VIRGINIA · STATE AID REFERENCE

Virginia State Aid Cheat Sheet, Class of 2027

For students starting college in fall 2027, paying with 2027–28 aid. Two pages, free to copy.

Virginia has no state scholarship application and no statewide merit scholarship. Money arrives through three doors: the **FAFSA** (or VASA) at public colleges, a separate **VTAG form** at private colleges, and **G3** at community colleges. **What changed in 2026:** VGAP is closed to first-time students starting fall 2027 or later (Chapters 272 and 273). The need-based grant at public colleges for the Class of 2027 is the **Virginia Commonwealth Award**, with no high school GPA minimum and half-time enrollment allowed. SCHEV's detailed rules are due by April 1, 2027.

The Programs at a Glance

Program	What it pays and who qualifies
Commonwealth Award	Need-based grant at Virginia public colleges. Amount set by each college. Virginia domicile, financial need, at least half time. Apply with the FAFSA or VASA by the college's priority date.
VTAG (Tuition Assistance Grant)	Up to **$5,250**/yr (2027–28 cap) at 28 private nonprofit Virginia colleges; $2,625 for new online-only students; +$500 senior year for future teachers. **Up to $7,500 more at Hampton and Virginia Union ($12,750).** Not need-based. Full time, one year of Virginia domicile.
G3	Last-dollar tuition, mandatory fees, and books at the 23 community colleges in approved programs (education, health care, IT, public safety, trades, hospitality). Household income up to 400% of poverty ($124,800 for a family of four, 2025–26 report). FAFSA plus at least 6 credits. Up to 3 years.
Two-Year College Transfer Grant	$1,000/yr, +$1,000 for STEM, teaching, nursing and related majors, +$1,000 at NSU, ODU, Radford, UVA Wise, VCU, VSU (2 yrs). Associate degree from a VA public two-year college, 3.0 GPA, SAI 15,000 or less, enroll full time the very next fall or spring. Up to 3 years.
VMSDEP	Tuition and fee waiver at publics plus up to $2,200/yr stipend for eligible military survivors and dependents. Certified by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.
VASA	The state aid application for students who cannot file the FAFSA and meet tuition equity rules. State aid only, no Pell.

Deadlines to Post on Your Wall

Date	What
Open since Sept 24, 2026	2027–28 FAFSA. List every Virginia college the student is considering.
Nov 15 / Jan 5 / Feb 1	William & Mary FAFSA and CSS Profile priority, by admission plan (2027–28).
Jan 22 · Feb 1	Virginia Tech FAFSA for maximum aid · VCU FAFSA priority (both stated for 2026–27).
March 1	FAFSA priority at UVA (plus CSS Profile), JMU, ODU, CNU, Longwood, Mary Washington, VMI. Mason and Radford also post Feb 1: confirm. NSU March 15, VSU March 31.
April 1, 2027	SCHEV's deadline to adopt the new Commonwealth Award rules.
Sept 15, 2027	VTAG form due at the private college for full priority. Sept 16 to Oct 1: paid only if funds remain. Dec 1: spring-only.

The Rules That Trip Families Up

- **June 30 is not the deadline.** State grant money is spent at each college's priority date, most often March 1.
- **VTAG has no income test.** Families who assume they earn too much skip a grant they would have received.
- **The FAFSA does not trigger VTAG.** The form comes from the private college and goes back to it.
- **One year of domicile.** In-state tuition and every state grant need it, measured by the parent's domicile for a dependent student. A senior-year move usually means no state aid in year one.
- **VGAP handouts are out of date.** The 2.5 GPA rule no longer applies to the Class of 2027.

Commonwealth Award: Check These Things Early

A student is eligible if, on or after the term's census date, the student is enrolled **at least half time** at a Virginia public college, meets Virginia **domicile** rules (or the military dependent or tuition equity provisions), shows **financial need** (Cost of Attendance above the SAI), and complies with Selective Service where it applies. Renewal: satisfactory academic progress and continued eligibility. No GPA minimum, no full-time rule, no class-level rule in the statute. Each college sets the amount. Under SCHEV's current rules the award is limited to tuition and fees; new rules are due by April 1, 2027.

Rule	VGAP (started by 2026–27)	Commonwealth Award (Class of 2027)
High school GPA	2.5 minimum	None
Enrollment	Full time, continuous	At least half time
Renewal	2.0 GPA and advance a class level yearly	Satisfactory academic progress
New students	None after fall 2027	Yes

Counselor Calendar: What to Tell Students When

When	Tell students
Sept to Oct, senior year	FSA IDs for student and parent. File the FAFSA (or VASA). List every Virginia college.
Nov to Feb	Merit scholarship dates ride on admission dates (Nov 1 to Feb 15). Watch W&M, VCU, and Virginia Tech's earlier aid dates. Answer every verification request.
March	March 1 priority date at most publics. Confirm each college has a complete file.
April to May	Compare award letters on net price. Committing to a private college? Request the VTAG form the day you deposit.
Summer	Recent movers: settle domicile with the college before the bill. Community college route: check the G3-approved program list.
By Sept 15	VTAG form in and confirmed at the private college.

Three Mistakes That Cost Virginia Students Money

- **Filing the FAFSA in April.** By then most colleges have allocated the Commonwealth Award and their own grants.
- **Leaving a college off the FAFSA.** A public college that never receives the FAFSA cannot award the state grant.
- **A semester off after the associate degree.** The Transfer Grant requires enrolling the very next fall or spring.

The September 15 Line

SCHEV ranks VTAG applications. Returning students and new students whose form reaches the college by **September 15** share the same full award. New students who apply September 16 through October 1 are paid only after those students are funded, and their amount is not known until mid-spring. The FAFSA does not start VTAG, and SCHEV does not mail the form. Get it from the college the day the student commits, and get written confirmation that it arrived.

Free Resources: No Account, No Cost, No Data Collection

Resource	Where
FAFSA and FSA IDs	studentaid.gov
VASA (students who cannot file the FAFSA)	levelupvirginia.org
VTAG, Commonwealth Award, Transfer Grant, residency	schev.edu/financial-aid
G3 approved programs	Each community college's G3 page
Full Virginia guide, college priority dates, FAQ	collegereadyparent.org/virginia/

Independent and free. No paywall, no accounts, no lead forms, no student data collection. **Counselors and educators: you may freely copy, print, and distribute this sheet.** Corrections: leo@collegereadyparent.org. Verified October 29, 2026 against SCHEV, the Code of Virginia, the 2026–28 Appropriation Act, and college financial aid websites. Program rules change; confirm with each college's aid office before making financial decisions. Not legal or financial advice.