

Education Discussion Forum

Meeting Notes | September 3, 2020

**NEXT
STEPS**
I D A H O

Updates from the Idaho State Board of Education

The third Education Discussion Forum of the 2020-21 academic year featured details about Idaho's inaugural Virtual College Fair, state scholarships, College Application Month, Apply Idaho and FAFSAWeb.

View the full [webinar recording](#) or [PowerPoint](#).

Important Dates

Sept. 15

FAFSAWeb opens

Apply Idaho DA letters available

Apply Idaho How-to-Video available

Sept. 29 - Oct 1.

Next Steps Idaho Virtual College Fair

Oct 1.

Apply Idaho application opens

Idaho Opportunity Scholarship opens

FAFSA opens

Oct. 7

Age of Agility

Q&A Transcript

FAFSAWeb

What is the FAFSAWeb URL?

<https://fafsaweb.boardofed.idaho.gov/>

When is the FAFSA opening this year?

FAFSA opens Oct. 1, 2020. FAFSAWeb opens Sept. 15, 2020 so you can determine which Direct Admissions letter your students will be seeing when they login to Apply Idaho this year.

How do we sign up for a FAFSAWeb login?

[Register for FAFSAWeb](#)

Is this the same account I used to help my son go to college or is this different?

This is different. FAFSAWeb is only for teachers/counselors. It is not the FSA ID.

Who do I contact about the FAFSAWeb? Our school is not listed so I can register.

For questions about please contact Andy Mehl at andy.mehl@osbe.idaho.gov



Apply Idaho

Students go where to apply for Apply Idaho? Is it its own website?

<https://apply.nextsteps.idaho.gov/>

I know Apply Idaho opens up October 1st, but for a school that has over 550 Seniors can it open up earlier?

Unfortunately, we won't be able to open Apply Idaho - Phase II (where students submit applications) prior to Oct. 1, 2020. It will open on Sept. 15 to allow students to create accounts and login to see which Direct Admissions Letter they received.

It was mentioned earlier that someone would provide a document ahead of time with the essay/supplemental questions that will be asked on Apply Idaho. When should we expect to see that document?

The Apply Idaho Essay Fact sheet is now available on Next Steps. Find it on the [Direct Admissions Initiation Resource page](#).

How can we get a download of the letters to mail out if our district wants to do that?

Both English and Spanish version of this year's Direct Admission Letters can be found on the Next Steps Idaho [Direct Admissions Initiative Resource page](#).

So just to verify, students can log into Apply Idaho on Sept. 15th to see their letter but the application portion (Phase II) doesn't actually open till October 1st? Is that correct?

Correct. Phase I of Apply Idaho opens on Sept. 15. This is when students can create and verify their accounts as well as view and download their Direct Admissions Letter. On Oct. 1 Phase II will open. This is when students will be able to submit applications to one or more of Idaho's public institutions including NNU and C of I for FREE.

Can students use Common app?

Yes, if the institution(s) your students are interested in attending are included on the Common app they can use that. Apply Idaho includes all public institutions in Idaho as well as Northwest Nazarene University and the College of Idaho. Students can use this application to apply to one or more for FREE.

Upcoming Event

A virtual conference with industry experts and opportunities to connect with peers from all over Idaho.

[Idaho College & Career Readiness Summit; Sept 9-11, 2020](#)



State Managed Scholarships

Do all of these have to be used in state?

State-managed scholarships are only for use at eligible Idaho institutions. You can find details for each scholarship [here](#).

Are these scholarships available to students going to an out-of-state college/university?

State-managed scholarships for use only at eligible Idaho institutions. You can find details for each scholarship [here](#).

Students interested in locating scholarships to support their attendance at out-of-state institutions should check out [Idaho Scholarship Listing](#) and [Career Readiness Resources](#).

When are the state programs deadlines?

Idaho Opportunity | Mar. 1, 2021

Postsecondary Credit | rolling

Tschudy | Feb. 15, 2021

GEAR Up | renewal only

Governor's Cup - Academic | Feb. 15, 2021

Governor's Cup - CTE | Apr. 15, 2021

Will we receive notifications in the NextSteps newsletter or some other way when each of the scholarships open up for students to apply?

Yes, we will send out a Newsflash. Make sure you're a part of the [Newsletter mailing list](#).

Idaho Opportunity Scholarship

Any new information about whether or not SAT/ACT will be required for the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship?

We don't know yet. It's not required unless the applicant only holds a GED and no college credit.

What about adults who graduated from an ID high school or got their GED but have never attended college? Do they need to take a SAT? Can they even do that as a 30 or 40-year old?

If a student graduated from an Idaho high school, we can use that GPA. If they only have a GED and no college classes and did not graduate from high school, they must have the ACT/SAT at this time. We need to discuss if there are alternatives.



Are we really asking someone who got a GED years ago to take the ACT/SAT?

Unfortunately, the rules that govern the scholarship (that are set by the legislature) require an ACT/SAT if a student did not graduate high school and does not have any college credits and only a GED.

Do you anticipate the Legislature increasing funding for Idaho Opportunity Scholarship?

OSBE will not know the level of funding for the 2021-22 academic year until the 2021 Legislative Session.

Governor's Cup

Can the Governor's Cup Scholarship go towards a college out of state?

No, it can only go to eligible in-state institutions. Find out more about the Governor's Cup scholarship [here](#).

How many students usually receive the Governor's cup scholarship?

Typically 25-35. The number of awards depends on how much funding they raise for the scholarship each year. They list their recipients at www.idahogovernorscup.org

Postsecondary Credit

How many students in Idaho received the Postsecondary Credit Scholarship last year?

83

Idaho Opportunity - Adult Learner

Is the adult opportunity scholarship going to be available this year?

Yes. [Learn more](#).

Next Steps Idaho Virtual College Fair

When is the virtual college fair happening?

Sept. 29, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. The fair will be open each of those days from 8am – 8pm MT. Once the live events end, students will be able to access the fair on-demand through the end of Oct.

What grade levels is the college fair geared toward?

High school students and Gear Up students.

Is LCSC attending the fair?

Yes



Do you students have to pre-register or can they just get on anytime?

They do not have to register, but if they do they will be able to participate in the scavenger hunt, download marketing materials from institutions and have follow-up conversations with those institutions they are interested in learning more about.

Will there be any tech/trade schools or military at the virtual college fair?

We will have all our public institutions (2 and 4 year) along with BYU-I, BBC, C of I and NNU. Those public institutions with CTE programs will have reps attending.

I can't find it or the place to register for the virtual college fair?

Registration is no open yet. We will send a Newsflash with registration information as soon as the link is live.

How do students pre-register for the Virtual College Fair?

Registration is no open yet. We will send a Newsflash with registration information as soon as the link is live.

#Why Apply

Is there a PDF of the “why I apply” available somewhere?

Soon! We're working to get an updated PDF posted on the [NextSteps.Idaho.gov](https://nextsteps.idaho.gov) it will likely be on the College Application Week/Month resource pages. Thanks for asking. Stay tuned! September 18 is “Why Apply Day” so we'll definitely have it up before then.

Are there #WhyApply t-shirts and other materials that we could use to promote this?

Not that our team could find on the official [ACAC resources](#).

General Questions

Any new information about whether or not any Idaho colleges/universities have made a final decision about whether or not they will be requiring ACT/SAT for this year's seniors?

We have been told the schools are currently reviewing that requirement. We will include the final decision in the Next Steps Newsflash. Also, it will be shared during the Counselors Days. You can register for Counselor Days [here](#).



Does anyone have any best practice advice on how to host FAFSA completion events in a safe manner during Corona?

We are a small school and will setting up one-on-one appointments.

NIC has offered some zoom events and will be available to support with zoom sessions coming up and available on our website to support a private room meeting to support a student through the process.

I was just planning to do some videos and be available virtually for individual families.

Offer FAFSA night in two nights instead of one. A-M and N-Z the next. Something along those lines. I work in a small school and should be able to socially distance in one night still by opening a second computer lab for completion.

On the Go On Data Dashboard, when will class of 2019 data be posted and why are the schools not sorted alphabetically or by district number so they are easier to find?

We will reach out to the OSBE Research team to share you feedback and will send out an announcement when the 2019 has been posted.

Where is the link for registration for the Age of Agility which will be held on October 7th?

Age of Agility

Is there a search button on the Next Steps Website?

There is a search option in the Resource Library. An overall search feature is coming...

Are you sending new marketing materials? We love the career posters.

We are developing new marketing materials and will have those available later this fall.

Important Links

IACRO College Application Month Survey

Next Steps Scholarship Tracker

Age of Agility Registration

Next Steps Educator Communication Archive

College and Career Readiness Summit