

Overview: College Board Opportunity Scholarships

Computer Lab/Group Guidance Activity
Class of 2020 and beyond

Time Allotted: 30–35 minutes

This lesson plan provides an overview of the College Board Opportunity Scholarships, a program that guides juniors and seniors through the college planning process and offers them a chance to earn money for college.

Student Objectives

Counselors will outline:

1. Key features of the College Board Opportunity Scholarships.
2. Eligibility and the 6 key actions that support students as they prepare, plan, and pay for college.

Lesson Plan Steps

1. Share the 2-minute College Board Opportunity Scholarships video on the [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity) website.
2. Highlight the online information and resources located here: [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).
3. Share the purpose of the **College Board Opportunity Scholarships**: To help students navigate the college planning process and reward their efforts and actions with multiple chances to earn scholarships.
4. Guide students to sign up at [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity), using these instructions:
 - a. Click on the **yellow button** on the top of the homepage that says “Earn Scholarships.”
 - b. Enter the student’s College Board Username and Password and then click **Sign In**. If the student does not already have a College Board account, they should create one.
 - c. Review the Official Rules on the Opt In screen and click **Agree**.
 - d. Review **My Action Plan** to see progress and information on each of the 6 steps.
5. Refer to Educator Guide located on the [Parent and Educator](#) tab of the website for details on how to guide your students through **My Action Plan**.
6. Inform your students about the following, and have them review related resources:
 - a. The more effort your students put in, the more chances they’ll have to earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Scholarships are awarded—through monthly drawings—to students who complete each step.
 - b. If your students complete all 6 steps related to the scholarship program, they’re eligible to earn a \$40,000 scholarship. Also remind your juniors that they should opt in and complete the first 3 scholarship steps prior to the end of their junior year to be eligible for the \$40,000 scholarship.
 - c. Students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year are eligible for increased chances for each scholarship. Half of all scholarships will be designated for these students.

THESE ARE THE 6 STEPS

1. **Build Your College List:** \$500.
 - Open December through July of junior year.
 - Build a college list with at least 6 schools on BigFuture™.
2. **Practice for the SAT®:** \$1,000.
 - Open December junior year through October senior year.
 - Use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®, and practice for 6+ hours to get ready for test day.
3. **Improve Your Score:** \$2,000.
 - Open April junior year through January senior year.
 - Improve your score on the SAT by 100 points or more either from PSAT/NMSQT® to SAT or SAT to SAT, after practicing on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy for 12 hours.
4. **Strengthen Your College List:** \$500.
 - Open August through October senior year.
 - Make sure your college list has at least 1 safety, 2 match, and 3 reach colleges.
5. **Complete the FAFSA®:** \$1,000.
 - Open October through February senior year.
 - Fill out the FAFSA form to apply for financial aid.
6. **Apply to Colleges:** \$1,000.
 - Open October through February senior year.
 - Apply to at least 2 colleges you want to attend.

Complete all 6 steps to be eligible for the Complete Your Journey Scholarship: \$40,000.

Review eligibility requirements

The College Board Opportunity Scholarships program is open to juniors and seniors who attend a public, private or home school located in the US and US territories and students who are US citizens or residents and attend a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school outside of the US. Students are eligible to earn scholarships by completing college planning steps during certain action windows.

Encourage next steps

Remind all students that resources to help prepare, plan, and pay for college are available at [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).

Supplemental Resources

[College Board Opportunity Scholarships Program Official Rules](#)

[Implementation Tools and Resources](#)