



# Transition Newsletter

**Volume 13**  
**Dec 2021**



## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

**Scholarships.com** has helped students find money for college and learn about the entire financial aid process. They are among the most widely-used and trusted free college scholarship search and financial aid information resources available

1. Don't wait until the last minute to apply for scholarships.
2. Don't let others do your work, the application needs to be an authentic portrait of you so do the work yourself.
3. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
4. If an application asks for money, walk away.
5. Don't give out bank or credit card information. Any financial data you provide should come from IRS or FAFSA data.
6. Don't avoid a scholarship just because you have to write an essay.
7. Don't reuse essays without updating the information.
8. Don't count out small scholarships. They can add up quickly!
9. Don't get discouraged. There are \$50 billion in scholarships given out each year, there's an award for you!

*This is informational only. DHS is neither supporting or endorsing this website. Please determine for yourself if you wish to use it and proceed accordingly.*

## Financial Information for Post-Secondary Schooling

If you are considering attending a vocational college or university after high school, you will most likely need some financial aid. Why do you need to know financial aid options? Once you start touring and talking to post-secondary schools, you will find out that it can be expensive! The majority of students attending post-secondary will need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. If you are planning to attend post-secondary in the Fall 2022, you can begin the process of filling out a FAFSA form as early as now and it's highly recommended that you fill out the FAFSA form as soon as you can to ensure that you don't miss out on available aid.

### What will you need to fill out FAFSA?

- Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number, if not a US citizen
- Federal income tax returns, W-2's, and other records of money earned this past year
  - ⇒ if you are just graduating HS, in most situations you will be considered a dependent student so this information will come from your parents
- Bank statements, records of investments, and records of untaxed income (if applicable)

### What types of financial aid is available?

**Education loans**— borrowed from the federal government or private lenders such as banks and/or credits unions. Federal loans are typically the first choice since usually it's lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment plans.

- ⇒ **Subsidized loans** based on financial need and if you qualify, interest is not charged before graduation or leaving school
- ⇒ **Unsubsidized loans** are NOT need-based and interest IS charged from the time you receive the money until it's paid in full

**Grants and Scholarships**—grants are typically based on financial need, while scholarships are because of academic and/or extracurricular merit. These typically don't need to be paid back but they may have some stipulations so be sure you understand what may happen in situations like leaving school mid-year.

**Work-Study Program**—provides jobs (often on-campus) to students with demonstrated financial need, learn more from the school you are planning to attend

**Service Programs**—provides aid to students based on type work they do before/after college: military service, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America

For more information on FAFSA, visit: [southdakota.mappingyourfuture.org/studentaid.gov/](https://southdakota.mappingyourfuture.org/studentaid.gov/) or many high schools offer Financial Aid nights so talk to your guidance counselor to see if your school has one scheduled. You can also ask me if you are eligible for financial assistance through VR, so contact me and I'll explain how that might look for you!

# Post-Secondary To-Do List...

## SCHEDULE TOURS

Vocational colleges, universities, and 18-21 Transition Programs encourage tours from high school juniors and seniors to get a first hand glimpse of what the new environment will feel like. Many schools will have scheduled visit days or you can always schedule individual tours as well. Be sure to ask about speaking with the disability coordinator during your visit as well to learn about what services might be available to you through their office!

## STUDY EVERY DAY

There is no question that studying every day in college is going to help you succeed. If you are not already doing this in high school, start forming this habit now. It is a habit you will need to practice in college and it will certainly help you in high school.

<https://www.fnu.edu/7-techniques-improve-study-habits/>

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF

The most satisfaction comes from goals that are hard to accomplish. Get in the habit of taking the more difficult classes or taking on difficult projects. There may be a time in college that you are required to take on something challenging. When that happens, you will already have the experience of testing yourself, and know you can succeed.

## CONSIDER DUAL-CREDITS CLASSES

Dual credits are an opportunity for South Dakota high school students who meet admissions standards to enroll in public postsecondary institutions in South Dakota and simultaneously earn credits for both their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate.

<https://sdmylife.com/prepping-for-college/dual-credit>

For more detailed information about the events below, go to: [tslp.org/events](https://tslp.org/events)

You can always ask me for more information as well!

### Catch the Wave

A one-day conference for high school students with disabilities considering **post-secondary education**.

- 3/29/2022 in Rapid City @ School of Mines & Technology/ Western Dakota College
- 3/29/2022 in Sioux Falls @ Southeast Technical College
- 4/4/2022 in Aberdeen @ Northern State University
- TBA in Mitchell @ Mitchell Technical College

### Let's Talk About Work

A one-day conference for high school students who have a disability focusing on **employment**.

- 1/12/2022 in Mitchell @ Highland Conference Center
- 1/19/2022 in Aberdeen @ the Boys & Girl Club
- 2/10/2022 in Sioux Falls @ Sanford Center
- 2/16/2022 in Rapid City @ Rushmore Hotel
- 2/24/2022 in Ft. Pierre @ AmericInn Conference Center

### Deadline for Youth Leadership Forum applications is December 23, 2021 so get yours in before it's too late!

Youth Leadership Forum is an one-week training for high school students with disabilities focusing on developing leadership and self-advocacy skills. YLF will be held June 5-9, 2022 in Aberdeen at Northern State University. Go to [tslp.org/events](https://tslp.org/events) to find the application and watch videos to learn more!

contact me



Name:

Phone:

Email:

[dhs.sd.gov/  
transitionresources.aspx](https://dhs.sd.gov/transitionresources.aspx)

