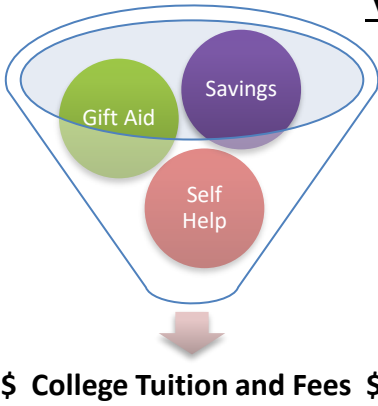


# What is Financial Aid and Where Do I Start?



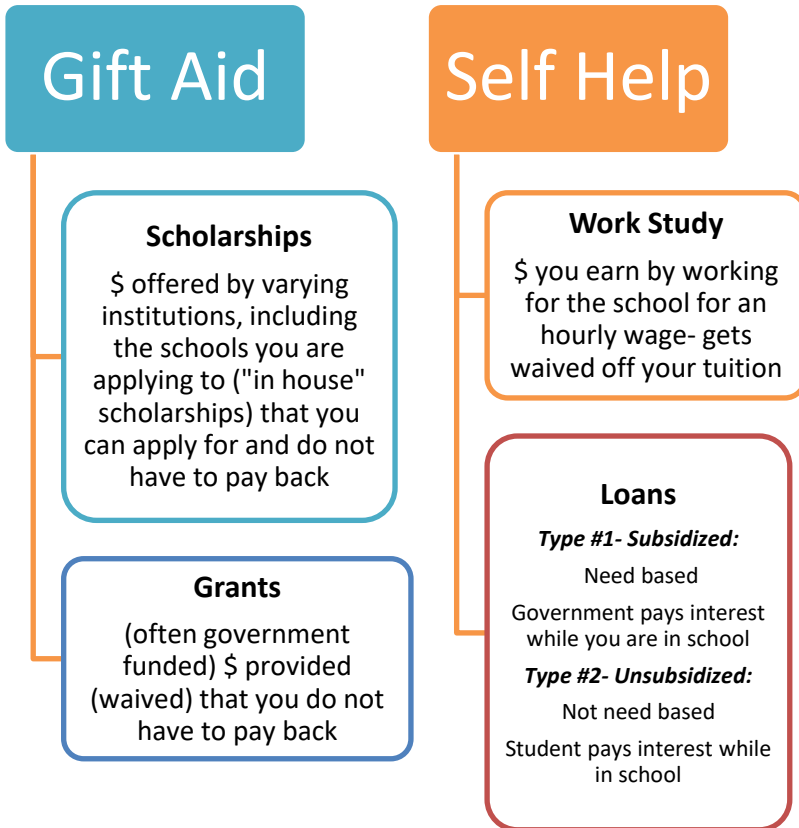
Don't let the price tags scare you yet, the financial aid process is something you will start this year and have help with (through the schools you attend) throughout your education. Paying for school can be done and does not have to be as scary as it seems. Knowing what financial aid is will help you understand this process.

## What is it that I am paying for?

- Tuition
- Books & Supplies
- Room & Board (if needed- check your school to see if they require freshman to live on campus)



Besides my personal savings, what types are financial aid are there?



## How does the money get to me?

- You apply for outside scholarships
- You do the FASFA
- You apply for In-House scholarships to the schools you have been accepted to
- You send your "Student Aid Report" (SAR) you receive from your FASFA to schools you are applying to
- You send any scholarships you are awarded to the school you are attending's financial aid office
- You get an "Award Letter" from the schools you accepted to that will detail your remaining costs
- You compare your letters and decide on your school
- You tell any scholarships you received where you are attending
- \*AND THE MONEY GETS WAIVED OFF YOUR TUITION\***
- \*\*After this, then see if loans are needed & you can apply through your schools Financial Aid Office\*\***

## To start, everyone SHOULD:

- #1- Do the "COF" it will waive off a portion of your tuition for Colorado schools. Apply @: <https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply>
- #2- Fill out a College Application & SAVE THE BACK PAGE with your parents information re: taxes, residency, etc. for other applications (schools and scholarships)
- #3- **Start looking for scholarships! Use your Senior Packet and Naviance and start looking and applying.** Use the "Colleges" tab in Naviance and scroll down to get to the scholarship links. You can also check the GREEN binders in Post Grad on Mr. Sewell's desk if you prefer to look that way
- #4- Attend College Planning & Financial Aid Night @ OHS – **CHECK THE WEBSITE** for date and time!
- #5- Do the FASFA forecaster & get your "Estimated Family Contribution" (EFC). This will help predict the amount of aid you may receive when you do the FASFA. You'll need:
  - W-2 forms & other earning records from the previous year
  - Federal Income Tax Returns from last year
  - Untaxed Income records
  - Bank statements for checking and savings
  - Citizenship numbers[www.fasfa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fasfa4caster.ed.gov)
- #6- Visit the website of the schools you are applying to and look for their Cost of Attendance, or Financial Calculators that will help show their costs. And see if there are deadlines to their "In-House" priority scholarships! *You will have to tell them you are interested in the "In-House" opportunities when you apply and are accepted!*
- #7- Visit with College Representatives when they visit Post- Grad. They sometimes will have additional opportunities they can help you with