

What's New for June 2017

New Scholarship Tools

Paying for college – or any postsecondary education – isn't cheap. Many students struggle trying to make ends meet. At XAP, we want to help your students find and apply for scholarships to help them succeed in their postsecondary plans. That's why we've updated the scholarships tools students and educators use.

Students will see:

- [New layout and redesigned scholarship tools](#) designed to engage students and make it easier to match to scholarships
- [Differentiated instructions](#) for middle and high school students
- [Sign-up form](#) for a monthly email alerting students when they have new matching scholarships
- [New review and reflect activity](#)
- [Updated scholarship portfolio activity](#)

[Watch a video](#) outlining the new scholarship tools for students.

Educators will benefit from:

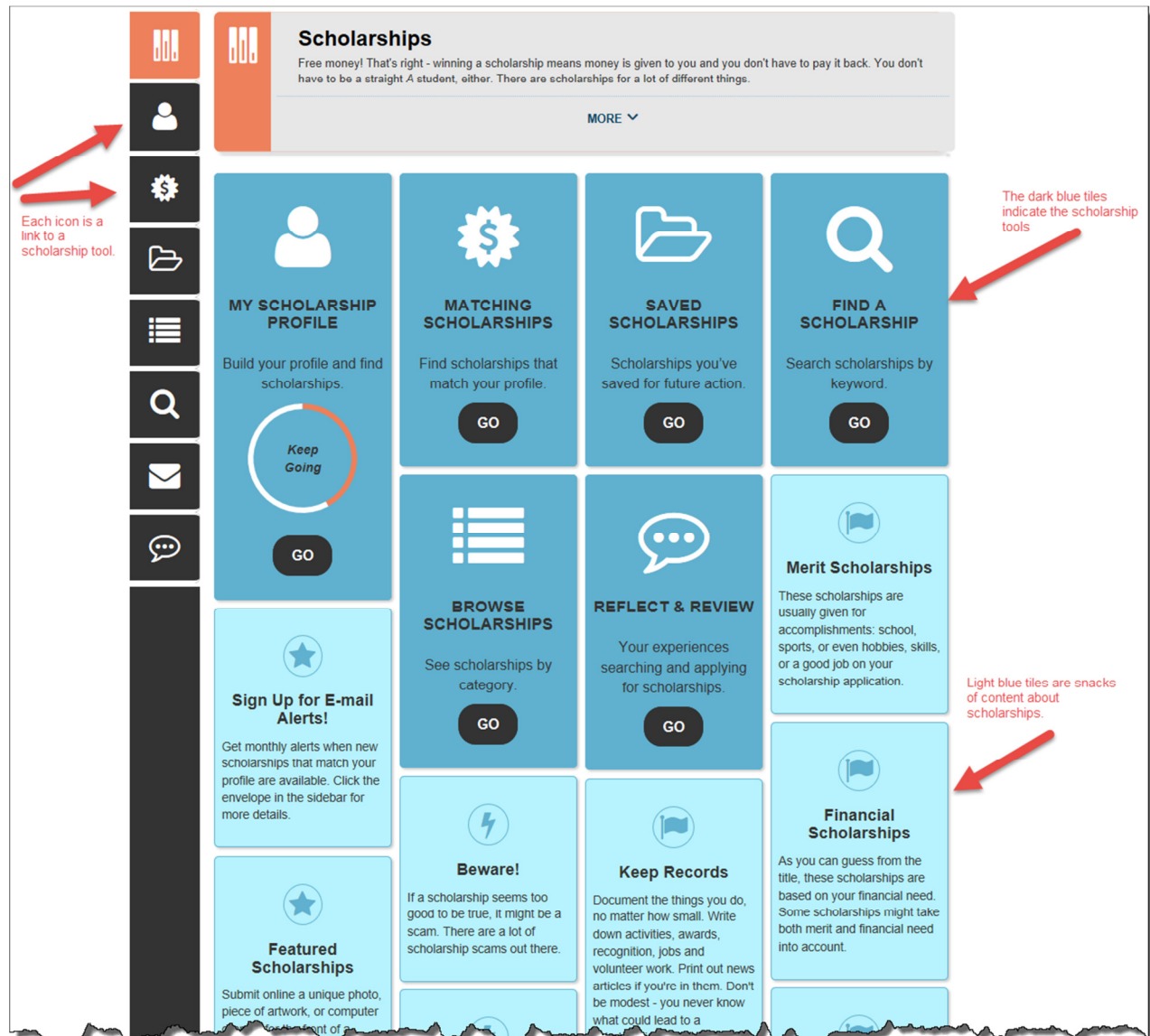
- [Better database of scholarship information](#) (supplied by SuperCollege)
- [Improved tools to add local scholarships](#) (including their addition to the scholarship search and match functionality)
- [Updated portfolio activity](#) for Individual Learning Plans (also known as ICAPs, IEPs, ISPs)

[Watch a video](#) outlining the updated scholarship tools for professionals

NOTE: XAP recommends that educators add new local scholarships to the database **after** the June release. Any local scholarships previously added will need to be re-entered.

New Layout and Redesigned Scholarship Tools

Students will see a completely new layout when accessing Scholarships (within Financial Aid Planning). The scholarship tools are presented at the top of the page as tiles as are snacks of content including a featured scholarship. Each tool is also accessible from icons on the left side of the screen.

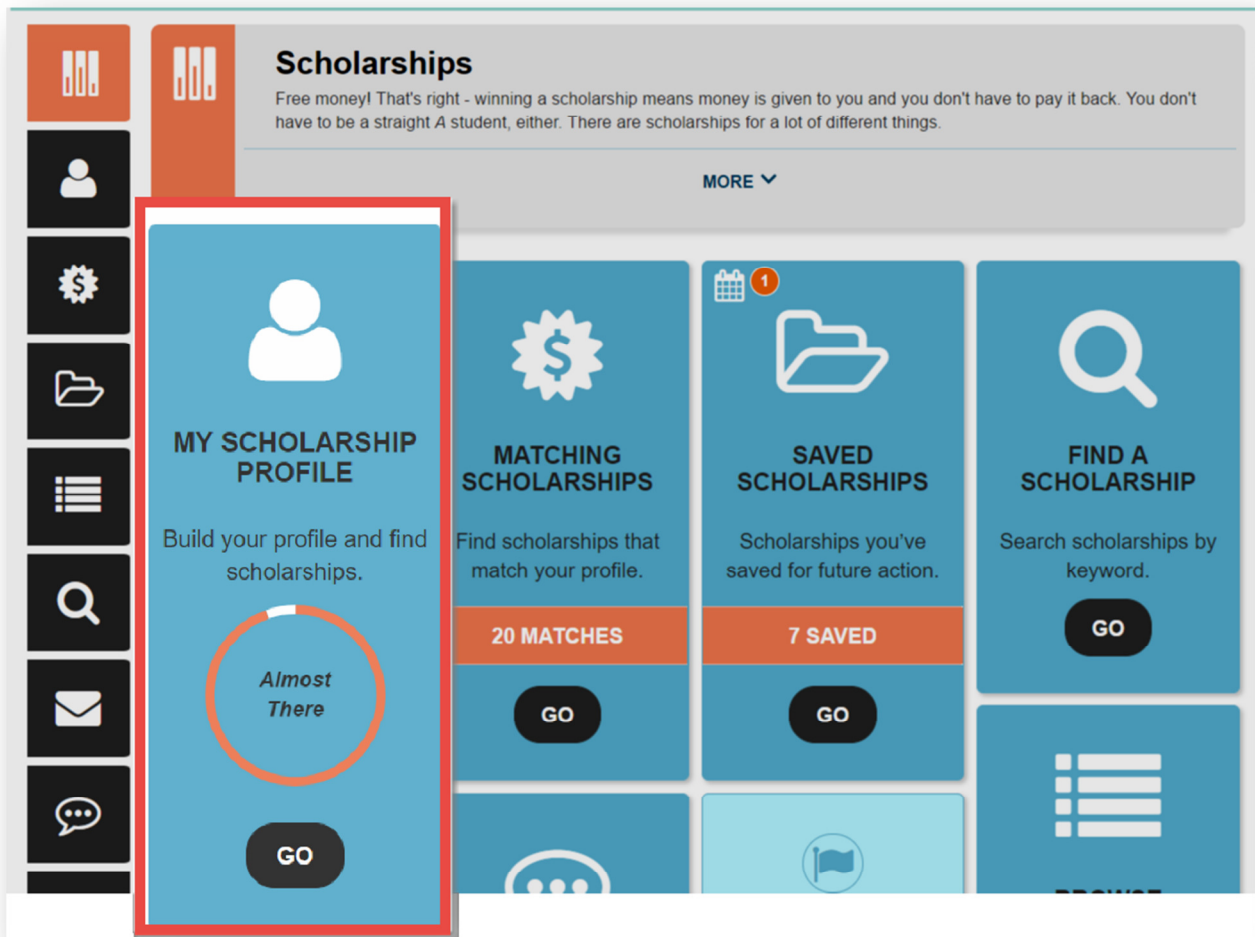


New Scholarships landing page

The scholarship tools have been more clearly defined to provide students with easy-to-scan feedback about the status of their scholarship search. Students can start their search by either:

1. Filling out their Scholarship Profile to find Matching Scholarships
2. Browsing a list of scholarships by category
3. Searching the scholarship database by keyword

The Scholarship Profile is shorter and easier for students to fill out – and students can see at a glance how much of their profile they’ve completed.



Students can see at a glance how much of their profile they have completed

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My Scholarship Profile

Yikes! We know it's a long form. Take the time to complete as many fields as you can to match a better list of scholarships. Your answers are automatically saved so once you have filled it out, then you only need to keep it up to date when things change.

MY PROFILE STATUS

ABOUT YOU

Who are you?	<input type="text" value="11th Grade Student"/>	?
Age:	<input type="text" value="18"/>	?
Gender:	<input type="text" value="Female"/>	?
Zip code:	<input type="text" value="90210"/>	?
State of residence:	<input type="text" value="California"/>	?
Citizenship:	<input type="text" value="U.S. Citizen"/>	?
Ethnic heritage:	<input type="text" value="Select your ethnic heritage"/>	?
Religious affiliations:	<input type="text" value="Don't use for my search"/>	?
Disabilities:	<input type="text" value="Don't use for my search"/>	?
Military affiliation:	<input type="text" value="Don't use for my search"/>	?
Special circumstances:	<input type="text" value="Don't use for my search"/>	?

YOUR RESULTS

SAT Math:	730		?
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing:	540		?
ACT:	31		?
GPA:	4.0		?

YOUR PLANS

When will you use this scholarship?	<input type="text" value="College Freshman"/>	?
Your potential states for postsecondary study:	<input type="text" value="California, Washington"/>	?
Your college choices:	<input type="text" value="Washington State University"/> <input type="text" value="Western Washington University"/>	?
Your majors:	<input type="text" value="ENGINEERING (ALL AREAS)"/>	?
Your career goals:	<input type="text" value="Enter your career goals"/>	?

YOUR ACTIVITIES

Athletics and sports:	<input type="text" value="Rugby"/>	?
Passions and hobbies:	<input type="text" value="Art / Design"/>	?
Memberships (clubs and organizations):	<input type="text" value="Enter your memberships"/>	?

The new Scholarship Profile is shorter and easier to complete and review

After students complete their Scholarship Profile, the search will return matching scholarships ranked by match and by application deadline. Students can expand the information about the scholarship to learn more and save scholarships for future review.

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Matching Scholarships

Find the scholarships that best suit your profile by searching for matching scholarships. Make sure the information in **My Scholarship Profile** is up-to-date to ensure the best results. You should also search regularly, as new scholarships are always being added.

Matched **20** scholarships

[SEARCH AGAIN](#)

CKSF Scholarships	
DEADLINE	AMOUNT
Monthly	\$250-\$2,500

[SAVE](#)

[DETAILS](#) ▾

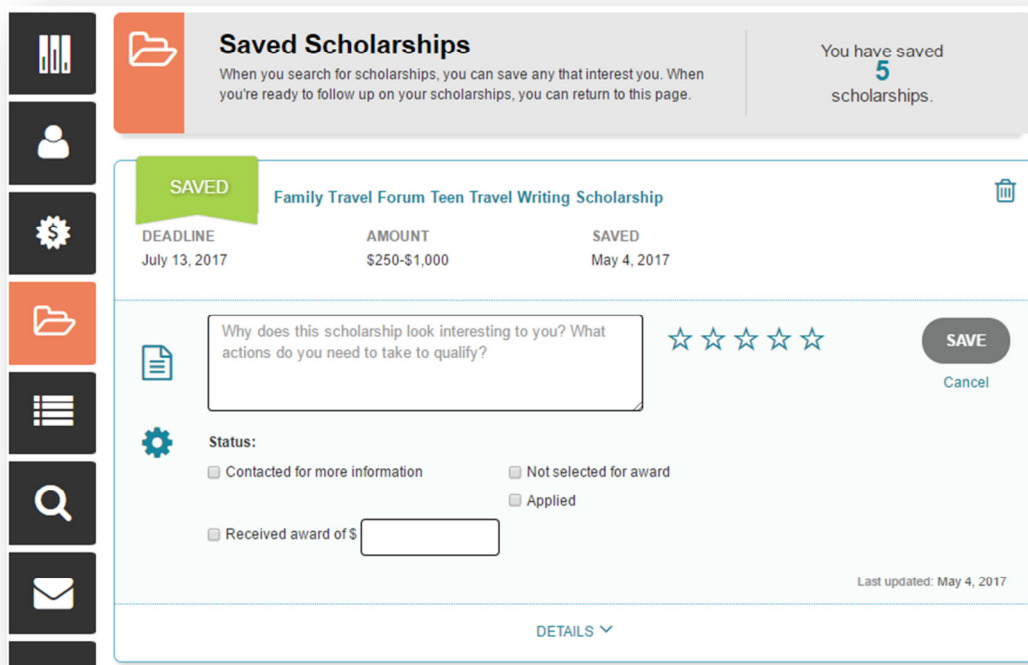
LA Tutors Innovation in Education Scholarship	
DEADLINE	AMOUNT
Monthly	\$500

[SAVE](#)

[DETAILS](#) ▾

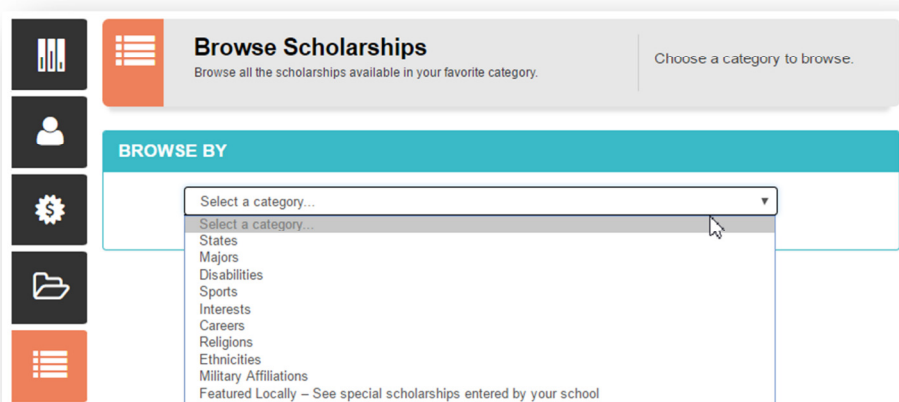
Sample results for Matching Scholarships

For each Saved Scholarship, students can rate it, add comments and assign a status.

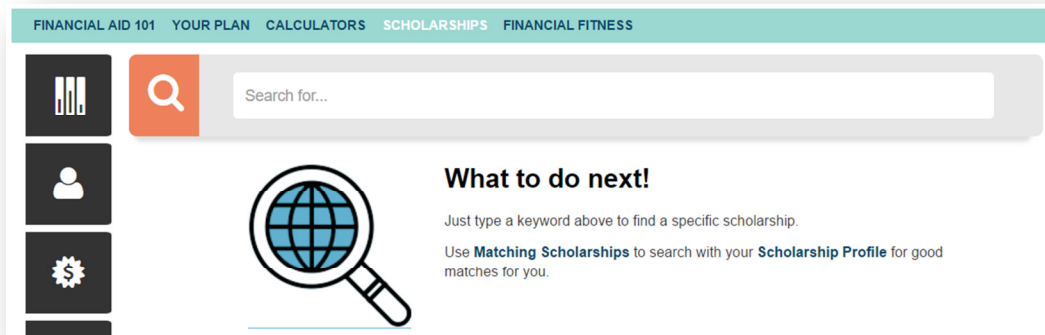


Students can add comments and rank their saved scholarships

Younger students can browse by a category or perform a keyword search on the scholarship database – which will help expose them to the breadth and depth of potential scholarships. The keyword search has been improved with a better layout and interactivity.



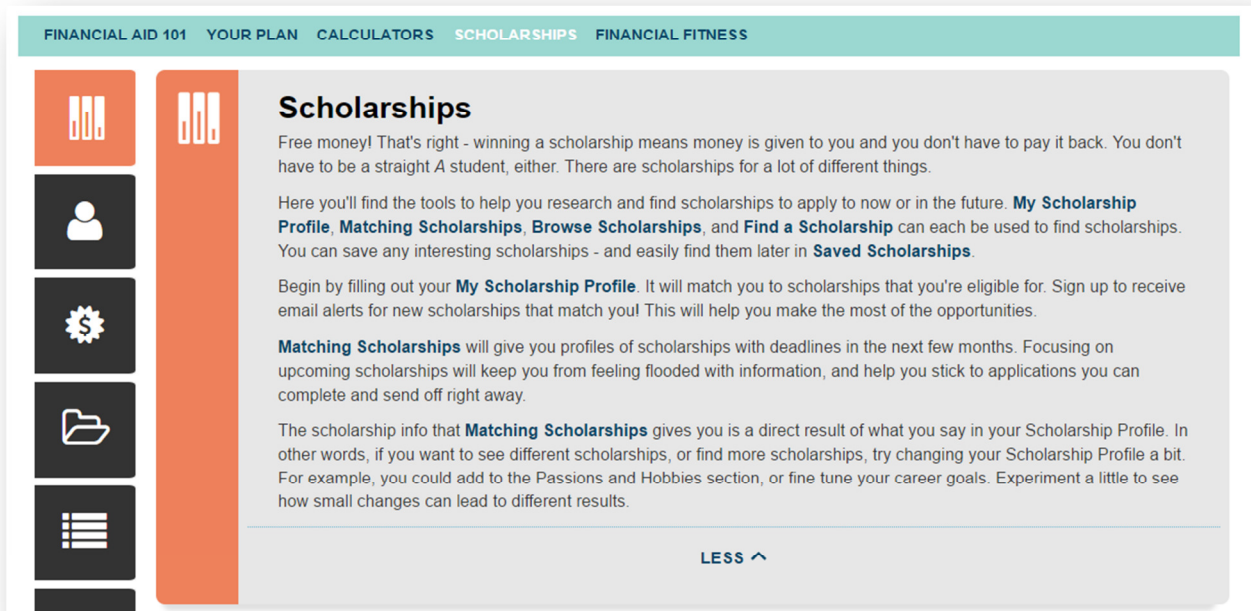
Categories available for students to use to browse scholarships



Students can perform a keyword search on the scholarship database

Differentiated Instructions

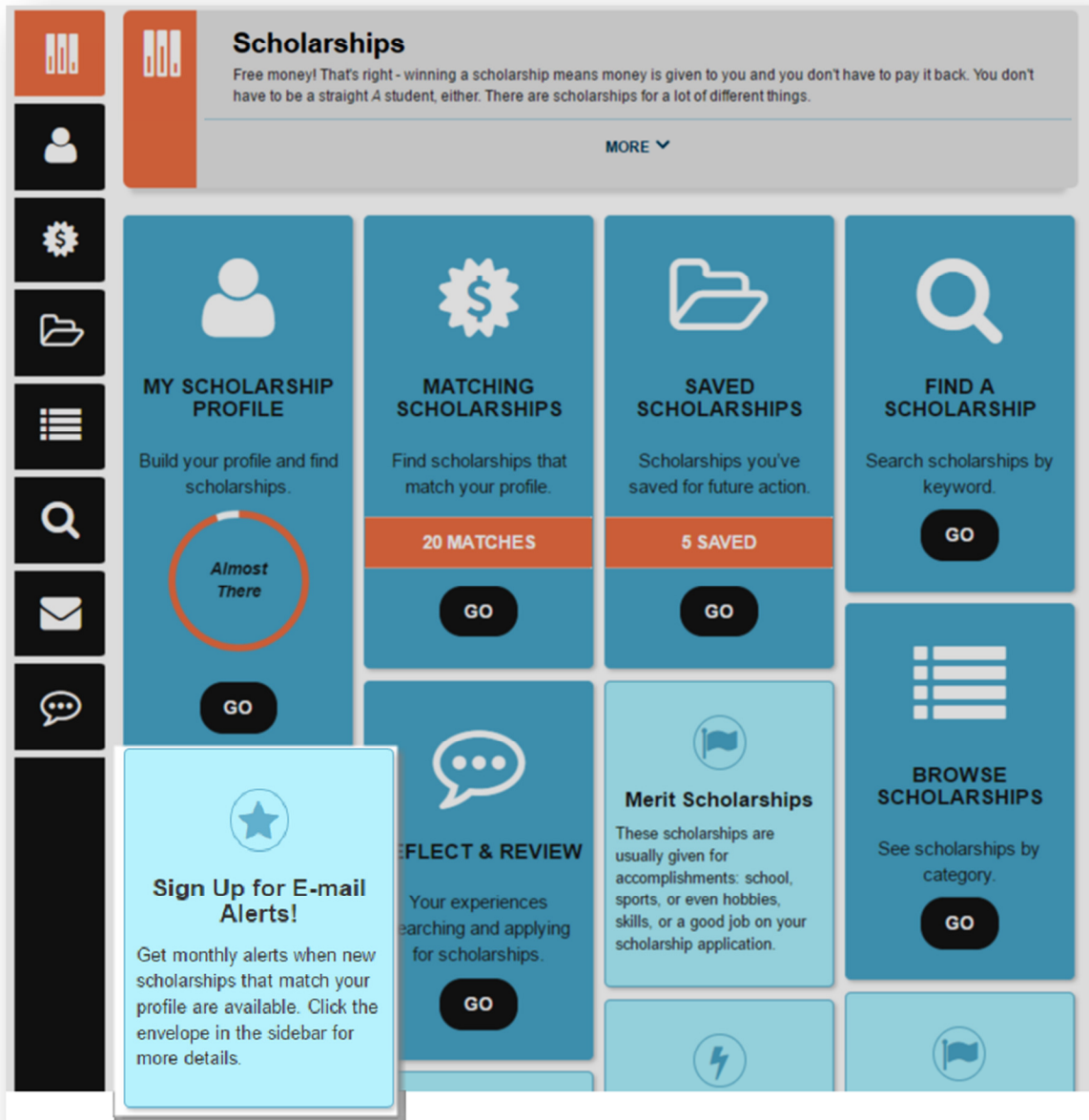
Middle school students and high school students have different needs. That’s why these students will see different scholarship instructions based upon their role. High school students will see more directed instructions about how to start their scholarship search and keep on top of new scholarships. Middle school students will see information on browsing and exploring scholarships so they will know more about what’s required to apply for one.



Instructions customized for high school students on the scholarships landing page

Monthly Email Sign-up Form

To help students stay on top of new scholarships, we've introduced a new feature that allows students to sign up to receive monthly alerts when they have new matching scholarships that match their Scholarship Profile. It's quick and easy.



E-mail alert badge on the Scholarships landing page

New review and reflect activity

New to the toolbox of scholarship tools is a Review and Reflect activity. The goal of the activity is to have students reflect on whether they will apply for scholarships and if they have enough information. Students can also answer review how useful the scholarship tools were to them.



Reflect and review badge

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Reflect & Review
 What are your experiences searching and applying for scholarships? Record your answers with the form below. Last updated May. 9, 2017

REFLECTION

What did you think of your scholarship search results?

- Good options that should work for me
- Some interesting prospects; I hope I can qualify
- Nothing here for me

Do you know what to do with your results?

- I have already submitted applications
- I need to document my activities and accomplishments for applications
- I have more research to do
- I need help to understand the next steps
- I'm good

Are scholarships part of your financial plan?

- I hope so
- Definitely
- Doesn't look promising
- No need for scholarship funding

How are you doing with your financial aid plan overall?

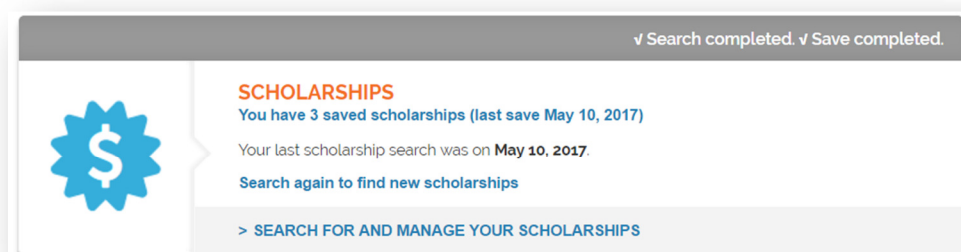
- I need a financial aid plan?
- I think I'll have the funding I need for college
- I still have a long way to go
- I don't think I can afford to go to college
- I'm good

Your other scholarship thoughts, concerns, successes:

Reflection questions within the Reflect and Review activity

Updated Scholarship Portfolio Activity

The scholarship activities within the Financial Aid Planning section of the Portfolio have been combined into one activity (however they're still trackable as two distinct milestones). The portfolio activity invites students to search for scholarships. Once a scholarship is saved, the student can access it from the portfolio activity or from the scholarship tools in Financial Aid Planning.



Updated portfolio activity showing completed search and saved scholarships

Better Database of Scholarship Information

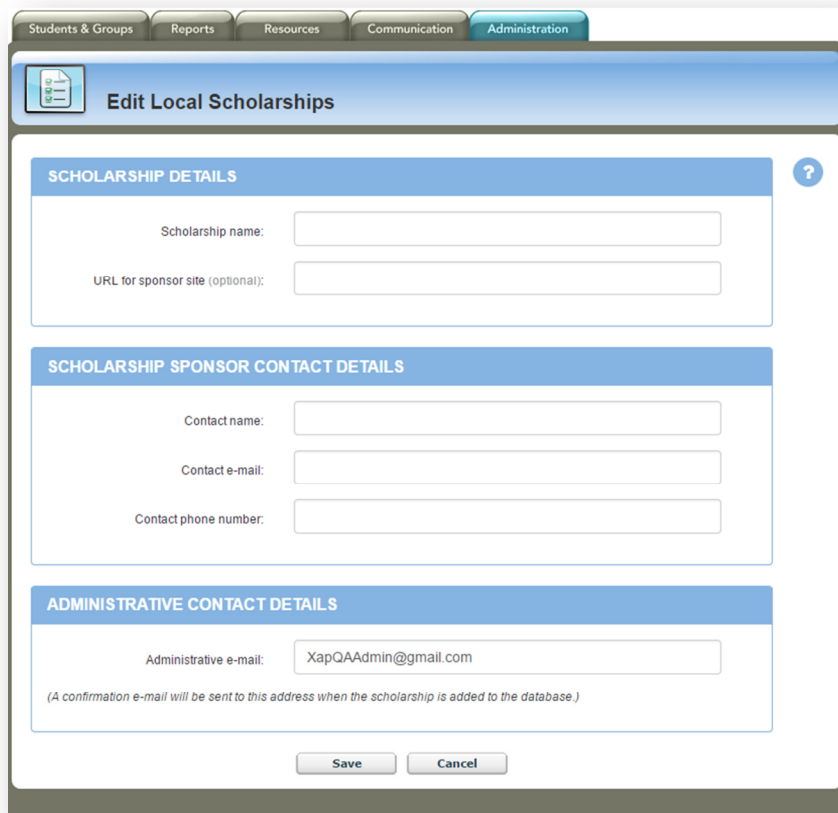
XAP has a new partner to supply scholarship data. The new database is one of the largest scholarship databases with more than 3 million awards and an aggregate value of \$18 billion. More importantly, the data is updated every day. The new scholarship matching tool now searches the data in real time giving students the best possible list of matching scholarships.

Improved Tools to Add Local Scholarships

In the Professional Center, educators can add and edit local scholarships helping students connect quickly and easily to local scholarships that may be a match.

NOTE: XAP recommends that educators add new local scholarships to the database **after** the June release. Any local scholarships previously added will need to be re-entered using the new tools.

The local scholarship administration tools are **disabled** in the review environment.



Students & Groups Reports Resources Communication Administration

Edit Local Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS ?

Scholarship name:

URL for sponsor site (optional):

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR CONTACT DETAILS

Contact name:

Contact e-mail:

Contact phone number:

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT DETAILS

Administrative e-mail:

(A confirmation e-mail will be sent to this address when the scholarship is added to the database.)

Save Cancel

Adding a local scholarship has been updated

Local scholarships submitted to SuperCollege will be vetted by them and then added to the scholarship database for students to search and browse. Local scholarships can be updated at any time by educators. Updates to local scholarships will be reviewed and confirmed by SuperCollege.

Updated Milestone and Portfolio Activity for Scholarships

The milestone activities for scholarships remain the same – however the Scholarship Finder milestone has been renamed Matching Scholarships. There have been no changes to the Milestone report.

The scholarship portfolio activity was updated for students and that change can also be seen in the Individual Learning Plan (also known as ICAP, ILP or ISP) tools in the Professional Center.

There is now just one scholarship activity to pick to use in an ILP set – however the activity has two optionally tracked milestones.

Previous Scholarship Activity in ILP Administration

Find Activities by...

Portfolio Section: OR Search:

« Add activities

- FAFSA
- Components of My Financial Aid Plan
- Financial Aid Plan for My Colleges
- Saved Scholarships
- Scholarship Finder Searches
- Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)

« Add activities

Updated Scholarship Activity in ILP Administration

Find Activities by...

Portfolio Section: OR Search:

« Add activities

- FAFSA
- Components of My Financial Aid Plan
- Financial Aid Plan for My Colleges
- Scholarships
- Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)

« Add activities

[Enter optional guidance text.](#)

Scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matching Scholarships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracked
Saved Scholarships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracked

All tracking reports have been adjusted accordingly as have any current ILPs (ICAPs, IEPs or ISPs) that used the scholarship activities.