



SEIZE YOUR FUTURE!

Lewisville Independent School District COLLEGE ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3.2

October 2009



DEADLINES! DEADLINES! DEADLINES!

Many colleges are already making admission and scholarship decisions for next year's freshman class of 2010. Have you applied? Check college websites for admission requirements and deadlines. Many college scholarship and financial aid programs have an earlier deadline than the admission deadline. Don't miss an opportunity to get free money.

Don't delay, start today!

FALL CHECKLIST FOR SENIORS

- _____ Start a College Planning Folder.
- _____ Narrow college choices to a few schools and prepare applications.
- _____ Register with the **NCAA Clearinghouse** if you are planning to play college sports at:
<https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/index.html>
- _____ Register for **ACT or SAT** tests if necessary. (If you miss the first fall test date, your next opportunity may be too late to send scores to your college choices in time to meet their deadline.)
- _____ Complete **senior resumé forms** to be used for recommendations. If you will need recommendations written for your applications, contact those teachers, counselors, or other individuals ASAP. Request for **Counselor Recommendation Forms** are available in the Counseling Center.
- _____ Pick up the "**Texas Common Application**" from the Counseling Center if you are applying to any Texas Public University or apply online at: www.applytexas.org. A universal "**Common Application**" is also available for private colleges at: www.commonapp.org.
- _____ Apply for any and all **scholarships** for which you qualify. Continue to check websites – many funding sources are just now getting details posted regarding upcoming scholarships.
- _____ If your college or scholarship applications require essays, **GET STARTED**. Choose an English teacher to help you critique your work.
- _____ Talk to your parents about the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** now. This is the first step in the financial aid process. The FAFSA can be submitted online or by mail after January 1st. See details at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Remember: Scholarship Searches are FREE!

6 SIGNS THAT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP IS \$UNK

1 "THE SCHOLARSHIP IS GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK."

NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE THAT THEY'LL GET YOU A GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP. REFUND GUARANTEES OFTEN HAVE CONDITIONS OR STRINGS ATTACHED. GET REFUND POLICIES IN WRITING—BEFORE YOU PAY.



2 "YOU CAN'T GET THIS INFORMATION ANYWHERE ELSE."

THERE ARE MANY FREE LISTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS. CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL OR LIBRARY BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO PAY SOMEONE TO DO THE WORK FOR YOU.



3 "MAY I HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD OR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER TO HOLD THIS SCHOLARSHIP?"

DON'T GIVE OUT YOUR CREDIT CARD OR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER ON THE PHONE WITHOUT GETTING INFORMATION IN WRITING FIRST. IT MAY BE A SET-UP FOR AN UNAUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL.



4 "WE'LL DO ALL THE WORK."

DON'T BE FOOLED. THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT. YOU MUST APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS OR GRANTS YOURSELF.



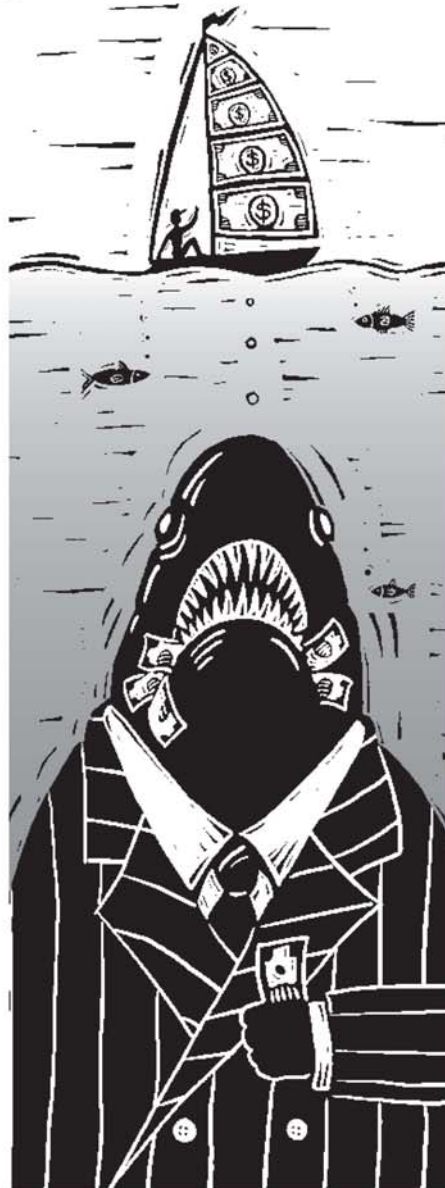
5 THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL COST SOME MONEY.

DON'T PAY ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE "HOLDING" A SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT FOR YOU. FREE MONEY SHOULDN'T COST A THING.



6 "YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED" BY A 'NATIONAL FOUNDATION' TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP, OR "YOU'RE A FINALIST" IN A CONTEST YOU NEVER ENTERED.

BEFORE YOU SEND MONEY TO APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP, CHECK IT OUT. MAKE SURE THE FOUNDATION OR PROGRAM IS LEGITIMATE.



NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR LOCAL LIBRARIAN FOR FREE INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT SCHOLARSHIPS BEFORE YOU PAY SOMEONE FOR THE SAME—OR SIMILAR—SCHOLARSHIP LISTS. TO FIND OUT HOW TO SPOT, STOP AND REPORT A SCAM, CONTACT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION TOLL-FREE 1-877-FTC-HELP OR AT WWW.FTC.GOV.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WWW.FTC.GOV

TOLL-FREE 1-877-FTC-HELP
FOR THE CONSUMER

RECOMMENDATION LETTER Do's & Don'ts

Many college and scholarship applications require recommendation letters. Some specify the recommenders—teachers, employers, or personal acquaintances; others simply indicate the number of recommendations required. Selection committees want to know as much as possible about you. They have objective information—grades, classes, and test scores. They have your application form, résumé, and essay(s). They also want to know how others see you.

- **Know what the institution requires.** Is there a form that should be used? Should recommendations be sent directly to the institution or should you send them as a whole.
- **Select recommenders who know you well and who can write competently.** Choose recommenders who will write specific statements about you—not remarks that could apply to any student. Generic comments reflect little about you and do not help you stand out among the applicants.
- **Solicit college recommendation letters politely and appreciatively.** Allow your recommender plenty of time; requesting a recommendation at the last minute is inconsiderate. You don't want one written by someone who feels hurried or is irritated with you.
- **Provide relevant information so the letter of recommendation will be specifically about you and your qualifications.** Indicate the purpose of the recommendation letter. If it is to accompany your college application, provide the college's name and background information so the recommender can discuss how you are an appropriate candidate. If it is for a scholarship, provide a copy of the application or a description of the scholarship and the sponsoring organization's mission. Supply a copy of your résumé listing your GPA, activities, leadership roles, awards, community service, employment experience, and special skills.
- **Indicate the person to whom a recommendation letter should be addressed.** If you don't know the name, the letter may begin "Dear Selection Committee." **Offer an addressed, stamped envelope with each request.** If the recommendation must be mailed in an official envelope from the recommender's institution, supply a postage stamp. A letter that is to be submitted with the application should be returned to you in a sealed envelope.
- **Many applications allow you to waive the right to see recommendations.** Despite your legal right to see referrals, committees are impressed by those written with no concerns about the applicant's reaction. Select your recommender(s) carefully, and you'll have no reason to worry; most will say if they aren't comfortable writing a college recommendation letter or don't believe they can write positive statements about you.
- **7. Have your recommenders save their letters if you're applying to several colleges or for several scholarships.** Although each college recommendation letter should be tailored to the application at hand, the original passage contains basically what the recommender wants to share about you. Revising an original recommendation is more convenient than writing a new one.
- **8. Thank your recommender—preferably in writing!** Surprisingly, few students express their appreciation for recommendations. Expressing your gratitude is appropriate and advisable.

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The chart below includes a short list of upcoming scholarships, grants and college funding competitions.

Note: this newsletter is updated each month on the first day of the month.

Scholarship	Description	Award Amount	Contact/application Information	Deadline
Dallas Jewish Community Foundation Scholarship	Scholarship awards to seniors who demonstrate both academic merit and financial need; several different opportunities available.	Varies	http://djcf.org/scholarships-and-grants/index.html	Materials available on website: October 2009
Outstanding Students of America Scholarship	Scholarship award for high school seniors based upon community/school involvement and academic achievement (must have GPA of 3.0 or higher).	\$1,000	www.outstandingstudentsofamerica.com/	10/10/09
Eagle Scout Scholarship	Scholarship awards to Eagle Scouts. Selection is based on financial need, scholastic accomplishment, and involvement in scouting, school, and community activities.	Varies	www.nesa.org	Materials available on website: 10/01/09
USA Funds-McKelvy Foundation Scholarship	Scholarship award. Up to 50% of the scholarships will be targeted to students who, in addition to demonstrating financial need, are members of an ethnic-minority group or are physically disabled. Scholarships are renewable.	\$1,500	http://www.usafunds.org/planning/index.htm	Materials available on website: 10/01/09
Los Padres Foundation College Awards	Scholarship awards for students from Hispanic backgrounds; Several awards available.	Varies	www.lospadresfoundation.org/home.html	Some applications due as early as 10/29/09. See website
Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship	Scholarship award for outstanding high school seniors who have demonstrated an interest in journalism.	\$1,000	www.freedomforum.org/freespirit	10/15/09
Coca-Cola Scholarships	Achievement based scholarship award for high school seniors. Must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Citizens; U.S. Nationals; U.S. Permanent Residents; Temporary Residents (in a legalization program); Refugees; Cuban-Haitian Entrants; or Humanitarian Parolees; • anticipating completion of high school diploma at the time of application; • planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post-secondary institution; • carrying a minimum 3.00 GPA at the end of their junior year of high school 	\$2,000 – \$5,000 annually	www.coca-colascholars.org	10/31/09
APS Minority Scholarship	Scholarship award to any African-American, Hispanic American, or Native American US citizen or permanent resident who is majoring in physics in college.	\$2,000	www.aps.org/programs/minorities/honors/scholarship/index.cfm	Materials available on website: Nov. 2009
TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award	Scholarship award based on demonstrated entrepreneurship. Open to 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grade students.	\$1,000 to \$5,000	www.tcuyeya.org	11/1/09
Denton Republican Women's Club Scholarship	Scholarship award to selected female students who have shown academic excellence, who hold and demonstrate conservative values and who have secured two letters of recommendation from recognized conservative individuals.	\$250	See high school guidance counselor for application	11/2/09

Ron Brown Scholar Program	Scholarship awards to ten African-American high school seniors. Applicants must excel academically, exhibit exceptional leadership potential, participate in community service activities and demonstrate financial need. The applicant must be a US citizen or hold a permanent resident visa card.	\$10,000 annually	www.ronbrown.org	11/1/09
"Freedom in America" Essay	Scholarship award through the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) for high school seniors. Requires an in-depth essay on First Amendment rights.	1 st -\$5,000 2 nd -\$2,500 (5) -\$1,000	www.thefire.org/contests	11/6/09
Ronald McDonald House Charities	Scholarship awards for students in one of four categories: Asian(must have at least one parent of Asian/Pacific heritage), Future Achievers (must have at least one parent of African American or Black Caribbean heritage), HACER(must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage)& Scholars(all students are eligible to apply).	\$1,000	www.rmhc.org/what-we-do/rmhc-u-s-scholarships/	Materials available on website: 11/9/09
Cargill Community Scholarship	Scholarship award for students who have work experience. Must submit information on work experience and how it relates to future goals. FFA members must include SAE activities and 4-H members must include projects.	\$1,000	www.cargill.com/about/citizenship/scholarships.htm	Materials available on website: 11/20/09
Metro PCS Community Scholars Program	Scholarship awards to high school seniors enrolling full-time in a two or four year institution. Award is based on: volunteerism/community service and academic achievement.	Multiple \$2500 local awards & one \$25,000 national award.	www.metropcs.com/scholarship	Postmark by 11/25/09
First Freedom Student Competition	Essay contest regarding the First Amendment, history, and the relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today.	Up to \$3,000	www.firstfreedom.org	On-line by 11/23/09; postmark by 11/28/09
Hispanic Heritage Foundation Educational Grant	Grant award based on 500 word essay submitted by student. Student must be of Hispanic heritage to enter.	\$1,000 to \$10,000	www.colgate.com/hazlau	11/30/09
University of Missouri Freshman Scholarships "Mizzou"	Scholarship award designed to enhance recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented populations. Academic eligibility and interview required. Scholarship is renewable year to year.	Varies by scholarship	https://sfa.missouri.edu/scholarships/index.php	12/1/09
Texas A&M Academic Scholarships	Scholarship awards based on academic ability for incoming freshman students. Some scholarship awards may be specifically related to intended college major.	Varies	The admission application for A&M serves as this scholarship application. Go to: www.applytexas.org	12/01/10
Boston University Trustee Scholarship	Scholarship award for full-tuition for four years. Applicants are typically in the top 10% of high school graduating class and active leaders in the school and community.	Varies	www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee	12/01/09
Air Force ROTC High School Scholarships	Scholarship award program that pays tuition, fees and books plus monthly stipend depending on award type to graduating seniors who are interested in joining the Air Force ROTC in college. *Must pass physical fitness test.	Varies by program	www.afrotc.com/scholarships/hsschool/types.php	12/1/09

Boomer Esiason Foundation Scholarship Program	Scholarship award for students with cystic fibrosis based on scholastic ability, character, leadership potential, service to the community, and need for financial assistance.	\$500 - \$2000 awarded quarterly	www.cfscholarships.com/BEFScholarships/index.htm	Deadlines - 15th of December, March, June, & September 2009-2010
Anne Ford Scholarship	Scholarship award for seniors with learning disabilities who plan to pursue a college degree.	\$10,000	www.nclld.org/about-us/scholarships-aamp-awards/the-anne-ford-and-allegra-ford-scholarship-award	12/31/09
Gaia Community Scholarship	Scholarship award to two students who aspire to be the change they wish to see in the world, live authentically and make a difference. Short essay must answer four crucial questions.	\$1,000	www.scholarship.gaia.com	12/31/09
Best Buy Scholarships	Scholarship award to high school students in grades 9-12 who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, volunteer efforts, and work experience.	\$1,500	http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/scholarship.htm	Materials available on website: Jan. 2010
Casey Family Scholars	Scholarship award up to \$10,000 to students who have spent at least 12 months in foster care and were not subsequently adopted.	Varies	www.orphan.org/index.php?id=36	Materials available on website: Jan. 2010
Marine Corps Scholarship	Scholarship awards to students whose parents served or are serving in the Marines.	\$1,000 - \$12,500 annually	www.mcsf.com/site/c.ivKVLamTluG/b.1696095/k.9BB0/for_Students.htm	Materials available on website: Jan. 2010
Mary Ellen Locher Foundation Scholarship	Scholarship award for students who have a parent who has died from or survived breast cancer. Essays, grades, and financial need will be considered.	Up to \$2,000 per year	www.maryellenlocherfoundation.org/scholarships_overview.html	1/15/10
Army ROTC 4-Year Scholarship	Scholarship award program for students who enroll in Army ROTC in college. Pays tuition, fees, books and monthly stipend. Must have US citizenship, minimum 2.50 GPA, and minimum 920 SAT/19 ACT test scores. Physical standard and service commitment required.	Varies by program	www.goarmy.com/rotc/high_school_students.jsp	1/15/10
Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship	Scholarship award to Asian and Pacific Islander American students. Must have a minimum 2.7 GPA and enroll in college as a full-time, first year student. *MUST complete FAFSA by March 1.	\$2,500-\$5,000	www.apiasf.org	1/18/10
Lewisville ISD Education Foundation	Over 108 different scholarships available through the LISD Education Foundation. Each scholarship has different criteria. Some scholarships are high school specific and others are district wide. Online applications only. Deadline is strict!	Varies	www.lisdef.com	1/25/10
CoServe Electric W. Tip Hall Jr. Scholarship	Scholarship award for graduation seniors who meet the following criteria: 1. A high school senior who is a US citizen and; 2. The student's permanent residence is served by CoServ Electric and; 3. Have a minimum of one-year membership with CoServ Electric and be in good standing.	\$2,500	http://www.coserv.com/Portals/0/PDFs/2010Application.pdf	Postmarked by: 1/29/09
Texas Student Housing Authority Scholarship	Scholarship award to Texas High School graduating seniors based on academics and leadership excellence. Family financial needs may be considered. Scholarships for 2010-2011 will be limited to students attending college in Austin, College Station, or Denton, Texas.	Full or partial cost of OFF-CAMPUS room for one academic year.	Application available in high school Guidance and Counseling office.	1/31/09
Texas AFL-CIO Scholarship	Scholarship award to high school seniors who are members of union families (including members of AFT and it's affiliates).	\$1,000	www.texasaflcio.org	1/31/10

Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. Scholarships <i>College of Business,</i> University of Missouri	Scholarship awards for entering freshman in the College of Business at the University of Missouri. Three different scholarships will be awarded. Criteria varies from academic to financial need. See website for further details or contact high school guidance counselor for application.	Varies	www.business.missouri.edu MUST ALSO COMPLETE FAFSA: www.fafsa.edu.gov	2/1/2010
ESA Foundation Endowments-Scholarships	Scholarship awards (27+ different ones) managed by the ESA Foundation. Applicants must be a senior w/ GPA of 3.0 or ACT 22/SAT 1030 (V+CR+M). Students may apply to no more than 3 scholarships.	Varies	http://www.esaintl.com/esaf/	2/1/10 - check website
Dr. Seuss's <i>Oh, the Places You'll Go!</i> 2010 College Scholarship Program	Scholarship award contest for high school seniors based on creative 500 word essay. Thinking about the Dr. Seuss book, answer the question: <i>What kinds of opportunities and challenges do you think your education will present in the future?</i> All submissions must be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than one page with minimum 12 pt. font. Name and title of entry must be included at top of page.	\$5,000	Mailed entries only! Oh, the Places You'll Go! College Scholarship Program c/o Random House Children's Books 1745 Broadway, Mail-Drop 10-3 New York, NY 10019	2/15/2010
National Commission for Cooperative Education Scholarship	Scholarship award based on merit on behalf of eight NCCE Partner Colleges with required acceptance and attendance at one of the following colleges: Drexel University, Johnson & Wales University, Kettering University, Pace University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, or Wentworth Institute of Technology. Award will be given to 170 students and is renewable each year.	\$6,000	www.co-op.edu	2/15/10
Chairscholars Foundation National Scholarships	Scholarship award to a physically challenged senior. Student must have a B average, performed some form of significant community service or made a social contribution, and demonstrate financial need.	\$3,000 - \$5,000 annually	www.chairscholars.org	2/15/10
MG James Ursano Scholarship Fund	Scholarship awards to the dependent children of active duty, retired, or deceased US Army personnel.	Varies	http://www.aerhq.org/education.asp	Applications available in December; Due by 3/1/2010
James M. and Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship	Scholarship award for students wishing to pursue a degree in the arts and sciences, human services, music or ministry.	\$2,000 annually for up to four years.	www.cfgreateratlanta.org/Grants-Support/Scholarships/The-James-M-Virginia-M-Smyth-Scholarship-Fund.aspx	2010 deadline not yet announced. Check website. Last year, due date was in April.
American Legacy Scholarships	Scholarship award for child/children, or legally adopted child/children, of active duty United States Military, Guard, and Reserve personnel who were federalized and died on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.	Varies	www.legion.org/programs/donations/legacy	4/15/10
AMVETS National Scholarship	Scholarship award to veterans/active military, their sons, daughters or grandchildren. A son, daughter or grandchild of a deceased veteran is also eligible. Awarded on the basis of academic excellence and financial need, the scholarships go to deserving high school seniors, high school JROTC students and veterans pursuing a higher education.	Varies by type	www.amvets.org/programs/programs_s_scholarships.html	4/15/10
Ayn Rand Institute	Essay contest for 11 th and 12 th grade students based on Ayn Rand's book, "The Fountainhead". Essays judged on style and content.	Prize award from \$50 to \$10,000	www.aynrand.org/contests	4/25/10

Joseph Lipman Scholarships	Scholarship award to athletes who have overcome adversity during their high school athletic career.	\$1,000	www.nhsca.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=97	5/1/10
Abbott & Fenner Scholarship	Scholarship award for those junior and senior students who have the desire and ambition to succeed. Requires one 500 to 1000 word essay on topic.	\$1,000	www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm	6/19/10
Texas Early High School Graduation Scholarship	Scholarship grant to students who complete either the Texas Recommended or Distinguished Achievement graduation plans within 36 to 41 months. Must be a Texas resident.	Varies according to graduation completion date	www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=417 *Must review w/ your school counselor.	See website for details.
Academic Competitiveness Grant	Grant for students who demonstrate financial need and have completed a rigorous program of study.	\$750	www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/AcademicGrants.jsp	Varies
Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Fund	Financial assistance for children and spouses of deceased and disabled veterans, MIA's and POW's.	Varies	www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH35/CH35_Pamphlet_General.htm	Varies
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	Scholarship awards for Hispanic American students - several opportunities available; check website.	Varies	www.hsf.net/Scholarships.aspx?id=426	Varies - check website
Elks Scholarships	Scholarship awards for students based on GPA, leadership, and financial need.	Varies	www.elks.org/enf/scholars/ourscholarships.cfm	Varies - Check website

Note: Scholarships and grants are often awarded directly through the individual college programs at the university to which you are applying for admission. Specific departmental scholarship deadlines are often before the regular admission deadline. Be sure to carefully read the college websites under the degree field for which you are entering to not miss any scholarship opportunities.

VOLUNTEERING & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Contributing to your school and community is an important part of the college admission and scholarship process. If you are not already serving, please check out these resources:

- <http://www.volunteernorthtexas.org/volunteers.html>
- <http://www.handsonnorthtexas.org/>
- <http://www.volunteerpowercrew.org/>