

## guaranty agencies create going2college.org

Guaranty agencies have worked together to create a new Web site—going2college.org—that includes comprehensive information on career planning, college planning and paying for college. The site, developed in conjunction with Mapping Your Future, provides a central location for students, families and educators to learn about every stage in the college planning process. It includes links to relevant Web sites and a comprehensive listing of postsecondary education opportunities, programs, publications and other services available in each state. The site also includes detailed information about the academic and financial support available through mentoring and tutoring programs in the state, college access resource centers, college and financial aid awareness events, and state and federal financial aid.

Guaranty agencies are nonprofit organizations or state government agencies that administer the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). They inform students

and parents of their educational and financial aid opportunities, administer loans to borrowers, work with borrowers and lenders to keep loan default rates at low levels, and assist school and lender partners that participate in the FFELP.



For more information about your state guaranty agency, visit [going2college.org](http://going2college.org) or contact the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP) at 202-822-2106.



[going2college.org](http://going2college.org)

202-822-2106



# tools for



guaranty agencies help students

explore careers

plan for college

find a college

pay for college

[going2college.org](http://going2college.org)

## guaranty agencies deliver going2college resources

America's 35 student loan guaranty agencies are committed to increasing awareness about the importance of higher education, the opportunities available and the financial support offered. Agencies reach out to millions of students and families—through brochures and newsletters, financial aid workshops and hotlines, comprehensive Web sites and resource centers—to help them prepare for college, plan a career, pay for postsecondary education and manage finances.

These activities form the foundation of the College Access Initiative, which was passed by Congress in 2006 and formalized one of the roles guaranty agencies play in improving college access.

## helping students, families and schools

The nation's guaranty agencies distribute millions of brochures, guides and toolkits on college awareness, financial aid and financial literacy to schools, students and families around the country. These materials cover topics that play a critical role in the higher education process and include:

- *Fun Family Activity Book About Planning for College* (elementary students and parents)
- *Getting Ready for College Early* (middle school students and parents)
- *Ten Steps to Planning for Your Child's Education*
- *Choosing a Career*
- *Sensible Living: Careers, Credit Cards, and Cash*
- *Preparing for the FAFSA*
- *Paying for College*
- *Guide to Financial Aid*
- *Returning to Learning* (adult learners)



To explain the different types of federal student financial aid available, how to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and how to apply for college, agencies also provide training to students, families and guidance counselors. Last year, guaranty agencies:

- Participated in more than **12,800** financial aid workshops and events
- Trained more than **7,800** school guidance counselors
- Reached more than **1.2 million** students and families

School guidance counselors rely on these training sessions to ensure they have the most current and accurate financial aid information to provide to their students. Guaranty agencies are present in the schools, and several have traveling information centers to visit areas throughout the state and respond to community requests for information. Thirteen guaranty agencies operate or support college resource centers that provide students and families with hands-on assistance in navigating all the hoops required to pursue a college education. These centers can make all the difference for students who do not have a similar service at

school or who may be the first in the family to attend college. One high school student who frequented a college resource center operated by a guaranty agency said it has been

**“the best help and the only help”**

on her journey to college.

## meeting a critical demand

Guaranty agencies are filling a local demand that often cannot be met by the schools. Many students have limited access to college counseling. According to a survey by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the public high school student-to-counselor ratio is 311 to 1. The survey also found that public high school counselors spend an average of only 23 percent of their time on postsecondary counseling. To provide students with more information and support, guaranty agencies and their partners step in to assist.

## reaching students in need

Each state has a designated guaranty agency and because agencies have such strong ties to their communities, they are able to offer specialized services to fill an identified need. Examples include materials and programs targeted to Native American families, Spanish-speaking families, youth in foster care, low-income and minority students, families in rural areas and adult learners. Many agencies also provide financial assistance to help these students pursue their postsecondary goals.

## partnering to increase success

Guaranty agencies partner with secondary markets and a range of organizations to leverage services and reach more schools, students and families. Many agencies are active partners in the federal TRIO and GEAR UP programs. They work with their state higher education coordinating boards and state agencies, school districts, public libraries, youth centers and churches to raise awareness about college and financial aid opportunities and to provide families with hands-on assistance.

