

FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- Student and parents should get their FSA ID that used to sign the FAFSA and other documents – www.fsaaid.ed.gov
- **File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** as soon after **October 1** of your senior year of high school. It is highly recommended you file electronically at www.fafsa.gov and use the IRS Data Retrieval option
- **CSS Profile** – Not a free application. Available in October. Used primarily by more selective schools. It asks for more personal financial information than FAFSA. Visit the College Board website for more information and deadlines - www.collegeboard.com. Many schools have deadlines as early as November
- File a state application - in New York it is the **Express TAP Application (ETA)**. The FAFSA will allow you to link to the state site (www.hesc.ny.gov for New York residents) if you list at least one school within your state of legal residence. Please note that most states will not issue aid if you attend a school in another state
- To have a better understanding on how to pay for college, visit: <http://starttheregetthere.org/>
- Research outside scholarships using free and reputable search engines such as www.fastweb.com, www.collegeboard.com, www.tuitionfundingsources.com Be aware of the numerous scams that will ask for money to assist you in getting free money
- Speak with the Financial Aid representative when visiting schools
- Refer to a school's **Net Price Calculator** to determine estimated out-of-pocket cost
- Call the Financial Aid office (or check websites) at the schools you are interested in to find out if they require any additional forms such as the CSS Profile or campus-based form and to check for filing deadline dates
- **DO NOT** pay someone to help you file the FAFSA – it is a free form that is not as daunting as it may seem. If you have any questions, call a Financial Aid office and they can assist you free of charge. Many colleges also offer free FAFSA workshops to assist you with filing.