



**JOHN  
BURTON**  
ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

[www.jbaforyouth.org](http://www.jbaforyouth.org)

# SET UP FOR SUCCESS

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Supporting Foster Youth College Transition

Debbie Raucher and Kista Holani

December 11, 2019

# Logistics

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- Webinars are recorded and archived at <http://kids-alliance.org/webinars/>.
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- All attendees are muted during webinar.
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# Agenda

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- Presenters
  - Why College?
  - Creating a College-Going Culture
  - Applying to College
  - Paying for College
  - Succeeding in College
  - Q & A
- 

# Presenters

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*Debbie Raucher*

Director of Education

John Burton Advocates for Youth

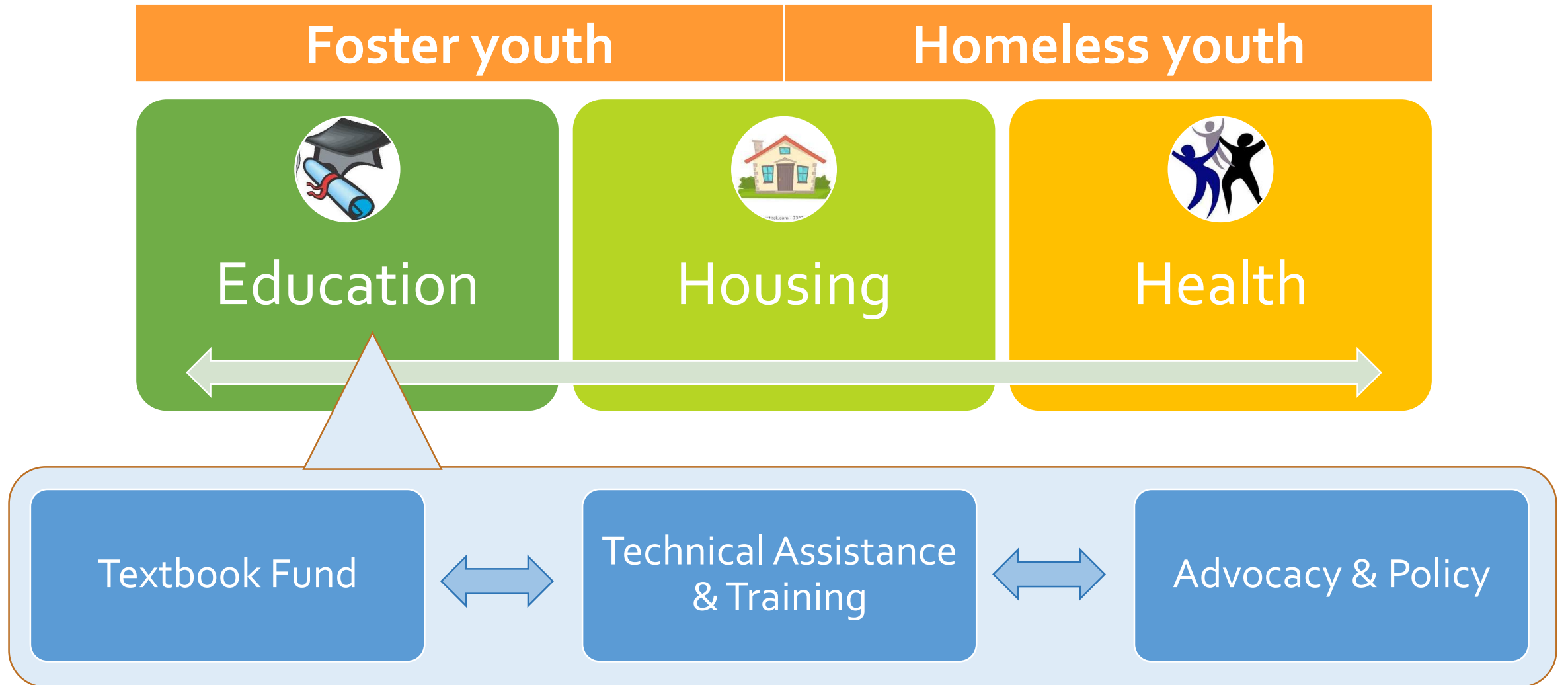
*Kista Holani*

Youth Advocate

John Burton Advocates for Youth



# John Burton Advocates for Youth



# Why College?

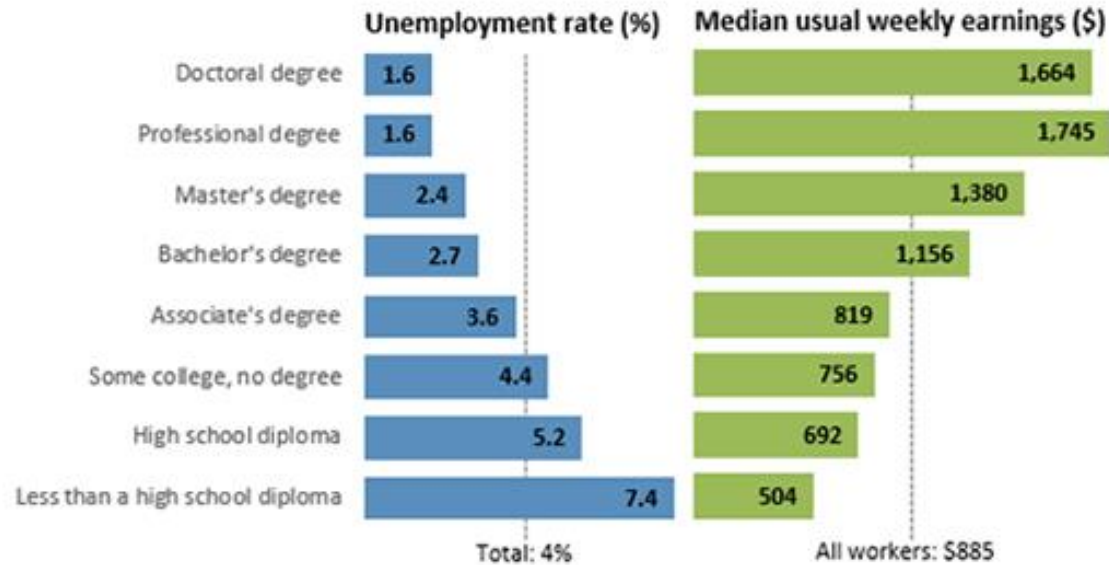
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Understanding what is at stake for our youth



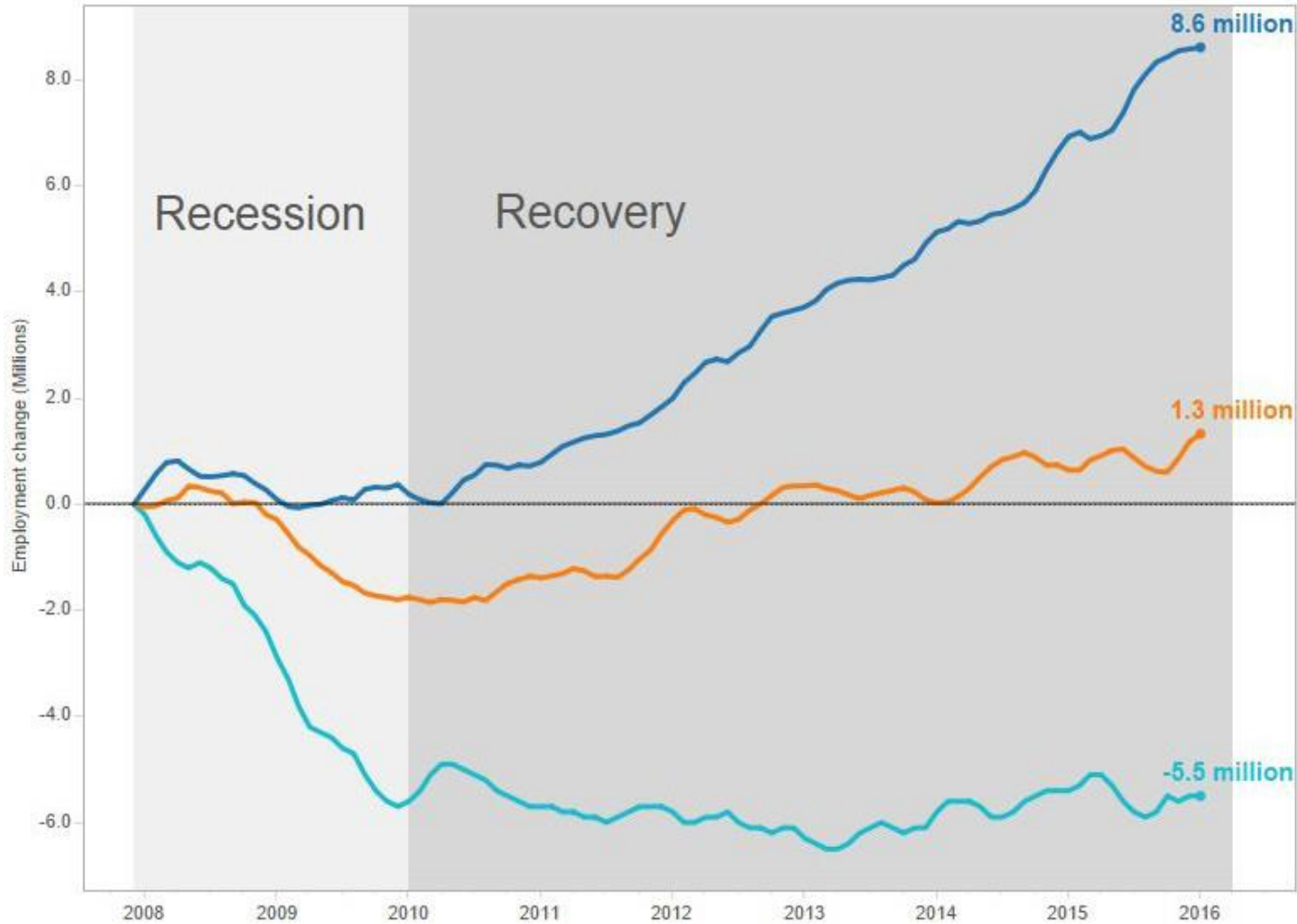
# Education Pays Off

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.





- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Associate's degree or some college
- High school or less

# 99%

of jobs created since the Great Recession have gone to those with at least some college

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey (CPS)* data, 2007-2016.



# Education Pays Off in Other Ways...

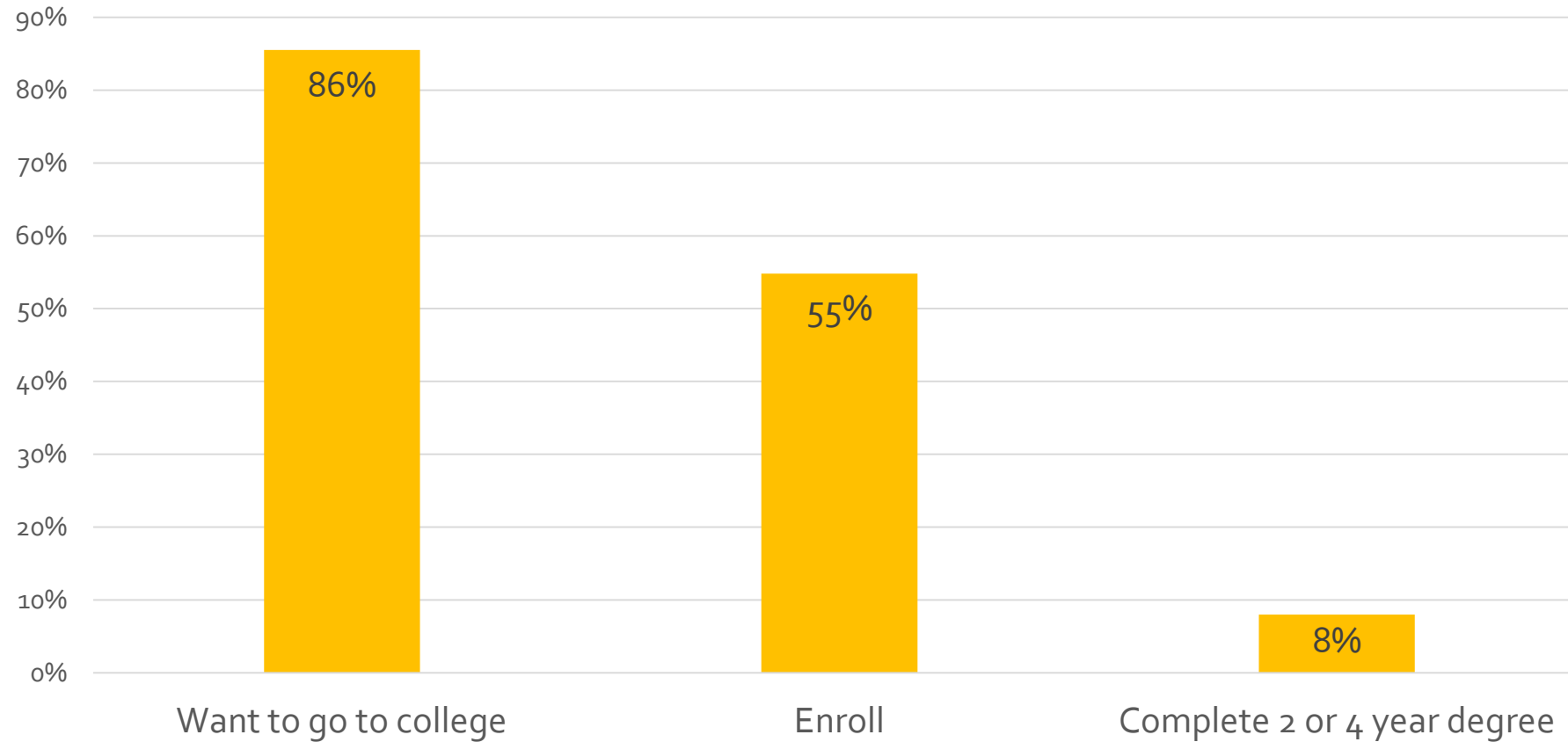
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- Lower rates of incarceration
- Improved health outcomes
- Higher levels of civic participation, including voting
- Greater likelihood of one's children attending college
- Increased career satisfaction



# College Aspirations vs. College Realities

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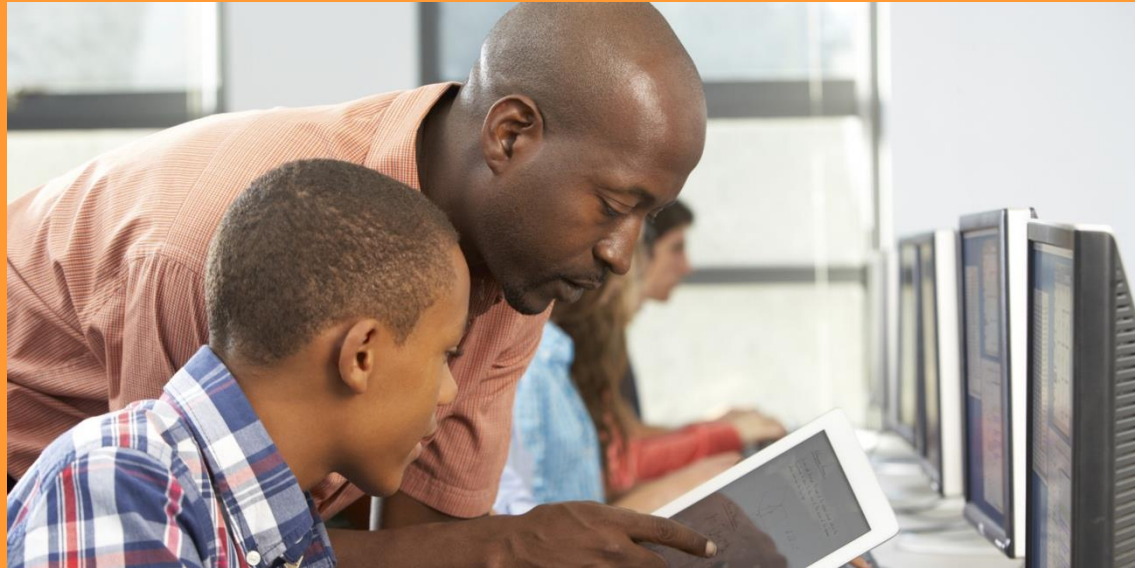
# Creating a College-Going Culture

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Early messaging is key



The single most important factor influencing a positive outcome for children and youth is a



lasting relationship with a caring, engaged adult.

# Encouraging Foster Youth

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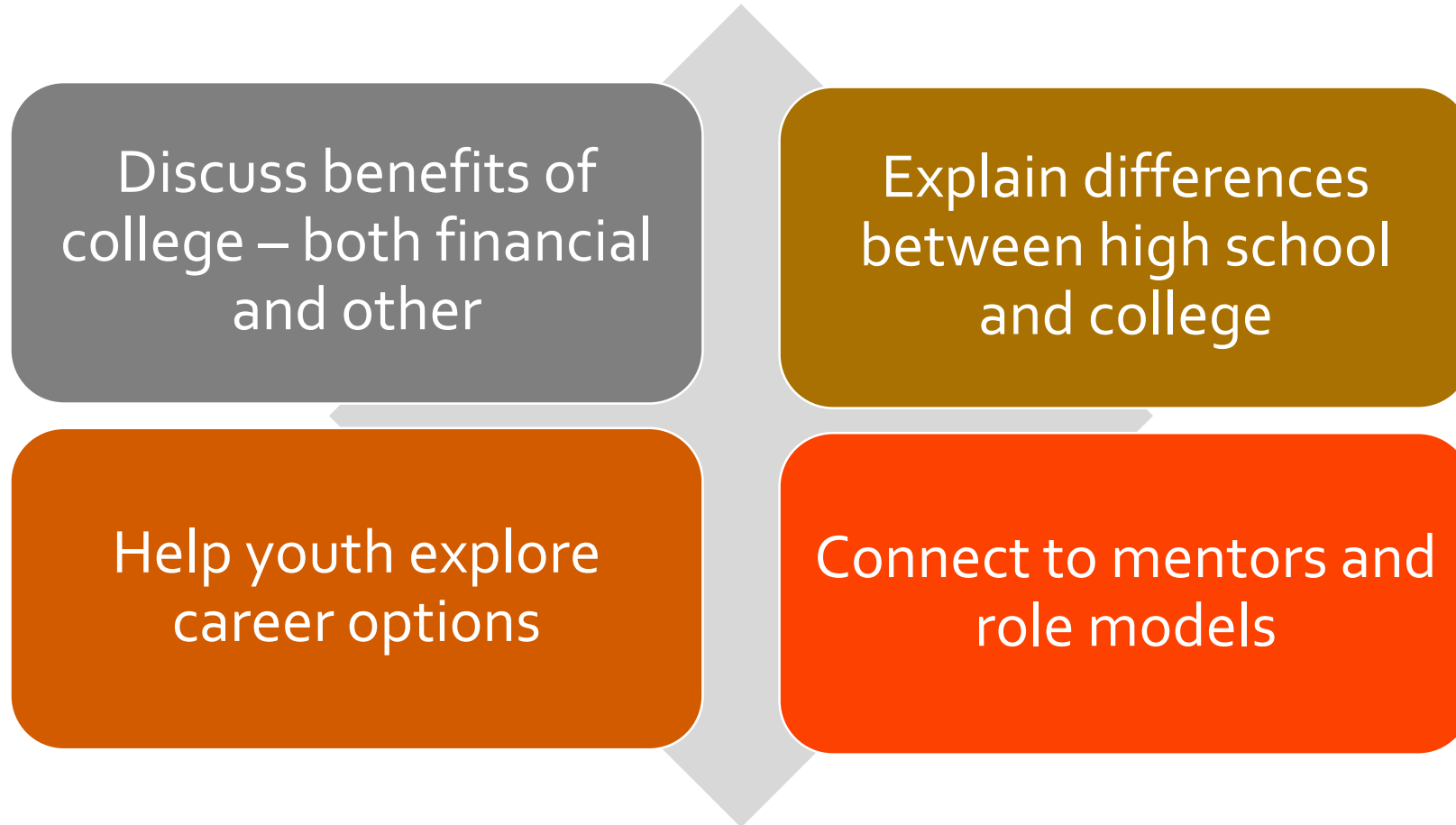


- Motivate from a young age
- Danger of the self-fulfilling prophecy
- Set high expectations – regardless of past academic performance
- Consistently express the expectation that the student will graduate from high school and go on to college
- Use such phrases as “When you go to college....” instead of “If...”



# Inspire and Motivate Youth

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# Exploring Career Options

- Helping students find a career path
  - ❖ Begin in middle school
  - ❖ Increase motivation to stay in school
  - ❖ Save time and money
- Reality testing and money
  - ❖ *Living Wage Calculator:* [livingwage.mit.edu](http://livingwage.mit.edu)
  - ❖ *Salary Surfer:* [salarysurfer.cccco.edu](http://salarysurfer.cccco.edu)
  - ❖ *CA Career Zone:* [www.cacareerzone.org/budget](http://www.cacareerzone.org/budget)







# What's your plan?





## Make Money Choices

Forming a budget is one of the most important parts of financial success. As you first enter the workforce, or even if you switch jobs, knowing how much money you will have available to spend on different aspects of your life will help you avoid debt and possibly even save some money for a rainy day.

### To get started, select an option below



#### Choose Your Lifestyle

When you select this option, you will be asked a series of questions to help you determine the lifestyle you want to lead and how much it will cost you. When you are finished you can look at occupations that might support that lifestyle.

**Budget how much money you'll need**



#### Pick Your Salary

If you think you know how much money you are going to make, you can work backwards to see if that salary will support the lifestyle you want to lead. If it does not, you can search for alternative occupations that might.

**Budget from a starting salary**



## 1. EXPLORE CAREERS

Find a career that motivates you.

- [Take the Career Assessment](#)
- [Explore Careers](#)
- [View Potential Wages](#)

## 2. CHOOSE A COLLEGE

Discover a college that will help you reach your goals.

- [About the Community Colleges](#)
- [Find a College](#)
- [All Community Colleges](#)

[SEE ALL](#) ▶▶

## 3. APPLY FOR COLLEGE

Get your application started and learn about priority registration.

- [Begin Application](#)
- [What is Priority Registration?](#)
- [Orientation](#)

[SEE ALL](#) ▶▶

## 4. PAY FOR COLLEGE

Apply for financial aid.

- [Eligibility](#)
- [Get Ready to Apply](#)
- [Apply Now](#)

[SEE ALL](#) ▶▶

# Salary surfer





Curriculum	Award Type	Median Annual Salary		
		2 Years Before	2 Years After	5 Years After
⊕ Administrative Medical Assisting	Degree	N/A	\$27,193	N/A
⊕ Administrative Medical Assisting	Certificate	\$20,140	\$28,386	\$31,211
⊕ Cardiovascular Technician	Degree	\$20,134	\$61,491	\$73,479
⊕ Cardiovascular Technician	Certificate	\$20,535	\$63,780	\$71,284
⊕ Clinical Medical Assisting	Degree	\$8,126	\$26,667	\$23,506
⊕ Clinical Medical Assisting	Certificate	\$13,485	\$27,717	\$32,992
⊕ Dental Assistant	Degree	\$15,432	\$29,845	\$32,394
⊕ Dental Assistant	Certificate	\$13,912	\$28,253	\$30,552
⊖ Dental Hygienist	Degree	\$20,171	\$69,118	\$64,030

College	Program Title	Program Type
<a href="#">Cabrillo College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Cerritos College</a>	Dental Hygienist	Degree
<a href="#">Cypress College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Diablo Valley College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Foothill College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Fresno City College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Moreno Valley College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Oxnard College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree
<a href="#">Pasadena City College</a>	DENTAL HYGIENE	Degree
<a href="#">Riverside City College</a>	Dental Hygiene	Degree

# Foster Youth Educational Planning Guide

FOSTER YOUTH  
**EDUCATIONAL** ★  
**PLANNING GUIDE**



CALIFORNIA ★  
**COLLEGE**   
**PATHWAYS**



## ★ 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

### Advising & Record-keeping

- Attend an orientation session at your new school.
- Meet with your high school counselor.
- Create a file for keeping track of everything related to education and career: include your grade reports and honors or awards you receive. Keep a record of extracurricular activities like paid employment, school clubs, sports, music, and volunteer work. If you transfer to a new school, get a copy of your school record and keep it in this file. *If you update this every semester it will make filling out the college application easy.*
- Begin or update your High School Planner at [www.csumentor.edu/planning](http://www.csumentor.edu/planning) or [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu).

### Coursework

- Take the required college preparatory "a-g" coursework including:
  - Algebra I or Geometry, college prep English, and a foreign language.
  - Elective courses that meet college admission standards: history, English, mathematics, science, visual and performing arts, and a foreign language.
  - Aim for As and Bs in all your classes; focus on developing good study habits.
- Register for AP (Advanced Placement) and honors courses for 10<sup>th</sup> grade, if available.
- Find programs to help you succeed in college prep courses on page 13.

### Testing

- Optional: Take the 9<sup>th</sup> grade ACT Aspire assessment test.

### Career Planning

- Participate in career exploration activities.
- Update your career interest and aptitude assessment (or take one if you have not already).
- Participate in a community project.



## ★ 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

### Advising & Record-keeping

- Begin your High School Planner at [www.csumentor.edu/planning/](http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/) or at [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu). The planner has information on courses and grades required for college admission. *Update your High School Planner every semester, and if you decide to apply to a CSU, your course information will automatically transfer to your application—making the application process much easier!*

### Coursework

- Develop a tentative schedule of specific courses for grades 9-12 using the College Preparatory "a-g" course list and a list of CTE (Career Technical Education) course lists for high schools in your area.
- Take Pre-Algebra or Algebra I or another rigorous math course.
- Take a language other than English.
- Find programs to help you succeed in college prep courses on page 13.

### Testing

- Take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade ACT Aspire assessment test (formerly ACT Explore and ACT Plan) to help you gauge progress towards college preparedness. *Ask your school counselor for information about how to sign up and about getting a fee waiver.*

### Career Planning

- See your school counselor about taking a career interest and aptitude assessment.
- Participate in career awareness activities.

## Student perspective: Kista Holani

- Were you exposed to the potential of college when you were younger and how did this help or hinder your educational journey?
- How essential was support from adult mentors to matriculate into college and what support was most helpful?



# Applying to College

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Supporting youth with application and enrollment



# High School Graduation and College Enrollment

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- A high school diploma or equivalent is not required to enroll in community college
  - ❖ Is required for most forms of federal and state financial aid
- Many community colleges offer high school diploma programs
- Foster youth are eligible for a fee waiver to take high school equivalency tests (CHSPE, GED, HiSET, TASC)
  - ❖ Submit verification to request waiver



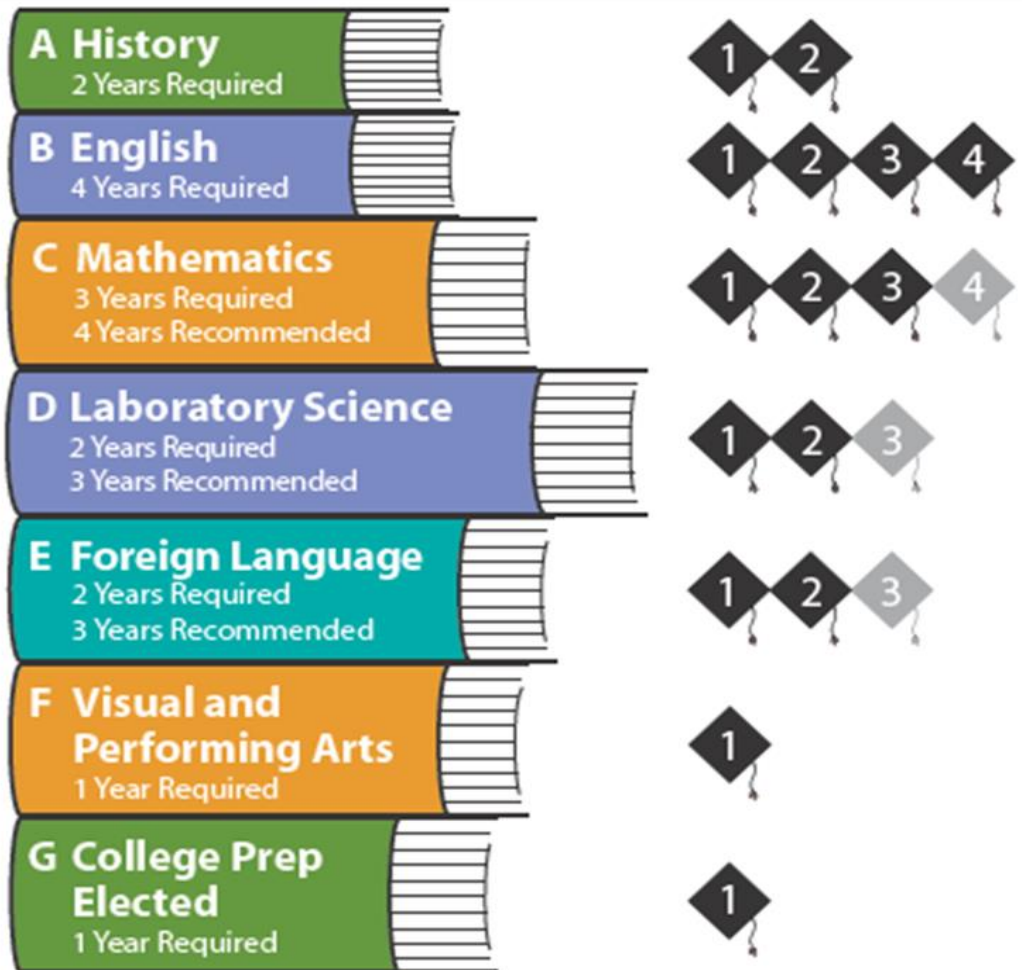


# College Options



Type	What to know
Community College	Open access, often takes longer than traditional 4-year path
Cal State University and University of California	Competitive application process, must take A-G classes
Private non-profit college/ university	Both in-state and out of state, many offer institutional scholarships
Private proprietary vocational or trade school	<b>BEWARE</b> of high cost programs with poor outcomes

# A-G Courses



\* Grades of C or better required.

More than 4,000 high school career/technical classes are accepted as fulfilling one of the “a-g” course requirements.

See “a-g course lists” at [ucop.edu/agguide](http://ucop.edu/agguide)



# Applying to Community College

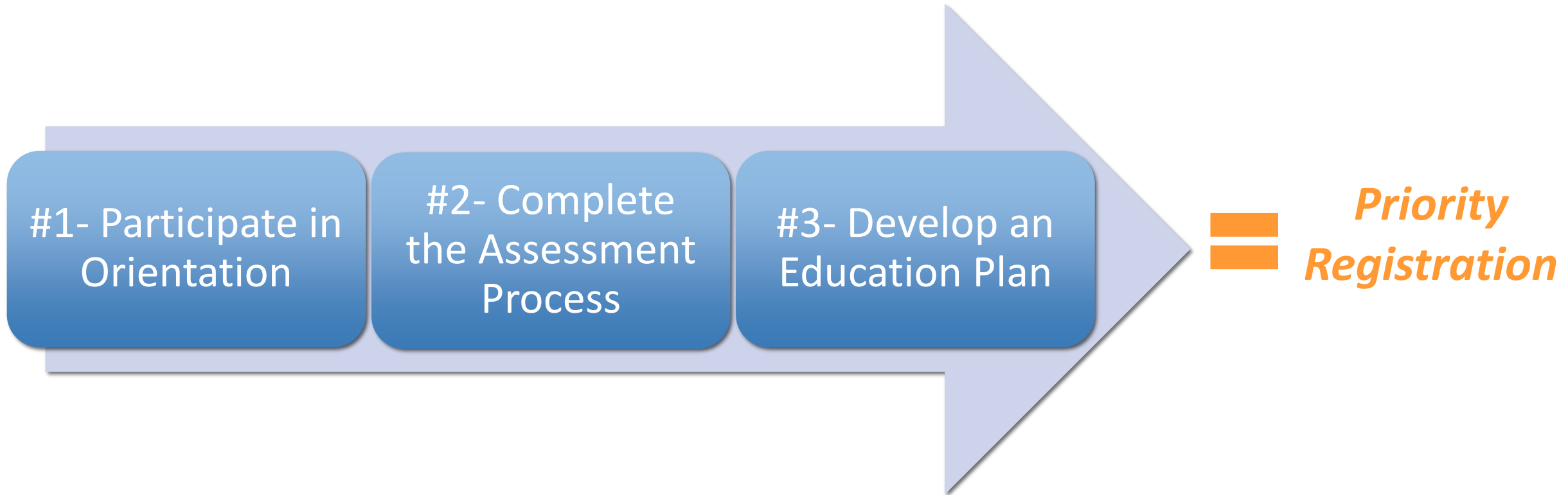
Start the process early!

The screenshot shows the CCCApply website homepage. At the top left is the logo "CCCApply" with a checkmark icon and the tagline "Your online gateway to the California Community Colleges". To the right of the logo is a "Español" button. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "Colleges", "Apply", "Money", "Parents", and "Help". The main content area features a large image of a smiling man in a hard hat and blue shirt. Overlaid on this image is a "Apply Today" box with a dropdown menu to "Select a community college" and a green "APPLY" button. Below the image is a green banner with a welcome message: "Welcome to the new CCCApply.org. Choose a college, and you will be routed to the college's website for complete instructions to apply for admission online." At the bottom, there are three columns of links: "Explore" (What the Colleges Offer, Find Online Courses/Programs, Admission Requirements), "Apply" (Admission Applications, BOG Fee Waiver, International Applications), and "Financial Aid" (Can I Afford College?, Where Can I Get Help?, How Do I Apply For Aid?).

- ✓ Apply at [www.cccapply.org](http://www.cccapply.org)
- ✓ Encourage youth to check off the “foster youth” box to get connected to resources
- ✓ Apply for support programs early, such as EOPS & NextUp (if applicable)
- ✓ Take advantage of Priority Registration (occurs in Spring)

# 3 Steps for Priority Registration

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Contact your local college to learn more or go to [www.stepforward.cccco.edu](http://www.stepforward.cccco.edu)

# Assessment & Remediation

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- Remedial courses
  - Don't provide college credit but cost money
  - Cost students more money
  - Increase time to finish school
  - Decreases likelihood of completion
- Rapidly changing landscape
  - Use of high school transcript data for placement
  - Co-requisite enrollment options
  - Accelerated courses

# Applying to a UC or CSU

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- Apply for CSU's and UC's by **November 30<sup>th</sup>**
- Requires personal essays
- Apply for on-campus housing – strict deadlines
- Apply for EOP - with application
- Fee waivers are available for SAT/ACT tests



# Additional CSU & UC Benefits

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Priority Access to  
On-Campus  
Housing



Priority  
Registration





## Student perspective: Kista Holani

- How easy or hard did you find the application process? What help did you need?
- In what ways have you benefited from priority registration? How important do you think it is for foster youth make sure they get this?



# Paying for College

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Understanding financial aid resources and processes

# Financial Aid Makes a Difference



Students receiving  
at least \$7,500 in  
financial aid

49% transferred or  
graduated

Students receiving  
\$1,000 to \$2,500

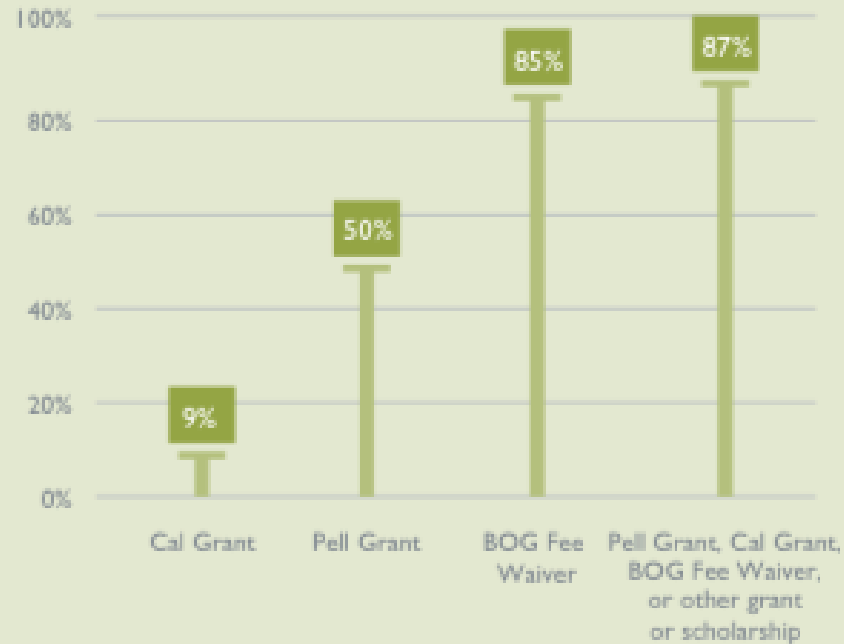
17% transferred or  
graduated

# Are foster youth getting financial aid?

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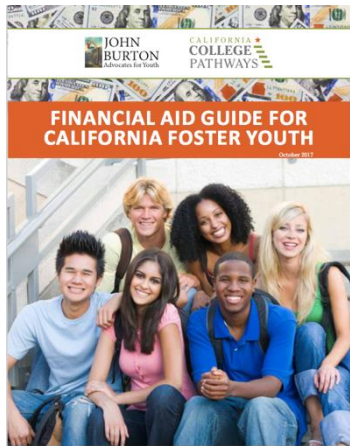


Figure 3: EQUIP – Foster youth receiving a Pell Grant, Cal Grant, BOG Fee Waiver, or other grant or scholarship-based financial aid: 2013-14

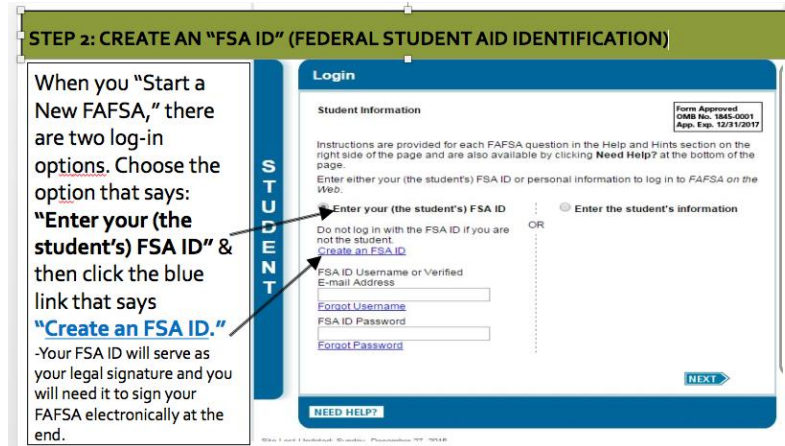


Note: Non-foster youth data were excluded from this indicator. Non-foster youth eligibility rates for financial aid may vary significantly from the rates for the foster youth population; therefore, a straight comparison of rates of receipt between the two groups would be of limited use here.

# Resources



Financial Aid Guide



Online Visual Financial Aid Guide



Webinar recordings

[www.cacollegepathways.org/financial-aid](http://www.cacollegepathways.org/financial-aid)

[www.jbaforyouth.org/trainings-2](http://www.jbaforyouth.org/trainings-2)

# How to Apply for Financial Aid

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**If the applicant is a U.S. Citizen, a permanent resident or other eligible non-citizen:**

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**If the applicant is an undocumented immigrant:**

Complete the CA Dreamers Act Application (CADAA) at [dream.csac.ca.gov](http://dream.csac.ca.gov)

# FAFSA Phone App – My Student Aid

- Has IRS Data Retrieval Tool functionality
- Has an option to complete a renewal FAFSA and/or make corrections
- Requires an FSA ID in order to use the app

Application can be started on one device and completed on another with the Save Key



**myStudentAid** 4+  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Federal Student Aid  
#200 in Finance  
★★★★☆ 3.9, 27 Ratings  
Free



# When to Apply for Financial Aid

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The priority application period for FAFSA and CADA is October 1– March 2<sup>nd</sup>



Students can apply after March 2<sup>nd</sup>, but may receive less financial aid



Students can apply for financial aid even after they've started school, but earlier means more aid



# 4 Year Considerations – Apply Early !

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Housing deadlines come early: work with Foster Youth Program to get housing priority

Institutional grants unique to each campus: better chance of being awarded earlier

Scholarships: more available early

Deferment of enrollment and housing deposits

- FY Program coordinators can help with requests for deferment

# What a Student Will Need to File FAFSA

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- Name as it appears on their social security card
- Social security number
- Email address
- List of up to 10 schools students are interested applying to
- Self and parents' income information for the requested year\*
- Youth in care after 13 or in guardianship are exempt from providing parental income information (independent status)

\* prior-prior years tax information

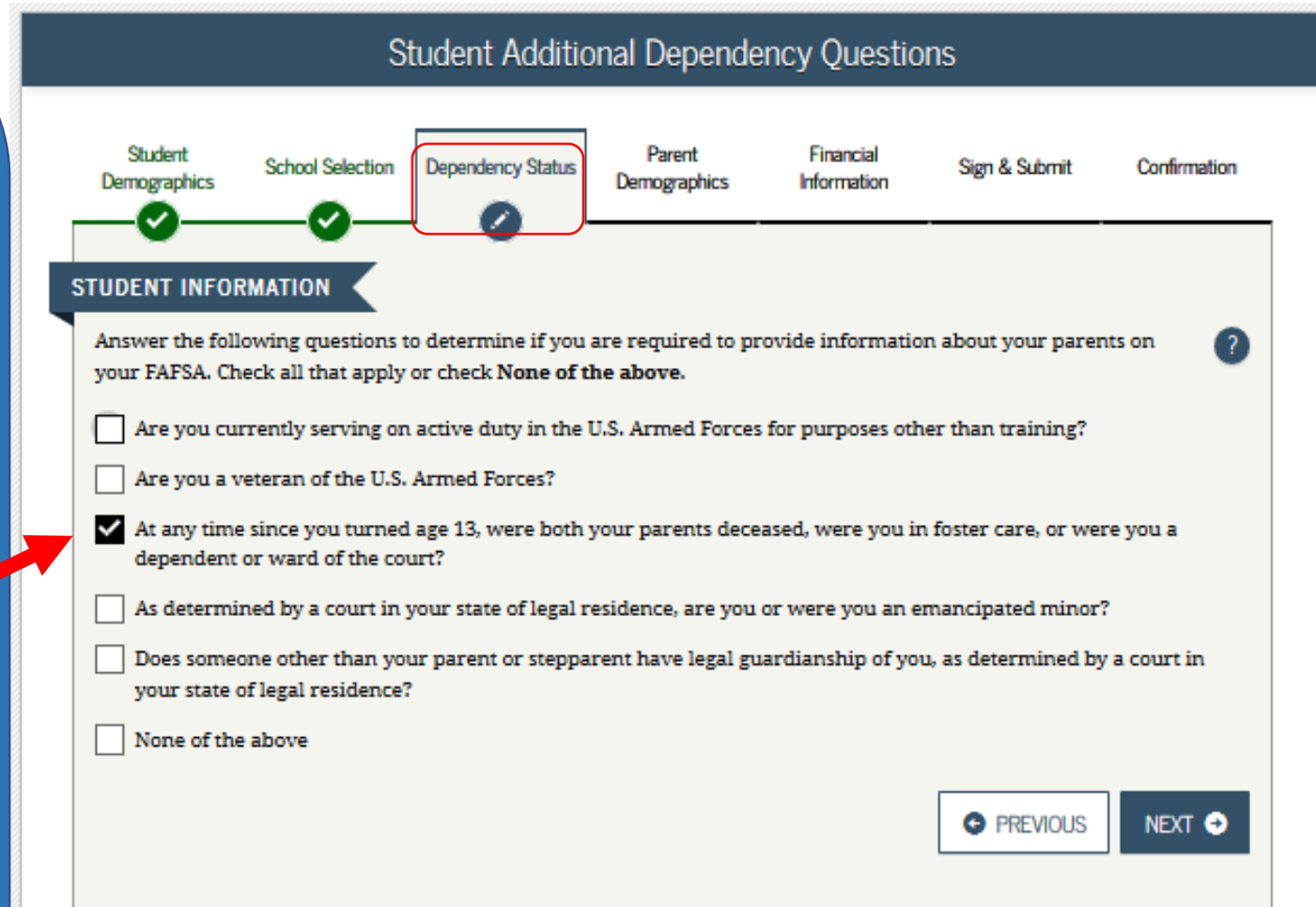
# Dependency Status

*Current or former foster youth qualify for "Independent Status" on the FAFSA if they can answer "Yes" to either of two questions:*

**"At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?"**

Or

**"Does someone other than your parents or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of residence?"**



Student Additional Dependency Questions

Student Demographics ✓ School Selection ✓ **Dependency Status** Parent Demographics Financial Information Sign & Submit Confirmation

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Answer the following questions to determine if you are required to provide information about your parents on your FAFSA. Check all that apply or check **None of the above**.

- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- None of the above

PREVIOUS NEXT

Independent student = Financial need is determined based on student's income and not parents

# FAFSA TIP

## Financial Information

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Foster youth DO NOT have to report the following information as income earned from working, or in the “Additional Financial Information” or “Untaxed Income” section:

Extended Foster Care (AB 12) benefits, including SILP payments or THP+ FC stipends

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

# Expanded CalGrant Access

CalGrant Eligibility	Foster Youth
Apply within one year of high school graduation	Any time up to age 26
March 2 deadline for all students	September 2 deadline for community college students
Max timeframe = 4 years	Max timeframe = 8 years

- Full tuition at CSUs and UCs!
- \$1600 for non-tuition costs!
- \$6000 for parenting students!

**GPA MUST BE SUBMITTED BY HIGH SCHOOL AND MATCHED TO FAFSA/CADA**

# Apply for the Chafee Grant



After submitting the FAFSA or CADAA, *First time applicants only* must submit the California Chafee Grant Application online at [www.chafee.csac.ca.gov](http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov)

Up to \$5,000  
of free money  
for eligible  
current or  
former foster  
youth

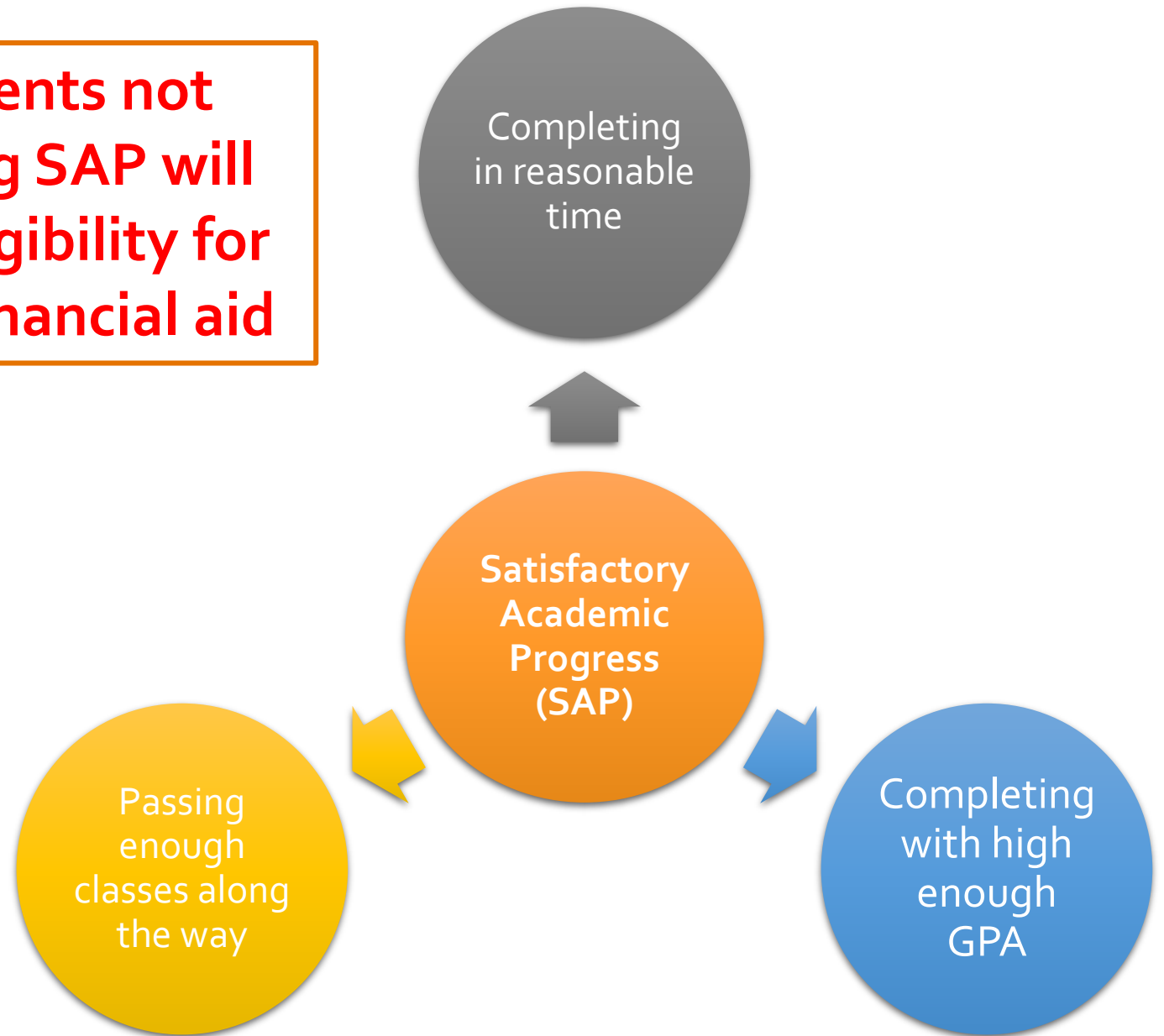


## After the FAFSA

- Create a WebGrants account at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov> (must use PC or laptop and must use Internet Explorer)
- Ensure GPA verification is sent by high school and matched to FAFSA/CADA (required for CalGrant)
- Check email and student portal regularly – respond to requests for additional information (including proof of IRS non-filing)
- Submit foster youth verification if required
- Watch for Student Aid Report (SAR)

# Maintaining Financial Aid - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

**Students not  
making SAP will  
lose eligibility for  
most financial aid**





# Student perspective: Kista Holani

- How easy or hard did you find the financial aid application process? What help did you need?
- What challenges have you faced maintaining financial aid?



# Succeeding in College

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Accessing Campus Resources for Foster Youth



# Summer Melt

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- Ten to twenty percent of students who enroll in college do not end up attending in the fall.
- These numbers are higher for low-income and first-generation students and community college bound students - **with attrition rates as high as 40 percent.**



# Combating Summer Melt

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- Ensure that all matriculation and enrollment steps are completed before high school graduation – including financial aid verification.
- Text them reminders over the summer
- Take students on campus visits
- Connect students to summer bridge programs at the campus
- Connect students to campus-based support programs before high school graduation.



# Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)

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**At least one FYSI Liaison for foster youth is at each of the 114 California community college campuses.**



**Often housed in the financial aid office**

# Foster Youth Campus Support Programs

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## One-Stop Shop

linkages to campus resources

## Targeted Support

counseling, workshops, referral

## Community

connect with others with similar experience

## Direct Student Aid

book vouchers, emergency aid, etc.

- ❖ Various names: Guardian Scholars, Renaissance Scholars, etc.
- ❖ Program services & eligibility criteria can vary
- ❖ Found at most community colleges, CSU's, UC's and some private schools

# EOP & EOPS

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CSU = EOP  
CCC = EOPS

Support for  
low-income  
educationally  
disadvantaged  
students

Programs  
offer  
academic  
counseling,  
book grants  
and more

Limited  
space so  
apply early

CSU - must  
apply with  
college  
application

# NextUp (Formerly CAFYES)

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## Students must be:

- Under age 26
- In foster care on or after their 16th birthday
- Enrolled in at least 9 units
- Also apply for EOPS





# General Campus Resources & Supports

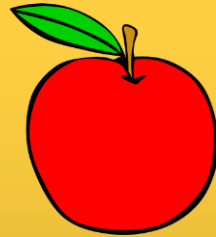
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**CalWorks &  
CARE**



**Counseling &  
Psychological  
Services**



**Food  
Assistance**



**Tutoring**



**Student  
Disability  
Services**



**Cultural  
Supports**

# www.cacollegepathways.org



Supporting Opportunity and Success for Foster Youth Scholars



## FIND CAMPUS SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

**C**ampus support programs that are specifically designed for foster youth can be a great resource while attending college. Program services vary considerably and can include personal and academic counseling, financial assistance, housing, mentoring and much more. Get the most accurate information about what each program offers by directly contacting the specific program. Download this [list of questions](#) to ask campus representatives to get the best idea of whether the specific program will meet the needs of your youth.

### Find Campus Support Programs

- To search by college, [click here](#).
- To search by geography, type of institution, and available services, [click here](#).

### Foster Youth Contacts on Campus

If a campus isn't listed above, it may still have some resources for foster youth. For example, every community college has a designated point of contact known as a **Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)** liaison.

Click below for lists of foster youth contacts at the various colleges and universities.

- [Community Colleges \(FYSI\)](#)
- [California State Universities](#)
- [University of California](#)

### Social and Economic Barrier Support

## FIND CAMPUS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- [FIND CAMPUS SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FOSTER YOUTH](#)
- [Foster Youth Success Initiative \(FYSI\)](#)
- [Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educ. Support Programs \(CAFYES\)](#)
- [University Foster Youth Contacts](#)
- [Additional Support Programs](#)
  - [CalWORKS Recipients](#)
  - [Students with Disabilities](#)
  - [CSU EOP](#)
  - [UC EOP](#)
  - [EOPS](#)
  - [TRIO](#)
- [Out of State Programs](#)

## SEARCH SITE

## WHAT'S NEW

- [Increase Access to Financial Aid: Support SB 12](#)
- [Post-Secondary Education Webinar Training Series](#)

Find FYSI  
Liaisons, Foster  
Youth Campus  
Support  
Program,  
& NextUp  
contacts

# www.student.cacollegepathways.org

CALIFORNIA ★  
COLLEGE  
PATHWAYS

*Supporting Opportunity and Success  
for Foster Youth Scholars*

"Guardian Scholars allowed me to meet individuals from different cultures and experiences, yet who were able to relate through a similar struggle."

- Ariel, Foster Youth Scholar



Planning  
For College



Financial  
Aid



Housing



Find  
Campus  
Support



Benefits For  
Foster Youth



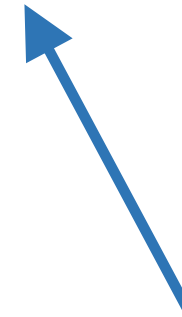
Success  
Stories



Resources



For  
Professionals



**STUDENT  
RESOURCE  
PORTAL**

# Thank you!

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[www.jbaforyouth.org](http://www.jbaforyouth.org)

# SET UP FOR SUCCESS

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