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Important Dates to Remember

March 9: Registration deadline for April 14 **ACT**

March 10: **SAT** testing

April 2: **Access Missouri** deadline

April 6: Registration deadline for May 5 **SAT**

College Students

- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Watch for an email notice indicating your Student Aid Report (SAR) is ready. The SAR contains important information about student aid:
 - o It summarizes the information you provided when you completed the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.
 - o It includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which colleges use to determine your financial aid package.
- Review your SAR for errors and make any necessary corrections. Keep a copy of your corrections.
- If you are between 17 and 22 years old and have a parent that was seriously injured or killed in a work-related accident compensable by worker's compensation, you may be eligible for the **Kids' Chance Scholarship program**.

To apply, you must have your FAFSA on file and submit a completed scholarship application to Kids' Chance Inc. of Missouri by April 30. You may obtain an application at www.mokidschance.org.

- Submit your FAFSA if you haven't already done so. You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. Remember, your FAFSA must be filed by **April 2** to be considered for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance program.
- Looking for a way to shrink college expenses? Check out "**8 Ways to Cut the Cost of College**," a CBS Money Watch article by Lynn O'Shaughnessy.

High School Seniors

- Submit your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** if you haven't done so already. You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. Remember, your FAFSA must be filed by **April 2** to be considered for the **Access Missouri Financial Assistance program**.
 - o Please note the Web address above. The site www.fafsa.com is the home page for a preparation and filing service that *charges a fee*. You *should not* have to pay to apply for any federal or state financial aid.

- After filing your FAFSA, watch for notification that your Student Aid Report (SAR) is available. Your SAR will tell you your Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, which is used to determine if you are eligible for some financial assistance programs. Be sure to check the information in your SAR carefully and make any necessary corrections.
- The MDHE is pleased to announce the availability of its new **“Paying for College”** webcast. Added in late February to the MDHE’s “Webinars and More” Web page, *Paying for College* was created to help students, like you, identify various funding sources that may aid in covering college expenses. To view this webcast, check out the MDHE’s **Webinars and More Web page**.
- Looking for a way to shrink college expenses? Check out **“8 Ways to Cut the Cost of College,”** a CBS Money Watch article by Lynn O’Shaughnessy.
- Ask your school counselor about **Advanced Placement (AP) exams** offered for college credit. Contact the college you plan to attend to find out what score is required to receive the college credit.
- Visit the MDHE’s website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Interested in obtaining the **Bright Flight Scholarship**? Make plans to take the ACT or SAT again if you aren’t satisfied with your score. Students in the class of 2012 will need to achieve an ACT score of at least 31 to qualify in the top 3 percent or 30 to qualify in the top fourth and fifth percentiles 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. The MDHE is in the process of verifying the qualifying SAT scores with The College Board and will announce them as soon as possible.

Award amounts may be reduced based on the amount of funds appropriated to the program. Students in the top 3 percent must receive the \$3,000 maximum award before students in the top fourth and fifth percentiles will be awarded. Award amounts are \$1,750 and \$0 for the 2011-12 academic year. The MDHE is currently estimating these same award amounts for the 2012-13 academic year. However, these estimates may change as the MDHE receives additional information about program funding and the number of eligible students. For more information about the Bright Flight Scholarship, visit the **MDHE’s website** or contact us at 800-473-6757, option 4.

- If you are between 17 and 22 years old and have a parent that was seriously injured or killed in a work-related accident compensable by worker’s compensation, you may be eligible for the **Kids’ Chance Scholarship program**.

To apply, you must have your FAFSA on file and submit a completed scholarship application to Kids’

Chance Inc., of Missouri by **April 30**. You may obtain an application at www.mokidschance.org.

High School Juniors

- Be ready for your senior year. Talk to your counselor about your class schedule. Challenge yourself with Honors and Advanced Placement courses, make sure you're completing the **recommended course load** to prepare for college.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Looking for a way to shrink college expenses? Check out "**8 Ways to Cut the Cost of College**," a CBS Money Watch article by Lynn O'Shaughnessy.
- Interested in obtaining the **Bright Flight Scholarship**? Make plans to take the ACT or SAT again if you aren't satisfied with your score. To receive the scholarship, you must obtain a qualifying score by the June national test date of your senior year. For example, students in the class of 2012 must achieve an ACT score of at least 31 to qualify in the top 3 percent or 30 to qualify in the top fourth and fifth percentiles on or before the June 2012 national test date. Qualifying scores for class of 2013 will be announced in fall 2012. A qualifying score achieved as a sophomore or junior on a national test date is acceptable. For more information about the Bright Flight Scholarship, visit the **MDHE's website** or contact us at 800-473-6757, option 4.
- Check out the MDHE's *Journey to College* page on Facebook. Developed and maintained by Missouri students, *J2C* provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward perspective or current college students. If you're interested planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates, and learning more about financial literacy, "Like" *J2C* at www.facebook.com.

Younger Teens

- You have to go to high school anyway, so you might as well make it count. The choices you make for 9th grade - as well as 10th, 11th, and 12th - will affect the choices you'll have for the rest of your life. Your school counselor, teachers, family, and friends will be able to answer many questions about high school, life, and education after high school. As you begin your high school enrollment process this spring, ask as many questions as it takes to get the information you need. If you're attending an **A+** high school, be sure to become familiar with the requirements for receiving this **scholarship**.
- Check out the MDHE's *Journey to College* page on Facebook. Developed and maintained by Missouri

students, *J2C* provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward prospective or current college students. If you're interested planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates, and learning more about financial literacy, "Like" *J2C* at www.facebook.com.

Nontraditional Students

- You should submit your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at www.fafsa.gov if you haven't already done so. Nontraditional students may also be eligible to receive Missouri state aid, and the federal processor must receive your FAFSA no later than **April 2** in order to be considered for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance program. While other FAFSA deadlines for state aid may be later, it is always good to apply early.
- The MDHE is pleased to announce the availability of its new "**Paying for College**" webcast. Added in late February to the MDHE's "Webinars and More" Web page, *Paying for College* was created to help students, like you, identify various funding sources that may aid in covering college expenses. To view this webcast, check out the MDHE's **Webinars and More Web page**.
- Looking for a way to shrink college expenses? Check out "**7 Places Where Adults Can Find Financial Aid**," a Bankrate.com article by Christina Crouch.

Parents

- The MDHE is pleased to announce the availability of its new "**Paying for College**" webcast. Added in late February to the MDHE's "Webinars and More" Web page, *Paying for College* was created to help students and their parents identify various funding sources that may aid in covering college expenses. To view this webcast, check out the MDHE's **Webinars and More Web page**.
- Looking for a way to shrink college expenses? Check out "**8 Ways to Cut the Cost of College**," a CBS Money Watch article by Lynn O'Shaughnessy.

Scholarship Opportunities

- Charter Communications is offering a \$1,000 Charter Student Scholarship. To be considered, the student must be a graduating high school senior, a resident of Missouri within Charter's service area, and plan to major in a field with relevance to Charter (i.e., accounting, business administration, business management, communications, computer technology, engineering, marketing or a related field at an accredited college or university). A completed **application form** and supporting documents must be postmarked no later than **March 30, 2012**.