Dear <<NAME>>,

Senior year is an exciting time in the life of students and parents, but it can also be stressful. We are here to support your family.

This is the time during high school that students should start putting serious thought into their education and training options after high school. These options include technical colleges, 2-year colleges and 4-year colleges or universities, as well as trade programs and apprenticeships. By 2020, 70% of all jobs in Washington state will require postsecondary education or training, and so at school we will continue to support your student with applying to postsecondary programs and completing financial aid forms.

Financial aid can help pay for education after high school. To receive most financial aid, students must complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) starting in October of their senior year and then every year they are enrolled in college.

Some important things to know about financial aid:

* Paying for college should not stop your student from pursuing a college education.
* Financial aid includes grants, loans, work study and scholarships.
* Washington state has financial aid for undocumented students.
* Applying for financial aid is free and completing the application does not require you or your student to accept any financial aid that is offered to your student.
* Parents typically must provide their income information on the FAFSA/WASFA and can enter this information themselves (it does not need to be shared).
* Some colleges offer scholarships based on grades or merit, talents and skills and may require the FAFSA or WASFA for scholarship consideration.

The first step to completing the FAFSA is setting up an FSA ID, which can be done right now at **fsaid.ed.gov**. Both you and your student will need their own FSA ID. The WASFA does not require an FSA ID, but does require parents and students to have an email account (each must have their own). We have included more information about the FSA ID with this letter.

School staff are available to provide you with more information about paying for college. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to <<INSERT CONTACT>>.

Thank you,

<<INSERT YOUR NAME>>

<<INSERT YOUR TITLE>>

 <<INSERT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION>>