

USC BOVARD SCHOLARS

12TH GRADE FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE FOR PARENTS

AUGUST

Some scholarships have deadlines as early as August. Students should search and apply for scholarships, which may include completing a resume showing their extracurricular activities, a letter of recommendation completed by their counselor or academic teacher, a transcript and an essay.

OCTOBER

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on October 1. In addition to determining eligibility for federal funds, many colleges and states use the form when distributing grants, so your child should apply right away. A month after submitting, students will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that will provide basic information about their financial aid eligibility. Review it carefully and correct any mistakes.

Your child should complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. In addition to the FAFSA, many schools require completion of the CSS PROFILE to determine eligibility for non-government financial aid, such as grants, loans, and scholarships.

The California Dream Act application opens October 1. If your child is undocumented in California, they should apply. Students who reside outside of California should check to see what support your state may provide and contact Immigrants Rising staff directly with questions at immigrantsrising.org/staff

If you're a California resident and your child is applying to a school in California, they should create an online account with the California Student Aid Commission and ensure the high school submits a certified GPA to be considered for a Cal Grant Award.

FEBRUARY-APRIL

Fall acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your child's final choices, if possible.

MAY

Colleges may require your child to verify your financial records. If your child is selected they will need to send a transcript of your taxes to the college they will be attending. Tax transcripts can be obtained by phone or online through the IRS website. The college will send students an email with a link to submit these forms accordingly.