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Important Dates to Remember

May 18: Registration deadline for June 9 **ACT**

May 22: Registration deadline for June 2 **SAT**

June 1: Deadline for **Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program** and **Minority Teaching Scholarship**

College Students

- If you receive a letter from the Missouri Department of Higher Education stating we received conflicting information reported on your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2012-2013 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the noted deadlines. Corrections can be made through the online FAFSA correction process.

PLEASE NOTE: The FAFSA is required to apply for the Access Missouri program; Bright Flight students are NOT required to complete the FAFSA but may choose to do so to apply for need-based aid. If the FAFSA indicates you are no longer an undergraduate student, Missouri resident or U.S. citizen, your Bright Flight eligibility can be affected.

- **July 31, 2012** - the preferred deadline for Access Missouri and Bright Flight. The MDHE cannot guarantee that corrections to Access Missouri eligibility made after July 31 will be received in time to affect your final eligibility.
 - **Oct. 1, 2012** - the deadline for Bright Flight students who took the ACT in June 2011 or missed the July 31 preferred deadline. If you do not provide all necessary information to the MDHE by Oct. 1, you will be considered a late applicant and your award will be subject to funding availability, even if you have previously received an approval letter.
- If you will be graduating this month and borrowed a federal student loan, you have a **six-month grace period** before your first payment is due. Use this time to get prepared for **successful repayment**.
 - Plan to save a portion of the money you earn this summer, and be ready to head back to school in the fall with a **personalized budget** in place.
 - Have you considered taking summer coursework? It may not have been in your original game plan, but summer classes do offer some benefits. It may help you better focus and get through a difficult course or even help you pull ahead in your program of study.

High School Seniors

- It's not too late to achieve an **ACT** or **SAT** score that qualifies you for the **Bright Flight Scholarship**. Your eligibility will be based on the highest score you achieve on or before the June 2012 national test date. A qualifying score achieved as a sophomore or junior on a national test date will also be accepted.

Award Tier	ACT	SAT
Top 3 percent	31 or above	790 or above Critical Reading 780 or above Math
Top 4th and 5th percentiles	30	760-789 Critical Reading 760-779 Math

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- If you took the ACT or SAT in April, the MDHE should receive your score by the end of May or beginning of June. The MDHE receives scores approximately six to eight weeks after each national test date. Scores from the June test date should be received by the end of July or beginning of August.
- If you haven't already done so, carefully compare the financial aid packages offered to you and the cost of attendance at each school to help you make the decision that's best for you. Be aware that some postsecondary institutions pledge to eliminate or limit the amount of loans in aid packages for the highest need students.
- Take a few minutes to make sure you're straight about plans for freshman orientation or other activities scheduled by your college over the summer, and mark your calendars so you don't miss anything.

High School and Middle School Students

- Note registration deadlines for upcoming ACT and SAT exams. Taking these exams now may help you get ready to make decisions about college.
- Stay active and involved in extracurricular activities. Summer is also a great time to join community organizations.
- Plan to save a portion of the money you earn this summer. To see how money in your savings account can add up over time, check out this [savings calculator](#).
- Check out the MDHE's *Journey to College* page on Facebook. Developed and maintained by MDHE high school interns, *Journey to College* provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward future and current college students. If you're interested in planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates and learning more about financial literacy, "Like" *Journey to College* at www.facebook.com/journeytocollege.

If you prefer to tweet, the MDHE recently created a Twitter account to assist students just like you. Receive short updates regarding various scholarship opportunities, federal and state aid deadlines, and money management tips by following *Journey to College* at www.twitter.com/Journey2College need when you go to enroll in a Missouri college or university at end of high school.

Nontraditional Students

- If you are planning to take summer courses, you already know that it's a great way to keep on track and make sure you graduate on time (or even early). It also provides the opportunity to let you really concentrate on just one class at a time, which can be ideal for tough courses. If you're not currently planning to take summer classes, do keep an open mind for future summers.
- Plan to save a portion of the money you earn this summer, and be ready to head back to school in the fall with a [personalized budget](#) in place.

Parents

- Encourage your student to stay active this summer and get involved in extra-curricular or community organizations. Such involvement can spruce up a college application when the time comes, and it may even help steer your son or daughter toward a future career interest.

- It's never too early to promote **healthy financial habits**. Continue to encourage your children to save a portion of what they earn and to exercise sound financial judgment – identifying “needs” from “wants” and acting accordingly.
- Encourage your high school student to check out the MDHE's videos and posts on Facebook. Developed and maintained by interns who welcome your student's questions and comments, Journey to College provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward future or current college students. If your son or daughter is interested in planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates or learning more about financial literacy, encourage him/her to click “Like” at www.facebook.com/journeystocollege.

If you or your student prefers to tweet, the MDHE also offers a Twitter account. By following the [MDHE's Twitter page](#), students receive short updates regarding various scholarship opportunities, federal and state aid deadlines and money management tips.

Scholarship Opportunities

- Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc. is pleased to announce a scholarship program to help students majoring in a STEM discipline—science, technology, engineering, or math. The Great Lakes National Scholarship offers up to 750 awards of \$2,500 to new and continuing students who qualify. Eligibility requirements include the following:
 - You must be enrolled as a full-time student majoring in a STEM discipline at a public or private two- or four- year college, university, or vocational-technical school.
 - You must have a demonstrated financial need, a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75, and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Scholarship applications will be accepted through **May 11, 2012, or until 20,000 applications have been received**. Finalists will be notified by June 1, 2012. Interested students are encouraged to [apply online](#).

- The Center for Student Opportunity College Center is offering a \$2,000 four-year renewable scholarship to first-generation college students graduating in the high school class of 2012 (entering the college class of 2016). The CSO College Center aims to promote college and access and opportunity to historically underserved, first-generation student populations. Qualifying students are currently high school (or home-schooled) seniors attending in the U.S., involved in extracurricular and leadership programs in school or in the community and seeking financial aid for college.

To qualify, the student's parents must not have earned a four-year college degree. The student must also be attending a CSO partner college or university. A complete list of CSO College Partners can be viewed here: http://csopportunity.org/college_partners/coll_partners.aspx. The application can be found at <http://www.csopportunity.org/scholarship> and the deadline to apply is **May 25, 2012**.

- If you are an African-American, Hispanic or Latino-American, Native-American, Pacific Islander, or native to Alaska or Hawaii and you are enrolled in an environmental course of study, consider applying for a scholarship through the MDHE's **Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program**. More information about the program is available on the MDHE's website. The deadline to apply is **June 1**, so get your application materials in as soon as possible if you meet the eligibility requirements.
- If you are an African, Asian, Hispanic or Native-American and are pursuing a teaching certificate, consider applying for the **Minority Teaching Scholarship**. Be careful when applying though, because this scholarship converts to a loan with 9.5 percent interest if the program's obligations are not met. More information about the program is available on the MDHE's website. The deadline for the Minority Teaching Scholarship is **June 1**.

MDHE Student Portal Now Available!

The MDHE has launched a new student portal that allows students to access information to help plan and pay for college. The portal offers two levels of access with a variety of information available on each.

- Students with basic access (Level 1) can:
 - Search for the institution, program, and or degree that is right for them;
 - Research information about state student financial aid programs that are available from the MDHE;
 - Access applications for the MDHE's state student financial aid programs that require a paper application; and
 - Link to a variety of state and federal resources.
- Students with upgraded access (Level 2) can access their personal information relating to the A+, Access Missouri, Bright Flight and Marguerite Ross Barnett programs. This includes the ability to:
 - View eligibility information;
 - Access their payment history;
 - Add a school choice (available January to August);
 - View application information;
 - View their letters and notices; and
 - Opt to receive emails with general and personalized information.

Portal Menu

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[My Account](#)

[Program Information](#)

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[Participating Schools](#)

[Missouri Connections](#)

[NSLDS](#)

[MOHELA](#)

[Additional Links](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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Access

- Visit <https://web.dhe.mo.gov/dhe/famous/portal/splogin.faces> to sign in.
- A **Microsoft Live ID is required** to access the portal at either level. If you do not have one, you can obtain one when you sign in.
- You will be able to upgrade your access if the MDHE has a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), ACT and/or SAT record on file for you. (We receive these records for Missouri residents automatically from the U.S. Department of Education, ACT and the College Board through August each year.)
- Your Social Security number is required to upgrade your access so we can match you to your personal information. If you believe you have a FAFSA, ACT or SAT record on file with the MDHE but the portal is unable to confirm you, use the Contact Us feature or call us at (800) 473-6757, option 4 for assistance.
- **You must upgrade your access if you wish to add a school choice to your record.**