FINANCIAL AID!
Connecting the Dots: From Application to Repayment

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What do you know about Financial Aid?

- Pre-Test
- What comes to mind?

What we will cover...

- Financial aid basics and important definitions…
- What to expect throughout the application process…
- What occurs with financial awards and packages while students are in college…
- What happens after students graduate from college and get jobs…

# And the Grand Total is...

- College Cost Calculators-Example: http://www.apps.finaid.vt.edu/apps/NPC/npcalc.htm
- Tuition
- Room and Board (including meal plans, health center, etc.)
- Books and Fees
- Travel Expenses
- "Incidentals" (toiletries, snacks, clothing, parking tickets…name it)

Financial Aid Basics

- Where does money for college come from?
- 529 plans
- Grants
- Scholarships (PFHS site):
http://www.lcps.org/domain/3787
- Savings
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- CSS (College Scholarship Service)Profile
https://profileonline.collegeboard.org/prf/index.jsp
- Private Loans (ex., SallieMae, Any Big Bank)
- Student Loans (Federal, Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized)
- Estimated Family Contribution? (EFC)
- *So much to know and so little time to learn it!*
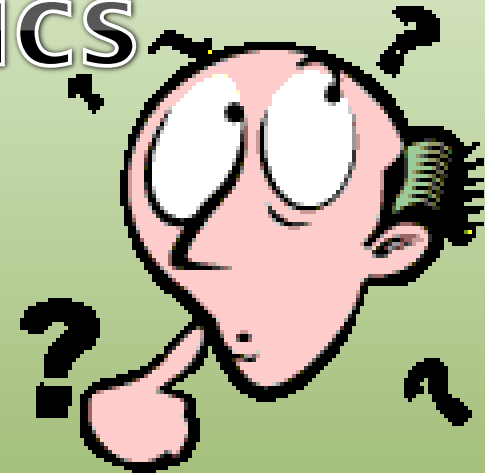
Steps...how to apply..

- Complete the FAFSA (even if you think you may not qualify for aid)
- After 1/1/2013 (or as soon as 2012 taxes are complete)
- Some college require additional forms
- Some colleges require the CSS Profile (iDocs allow electronic filing)
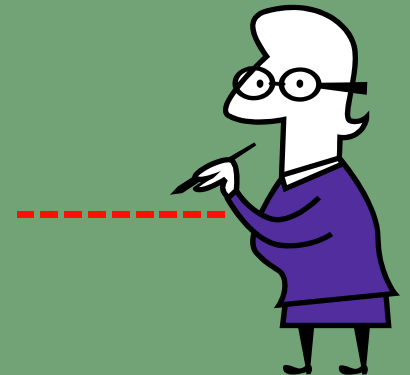
EFC?

- Estimated Family Contribution
- What does it take into account?
- What does it _not_ take into account?
- Calculation (Courtesy of College Board Big Futures):

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator

FAFSA and CSS

- Log on to www.fafsa.ed.gov, click on "Start a New FAFSA"

- Filling out the FAFSA enables students to qualify for scholarships and grants, work-study programs and loans

- You must re-apply each year you wish to receive aid for your student

- Request your PIN

- CSS Profile

a. Check to be sure college needs it

b. Log on to https://profileonline.collegeboard.org/prf/index.jsp

After Completing FAFSA

- Get college admissions decisions lined up
- Choose a college to attend
- Contact the college financial aid offices if there are any discrepancies or issues with FAFSA (they will ultimately put together the financial package)
- Compare offers
- Being Awarded Scholarships will deduct your financial aid package
- Apply for scholarships!

During College

- Student needs to be in "Good Standing" academically to be considered for grants
- Grants=Free $ that doesn't need repayment
- Can reduce amount of Federal Aid from previous years
- Parent must re-submit FAFSA CSS Profile (paper or via IDOC) and each year student is in college and remains a dependent

During College…

- You can still continue to save!

- Your student can still apply for scholarships!

- You and your student should discuss repayment options well ahead of college graduation.

What About Job Prospects for My Student?

- Major (Engineering, Life Science, Environmental Studies, Finance) *Source: Smart Money, August 25, 2009*

- Graduate School (There's financial aid for that as well)

- Cost of Living

- Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Missouri and Illinois top the list!

Paying Back School Loans

- Federal Student Loans are a debt that must be paid back!

- There are options to do this and forgiveness programs

- Excellent source: http://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/your-federal-student-loans_0.pdf

7 Smart Ways to Pay for College!

- 529 Plans (Tax Breaks)
- Pre-paid tuition plans (lock in today's in state rate)
- Coverdell's (similar to 529's) but you can only contribute up to $2000 a year
- Roth IRA's (fund tuition AND retirement)
- Custodial Accounts (aka UGMA's and UTMA's)
- Private Scholarships (free money)
- Student Loans (Federal, PLUS, Work Study, etc)

(Source: Kiplinger's 7 Smart Ways to Pay for College, 2012)

Conclusion…

- FAFSA and Other Resources
- College Financial Aid Offices
- Financial Advisement?
- You can't borrow for retirement…
- Post-Test
- Thank you for your time!