TRANSITIONAL SKILLS

LESSON 10-18 ▲ PAYING FOR COLLEGE: THEWASHBOARD.ORG

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Students will describe the purpose of TheWashBoard.org.
* Students will use TheWashBoard.org to identify at least one potential scholarship match.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* College Resources for High School Students
* TheWashBoard.org Seeker Worksheet
* **Family Handout:**
* Paying for college
* **Computer, projector, screen, Internet access** for teacher to show theWashBoard.org commercial, videos, and seeker profile how-to presentation. Computer access needed for students completing Enrichment Activities.
* **TheWashBoard.org silent commercial and seeker how-to video presentation**, both of which can be found at the Resources page at [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org). In addition, student-created videos can be located at: [www.youtube.com/user/thewashboardorg?feature=mhum](http://www.youtube.com/user/thewashboardorg?feature=mhum).
* **Computer and internet access for each student** to access TheWashBoard.org

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Discuss students’ postsecondary plans.** Ask for a show of hands: how many students think they will go to college (community, technical, or four-year) after they graduate from high school? Ask a few volunteers to explain why they think they WILL or WILL NOT attend college. Make a list of reasons on the board. Did anyone give lack of money as a reason? Write “money” on the board and explain that many students have trouble attending college because they cannot pay for their tuition.
2. **Introduce theWashBoard.org.** Tell students that the State of Washington thinks a college education is so important that it has organized a scholarship-matching site called [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org). It is a free, web-based scholarship-matching clearinghouse for Washington Students. TheWashBoard.org is supported by the Washington Scholarship Coalition, a public/private partnership of foundations, non-profit organizations and state agencies. Scholarships are FREE MONEY available to help students pay for college. Show theWashBoard.org’s one-minute silent commercial and/or the student videos. Discuss the following issues about scholarships:
   * Scholarships aren’t just for jocks or smarty-pants.
   * DON’T PAY ANYONE to help you find free money!
   * Start early and keep looking. One day isn’t enough.
   * Look local.
   * Tailor each scholarship application to match the required criteria.
   * Follow the directions and deadlines!
3. **Share the *Resources for High School Students* Handout with your students.** This is a handout prepared by theWashBoard.org. It contains hyperlinks to help students learn more about financial aid and postsecondary opportunities. Because of the hyperlinks, it would be best to provide this to students electronically if possible. You may want to demonstrate several of the hyperlinks and encourage students to continue to explore.
4. **Have students create a profile at theWashBoard.org.** Distribute a copy *of TheWashBoard.org Seeker Worksheet* to each student and have each student sit at a computer. Remind students that theWashBoard.org is a free web site organized by Washington State to help match students with scholarships for college. Show the “seeker how-to video presentation” from the “Resources” page of theWashBoard.org. Then help students follow the instructions on the worksheet to create a “Seeker” profile on the web site. They will not be able to fill in all the information at one sitting. But encourage them to type in as much information as possible.
5. **Review sample matches.** After students have completed a profile, ask them to click on the “Matches” link to see a preliminary list of the types of scholarships that may be available for them. Ask them to list several possible matches on the worksheet.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *TheWashBoard.org Seeker Worksheet***

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* **EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY**

Organize a Paying for Postsecondary session*.* The logistics of finding financial aid can be challenging. Organize an evening for your school’s families to cover financial aid basics: the FAFSA, the PROFILE, the types of aid students can obtain, and the resources (such as theWashBoard.org) that are available.

* **TheWashBoard.org**

[www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)   
Scholarship matching service

* **Washington Student Achievement Council**

[www.wsac.wa.gov/](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/)  
Provides strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STANDARDS**

* **Essential Academic Learning Requirements Grades 9/10 Grade Level Expectations:** This lesson is aligned with Reading 3.1.1 and Educational Technology 1.3.2 and 1.3.3. Students will analyze, evaluate, and use web-based and other resource materials to identify potential scholarship matches.
* **Common Core State Standards Grades 9-10:** This lesson is aligned with English Language Arts Reading 7 and Speaking and Listening 1d and 2. Students will integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information. They will analyze the purpose of information presented and respond appropriately to new information.
* **American School Counselor Association National Standards:** This lesson is aligned with ASCA Academic B2.7 and C1.5 and with Personal & Social B1.12. Students will identify postsecondary options that are consistent with their interest, achievement, aptitude, and abilities. They will demonstrate understanding that school success is necessary for postsecondary success and will develop an action plan (in this case through a scholarship match) to achieve their goals.

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 10-18 STUDENT HANDOUT

COLLEGE RESOURCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

* **The Washington State Board of Education**

<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/GradRequirements/GradReqVisualsAug2014.pdf>

Minimum requirements for Washington State

<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/HSBeyondPlan.php#.V3084eT2ZaQ>

Personalized Pathway Requirement based on High School & Beyond Plan

* **OSPI**

[www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/)

Graduation Requirements and High School and Beyond Plan Information

[www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/GraduationToolkit.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/graduationrequirements/GraduationToolkit.aspx)

Graduation Toolkit

**COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

* **Washington Student Achievement Council**

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-admissions>

Overview of college admissions information for WA State

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2015.CADRs.Appendix.pdf>

College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) for four-year colleges

* **Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges**

<http://www.sbctc.edu/>

Home page

<http://www.sbctc.edu/becoming-a-student/counselor/default.aspx>

Counselor’s Guide to Community College Resources

**COLLEGE PLANNING**

* **College Board**

[https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers#](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)

College Board’s Big Future

* **NCES**

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Navigator

* **Know How 2 Go**

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)

College planning resources

* **First in the Family**

[www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)

College planning resources

* **Check Out a College**

[www.checkoutacollege.com](http://www.checkoutacollege.com)

College planning information

**FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES**

* **Washington Student Achievement Council**

[www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview)

Overview of financial aid in WA State

* **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Official site for information and FAFSA application.

* **Ready, Set, Grad’s Washington Application for State Financial Aid**

[readysetgrad.org/WASFA](http://readysetgrad.org/WASFA?_ga=1.168581670.603567252.1432686586)

WASFA – Financial Aid for undocumented students

* **FAFSA Information for Counselors and Mentors**

[financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/2017-18-fafsa-updates-counselors.pdf](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/2017-18-fafsa-updates-counselors.pdf)

New financial aid timeline for Seniors

* **National College Access Network**

[www.collegeaccess.org/EarlyAwarenessMiddle](http://www.collegeaccess.org/EarlyAwarenessMiddle)

Early Awareness for Middle Grades

[www.collegeaccess.org/Early\_Awareness](http://www.collegeaccess.org/Early_Awareness)

Early Awareness for Grades 9-10

[www.nela.net/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.nela.net/Pages/default.aspx) A not-for profit student loan guarantor working to enhance education preparedness, access and success.

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 10-18 HANDOUT

THEWASHBOARD.ORG SEEKER WORKSHEET

What do you want to do after high school? If you are planning to attend a community college, technical college, or four-year college, you will need money to pay for tuition, books, and living expenses.

Don’t worry if you don’t have enough money. Because **theWashBoard.org** can help you find scholarships! TheWashBoard.org is a free, web-based scholarship matching clearinghouse for Washington students. It is supported by the Washington Scholarship Coalition, a public/private partnership of foundations, non-profit organizations, and state agencies. TheWashBoard.org makes it easy to find and apply for scholarships.

**CREATE A “SEEKER” PROFILE**

To search for scholarships, you must first register as a scholarship seeker. Go to [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org).

* Click on “Register Today.”
* Type in the character verification to move to the registration screen.
* Enter your name and e-mail address and choose a password.

E-mail address: Password:

* After you have registered, you will need to retrieve a link from your e-mail account.
* Click on that link to activate your profile.
* Then return to [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org) and sign in with your e-mail address and password.
* Once you’re logged in, click “Go To My Profile.”
* Follow the instructions to create a profile for yourself. You will need to answer questions about your interests and plans. Complete as much of the profile as possible then come back later to complete the profile.
* Select all of the colleges you are considering, then review your list of scholarship matches carefully.
* Not finding matches under “100% Matches”? Look at “All Matches.”

**FIND YOUR MATCHES!**

After you have completed your profile, click on “My Matches.” You will go to a screen that shows you a list of scholarship opportunities that could be good matches for you. Write down the names of three of these possible matches.

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 10-18 FAMILY HANDOUT

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Whether your student hopes to go to a private college across the country or to the community college in your neighborhood, college is expensive. Concern about money keeps many students from going to college. But don’t let money stop you. No matter what your student wants to do, there’s probably financial aid available to help you. Here are some resources for your family.

**SAVINGS**

Saving money ahead of time is a good way to pay for college. If you have a little money to put aside for college each month, there’s a program that can help. The **Washington State Guaranteed Education Tuition Program (GET)** lets you pre-pay the tuition for any public college or university in Washington State. (You can also apply the money you save to a private college or to a college in another state.) You can pay as little or as much as you want each month. Learn more at [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov).

**NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID**

If you don’t have enough money, you may qualify for need-based financial aid. Many colleges help students with their expenses, and the federal government has aid programs as well. Students get aid based on what their family can afford. To qualify for need-based aid, you will need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** in January of your student’s senior year ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). You may also need to complete the **CSS Profile** (<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>). Need-based aid may be:

* **Need-based grants and scholarships:** Grants and scholarships don’t have to be repaid.
* **Student loans:** Loans do need to be repaid so be careful about how much you borrow.
* **Work-study:** Many colleges have part-time jobs available on campus for students who qualify. Work-study jobs can help students pay their living expenses at school.

**MERIT-BASED AID**

Not all aid is based on need. Students can also get help with college tuition because of their grades, test scores, athletics, talent, military status, or because of the family’s background or employer. Merit-based grants and scholarships may come with conditions (for instance, a study may get an athletic scholarship only if he or she plays on the college team) but they do not need to be repaid.

**LEARN MORE**



TheWashBoard.org is a scholarship matching service for Washington State students: [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org).

The Washington Student Achievement Council offers more information about financial aid and scholarships: [www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview)