Lesson Plan: Understanding Financial Aid

Objective: Students will determine whether FAFSA or CADAA is the appropriate financial aid application for them by completing the module titled Understanding Financial Aid.

Connection to California Education Code	
EDC § 51225.7	The governing board of a school district and the governing body of a charter school, as appropriate, shall ensure that each pupil in grade 11 is advised to complete the grade 11 financial aid lessons on the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform operated by the California College Guidance Initiative pursuant to Section 10861.
EDC § 51225.8 (Also referred to as AB2015)	The governing board of a school district and the governing body of a charter school, as appropriate, shall ensure that each of its pupils receives information on how to properly complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act application, as appropriate, at least once before the pupil enters grade 12.
ASCA Standards	
B-LS 5.	Media and technology skills to enhance learning
B-LS 7.	Long- and short-term academic, career, and social/emotional goals
B-LS 9.	Decision-making informed by gathering evidence, getting others' perspectives, and recognizing personal bias
B-SMS 5.	Perseverance to achieve long- and short-term goals
College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards	
R.CCR.7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
W.CCR.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
AVID Standards	
11.SA.SE.7b	Leverage support network to assist with areas of need
11.OK.ACP.1	Refine key personal attributes for academic, social, and financial fit related to college selection
11.OK.ACP.3	Research and evaluate scholarship offerings, including FAFSA

Lesson Duration

This lesson requires one 45-60 minute class period.

Student Materials

- Chromebook/laptop
- Internet access
- How to Use the Financial Aid Lessons for 11th Grade Students
- Pretest/Posttest
  - Instructional tip: The pretest and posttest are designed to measure students' prior knowledge and subsequent comprehension of the topics within the Financial Aid Lessons; in addition, students will encounter embedded quiz questions throughout the Financial Aid Lessons that are designed to check their understanding and reinforce key concepts.

Educator Materials

- CaliforniaColleges.edu **Financial Aid Lessons** content: Module 1: Understanding Financial Aid

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Educator Script/Introduction:

"I have good news for you: financial aid is available to you! In California, financial aid resources are available to every student regardless of citizenship status. During your senior year you will complete one financial aid application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Selecting the right application will be important; part of today's lesson is to help you think about which application will be the right fit for you and your family. Both the FAFSA and the CADAA require parent/guardian information for completion by dependent students; this person is called a "contributor." Most students need someone to help them complete their application. Today you will go to CaliforniaColleges.edu to learn more about financial aid applications."

Pretest (5 minutes)

- Instruct students to complete the **pretest**, which asks the following questions:
  1. Which of the following applications do you need to complete to qualify for financial aid for college?
  2. In which year of high school do you complete a financial aid application?
  3. When is the typical priority deadline for the Cal Grant?
  4. What is the role of a contributor on a financial aid application?
  5. Who can help you complete your financial aid application?

How and When to Apply for Financial Aid (15 minutes)

- Play the following tutorial for students or provide the link to students so they may watch it independently: **How to Use the Financial Aid Lessons for 11th Grade Students**.
- Direct students to sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and navigate to the **Financial Aid Lessons** in order to complete **Understanding Financial Aid: How and When to Apply for Financial Aid**.
- Instruct students to read through each slide in the lesson.
  - Instructional tip: Consider pairing or grouping students so they may take turns reading each slide out loud.
- Remind students to click "Complete Slides" on the last slide of each lesson.
- Instruct students to complete **questions 1, 2, and 3** of the **posttest**. Discuss correct posttest answers as a class:
  1. Which of the following applications do you need to complete to qualify for financial aid for college?
     ANSWER: Either FAFSA or CADAA
  2. In which year of high school do you complete a financial aid application?
     ANSWER: Grade 12 (senior year)
  3. When is the typical priority deadline for the Cal Grant?
     ANSWER: March 2

What It's Like to Apply for Financial Aid (15 minutes)

- Direct students to return to the **Financial Aid Lessons** on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** in order to complete **Understanding Financial Aid: What It's Like to Apply for Financial Aid**.
- Instruct students to read through each slide in the lesson.
  - Instructional tip: Consider pairing or grouping students so they may take turns reading each slide out loud.
- Remind students to select "complete slides" on the last slide of each lesson.
- Instruct students to complete **questions 4 and 5** of the **posttest**. Discuss correct posttest answers as a class:
  4. What is the role of a contributor on a financial aid application?
     ANSWER: Anyone asked to provide information on the financial aid application form.
  5. Who can help you complete your financial aid application?
     ANSWER: All of the above.

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Reflection/Exit Ticket (5 minutes)

- Direct students to respond to this prompt: What questions do you still have about the logistics of completing a financial aid application? Who will you talk to in order to determine which financial aid application is right for you?

Extension of Learning

- Instruct students to talk to their parents/guardians to determine whether they qualify for FAFSA or CADAA. Remember, these are the determining characteristics:
    - Select the **FAFSA** if one of these describes you:
        - You're a U.S. citizen and so are your parents/contributors.
        - You're a U.S. citizen with undocumented parents/contributors who have decided to share their information with the federal government.
        - You're a permanent resident.
        - You're an eligible non-citizen.
        - You have a T Visa.
    - Select the **CADAA** if one of these describes you:
        - You're undocumented.
        - You're a U.S. citizen with undocumented parents/contributors who have decided NOT to share their information with the federal government.
            - You'll be eligible to receive state aid, but not federal aid.
        - You have a valid or expired DACA.
        - You have a U Visa.
        - You have Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
- If students need more information about these definitions, remind them that information can be found as clickable links within the lesson **Understanding Financial Aid: How and When to Apply for Financial Aid**.

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