

# EFC PLUS

## “The College Funding Solution”

Financial Aid Planning \* Educational Funding \* Student Loans \* Student Loan Repayment

### Things to Remember

- Visit Colleges while in Session
- Understand your Financial Aid Position
- Create a Calendar of School Deadlines
- Prepare and sign up for PSAT, SAT, ACT
- Focus on the Outcome of the Education

### College Affordability LLC

- A New College Cost Calculator
- Make a Better College Decision
- Save You Time & Money
- All in One Place Solution
- No Financial Products Sold
- Student Financial Literacy
- Affiliations with IECA, HECA, NAPFA & NACG

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## College Planner

### Newborn to College Admission

Each fall we publish our planning calendar to help you better understand the complexity of this process. It covers the entire college planning process from childhood to college admission. The information is organized into two sections academic and financial. Amrein Financials primary focus is in the financial area of the college decision. The academic areas are only general descriptions. Each high school will have their own detailed calendar and a process that you will need to follow.

There are several reasons for dividing the calendar into two sections. The first is very simple. The forms for each process are different and each has their own complexities. A second reason is expertise. With shrinking resources, high school college guidance counselors are overwhelmed with work. Just helping students and parents in the application and selection process is a major task. Trying to keep up with college funding and financial aid requires significant training. The final reason is individual

needs. Each child has different skills and goals. These should be identified to maximize their potential on the academic side. Due to the increased cost, a college education is now a major financial commitment. Investments, taxes, retire-

*“Separating the academic fit and financing should help you during the process.”*

ment, cash flow, debt capacity and financial aid forms need to be understood to minimize the cost. Separating the academic fit and financing should help you during the process.

Understanding how the game is played may help your child get accepted into the college of their dreams. Knowing the rules in the financial aid process could possibly save you thousands of dollars.

(See College Planning p2)

## Focus on the College Outcome

Over the years there has been an increased focus on the college admission and financial aid process. Parents have paid for test preparation, essay editing and various types of college coaches. This increase in outside resources is the result of families realizing how important the college financial decision has become.

What is often lost in the admission process is the outcome of the education. As college costs continue to rise both parents and students are facing a difficult decision on finding the best college value. This value is a combination of the academics, campus environment and cost of attendance. The biggest shortfall of the college decision process is the financial aid information is provided only one-year at a time.

(See College Outcome p4)

**College Planning (Cont.)**

**\*\*\* Going to the proper resource to get your answers is critical. \*\*\***

**Grades Pre-School to Grade 8 (Age 0 – 14)**

<b>Academics</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposure your child to various subjects and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to save for higher education both for high school and college. Create a funding strategy.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish good reading and math skills in preparation for standardization tests. Develop good study habits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify current Expected Family Contribution to develop proper education funding strategy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to identify subjects of strength and weakness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the various saving option to maximum your financial aid position</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find areas of interest where leadership can be developed and displayed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weigh retirement versus education savings and understand the impact on the financial aid position</li> </ul>

**Grades High School Freshman & Sophomore (Age 14 – 16)**

<b>Academics</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine multiple areas of interest for future college majors and career options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin identifying schools of interest and estimate cost of attendance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Leadership Qualities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine college saving plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and Take standardized testing (PSAT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Sophomore Parents, the second semester is critical for finalizing financial aid positioning</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish independent study habits and time management behavior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand college financial commitment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join activities that will show commitment and leadership for college application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May want to seek professional advice since this is a major family financial decision.</li> </ul>

**Grades High School Junior (Age 16 – 17)**

<b>Academics</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Freshman and Sophomore items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize Financial Aid Position (First Semester, Current Tax Year)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take PSAT, SAT and ACT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin educating children on money concepts, credit and budgets</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit College Campus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain college financial commitment to children</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin working with High School College Guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Retirement contribution due to tax year issue and financial aid impact</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand High School College Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realize impact of "Kiddie Tax" rules</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Summer) Write draft of College Admission Essays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beware of Scholarship, Investment, and Insurance scams and products being sold as solutions.</li> </ul>

**Grade High School- Senior (Age 17- 18)**

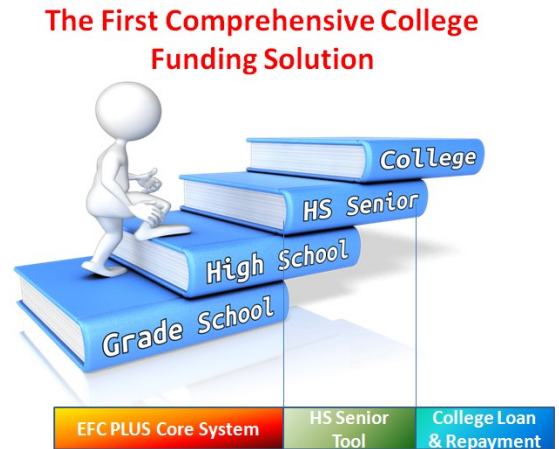
<b>Academics</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b>
<b>June – August</b>  College Campus Visits, Prepare Admission Essays, Identify references, SAT Preparation, Research College Information, Identify School’s Strengths and Weakness	<b>June – August</b>  Estimate Expected Family Contribution (EFC), Review Investments and Tax Position
<b>September</b>  Reduce list to a manageable number (4 – 6 is optimal), Identify Early Admission and Acceptance Schools, Establish application and form deadline schedule for schools of interest, Teachers recommendations	<b>September</b>  Identify School financial aid history, Establish possible scholarships and qualifications at schools of interest, Investigate private scholarships (** Do not pay for any scholarship searches**)
<b>October</b>  Submit early admission application, Retake SAT or ACT Exams, Work with College Guidance for other items (Referrals, Transcripts), Application Essay	<b>October</b>  CSS profile is available, Project year end taxes for EFC Calculation, Identify and Submit School Scholarship information
<b>November</b>  Narrow list of school, Re-visit schools for second opinion, (It is better if the school is in session), Finalize all college applications	<b>November</b>  Get organized for year end taxes. Complete CSS profile where applicable. Review financial aid deadlines.
<b>December</b>  Submit all College Applications, Receive early acceptance decision, Verify applications are complete at each school of interest	<b>December</b>  Complete an estimated tax return for financial aid position, Receive notification of some scholarship grants
<b>January</b>  Verify Application Status and Mid-Year transcripts	<b>January</b>  Submit Free Application for Student Financial Aid
<b>February</b>  Revisit schools while in session and finalize priority schools	<b>February</b>  Receive and verify Student Aid Report (SAR), Create realistic Cost of Attendance budget for schools
<b>March</b>  Get prepared for a world wind of options	<b>March</b>  Update SAR with Final Tax Return Data
<b>April</b>  Acceptance Letter Received, Send Acceptance letter response	<b>April</b>  Financial Aid Packages Received, Analyze educational out of pocket expenses, Possible Financial Aid Negotiation Letters
<b>May</b>  Final Decision on School	<b>May</b>  Initial Deposit Required, Analyze Financing Options
<b>June - August</b>  Complete College Enrollment Forms, Prepare packing List	<b>June - August</b>  Complete other financial aid forms, Financial payment method decided

## College Outcome (Cont.)

Listed below are the major financial points that parents and students need to understand before committing to any college:

- *EFC and Financial Aid positioning over the four-years*
- *College graduation and retention rate*
- *Analysis of the four-year financial aid award by college*
- *Projection of college debt at graduation by college*
- *Student debt repayment options*

College Affordability developed EFC PLUS to help families better understand the entire financial commitment of a college education. This innovative college cost calculator provides answers to the various financial decision points listed above. It creates a custom family financial aid plan by college. The tool allows you to compare multiple colleges in one place. Along with the EFC PLUS calculator are informational webinars that further explain the college and financial aid decision process.



# About EFC PLUS

EFC PLUS is the first comprehensive college cost calculator. It simplifies the financial aid process. This new tool helps families compare and analyze the cost of each college. The EFC PLUS analysis provides a custom solution based on your budget. This unique solution uses video tutorials, webinars and customized calculations to help families make informed financial decisions.

EFC PLUS was developed by College Affordability LLC and Fred Amrein. Fred Amrein is recognized as a national expert in educational funding and student loan repayment. He is the founder of College Affordability LLC and Amrein Financial. Fred is an author, appeared on television and been quoted in various national publications. He is an adjunct professor and presents to parent associations and numerous professional organizations regarding educational funding topics. Due to the increase complexity of the college funding topic, Fred is able to address the personal financial questions that the college financial aid offices cannot.

EFC PLUS, our online college financial tool, is easy to use and provides a combination of financial aid calculations, graphs and helpful videos that walk families through the entire college financial aid decision process. Unlike other financial aid tools, our process helps families project the financial outcome at each college and their financial aid award. In addition, it will project a student's debt at graduation and the various loan options available to that family.

The tool changes how families approach the admission process by using a four-year cost comparison of colleges, in one place. EFC PLUS simplifies and reduces the time used to compare college cost. Privacy of the EFC PLUS is extremely important to College Affordability. One unique advantage of EFC PLUS is that the user's last names, full birthdates or social security numbers are not put into the system.

The program includes informative and timely webinars for the subscription members to view. These financial and college webinars further compliment the EFC PLUS tool. College Affordability's goal is to increase college financial literacy, lower family's cost of education and reduce the risk of college debt.

**Contact Us at**

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**EFC  PLUS**  
*Simplifying Financial Aid*

