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| **Financial Aid/Scholarships** |

**Students** are encouraged to gather financial aid and scholarship information that is applicable for their own circumstances and college application process. Students should not necessarily let the price of a particular college dissuade them from applying for admission. Many financial aid programs exist to help you meet all college costs: tuition, fees, books, room and board, personal expenses, and transportation. The expected family contribution will remain fairly constant regardless of the cost of a particular college or university. The difference between family contribution and total cost will be made up in financial aid (i.e. grants, loans, work-study).

You may want to begin your search for financial aid with the [local scholarships](http://www.nscsd.org/uploads/CareerCenter/Scholarship%20List%202006-2007-2.rtf)listing compiled by our Guidance Department. **Each college** presents to applicants a "financial aid package" determined by financial need calculated from the [**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/). Some colleges also require the [**CSS Profile**](http://www.collegeboard.org/finaid/fastud/html/proform.html), in addition to the FAFSA. If you apply for aid, you will receive packages from all the colleges you apply to in the spring of your Senior year. Students and their parents should compare amounts and types of aid to determine which is the most beneficial.

**The FAFSA** is available online. Students are now able to begin filling out the FAFSA on October 1st. It should be filed as soon as possible to guarantee the best possible financial aid package. The CSS Profile is available in September and should be filed as soon as the student identifies the schools to which he/she will apply.

**The most valuable** financial aid resources are the financial aid professionals at local colleges and universities. Many welcome inquiries during the application process. Lemoyne College has generously offered to help any CNS student who needs assistance with the FAFSA.  Their financial aid office can be reached by calling (315) 445-4300.  It is the student’s responsibility to contact financial aid offices, complete and file financial aid and scholarship applications, meet all deadlines, and supply the necessary information.

**Students** are encouraged to visit the Career Centerto access the scholarship database available on our Choices program.

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| **Accurate and up-to-date financial aid and scholarship links** |

**\*LINKS TO THIRD PARTY SITES:**The links in this area will let you leave the North Syracuse High School ("The District") site. The linked sites are not under the control of the district and The District is not responsible for the contents of any linked site or any link contained in a linked site, or any changes or updates to such sites. The District is providing these links to you only as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by The District of the site.

**FinAid/The Financial Information Page:** **www.finaid.org/** -- This site, sponsored by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), provides a "free, comprehensive, independent, and objective guide to student financial aid." Areas of information are: Loans, Scholarships, Military Aid, Other Types of Aid, Financial Aid Applications, Answering Your Questions, Calculators, Beyond Financial Aid, and more.

**FastWEB/Financial Aid Search Through the Web:**[**www.finaid.org/finaid/fastweb.html**](http://www.finaid.org/finaid/fastweb.html) -- This site accesses a searchable database with more than 180,000 private sector scholarships, grants, etc. from more than 3,000 sources. The database is updated daily, and matches are identified based upon the information provided by the user in a personal profile. Matches, once identified, are communicated to the user via e-mail. Convenient and productive, this is a good place to begin a scholarship search.

**CollegeXpress Financial Aid:**[**http://www.collegexpress.com**](http://www.collegexpress.com/) **-**- Access this site, developed by Carnegie Communications, Inc., publisher of the magazine "Private Colleges & Universities", to learn about the financial aid process, download the FAFSA, search a number of scholarship databases, and peruse articles of interest regarding financial aid.

**FAFSA Online:**[**www.fafsa.ed.gov/**](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/)-- Connect to this site to download the FAFSA and to complete the form electronically. Access other general financial aid information, benefit from the tips provided in filling out the FAFSA, and link to other educational resources as well.

Financial aid begins with the FAFSA, yet **in 2013 an estimated 47% of high school graduates neglected to submit theirs, resulting in 2.9 billion dollars in Pell Grants going unclaimed.** No student can afford to miss out on financial aid opportunities, which is why we created our [**guide to the FAFSA**.](http://www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/fafsa/)

**Start There-Get Here: http://startheregetthere.org** -- This site is sponsored by the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) and helps students navigate the FAFSA. Students and parents/guardians can register for FAFSA completion assistance by going to this website dedicated to encouraging completion of the FAFSA. They can also sign up for a hands-on FAFSA workshop on the statewide calendar of FAFSA completion events; chat online or speak with a HESC representative weekdays between 9am-4pm at 800-808-1790; and get information on the financial aid application process.

**Meritaid.com:** [**www.meritaid.com**](http://www.meritaid.com/) is a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships from schools across the country.

**Mapping Your Future:**[**www.Mappingyourfuture.org**](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/) -- A one stop site for students and parents with information on financial strategies, career options, and career planning.

**Raise.me:** Montclair recently launched a new scholarship program on [**Raise.me**](http://raise.me/) and specifically chose Cicero North Syracuse High School to be a participating school. Through [Raise.me](http://raise.me/), your students can now earn “micro-scholarships” (performance-based scholarships) from Montclair and over 180 other colleges (including Rochester, RPI, and the University of Vermont) for each of their academic and extracurricular achievements beginning as freshmen. [Raise.me](http://raise.me/) can help your students get a head start on their college search and develop into stronger applicants. Here’s the best way to use [Raise.me](http://raise.me/) at your school:

1. We encourage you to sign up [here](https://raiseme.clickwebinar.com/) for a Raise.me welcome presentation to learn more about how you can use the program with your students
2. Visit [www.raise.me/educators](http://www.raise.me/educators) and create your Educator account to access a free dashboard with resources
3. Invite your students to participate (you’ll be able to view their portfolios and track their progress)
4. Email me (amanda.schwab@raise.me) with any questions

[**www.nysaves.com**](http://www.nysaves.com/) -- This site discusses how to save for college while increasing tax benefits.

[**http://www.nysfaaa.org**](http://www.nysfaaa.org/) -- New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association, Inc. provides this website to assist students and their families who are seeking funding for higher education.

**http://**[**www.hesc.org**](http://www.hesc.org/)-- New York State Higher Education Services Corporation offers this website for students and their parents’ financial aid and career/college information.

[**http://studentaid.ed.gov**](http://studentaid.ed.gov/) -- Federal Student Aid site that provides information on preparing, choosing, applying, funding, and attending college.

[**www.fastweb.com**](http://www.fastweb.com) **--**  A source for local scholarships, national scholarships and college-specific scholarships.  Also search and compare detailed college profiles.  This site also provides information about internships for students in their desired field.

[**www.collegenet.com**](http://www.collegenet.com/)-- The CollegeNET search engine helps you quickly find the ideal college. This site narrows colleges by region, college sports, major, tuition, and several other criteria. There are also direct links from your search list directly to homepages of the schools in which you are interested.

[**http://www.scholarship-page.com/**](http://www.scholarship-page.com/) --  A FREE comprehensive scholarship search engine that allows you to narrow down scholarships by state.

[**http://www.scholarship.com**](http://www.scholarship.com/)--   Provides a free college scholarship search and financial aid information resources.

[**http://www.collegeboard.com/pay**](http://www.collegeboard.com/pay)**-**- This site helps students understand all of the options when it comes to paying for college.  It offers the latest information about college costs, scholarships, financial aid applications, education loans, and college financing.

[**www.scholarshipamerica.org**](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org/) --  Scholarship America is the nation’s largest nonprofit, private sector scholarship and educational support organization. Scholarship America has distributed more than $1billion to more than one million students.

**Scholarship Scams - Where to go for information:**

**Better Business Bureau** in the city where the scholarship service is located

**Federal Trade Commission 877 FTC-HELP**

**·**[**www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams**](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams)

**State Attorney General’s Office**

**National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)** 800-876-7060

·       [**www.fraud.org**](http://www.fraud.org/)

*A word of warning* – Some commercial websites will use addresses that are quite similar to those used by the not-for-profit agencies.  Use caution when accessing “.com” web sites instead of “.org” ones.  For example, **www.fafsa.****com** and [**www.finaid.com**](http://www.finaid.com/).  You may find yourself paying a significant fee for services that are offered elsewhere at no cost.

Meritaid.com- This is a free resource for $11 billion in merit aid scholarships from thousands of colleges across the country.

BrainTrack Financial Aid Guide Link- ([**http://www.braintrack.com/financial-aid-articles**](http://www.braintrack.com/financial-aid-articles)**)**. BrainTrack's Financial Aid Guide offers several advantages for visitors to your Financial Aid page, including:

* ***Broad coverage:***  Over 30 original articles cover topics that should be of interest to any student pursuing financial aid, including guidance on obtaining aid from the federal government, state governments, colleges and universities, private organizations, community service, scholarships, and more.  The articles link to dozens of other references to enable further research.
* ***Planning assistance:***  Articles help students plan their finances with strategies on maximizing aid, timelines, Frequently Asked Questions, and a glossary.
* ***Federal Aid:***   A special focus on this major source of aid details topics including FAFSA, grants, loans, work-study, military programs, taxes, and changes during 2010 and 2011.
* ***School Costs:***  Estimated costs of tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and other items are included as part of detailed profiles for thousands of US schools on BrainTrack.  All of our listed US colleges and universities are recognized by the US Department of Education as being accredited