

TITLE: College and Career Readiness Day

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this reference guide is to provide information about hosting a College and Career Readiness Day in order to meet the goals of the Los Angeles Unified School District’s (LAUSD) Strategic Plan. Pillar 1 — Academic Excellence — of the District’s Strategic Plan, Priority 1D: College and Career Readiness has a measure of success to “Increase the percentage of graduating seniors completing a college application to a UC or CSU to 70% (from 27.7% for UCs and 36.8% for CSUs in 2020-21)” and to “Increase the percentage of graduating seniors completing a FAFSA/CADAA application to 100% (from 71.8% in 2021-22).”

From the LAUSD’s class of 2022 cohort, 8,422 students (29.1%) applied to at least one of the nine University of California campuses and 13,097 students (45.7%) applied to at least one of the twenty-three California State University campuses. Additionally, during the 2022-2023 school year, 96.1% of LAUSD high school seniors submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) and 89% completed a FAFSA or CADAA, surpassing the statewide rates of 74.9% and 69.1%, respectively. With the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 132 and AB 469, high school seniors are now required to complete and submit a FAFSA or CADAA. The Board Resolution *Got a Plan for That? Removing Barriers to College and Career Success (Board Resolution 009-21/22)*, also calls for all seniors to complete and submit a FAFSA or CADAA.

To increase the number of high school seniors completing the FAFSA or CADAA and applying to a postsecondary institution, the District will support each school in hosting a College and Career Readiness Day during the fall semester. All schools serving 12th grade students are encouraged to participate in College and Career Readiness Day.

MAJOR CHANGES: This is a new Reference Guide.

INSTRUCTIONS: The information provided in this reference guide is intended to help schools kick-start the application and financial aid period and provide resources to help schools plan a successful College and Career Readiness Day.

College and Career Readiness Day is designed to assist all high school seniors with postsecondary planning. College and Career Readiness Day includes:

- Applying to college
- Completing financial aid applications
- Applying for scholarships
- Planning for employment
- Planning for internships

Schools will select any day during the week or Saturday (excluding holidays and unassigned days) before November 30, 2023 to host their College and Career Readiness Day. This day is reserved to actively engage seniors in college readiness activities that will assist them in completing college applications, FAFSA or CADAA, and seeking internships and employment. Schools will also indicate the activities they will engage in using the [College and Career Readiness Day form](https://bit.ly/CCRD2023) (<https://bit.ly/CCRD2023>).

College and Career Readiness Day Activities

I. Applying to College

Schools may use College and Career Readiness Day to hold college application workshops along with writing workshops to support college application essays, personal statements, and University of California Personal Insight Questions (PIQ). Students planning to attend a community college can learn about the LA College Promise (<https://lacollegepromise.org/>). Schools can also invite local colleges and partners to support students with completing college applications.

II. Financial Aid

The FAFSA and the CADAA generally open October 1st of each year with a priority deadline of March 2nd. This year, the FAFSA is being redesigned and will not be available until December 2023 with a new priority deadline of April 2, 2024. To access the new FAFSA, all

students must have a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. To prepare for the new FAFSA, schools should do the following:

- A. Identify two site-based WebGrants administrators. Schools should use the California Student Aid Commission's (CSAC) WebGrants Access Request – System Administrator form to add, renew, or change the school's WebGrants administrators. The form can be accessed on the [A-G Intervention and Support website](#) and should be emailed to webgrantsaccess@csac.ca.gov once completed.
- B. Update and verify student name and demographic data in My Integrated Student Information System (MiSiS).
- C. Help students and parents create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID. See Attachment A, How to Create an FSA ID.
- D. Help students gather all documents necessary to complete the FAFSA. Students will need the following information:
 1. Parents' Social Security numbers.
 2. Student's driver's license number (if applicable).
 3. Alien Registration number if student is not a U.S. citizen.
 4. Federal tax information, tax documents, or tax returns, including IRS W-2 information, for student and parents.
 5. Records of untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits for students and parents.
 6. Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including stocks and bonds and real estate (not including the home in which student and parents live); and business and farm assets for student and parents.

To help schools increase the number of high school seniors applying for financial aid and to facilitate successful completion of the FAFSA, training will be provided by CSAC and the A-G Intervention and Support team. Dates are available for each region. School teams may register to attend using the [Financial Aid Workshop Form](#).

Dates for regional financial aid workshops are scheduled as follows and locations will be announced:

| Date | Region | Workshop Location |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| September 12, 2023 | South | LA Harbor College |
| September 14, 2023 | North | LA Valley College |
| October 25, 2023 | East | Region East Office |
| October 26, 2023 | West | West LA College |
| January 23, 2024 | All Regions | LATTC |

Schools can use Naviance and other scholarship search engines to assist students with applying for scholarships.

III. Employment/Interview Skills

For students planning to begin employment directly after graduation, schools can offer workshops on

- Conducting a job search
- Resume writing
- Interview skills
- Time management
- Understanding wages and benefits.

The California Department of Labor (<https://edd.ca.gov/en/jobs>) and Unite-LA (https://www.unitela.com/our_approach) have an array of resources on employment, internships, and work experience. Unite-LA partners with L.A. Youth at Work (<https://www.layouthatwork.org/>) to provide internships and job opportunities for young adults between the ages of 16-20.

IV. Resources

Resources and materials have been updated and are housed in the “Resources” folder of the “A-G: *College and Career Access*” Schoology group (Q92P-RRGN-CDHJZ) in the College and Career Readiness Day folder. Schools may also access financial aid resources on the [A-G Intervention and Support website](#).

Additional resources will be available to assist with the transition to the new FAFSA as the new application is rolled out.

V. Dates to Remember

| Date | Application |
|-------------------|--|
| August 1, 2023 | Common App opens |
| October 1 2023 | CSU application filing period begins |
| October 1, 2023 | CADAA opens |
| November 1, 2023 | UC application filing period begins. <i>(Application is available beginning August 1st for students to begin entering information and work on PIQs.)</i> |
| November 1, 2023 | Common App (Early Action or Early Decision) closes |
| November 30, 2023 | CSU and UC applications close |
| December 2023 | Better FAFSA launches |
| January 1, 2024 | Common App (Regular Admission) closes |
| April 2, 2024 | FAFSA and CADAA priority deadline for Cal Grant |

All schools serving 12th grade students should complete the [College and Career Readiness Day 2023 form](#) with the date the school has selected to host their College and Career Readiness Day. The form is due no later than **Friday, September 15, 2023.**

RELATED RESOURCES:

- [REF-132311](#), Information Regarding the California Student Aid Commission and Cal Grants, FAFSA and CADAA for High School Juniors and Seniors (Office of the Chief Strategy Officer), dated October 24, 2022
- REF 144307, Implementing the *Got a Plan for That? Removing Barriers to College and Career Success* (Board Resolution 009-21/22)
- Financial Aid Success Toolkit ([FAST](#))

ASSISTANCE:

For assistance or further information please contact the A-G Intervention and Support Office (213) 241-5218.