

Counselors,

You play a really important role in encouraging students to go to college. Access to higher education is especially important for students with limited resources or who lack the experience of taking appropriate steps and applying to college. The College Bound Scholarship provides hope and incentive for students and families who otherwise might not consider college as an option because of cost.

One way you can help your students is by making sure that your students understand that waivers are available to help students with financial need pay for these tests.

ACT, a non-for-profit organization, facilitates students' access to a postsecondary education in a number of ways. **The most important way is by offering fee waivers that allow 11th and 12th graders to take the ACT college entrance exam for free.**

Here's how you can help:

- 1. Encourage students to take the ACT on a test date option left this school year**
April 13, 2013 (registration deadline March 8, 2013)
June 8, 2013 (registration deadline May 3, 2013)
- 2. Assist your students with using the ACT Fee Waiver.** *Contact ACT at (319) 337-1270 to order fee waivers. Each fee waiver has an individual serial number that may only be used once by a single student. Make sure that your school has enough fee waivers to distribute to all students who qualify. Please allow 10 days for the ACT office to deliver fee waivers to your site. (For additional information on fee waivers please see attachment.)*

Colleges and universities use the ACT not only to determine applicants' academic achievement and potential, but test scores also serve as a criteria for financial awards as well as recruitment efforts made by postsecondary institutions.

Remind your students to thoroughly complete the Student Profile Section during the ACT registration process. **Also, remind your students to submit their score to the College Bound Scholarship Program in the fourth choice box (code #7801).** We also encourage students to use this opportunity to send scores to Washington colleges.

Realize that some students, particularly those from lower income families, are not encouraged to go to college and may receive very little information about it. These students need your advice and guidance most of all.

For additional information for counselors on the ACT and fee waiver please visit:

<http://www.act.org/aap/forms/counsel.html>

Thanks for all that you do for Washington students!