

## College & Scholarship Checklist

# Reach Your College Goal



### September/October

- **Meet with your school counselor** to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements, with courses in language arts, math, science, world languages, social science and visual or performing arts. Scan this poster's QR code to link to a printable worksheet to help keep track.
- **Earn college credits** in high school through Advanced Placement (AP) classes, International Baccalaureate (IB), Running Start, College in the High School, and/or Tech Prep.
- **Narrow your list of colleges** by mid-October to a list of three to five and start working on applications. Prepare your applications carefully and pay close attention to deadlines! Ask your counselor about application fee waivers to reduce the cost of college applications.
- **Ask for letters of recommendation** from teachers and school counselors. Give them plenty of time before the deadline.
- **Register for and take** entrance exams such as the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT subject tests, or ACT, if you haven't already. Ask your counselor about getting a fee waiver to reduce the costs of the SAT/ACT. Retake tests later in the year if you want to improve your score.

### November/December

- **Attend college information events** and college fairs, including the fall National College Fair.
- **Request transcripts** from your counselors for your applications.
- **Begin writing** a college personal statement after looking for colleges (collegeview.com is a good place to start) using your skills inventory.
- **Switch your focus** to scholarships once all your college applications are complete. Update your scholarship profile at theWashBoard.org and start applying.

### January/February



- **Complete and submit your FAFSA** (fafsa.gov) shortly after January 1, along with any other financial aid applications your school(s) of choice may require. For the biggest amount of aid, file your FAFSA by January 31. (College Bound Scholarship students have to submit a FAFSA to access the scholarship.) Attend one of your school's FAFSA completion workshops if you need help filing the FAFSA.
- **Check your Student Aid Report** (SAR) for errors after your FAFSA has been processed, and enter any corrections online quickly.

### March/April



- **Work hard all year;** second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility and admissions decisions.
- **Email/call** all colleges you applied to before April 1 to make sure they have all financial data they need from you.
- **Update the FAFSA** after taxes are filed (due by April 15) and resubmit it with your parent's tax info.
- **Review your college acceptances** and compare the college financial aid packages. Turn in all forms requested by the college you plan to attend to ensure you are registered for classes, housing, financial aid and more.

### May/June



- **Visit the college** where you have been accepted and plan to attend. Sign up for a tour and ask about looking at the dorms, if possible. It will help you know what to pack!
- **Sign up** for your college's orientation. Some take place in the late spring/early summer, and some right before classes start in the fall.
- **Stay sharp.** You can prevent summer learning loss by reading books, reviewing classroom material from the school year and planning for the upcoming school year.

