word statement, and branch of service and relationship of veteran relative. Letter which gives instructions is available in my office. Deadline: April 16, 2011

The Energy Cooperative (TEC) is offering scholarships for children of consumers. It is offered to high school seniors whose household is served by TEC. They will offer four \$2,000 scholarships, and two \$1,000 scholarships. I have the nomination form or you may download it at: [www.buckeyepower.com](http://www.buckeyepower.com), click on YOUTH PROGRAMS under ENERGY BUZZ, then click on Children of Consumers Scholarship. Deadline: March 4, 2011

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I am including some additional materials on the following pages which explain some of the financial aid terms you or your parents might come across as you pursue the financial aid process. The last page explains the financial aid award letter you will receive from each of the colleges which you listed on the FAFSA form.

**BEST OF LUCK**

## Quick Guide to Financial Aid Terms

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** you will receive a copy of your FAFSA information as well. Using information from your FAFSA, your prospective college(s) will receive FAFSA information as well. Using information from your FAFSA, your prospective college(s) will determine if you are eligible for each type of financial aid. The aid offered in the award letter will be based on your demonstrated financial need, which is equal to the Cost of Attendance (COA) minus your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This can be a very confusing process. To understand the financial aid process better, here are the key terms you need to know:

**FAFSA:** This is the form used by the government to determine the amount of money you and your family can afford to pay for one year. You can file the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

**FAFSA Confirmation:** This is the document that confirms your FAFSA has been processed and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** This is a measure of your family's financial strength based on income, assets, and other factors. The FAFSA uses your EFC to determine the amount of money the federal government believes your family can contribute toward one academic year of college. The actual amount of money your family ends up paying could differ from the EFC figure, depending on the sources of aid available to you.

**Financial Aid Package:** This is the total aid you are eligible to receive. It can include grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans. Aid offered is typically summarized in an award letter and sent to you by your prospective college(s).

**Financial Aid Award Letter:** This is the list of aid from multiple sources that you are eligible to receive through your prospective college, including terms and conditions. You should be aware that you are not required to accept each type of aid. For example, you could turn down loans. Turning down loans, however, will not increase the amount of grants you receive.

**Cost of Attendance (COA):** This figure includes the total price of tuition, fees, room, board, books, transportation and personal expenses for one year of college. This is also known at some colleges as a "Student Budget." There may be separate student budgets for students who live off campus, live with your parents, etc.

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### Types of Aid

There are many different types of financial aid available from federal and state government, college and private sources. The major types of financial aid include:

**Grants** are awards typically based on financial need that do not need to be paid back. An example is the Federal Pell Grant. Eligibility often depends on your EFC. For example, the Federal Pell Grant is based on your EFC.

**Scholarships** are awards usually based on achievement or talent that also do not to be paid back. You can search for scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). Fastweb adds and updates scholarships every single day. Also, your prospective college(s) may offer scholarships based on academic merit and/or financial need. Call the financial aid office to find out which scholarships are available to you and how you can apply.

**Federal Work-Study/Student Employment** programs provide part-time jobs for students with financial need. Jobs are available on- and off-campus and listed with a school's financial aid or student employment office.

**Loans** must be paid back, usually with interest. There are federal student loans, federal parent loans, and private loans. The good news is that interest rates for federal student loans and parent loans are currently at historic lows. However, you must demonstrate financial need for some loans, like the Federal Perkins Loan or the

subsidized Stafford Loan. Other loans, such as the unsubsidized Stafford loan and the Parent PLUS loan, do not depend on financial need. To find out more about loans, visit [www.finaid.org/loans](http://www.finaid.org/loans).

**Education Tax Benefits** are available to you and your parents when you file your federal income tax returns based on amounts you paid for college. The most popular education tax benefits are the Hope Scholarship tax credit, Lifetime Learning tax credit and the student loan interest deduction.

**American Opportunity Tax Credit** is an extension of the Hope Scholarship. It is a temporary expansion currently limited to the 2009-2010 tax year. The full credit is available to individuals whose modified adjusted gross income is \$80,000 or less, or \$160,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return.

## Loans Terms

Federal education loans, including both student loans and parent loans, are available direct from the federal government and are administered by your college. Private student loans – sometimes called alternative loans – are available from a private lender (like a bank) and have terms and interest rates set by the lender and not the government. Here are loan terms you need to know:

**Interest:** An annual charge for borrowing money, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance. Interest rates are either variable (the rate can change) or fixed (the rate will not change). The interest rate on a variable rate loan can reset (change) annually, quarterly or monthly

**Annual Percentage Rate (APR):** The overall cost of borrowing money, expressed as an annual percentage of the loan balance. The APR combines the interest rate with loan fees, the addition of interest to the principal, which is called capitalization, and the loan repayment terms.

**Default:** Failure to repay your loan according to the terms; it may lead to legal action to recover the money and can negatively affect your credit rating. Private student loans are considered to be in default after 120 days of nonpayment, while federal education loans are considered to be in default after 360 days of nonpayment.

**Principal:** The full amount borrowed. During repayment, it refers to the portion of the original amount still owed (not including interest or fees).

**Loan Fees:** One-time charges to originate or guarantee a loan, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance.

**Promissory Note:** A binding legal document you sign when you get a student loan. It contains the loan terms and conditions under which you're borrowing and the terms under which you agree to pay back the loan. It will mention deferment and cancellation provisions available to the borrower.

**Forbearance:** A period during which your monthly loan payments are temporarily suspended or reduced. Interest continues to accrue and will be capitalized if unpaid by the borrower. You may qualify for forbearance if you are willing but unable to make loan payments due to certain types of financial hardships. Federal loans have a five-year limit on forbearances. Private student loans typically have a one-year limit.

**Consolidation:** The process of combining one or more eligible federal educational loans into a single new loan.

**Deferment:** A postponement of payment on a federal loan that is allowed under certain conditions and during which the government pays the interest on any subsidized loans. The borrower is responsible for the interest on any unsubsidized loans during a deferment. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. In-school deferments are unlimited.

**Cancellation:** Some loan programs provide for forgiveness of the loan under certain circumstances, such as death or permanent disability of the borrower.

**Capitalization:** The practice of adding unpaid interest charges to the principal balance of an educational loan, thereby increasing the size of the loan. Interest is then charged on the new balance, including both the unpaid principal and the accrued interest.

**Subsidized:** A loan for which the government pays the interest on the loan while the student is in school, during the six-month grace period and during any deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on financial need and may not be used to finance the family contribution.

**Unsubsidized:** A loan for which the government does not pay the interest. The borrower is responsible for the interest on an unsubsidized loan from the date the loan is disbursed, even while the student is still in school. Students may avoid paying the interest while they are in school by capitalizing the interest, which increases the loan amount. Unsubsidized loans are not based on financial need and may be used to finance the family contribution.



**Scholarship database containing over 1.5 million  
scholarships valued at 3.4 billion scholarship dollars!**

## Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter

Use this example as a guide to reading your financial aid award letter. Remember, you can choose to accept or decline any part of your financial aid package. If you decide to decline, contact the Financial Aid Office. If you have any questions, make sure to contact your prospective college's aid office immediately.

Expenses (COA*)	
Tuition:	\$7,334
Room/Board	\$5,204
Health Fees	\$ 176
Books/Supplies	\$1,015
Personal	\$2,600
Transportation	\$ 900
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,239</b>

\*Cost of Attendance (COA): The total expenses (tuition, fees, etc.) of one year's education. Your college may also include indirect costs (books, room and board, transportation, personal expenses, etc.). Our example includes both indirect and indirect expenses.

Resources (EFC*)	
Parent's Contribution	
From Earnings	\$2,500
From Assets	\$ 112
<u>Student's Contribution</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$3,112</b>

\*Expected Family Contribution: Among your family is expected to contribute per year, determined by Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) results.

The amount you end up actually paying could differ from the EFC, depending on what resources are available at your college.

### Sample Award Letter Explained

Dear Student:

The results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicate that you are eligible for financial assistance for the upcoming academic year. We are pleased to offer you the following financial aid award. Please review each type of award before accepting.

Award	Federal Pell Grant (free money)		Option to accept or decline each award		Total
	Fall	Spring	Accept	Decline	
Federal Pell Grant	\$ 625	\$ 625	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,250
Total Direct Loans					\$6,876
Direct Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized)	\$1,500	\$1,500	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Direct Federal Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized)	\$1,938	\$1,938	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Total Financial Aid Package</b>					<b>\$8,126</b>

**Federal Stafford Loan – Unsubsidized**  
(Interest accrues immediately after loan is disbursed)

**Federal Stafford Loan – Subsidized**  
(Interest-free until 6 months after graduation when repayment of interest & principal begins)

Sincerely,  
Student Financial Services

### What does this mean to you?

Cost of Attendance (COA)	\$17,239
Gift Aid (Pell Grant)	\$ 1,250
<b>Out-of-Pocket Cost</b>	<b>\$ 15,989</b>

Out-of-pocket cost is the difference between the cost of attendance and the gift aid, such as grants and scholarships. It is the amount of money you will have to pay from savings (past income), income and loans (future income). Scholarships will always be the best way to meet the costs of a college education. Remember to search for scholarships at free websites like [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)!