



Dear Parents,

In September, your student received a letter from the Idaho State Board of Education, notifying them of their acceptance into six or more of Idaho's public colleges and universities. Help your student make it official by completing their acceptance and letting the college(s) know they are interested in attending. Submitting application information to their school(s) of choice makes it all happen. Here are some important next steps for them:

- Visit the Next Steps Idaho website ([NextSteps.Idaho.gov](http://NextSteps.Idaho.gov)) to learn more about their options for going to college.
- Use the Apply Idaho application ([Apply.NextSteps.Idaho.gov](http://Apply.NextSteps.Idaho.gov)) to send academic information to the schools they might want to attend. The Apply Idaho application can be used to submit information to one or more of Idaho's colleges and universities, all at one time, for free.
- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible ([studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa)). Your student will need information about your income to complete this form. Filling out the FAFSA is the first step to being considered for financial aid like the federal Pell Grant, student loans, and any scholarships offered by the State of Idaho and colleges and universities.

Students must submit their application before June 30, 2020 to be on campus by fall of 2020.

On the Next Steps website, you will find information about your student's direct admission. While you are there, explore other resources that can help your student transition from high school and navigate their next steps.

Topics include:

- Surviving senior year
- Thinking about career options
- Paying for school
- Finding the right college
- Planning college visits

There is also a page designed specifically for families that gives you easy access to the information you need. Finally, the enclosed flyer has more than 30 activities to help your student plan for the future. Don't forget that school counselors and college and career advisors are available at every high school to answer questions and provide additional decision-making support. Make an appointment with them.

There are many big decisions during the senior year! The State Board of Education wants to help by providing information and support throughout the process. Getting trained for the workforce is critical, whether it is on one of our college campuses or through one of the many career pathways Idaho has to offer.

**Debbie Critchfield**

President, Idaho State Board of Education