

## ***SCHOLARSHIP & COLLEGE SEARCH WEBSITES***

Most of the websites below are in business to make money. While the services that they provide are free, you will be asked to provide some demographic/personal information that may be passed on to advertisers on the site. If you do not want to be approached by advertisers or marketers, look closely for an Opt Out link. If this option is not available, you must decide whether or not to proceed with your search.

### **RED FLAG RAISERS**

The old adage applies: “If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.” Some companies that offer to find scholarship money or guarantee college admission may not have your best interest at heart. High school students have taken several standardized tests by the time they graduate. So, their names and addresses are stored in many databases which can be accessed by companies that offer assistance with the college admissions and financial aid process. As students approach the end of their junior year and into their senior year, unsolicited ads will begin to appear in your inboxes, as well as your mail boxes.

As a general rule, be wary of any program or offer that “guarantees” college admission or a minimum amount of financial aid/scholarships. You should not have to pay for the privilege of having someone “find” scholarship money for you. While some of these businesses are legitimate, they often do not stay in business long enough to make good on their promises. Besides, *you* can find the same information for free. You can pay someone to do it for you; or, you can do it yourself. The choice is yours.

For more information and “food for thought” go to [www.essayinfo.com/scholarships](http://www.essayinfo.com/scholarships) for warning signs of potential scholarship scams and the pitfalls of using these services.

### **College Search**

[www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) Career Cruising is used by all South Lyon students as a part of the district’s career awareness program. This is a free service that’s available until students either leave the district or graduate. It is not supported by advertising. To access the site, you must first access South Lyon’s segment on Career Cruising, using our district’s Username and Password. Next, the student must enter his or her unique Username and password. SEE OUR CAREER FACILITATOR in Student Services for help with usernames and passwords. In addition to its career and educational planning features, Career Cruising offers a comprehensive college search function tied to career interest and student preferences.

[www.usnews.com/education](http://www.usnews.com/education)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

[www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com)

[www.michigancollegetour.com](http://www.michigancollegetour.com)

## Scholarship Search

You'll learn about scholarships for which the student may be eligible. It's the student's responsibility to follow-up on these leads.

[www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

[www.finaid.org/scholarships](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships)

[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

[www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)

## Financial Aid

Financial aid is money supplied by the state and federal governments to help students pay for college. The process is based on the assumption that it is both the parents' and the students' responsibility to pay what they can afford toward higher education. Aid can take the form of grants (free money), loans or work study – students have part-time jobs on or close to campus and are expected to use their wages to pay for some of the costs of their education.

DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOU WILL NOT QUALIFY. (A self-fulfilling prophecy if ever there was one!) The process by which a student qualifies for financial aid takes into account the student's and family's financial profile and then subtracts the cost of attending college for a year. If the costs exceed the ability to pay, the student qualifies for some form of financial assistance to make up the difference. It is the college's responsibility to assemble an aid package and offer it to the student. To start the process, students and families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

For high school seniors, the FAFSA must be submitted AFTER January 1 of the senior year and before March 1<sup>st</sup> in order to meet all state and federal deadlines. The form is available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You will also find financial aid calculators where you can estimate the amount of aid you may receive. You will also be able to print off a FAFSA worksheet to print out and complete before filing the online FAFSA form.

### Other Financial Aid Sites

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid)

[www.micollegegoal.org](http://www.micollegegoal.org) – Information on College Goal Sunday held in February at various campuses. Financial aid officers will help families complete the FAFSA for free.

You can also access financial aid / scholarship information that is specific to a particular college or university from the school's website.