



# High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

December 2016

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

## Understanding College Costs

Often the greatest fear about pursuing an education after high school is the cost of college. The main expenses include **tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation**. These costs can be controlled to some extent.

The cost of college depends a lot on the choices students make. There's something else you should know: **The published price of attending a college is not usually what students actually pay.** Students often pay less, thanks to financial aid.

Financial aid is money given or lent to students to help pay for college. It may be awarded based on financial need alone, or based partly on factors such as proven academic or athletic ability. **Most full-time college students** receive some form of financial aid.

The actual, final price (or **net price**) students pay for a specific college is the published price (tuition and fees) to attend that college, minus any grants, scholarships and education tax benefits for which they may be eligible.

The **difference** between the published price and the net price can be **considerable**. While the prices published on college websites can be discouraging, many students will find that the net price for them is actually lower.

Colleges are now required to post a tool called a **net price calculator** on their websites. You can also go to the **U.S. Department of Education's Net Price Calculator Center**: [www.collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx](http://www.collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx)

Sources: [BigFuture](#) & [Career Guidance WA](#)



NAVIANCE

## Have Naviance Questions?

[naviance@everettsd.org](mailto:naviance@everettsd.org)

**Upcoming Lessons** in Naviance Family Connection with your counselor:

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Learning Style Inventory**
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Exploring Careers & Colleges**
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Road Trip to Your Career**

(\*See page 2 for the full list of middle school lessons)

## Did You Know?

**No one's potential is fixed at birth.** "Maria is a quick learner." "I'm bad at math." We speak of these traits as if they are unchangeable. Scientists who study the brain have discovered that all of us can grow strong and meet challenges if we work hard and stick with it. Natural talent and predispositions are just the beginning.

Source: [What Kids Can Do](#)