

## **COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY – PARENT INFO SHEET**

### **Did you know....?**

- Deciding to pursue a college degree, and then deciding which college to attend, is a family decision.
- Deciding which college your scholar attends is a financial decision as well as academic and social decisions.

### **What can parents do during their scholars' Junior and Senior years?**




- Have family conversations about what role the family will be able to play in paying for college. Discuss items such as how much the parent can pay, student employment and how much the student will save and contribute.
- Consider opening a savings account for your student and set expectations for the amount your student will save.
- Investigate scholarship opportunities that might be available through your place of work or worship.
- Take advantage of financial aid guidance available to you and your scholar through Evanston Scholars and ETHS College and Career Services.
- Remind your scholar to use academic resources and to focus on grades, as their GPA may impact college acceptance and how much financial aid your scholar will receive.
- Be timely about your federal income taxes starting when your scholar is a junior in high school and continuing every year that they are enrolled in college. Senior parents: 2017 federal income taxes are used to determine financial aid for the 2019-20 academic year – your scholar's freshman year. If you have not yet filed 2017 taxes, this will be an important step to take so that your scholar will receive financial aid from federal and state governments as well as from prospective colleges.
- Encourage your scholar to demonstrate the Evanston Scholars Pillars of Success by being **Persistent**, **Engaged**, **Resourceful**, **Responsible** and **Connected**.
- Learn as much as you can about college affordability and the different types of financial aid – federal grants, state grants, institutional grants, federal student loans, federal parent loans and federal work study. See Resources on the reverse side of this sheet. Knowledge is Power. Being an informed consumer allows you to make decisions that are best for your family and your scholar.

## COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY – PARENT & SCHOLAR RESOURCES

### Financial Aid Resources – for parents of junior and senior scholars

-  **Federal Student Aid** | PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION  
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>
-  **ISAC** ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
[STUDENT PORTAL RESOURCES](#)

### FAFSA Resources – for senior parents

-  **ISAC** ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
[ISAC COLLEGE Q&A](#) – text your first and last name to 847-243-6470 and get your questions answered
- **Serena Robertson, ISACorps Outreach Specialist**, [Serena.Robertson@illinois.gov](mailto:Serena.Robertson@illinois.gov), (847) 513-4571, or you can book an appointment at [calendly.com/serena-robertson](https://calendly.com/serena-robertson)
-  **HOMEROOM**  
THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
The Parent's Guide to Filling Out the FAFSA® Form  
<https://blog.ed.gov/2018/09/parents-guide-fafsa/?sf92743350=1>
-  Twitter.com/FAFSA