

# Federal Student Aid Financial Literacy Resources

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If you're putting together a financial literacy curriculum for your students, you may wish to use some of the resources offered by the U.S. Department of Education for responsible money management as it relates to federal student aid. We've highlighted a selection of our resources for you.

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## ***Website for Students***

You'll find most of our resources on StudentAid.gov (many at [StudentAid.gov/resources](https://studentaid.gov/resources)), both in English and in Spanish. Keep in mind that StudentAid.gov is our student site—it's where you should send students to learn about federal student aid. In effect, the entire site is a financial literacy tool since it raises awareness and understanding of aid, what types are available, how to get it, and how to repay loans.

## ***Website for Counselors and Other College Access Mentors***

Meanwhile, we offer a site for school counselors and college access mentors at [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov). The Financial Aid Toolkit serves as a place for you, the counselor or mentor, to find tips for conducting outreach, free training for your professional development, talking points for answering your students' tricky questions, and updates on the FAFSA® process and the federal student aid programs in general.

At [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources), the Financial Aid Toolkit offers a search page where you can access the same videos, infographics, publications, online tools, and other items as are on StudentAid.gov, arranged for your use as you advise your students. (In the search tool, you may wish to select "Financial Literacy" and "Consumer Protection" in the "Topic" dropdown under "LEARN ABOUT.")

We encourage you to download, print out, embed, retweet, email, and otherwise share our materials, which are available to you free of charge. However, do keep in mind that you must use our materials in a manner that furthers the goals of the U.S. Department of Education. (In other words, don't sell our publications or other materials, don't claim to be us, etc.)

## Financial Literacy Resources by Topic

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

### General Awareness and Understanding of Federal Student Aid

Resource	Content
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/types">StudentAid.gov/types</a>	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
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school">StudentAid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school</a>	Checklists to help a middle school student and his or her parents start building a strong academic record and a healthy savings account to prepare for college

### Helping Pre-college Students Assess College Affordability

Resource	Content
<a href="https://collegecost.ed.gov">collegecost.ed.gov</a>	Offers tools such as the <i>College Scorecard</i> (relative value of colleges); <i>Net Price Calculator Center</i> (how much colleges cost after scholarships and grants); and <i>College Affordability and Transparency List</i> (which schools have particularly high or low tuition or net price)
<i>Why Go to College or Career School?</i> graphic*	Shows average earnings by education level
<i>Federal Student Aid Estimator</i>	Early federal student aid eligibility estimator
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists">StudentAid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists</a>	Checklists to walk a student through the steps he or she can take to find and get into college or career school and help him or her learn how to prepare financially

## Applying for and Receiving Federal Student Aid

Resource	Content
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/fillingout">StudentAid.gov/fillingout</a>	Information on filling out the FAFSA form, including determining dependency status and reporting parents' information
"After the FAFSA: What Happens Next" video*	What a student should expect after submitting a FAFSA form, including information about the <i>Student Aid Report</i> , EFC, the role of schools, aid offers, and receiving aid
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/complete-aid-process/how-calculated">StudentAid.gov/complete-aid-process/how-calculated</a>	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 or Career School

Resource	Content
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/budget">StudentAid.gov/budget</a>	How to manage finances, particularly while in college or career school
"Budgeting" video*	Creating and maintaining a budget to help make smart financial decisions
<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
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/parent">StudentAid.gov/parent</a>	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
<a href="https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach/target/parents.jsp">FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach/target/parents.jsp</a>	Tips and talking points for counselors who want to help parents understand financial aid

## Responsible Borrowing and Loan Management

Resource	Content
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/repay">StudentAid.gov/repay</a>	Understanding repayment, how to make a payment, repayment options, what to do if having trouble paying, how to avoid (or get out of) default
<a href="https://studentaid.gov/federal-vs-private">StudentAid.gov/federal-vs-private</a>	Benefits of federal loans over private loans
<i>Federal Student Loans: Repaying Your Loans*</i>	Guide providing information about federal student loan repayment plan options, finding loan history and loan servicers, and making payments.
“Responsible Borrowing” video*	Responsible borrowing and carefully weighing the costs of college and potential income after graduation
<i>Loan Simulator*</i>	Online tool to help a student calculate student loan payments and choose a loan repayment option that best meets his or her needs and goals
“Repayment: What to Expect” video*	Repayment options, choosing a repayment plan, role of servicers
“How to Manage Your Student Loans” video*	Changing repayment plans, options for borrowers having trouble making payments, and more
<i>Trouble Making Your Federal Student Loan Payments?</i> graphic*	What a borrower should do if he or she is having trouble making student loan payments

\*Available at [StudentAid.gov/resources](https://studentaid.gov/resources) (for students) and/or at [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov/resources](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources) (for counselors and mentors).

Remember, our resources are free to you and your students. Learn more about our products and services for counselors and mentors, and get updates on the FAFSA process and the federal student aid programs, at [FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov).

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