

Welcome to the Spring Edition of *College Financial Aid News*

For those of you who are parents of college-bound seniors, you should be receiving your financial aid packages by now. Many times, your student will have access to them through his/her portal on-line, and a hard copy follows by mail. It is important to check the portal often to be sure that all the necessary documents have been received.

As you receive the financial aid packages, you will notice that none of them are the same. There is no mandated format and because of that it may prove difficult to compare packages. The attached article is a very good resource for understanding the financial aid letter.

[How to Compare College Aid Letters](#)

It's important to note that the largest financial aid package may not always be the best one. Also, colleges may refer to the same item in different ways. For example, in a 2018 study, the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan was referenced in 143 different ways, and 26 of them did not even include the word LOAN. Also, loans are commonly used now in financial aid packages, even though they must eventually be paid back.



Christine McMullan
College Financial Aid
Counselor

UPPERCLASSMEN - WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW?

Don't forget - your financial aid forms (FAFSA and possibly the CSS Profile) must be renewed every year to be considered for aid. If you plan to take the Direct Student Loan or if you would like to apply for Work Study, the FAFSA must be completed annually. Many schools have spring deadlines so begin assembling your financial information needed for the 2019/20 school year - 2017 federal tax returns, as well as current asset information.

Finally, although revelations about the college admissions scandal are disheartening to all of us, it is important to focus on the concepts of hard work and not to place undue stress upon our kids about where they ultimately go to college. [The following article is a refreshing look on guiding our kids in the college selection process.](#)



Invest In The Future. College Financial Aid Seminar.

This Seminar is FREE and can help you understand the financial aid process. The seminar will:

- Explain facts vs. myths.
- Show how income affects aid eligibility.
- Outline which assets are taken into consideration when Family Contribution is calculated.
- Compare the impact of parental and student assets on aid eligibility.
- Explain how to evaluate the Award Letter.



Date: Wednesday, March 27

Time: 7pm

Place: Garretson Financial
44 South 21st Street, Suite B
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

[click here to sign up today.](#)

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