

Financial Literacy Resources by Topic

You'll find most of the resources below at StudentAid.gov/resources (for students) and at FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources (for counselors and mentors) unless another URL is specified.

General Awareness and Understanding of Federal Student Aid

Resource	Content
<i>Understanding Federal Student Aid and the FAFSA webinar*</i>	Debunks myths about aid; shares FAFSA basics
StudentAid.gov/types	Sources of financial aid, and which types of aid may suit a student's financial situation

Thinking About College and Career in Middle School

Resource	Content
<i>My Future, My Way: First Steps Toward College*</i>	Workbook with information on careers, college, and college prep

Helping Pre-college Students Assess College Affordability

Resource	Content
collegecost.ed.gov	Offers tools such as the College Scorecard (relative value of colleges); Net Price Calculator Center (how much colleges cost after scholarships and grants); and College Affordability and Transparency List (which schools have particularly high or low tuition or net price)
<i>Comparing Colleges*</i>	Brochure highlighting tools and resources to help students compare colleges
<i>Financial Aid Shopping Sheet*</i>	Used by hundreds of colleges to summarize aid offers
<i>Why Go to College? graphic*</i>	Shows average earnings and unemployment rates by education level
<i>FAFSA4caster*</i>	Early federal student aid eligibility estimator; available in the "Thinking About College?" section at fafsa.gov
<i>Myths About Financial Aid*</i>	Both video and fact sheet available, debunking common myths about federal financial aid: e.g., need good grades, parents make too much money, or FAFSA is too hard
StudentAid.gov/collegecost	Understanding what's involved in the cost of college to get a true picture beyond just tuition and fees

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★ Award letter worksheet

comparing award letters from various schools

Applying for and Receiving Federal Student Aid

Resource	Content
StudentAid.gov/fafsa	Information on filling out the FAFSA, including how the FAFSA is crucial to some scholarship eligibility and what to do if taxes haven't been filed yet
<i>After the FAFSA: What Happens Next</i> video*	What a student should expect after submitting a FAFSA, including information about the Student Aid Report, EFC, the role of schools, award letters, and receiving aid
StudentAid.gov/fafsa/next-steps	How aid is calculated, what to consider when deciding which financial aid to accept, and when and how aid is distributed

Managing Money During College

Resource	Content
StudentAid.gov/budget	How to manage finances, particularly while in college
Budgeting video*	Creating and maintaining a budget to help make smart financial decisions
<i>Financial Awareness Counseling Tool*</i>	Interactive counseling tool that helps students understand the basics of financial management and financial aid for college (including loan management)
<i>Money Management Checklist for College Students*</i>	How a student can manage his or her money while in college

Issues of Particular Interest to Parents

Resource	Content
StudentAid.gov/parent	Information about tax benefits, parent loans, financial preparation for college, etc
<i>Saving Early = Saving Smart! Watch Your Money Grow With Your Child*</i>	Fact sheet with tips on saving money for college or career school
FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach/target/parents.jsp	Tips and talking points for counselors who want to help parents understand financial aid

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Responsible Borrowing and Loan Management

Resource	Content
StudentAid.gov/repay	Understanding repayment, how to make a payment, repayment options, what to do if having trouble paying, how to avoid (or get out of) default
StudentAid.gov/federal-vs-private	Benefits of federal loans over private loans
<i>Federal Student Loans: Be a Responsible Borrower*</i>	Booklet advising how to borrow responsibly for college, covering budgeting, determining borrowing needs, and understanding loan terms
<i>Responsible Borrowing video*</i>	Responsible borrowing and carefully weighing the costs of college and potential income after graduation
Repayment Estimator*	Tool borrowers can use to compare loan repayment plan options using either their actual or estimated loan data
<i>Repayment: What to Expect video*</i>	Repayment options, choosing a repayment plan, role of servicers
<i>How to Manage Your Student Loans video*</i>	Changing repayment plans, options for borrowers having trouble making payments, and more
<i>Successfully Managing Your Student Loans*</i>	PowerPoint presentation you can use to teach borrowers how to deal with debt and repay their loans
<i>Trouble Making Your Federal Student Loan Payments? graphic*</i>	What a borrower should do if he or she is having trouble making student loan payments

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Photo on page 1: U.S. Department of Education October 2016