

For those of you who don't know me, I am the School Counselor at EV Online. One of my roles is to help support our students in staying on track to meet their graduation requirements, and assist them in taking their first steps after graduation - whether that is to apply to college, complete an apprenticeship, or join the workforce.

There are a couple of important things I'd like to share with you now. The first is our district's Free and Reduced Lunch application. A lot of EV Online families who may qualify for this don't apply because their student doesn't eat lunch at school. For many students, however, this application can take on a whole new meaning. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch can actually get financial assistance in other areas - from taking the SAT or ACT for free to fee waivers for college applications, and middle school students can qualify for the College Bound program. Running Start students also get assistance with college fees and book costs (which can be huge!). If you think you may qualify here is a link to our Nutrition Services page for more information [https://www.evsd.org/departments/nutrition\\_and\\_food\\_services/free\\_and\\_reduced\\_lunch\\_forms](https://www.evsd.org/departments/nutrition_and_food_services/free_and_reduced_lunch_forms)

Another helpful resource for students is [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org). This is a scholarship site hosted by the Washington State Board of Education. Students set up a free profile and the system matches them with scholarships. The scholarships can be used at institutions in and out of Washington State, and they even have scholarships for trade schools and apprenticeship programs. It's never too early to get started either - 7th and 8th graders can be creating their accounts too! Every scholarship adds up - my niece was able to pay for her entire college education by starting early and going for some of the smaller local scholarships, rather than the big, national ones.

Finally, if you are the parent of a senior, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on October 1st. Here is a link to the site: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> This is for the 2020-2021 school year. If your student is thinking about ANY post-secondary education, even community college, you should complete this as this is what colleges use to calculate their financial aid packages. If you need help in completing this, let me know, as there are free workshops that you can attend in order to get guidance.

I look forward to working with you and your student this year, and please don't hesitate to call or email, if I can be of assistance.

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