



Transition Newsletter

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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 (FASFA) application. If you are planning to attend post-secondary in the Fall 2023, you can begin the process of filling out a FASFA form as early as now and it's highly recommended that you fill it out as soon as you can to ensure that you don't miss out on available aid.

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.

What will you need to fill out FASFA?

- 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 are 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 based on type work students do before and/or after college: military service, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and Teach for America

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



Name:

Phone:

Email:

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



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. If visiting vocational colleges and universities, be sure to ask/learn about:

- **Disability Services**—assists students with disabilities with full and equal access to all programs, classes, and activities.
- **TRIO Services**—support services (academic guidance, tutoring, and more) to help students achieve their academic goals.

Students must contact these offices to learn more about what's available and to see if they qualify for these services.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS — Reach out to your high school guidance counselor to learn about local scholarships that can help pay for post-secondary schools, if awarded. You can also look at the website posted on the first page of this newsletter for more scholarship opportunities and tips when applying for them. You can also go to: <https://doe.sd.gov/scholarships/>

ASK ABOUT DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES — Dual credits are available to SD high school students who meet admissions standards to enroll in public SD postsecondary institutions and simultaneously earn credits for both their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate.

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

STUDY EVERY DAY — There is no question that studying every day 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!

You're off to
GREAT PLACES!

Today is
YOUR DAY!

Your mountain
IS WAITING

So...get on
YOUR WAY!

-Dr. Seuss-



For more information, go to: tslp.org/events

Catch the Wave

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

- 2/23/23 in Mitchell at Mitchell Technical College
- 3/22/23 in Rapid City at School of Mines & Technology
- 3/23/23 in Vermillion at University of South Dakota
- 3/28/23 in Watertown at Lake Area Technical College
- 4/4/23 in Aberdeen at Northern State University





Project | SEARCH®

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a unique business-led transition program for students with disabilities. Students who want to work have the chance to explore careers and develop transferable job skills. The goal of the Project SEARCH program is competitive employment for each intern.

Who can apply?

- Students between 18 and 21 who are still receiving IEP services from high school.
- Students receiving services through Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Students wanting community employment after the program.

What can I expect if selected?

Project SEARCH follows a traditional school year which starts in August and ends in May. Each day starts in a classroom to learn life and employment skills before going to a chosen internship. Interns have the opportunity to participate in three different internships throughout the year.

How can I learn more about Project SEARCH?

Contact the program nearest you to schedule a tour so you can see if it's a good match!

SDSU in Brookings—605.688.4407

Monument Health in Rapid City—605.394.5120

Dow Rummel in Sioux Falls—605.359.8261

Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls—605.322.5071

Hear from Project SEARCH alumni, Cody, about his experience!

Cody's first SEARCH internship was in the Sterile Processing Department. He was in charge of sterilizing and organizing devices needed for medical procedures. Attention to detail is extremely important in this internship since if the devices aren't properly sterilized, this can have a negative impact on the patient. His second internship as a Patient Transport went so well that he ended up getting hired and is still working there three years later! As a full-time patient transporter with benefits, Cody transports patients to various locations within the hospital for medical procedures and appointments. Because of his hard work and great customer services skills, Cody has been awarded the Great Employees Make Magic award twice by fellow co-workers and several WOW cards from caregivers and patients!



Cody has achieved many personal goals because of his experiences with Project SEARCH. He was able to purchase his first car which allows him to travel independently to work, new places to visit, and has been hiking more because he has more financial freedom by working!

Here is Cody's advice for students thinking about applying for Project SEARCH...

"This program can change you and your life into many options, different dream jobs, onto the different paths, and many life choices!"

Watch Project SEARCH videos: dhs.sd.gov/rehabservices/projectsearch.aspx