

SAMPLE LETTER FROM SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian,

We have good news! A new state program is about to help your child plan for college, pay for college and begin to realize his/her dreams.

The College Bound Scholarship is a financial aid program for students who are:

- ✓ Eligible for Free Reduced and Price Lunch
- ✓ Are a foster youth or
- ✓ Receive TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits

Once you know that your family is eligible (check the income chart in the brochure) you and your child must complete the application online www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound or request one by calling 1-888-535-0747.

As you fill out the application, your child will be asked to make a pledge to:

- ✓ Graduate from high school
- ✓ Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and
- ✓ Be a good citizen and remain crime free

If your child keeps this pledge when he/she graduates from high school and your family's income meets the requirement (your income will be verified at graduation), then the state of Washington will pay for tuition and books at a vocational or technical college, a 2 year college or a 4 year college!

There are many benefits to earning a degree beyond a high school diploma. Over your lifetime you will earn \$300,000 more than those with only a high school degree and be more steadily employed.

So, sign and return the pledge. You and your child are taking the first step to a more secure and prosperous future – one that the state of Washington will help you reach!

Regards,

Patrice Sulkosky
Principal, Mason Middle School



EPHRATA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Jill Palmquist-Principal
Gaemmi Jasman-Counselor

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February 20, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian of **(First & Last)**

I have some exciting news to share with you about the possibility of receiving money for **(first name)**'s college education. Washington middle-school students are being offered a scholarship that will help pay for tuition and fees (plus \$500 for books) that is not covered by other state financial aid.

The College Bound Scholarship is available to 7th and 8th graders who have the desire to go to college, work hard in school, maintain good grades, and stay out of trouble.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, your family has to meet one of the four conditions listed in the enclosed application. You are receiving this notification because we have determined that **(First name)** meets at least one of the conditions currently. Although **(first name)** may meet these conditions currently, keep in mind that your family's circumstance and/or status might be different by the time your son/daughter is a senior, which at this time will be when the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board will determine your student's eligibility based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We ***strongly*** encourage (first name) to fill out the application before the deadline this year.

As part of the application process, a Social Security Number (SSN) and/or your school's State Student Identification Number (SSI) are required. At this time, either number will work, however, if you feel more comfortable providing the SSI number, please go ahead and provide that information for now. If you do not yet have a SSN Number, please provide the following number (**Student's Number**), which is your student's school SSI Number. Upon high school graduation, the student will be required to provide a SSN in order to receive the scholarship.

If you have any questions and/or concerns when filling out the application, please feel free to contact us or attend the College Bound Scholarship night at your school on **(DATE)**, otherwise, return the application back to the middle school office in the provided envelope so we can mail it for you and ensure that all student's eligible for the scholarship are registered.

Please contact Mrs. Koreis or Mrs. Jasman if you have any questions regarding the application process.

Jill Palmquist

Janis Koreis

Gaemmi Jasman

Principal

GEAR UP Coordinator

Counselor