



for High School Counselors

Student Scholarships and Grants Division
Bureau of State and Authority Finance
Michigan Department of Treasury

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Michigan School Counselors Week

*Senate Resolution No. 26 - Adopted March 13, 2013.
A resolution recognizing **March 18-22, 2013** as Michigan
School Counselors Week*

This issue

Michigan School Counselors Week	P.1
Michigan Competitive Scholarship	P.2
High School Counselor Webinar/MI College Goal	
2013 Success	P.3
Going to College/Other Resources	P.4
Financial Literacy	P.5
Budget Worksheet/College Checklist	P.6,7
Paying for College Supplement/Sequestration	P. 8
Title IV Federal Changes/SSG Contact	P.9,10

Senators Hood, Hansen, Gregory, Booher, Marleau, Jones, Young, Hopgood, and Anderson offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 26.

A resolution recognizing March 18-22, 2013, as Michigan School Counselors Week.

Whereas, the Michigan Senate recognizes the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in Michigan schools; and

Whereas, Michigan school counselors have long emphasized the importance of personal and social development and academic achievement. School counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development; and

Whereas, counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are aware of financial aid and college opportunities. They may encourage students to pursue challenging academic courses to prepare them for college majors and careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; and

Whereas, school counselors help students cope with the serious and common challenges of growing up, including peer pressure, mental health issues, school violence, disciplinary problems, the deployment of family members to conflicts overseas, and problems in the home; and

Whereas, counselors are also instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma and community and national tragedies. They are among the few professionals in a school building who are trained both in education and mental health; and

Whereas, despite the important contributions of school counselors to student success, counseling positions are not always protected when budgets are cut; and

Whereas, the average student-to-counselor ratio in Michigan public schools is 634 to 1, almost triple the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas, the celebration of Michigan School Counselors Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in Michigan. It is important to acknowledge the role they play in cultivating our most important resource—Michigan's children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, that the members of this legislative body recognize **March 18-22, 2013**, as Michigan School Counselors Week.



Your Value is Priceless!

www.michigan.gov/ssg



SSG
Student Scholarships
and Grants

Michigan Department of Treasury
Bureau of State and Authority Finance



Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)



Class of 2013

In mid April, SSG will send each high school a list of their students with a qualifying ACT exam score. This includes students who tested through the December 2012 test date. We are providing you with these names so that you may recognize your students' academic achievement. We will provide a template for a certificate which you can print to give to each student.

Please remind students that the certificate recognizes their academic achievement of a qualifying score. In order to receive a monetary scholarship, qualifiers must also show **financial need** based on data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). *Remember, the FAFSA must have been received at the federal processor on or before March 1 to receive on-time consideration for the MCS program.*

2002 (Rev. 01/01)		
RIK SNYDER GOVERNOR	STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY LANSING	ANDY DILLEN STATE TREASURER
April 2013		

Michigan Competitive Scholarship

Dear Guidance Counselor:

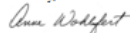
The Michigan Competitive Scholarship program is a State of Michigan program that recognizes both academic achievement and financial need. All students who achieve a qualifying score on the ACT exam are considered to be qualified and eligible to receive a monetary certificate.

Enclosed is a list of the students at your high school that achieved a qualifying ACT score. SSG is providing you with this list as you may want to make these students eligible for your academic honors program. Also enclosed is a template for a Certificate of Recognition designed by Governor Rick Snyder and State Treasurer Andy Dillen. In the event that you would like to make certificates for the students on this list, please use the template e-mailed to you, please contact SSG by e-mail at ssg@msag.state.mi.us or the phone number listed below.

Students who qualify for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and are attending a Michigan institution, may also receive a monetary scholarship which is renewable for 10 semesters or 15 terms of study.

Please do not contact SSG if you are missing any students or have any other questions regarding the Michigan Competitive Scholarship program.

Sincerely,



Anne Wolfert, Director
Student Scholarships and Grants Division
Bureau of State and Authority Finance

Enclosures





High School Counselors Webinar Series

Student Scholarships and Grants will be partnering with the Michigan Department of Human Services, Lutheran Social Services, Western Michigan University, Michigan Department of Education, and the Michigan College Access Network to bring you a series of Webinars.

We are in the planning stages right now and our intent is to provide more in-depth information on a wide variety of topics. Thanks to MCAN, some of these Webinars will be live giving you the opportunity to ask questions during the Webinar. Others will be pre-recorded. All of these will be posted on MCAN at www.micollegeaccess.org and at www.michigan.gov/ssg for you to watch when you wish.

The first Webinar will cover “*Special Populations*” and will cover information about homeless, foster, and undocumented students. The comments you made on the High School Counselor Workshop surveys were instrumental in our collaborations to bring additional data to you in a timely manner.

Please contact Patty Hill in our High School Services unit if you have any further questions or if you have suggestions for the Webinars or this newsletter. Patty can be reached at 517-373-6051 or via e-mail at hillp@michigan.gov.



MI College Goal 2013

Success!



MI College Goal Update

Preliminary numbers are in for 2013 Michigan College Goal Sunday. There were 37 sites and over 350 volunteers to help nearly 1,175 families complete the FAFSA. Data is not available yet for the 45 other sites that hosted FAFSA completion events not on February 10. EduGuide provided Michigan schools with over 100,000 flyers to give to their seniors and ran public service announcements across the state to promote FAFSA completion. Over the ten years that EduGuide has coordinated this event, the number of FAFSAs filed has increased dramatically, 50% over the last four years alone. More importantly, the amount of Pell Grants received by Michigan students increased from \$400 million in 2005 to \$1.3 billion in 2011.

Going to College?

Other helpful resources. All of these can be found by visiting
www.michigan.gov/ssg

Student Financial Aid Update

2013 – 14
school year



Helping Students Pay for College

Tuition Incentive Program

*What high school counselors and students need
to know about TIP*



Paying for College in Michigan 2012-13

You know higher education is a lifetime investment and will help you meet your life goals.

Part of getting there is having the financial help you might need to pay for college.

Whether college is many years away or you are going to be enrolling soon, this guide can help you get connected to many different sources of help.

Information is power! Information can help you pay for college in Michigan!



Michigan Postsecondary Handbook



Financial Literacy



Financial literacy is the ability to understand how money works in the world. It's your money; it's your future. The choices you make today determines how well you will live tomorrow. It is never too early to begin making good choices on managing money. As students prepare to enter college, it is important that they learn how to set goals, assess their needs realistically, budget how they will live, manage credit, and develop good spending and saving habits that will make a positive difference in their financial future.

There are a variety of organizations that provide literacy information for students and their families.

SSG Recommends:

[JumpStart.org \(www.JumpStart.org\)](http://www.JumpStart.org)

The focus is on "Financial Smarts for Students." JumpStart is a national coalition of organizations that are dedicated to improving financial literacy for students between kindergarten and college. They have a variety of on-line activities and initiatives to help students establish a sound base of financial literacy. The Federal Reserve Board is one of its' permanent members.



[MyMoney.gov \(www.MyMoney.gov\)](http://www.MyMoney.gov)

Is the financial literacy arm of the U.S. government and it represents the joint effort of 22 federal organizations aimed at educating citizens about proper money management.



Money Smart Week
April 20-28, 2013

SSG

SSG has prepared a **budget sheet** and **college checklist** to help students plan ahead. The budget sheet and college checklist are included in this newsletter and will also be available on SSG's Web site under *Planning for College*.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Name _____

Date _____

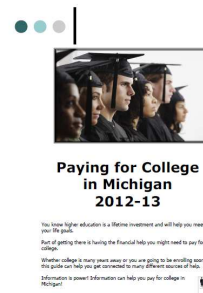
Financial Aid/Income		Award Amount	College Costs/Expenses	Estimated Cost
MICHIGAN PROGRAMS*			Tuition and Fees (Based on 12 credits/full-time enrollment)	\$
Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)	\$		Room and Board (on campus living)	\$
Michigan Education Trust (MET) contract	\$		Books and Supplies	\$
Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP) contract	\$		Transportation	\$
Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)	\$		Miscellaneous Expenses	\$
Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG)	\$		<i>Note: Some monthly expenses may not be covered by your financial aid award. Below are some examples of expenses. Please add these to the expenses above to get your TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES below.</i>	
Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)	\$			
Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivors Tuition Grant (STG)	\$		Personal Expenses (lotion, deodorant, mouthwash, shaving cream, toothpaste, etc.)	\$
Educational Training Voucher (ETV) - foster care	\$		Food (fast foods, pizza, etc.)	\$
FEDERAL PROGRAMS			Clothing (shoes, clothes, coats, etc.)	\$
Pell Grant	\$		Hair Care/Hair Cuts	\$
TEACH Grant	\$		Gas, Car Expenses, and Insurance	\$
Work Study	\$		Cell Phone	\$
Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	\$		Entertainment (movies, sports, club, video games, etc.)	\$
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	\$		Laundry Detergent/Laundromat	\$
Federal Stafford Loan	\$		Nails	\$
Federal PLUS Loan	\$		Renters Insurance (dorm living or off campus apartment)	\$
Federal Perkins Loan	\$		Credit Cards (two cards)	\$
Additional grants or scholarships	\$		Savings (Put aside money for unexpected expenses.)	\$
Part-time job and savings	\$			
Parent/Guardian's assistance	\$			
TOTAL AWARDS	\$		TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES	\$

*Note: *The State of Michigan programs are limited to Michigan colleges; not out-of-state colleges. Some awards are merit or need-based or have other eligibility requirements. In addition, some awards have limited funding and are distributed on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Application deadline is **March 1**. Check with your financial aid office. All awards are subject to available and approved funding.*

FORMS TO BE COMPLETED FOR COLLEGE

Form	Fee(s)	Comment
1. Complete college application form (for each college).	\$0 - \$65	<i>Waiver may be available—must request it. (Paper application may cost more than doing it online.)</i>
2. Complete the FAFSA. (Deadline for Michigan – March 1)	\$0	Use www.fafsa.gov .
3. Take TIP letter to college. (Colleges start processing awards for the fall during March and April.)	\$0	<i>TIP letters are sent out in January to eligible students.</i>
4. Visit the Student Scholarships and Grants Web site to get application and information on Children of Veterans Tuition Grant and Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivors Tuition Grant – www.michigan.gov/ssg .	\$0	<i>These state programs are for specific groups – check the eligibility requirements.</i>
5. After deciding and having been accepted by a specific college, follow their online process to make sure all necessary forms are completed.	\$0	<i>Note: For dependent students, parents may have to complete additional forms...this is normally listed on the school's online secured Web portal for students.</i>
6. Are you a foster child? You may be eligible for an ETV voucher.	\$0	<i>Visit the ETV Web site and complete the application - https://mietv.lssm.org.</i>
7. If you have a MET contract, complete a “notice to use MET educational benefit,” form 3181, if attending in-state public college or university. If attending a Michigan private college or out-of-state college, submit a “notice to terminate MET educational benefit” contract, form 2773.	\$0	<i>These forms are available on the MET Web site – www.setwithmet.com.</i>
8. If you have a MESP account, the account owner must request a withdrawal and it can be directed to be paid to the college, account owner, or the student beneficiary.	\$0	<i>These forms are available at www.misaves.com.</i>
9. Need a loan? Most schools include federal student loans as part of the award packet.	Origination fees (1-4%) and interest	<i>Federal Stafford loans (subsidized or unsubsidized) have a yearly maximum limit of \$5,500 for freshmen to help cover college costs. A Master Promissory Note will need to be completed and students are required to complete online entrance counseling.</i>
10. Parents may need a loan. Most schools include federal Parent PLUS loans as part of the award packet if the cost of attendance exceeds the aid awarded. A Master Promissory Note must be completed.	Origination fees (1-4%) and interest	<i>Federal PLUS loans must pass a credit check. Borrower pays all interest; however, the interest may be capitalized and temporarily postponed during in-school and grace periods. If interest is capitalized, you will pay more for your loan.</i>
11. If you receive any outside scholarships or grants, remember to read the requirements. If the scholarship or grant is renewable, be sure to complete the necessary form ON TIME! <i>Keep in mind that your aid/awards cannot exceed your cost of attendance; some aid may be reduced.</i>	\$0	<i>The requirements may vary based on the scholarship or grant...if a specific grade point average (GPA) or full-time enrollment is required, be sure to comply.</i>

Supplement to Paying for College in Michigan 2012-13



We would like to thank counselors for their thoughtful comments on the High School Counselor Webcast survey. One question that kept coming up was, “What do we tell parents when they ask why should they submit a FAFSA when they know they won’t qualify for student financial aid?” Many families assume they make too much money to qualify for financial aid. There are many factors that go into the assessment of need so parents should not make assumptions – especially the first time through the process.

The purpose of the FAFSA is to calculate what the family can reasonably be expected to pay based on the data captured on the FAFSA. This is called the Expected Family Contribution or EFC. The EFC is deducted from the overall Cost of Attendance (COA) in order to determine the student's need for financial assistance. One of the biggest factors in this determination is the college choice. For example, if a family with an EFC of \$5,000 attends a community college that costs \$8,000 a year, the student will have financial need of \$3,000. If the student attends a college that costs \$15,000 a year then the student will have \$10,000 in need.

There is a tool available to help families get a good “guesstimate” of what their EFC might be. By visiting www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov (a federal site), families can enter their information and get a good idea of what their EFC is and then use this when looking at the costs of different colleges. This can help the student to make good decisions on which college is best for their family. Also keep in mind, the Federal Methodology Formula that is used to calculate the family’s EFC changes every year. Therefore, if they do not qualify for aid in one year, does not mean they will not qualify the next. As you are aware, student financial aid consists of any source of funds available to students and their families for paying for the cost of any postsecondary education. Financial aid funding options can be merit-based, need-based, and non-need based. It is important for families to know that there is a variety of assistance available regardless of their economic situation.

The Supplement to the Paying for College in Michigan 2012-13 was created for you to inform families of the financial aid possibilities available. This supplement will be available at www.michigan.gov/ssg under the *Planning for College* tab. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Patty Hill, High School Services, at 517-373-6051, or via e-mail at hillp@michigan.gov.

Sequestration Impact on Federal Student Aid Programs

Sequestration

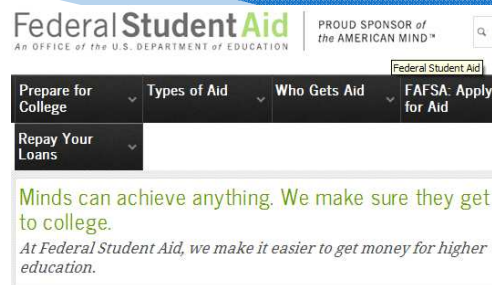
Sequestration is a term used to describe the practice of using mandatory spending cuts in the federal budget if the cost of running the government exceeds either an arbitrary amount or the gross revenue it brings during the fiscal year. Simply put, sequestration is the employment of automatic, across-the-board spending cuts in the face of annual budget deficits.

Congress did not reach an agreement to reduce the FY13 budget deficit on March 1, 2013. Accordingly, the automatic across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration will become effective on March 27, 2013, cutting funds for some federal student aid programs for the remainder of the FY13 budget year and the 2013-14 award year. Federal student financial aid programs will be cut by 5%. Although the Pell Grant program is exempt for the 2013-14 year, it is not protected in subsequent years. The following programs are impacted:

- Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) will be cut by \$86 million for 2013-14.
- The loan fees for Federal Direct Stafford loans will increase from 1.0% to 1.05% and the loan fees for the Federal Direct PLUS (including both Parent and Grad PLUS loans) will increase from 4.0% to 4.2%. These increases apply only to loans that are first disbursed after the sequester takes effect.
- Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant Program and TEACH Grant Program awards will be reduced for first disbursement made after March 27, 2013.

For more information on the cuts to student aid, use the following link: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/announcements/sequestration>.

New Requirements for Federal Student Aid Programs



As a result of the consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), students should be aware of a number of new requirements for the *federal student aid programs* that became effective July 1, 2012. **Although these changes became effective for the current academic year, we believe it's an important reminder for students entering college this fall. The following overview of the changes will impact students' financial aid:**

Pell Grant

The law reduces the length of time that a student is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant. The maximum award is not changing, and depending on the level of need, the award amount will range from a minimum of \$577 to a maximum of \$5,500. *(For 2013-14, the maximum Pell amount increased to \$5,645.)* As always, the amount of the award depends on:

- Financial need
- Cost of attendance
- Status as a full-time or part-time student
- Plans to attend school for a full academic year or less

As a result of the legislative changes; however, students are now limited to 12 full-time semesters (equivalent to six years or 600%) *over the course of their lifetime*. **When this limit is met, they will no longer be eligible for a Pell award.**

Learn what the Federal Pell Grant limits are and how eligibility is calculated by visiting <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/pell/calculate-eligibility>.

Expected Family Contribution

A change was made to the income amount that is used to determine whether a student qualifies for an automatic Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, a student automatically qualify for an EFC of zero if the family income does not exceed \$23,000.

Eligibility of Students Without a High School Diploma

For students who enrolled in higher education for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, in order to be eligible for federal* student aid, they must have either a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development certificate (GED) or a homeschool education. The option of becoming eligible for federal student aid by passing an approved test or completing at least six credit hours or 225 clock hours of postsecondary education is no longer available.

**For the State of Michigan programs, a high school certificate is acceptable.*

For more information on these requirements for federal student aid, visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/about/announcements/recent-changes>. This link is also available on SSG's Web site under *Planning for College*.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We compiled some frequently asked questions that we received from parents and students. If there are questions you would like to include in this section, please send them to our email at ssg@michigan.gov.

1. When will my TIP payment be applied to my account?
Answer: Per legislation, payments are sent to colleges and universities quarterly in November, February, May, and August.
2. How do I apply for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)?
Answer: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the only application you need to complete to be considered for both federal and state aid. However, you must also receive a qualifying ACT score of 23 or more and demonstrate financial need. More information on the eligibility requirements are available on the [MCS Fact Sheet](#). DEADLINE is March 1 to be received by the federal processor for on-time consideration.
3. Do you have a list of eligible TIP schools?
Answer: The list of eligible colleges and universities are available on our Web site along with the TIP program [Fact Sheet](#) at www.michigan.gov/ssg.
4. When is the final deadline to submit my TIP application?
Answer: TIP applications must be received no later than August 31 of the year of high school graduation.

CONTACT SSG

We would like to send you newsletters on a quarterly basis. The newsletter will contain information on the following:

- Financial Aid Workshops/Webinars
- Financial Aid Counseling Tools
- Financial Aid Deadlines
- Program Facts, etc.

Please forward your school email address to Stacy Cardwell at cardwells@michigan.gov (not your personal email) and we will add you to our email listserv for quarterly updates.

If any other staff members or colleagues would like to receive a copy of our “High School Counselors” newsletter, please contact:

Stacy Cardwell
cardwells@michigan.gov
517-373-6074

You can always contact us toll-free at:

1-888-447-2687

Or send an email to

ssg@michigan.gov

Visit our Web site at

www.michigan.gov/ssg

