

Activity Plan

Open DOORS

to affording college



Open Doors helps adults connect students to simple next steps that can expand opportunity to AP®, college and career exploration, affording college, and recognition. The adult role is simple: Start one helpful conversation, point students to a trusted resource, and connect them to school support to keep the momentum going. Learn more at cb.org/OpenDoors.



Help a student take a step toward paying for college.

3-step activity plan

	What the adult does	What the student does
1	Start with curiosity, not a lecture: "There are a few free ways to find money for college—FAFSA®, scholarships, even the SAT®. Have you started any of these yet?"	Share what they've started: FAFSA, BigFuture® Scholarships, a scholarship search, or SAT or merit aid—and what still feels unfamiliar.
2	Choose the resource on the right that best fits where they are in the process. Stay encouraging, and if they have questions, work with them to find the answer. Reassure them that the sticker price of college is almost never what students actually end up paying.	Look at one resource with the adult, and ask at least one question about something that's unclear or worrying them.
3	Connect them to their school counselor, a FAFSA completion event, or a trusted family member who can help with the parent/contributor section.	Write one next step and who they will ask for help.

Students leave with:

One clear next step toward affording college and one adult or school contact to help them complete it.

A NOTE FOR COUNSELORS

ASCA reference: ASCA: B-SMS 6 (overcoming barriers), M 6 (postsecondary readiness)

Resources



[4 Tips for Affording College](#)

A quick one-pager covering four free ways to pay for college—FAFSA, BigFuture Scholarships, Scholarship Search, and SAT fee waivers.



[BigFuture: Pay for College](#)

A hub for exploring scholarships, comparing costs, and understanding financial aid.



[FAFSA: Apply for Aid](#)

Review the site together and help them find the answer to whatever question they're stuck on.