



## TOP 8 FINANCIAL AID IDEAS

You are wise to begin the scholarship search in your child's junior year, because there is much information to go over. I am going to put my suggestions in list form. ***Have your child check with his/her guidance counselor for more information.*** Guidance Counselors are a wealth of information. They know the latest information about government grants and loans and can give suggestions about where to look.

### ***1. Contact the financial aid office of all schools your child is interested in***

See what they have to offer and what qualifications your child needs to qualify for financial aid. That helps many families decide where to have their child attend. Not all schools offer the same aid. Also ask if the aid is a scholarship or loan that needs to be paid back.

### ***2. Start early***

The college application and financial aid process much time and effort. It is better to start early and proceed at a steady pace than try to pull everything together at the last minute

### ***3. Check the internet***

You can find many organizations that sponsor scholarships for students with specific criteria. Think of your heritage, occupation, religion, student major, and other characteristics that may have a qualification for a scholarship. **BE CERTAIN YOU DETERMINE IF THE AID IS A SCHOLARSHIP OR A LOAN AND IS A LEGITIMATE OFFER.** You can get started on the scholarship page of our website, [www.lcedfd.org](http://www.lcedfd.org) and click on the links that are on that page. Click on Scholarship Recipients and see what LCEF managed scholarships were available last year. There is information to take in.

### ***4. Know your community resources.***

Check with any groups you belong to and see if they sponsor scholarships for children of members.

### ***5. Know when deadlines are for filing applications.***

Our scholarship applications will be available in late January and due March 1.

### ***6. Begin gathering information NOW.***

Most applications ask for high school activities, honors, community service, outside activities the student has been involved in. Begin making that list now and add to it, so when you need it you have it.

### ***7. Recommendations are important.***

Begin thinking about who to ask for teacher and/or community member recommendations for applications.

### ***8. Think about your goals and future.*** Have your child begin preparing a paragraph describing what his/her career ambitions and future goals are and why. By doing this now, the student has time to reflect and revise what is written. So many times it is done last minute and doesn't allow the student to put his/her best foot forward

This will get you started, if you have more questions, please contact me. I am happy to help.

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*Supporting educational excellence in our community by awarding scholarships to students.*

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