

Croton-Harmon High School

Guidance - Scholarship and Financial Aid Websites and Information

You can research colleges, scholarships and access financial aid information using the following links.

Fast Web: Free Scholarship and College Searches, & Financial Aid Tools

Look for money for college with the help of this database, which offers several different search tools. Location: www.fastweb.com

FinAid! The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid

Links on financial aid include information about scams, contests, and special interest groups. Sponsored by NASFAA. Location: www.finaid.org

Scholarships.com: Free College Scholarship Search

Conduct a free college scholarship and financial aid search. Students of all ages can find free money for college. Location: www.scholarship.com

The College Board: Connecting Students to College

Pick up test dates, visit a campus, find out how to file applications online, or search for a school in a database with more than 3,000 entries. Location: www.collegeboard.org

College Search, Financial Aid, and Scholarships Search: College View Online

Database of 3,300 two and four year colleges with online tour which provides a view of college life. Location: www.collegeview.com

U.S. Department of Education – FAFSA on the Web

Guide to applying for a Free Application for Federal Student Aid provides eligibility requirements and guidelines. Location: www.fafsa.ed.gov

A WORD OF CAUTION: BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS!!

There are bogus scholarship companies preying on students throughout the United States. For a processing fee ranging from \$50 to several hundred dollars, companies guarantee that students can be “matched” with sources of funding, regardless of their academic qualifications, scholastic credentials or family economic status. Some advertisements and sales pitches claim there are millions of dollars in unclaimed scholarship monies just waiting to be tapped. In

exchange for their advanced fee, students receive lists of “possible” scholarship sources. Experience with scholarship matching services has revealed that while students may receive potential sources of aid, few, if any, receive any funds. Some consumers complain that they did not receive the guaranteed number of scholarship sources and were unable to obtain refunds. Others claim they didn’t qualify because the sources did not match the information on the student’s profile. Still others state that they received information after the application deadlines had passed for the funding sources. As a result, they were unable to apply to even one source.

BOTTOM LINE – DO NOT PAY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP OR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION!!

Scam Warning Signs

- You have to pay a fee
- Money back guarantee
- Credit Card/Bank Account information required
- Offers exclusive information

Common Scams

Phony scholarship – promises cash if you pay a registration fee

Phony scholarship matching service – pay a fee and they guarantee you will win scholarships

Phony educational loan – pay a fee and receive a low interest rate

Phony financial aid seminar – one big sales pitch

Reporting Scams

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)

Call their toll-free hotline at: 1-800-876-7060, visit www.fraud.org or write:

National Fraud Information Center

PO Box 65868

Washington, DC 20035

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

To report suspected fraud, call: 1-888-FTC-HELP (1-202-382-4357), visit www.ftc.gov to use the online consumer complaint form, or write:

Federal Trade Commission
CRC-240
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

State Attorney General's Office

File your complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection in your state.

Better Business Bureau (BBB)

Report business fraud or ask for information about a company. Visit www.bbb.org. (You must have an address for the questionable organization to file a complaint.)

US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

For complaints involving mail fraud, call the Postal Crime Hotline at: 1-800-654-8896 or write:

United States Postal Service
Attention: Hotline
1735 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209-2020