

**Is a college education worth the cost?**

"Not many things are worth the cost. College is worth the cost. No matter what, a degree will be needed to get a good paying job in society. According to our survey, **61% of the people in school say yes**, college is worth the cost."  
-Katherine Pichardo, ICHS student

"Colleges in the U.S. are known for their high level of education. Their lessons take people deep into their careers and help people get jobs right away. College is worth the cost. The cost is just a problem you'll finish solving at, the end."  
-Diesel Frica, ICHS student

**Should college be free for everyone?**

"College should be free because that will lead to better education because the students will focus more on studying. They will not worry or stress about a better future and education."  
-Nicole Mendez, ICHS student

"If college could be free, more students would attend college."  
-Maria Pastor, ICHS student

**Should students take out loans?**  
"When people take out loans, they have to pay it back. 25% of the people we surveyed who took out a loan to pay for college took 10-25 years to pay it back. That is much longer than it takes to go to college. College should be free so people don't have to take out loans."  
-Fatima Gueye, ICHS student

**Should federal aid be available for undocumented students?**

"Undocumented students should be able to afford to go to college in the U.S. because all the people should have the same opportunity that others have and legal status shouldn't matter. According to the poll that was done in ICHS, 98% of people agreed that **undocumented students should be able to go to college in the U.S.** Many undocumented students have more enthusiasm to go to college than the people born in America."  
-Anthony Moreira, ICHS student

"The government has to be considerate with its citizens. People on their way to being citizens should have the same rights as everyone else."  
-Nayely Rodriguez, ICHS student

**Create a checklist and find schools that match your goals.**

What do you want to study when you go to school?

What activities do you want to take part in at school?

How many people do you want to go to school with?

What do you want the place you go to school to look like?

What options do you have for financial support?

**WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?**

"One reason I think that college should be free is that many people believe that it is expensive. For example, in our survey, **90% of the people believed that college is too expensive.**"  
-Mohamadou Sidy Diallo, ICHS student

"I think that the government needs to make college free for low income families. Everyone that wants to become someone in the future, needs to be able to be someone."  
-Scarlet More, ICHS student

"Public college will now be free for families in New York State. It is interesting that the government is trying to help students that have low income. My aunt says that she didn't go to college because she didn't have enough money and she didn't want to take out a loan. She tells me that if college were free, she will go to follow her dream. Therefore, college should be free for people that don't have the chance to get scholarships or take out loans. Every student deserves that gift."  
-Astou Samb, ICHS Student

"If elementary, middle, and high school are free, why not college? A lot of NY residents are not rich enough to pay for college. **940,000 families in New York will be eligible for free public college tuition** when the new plan is fully phased in. Then, many more families will have to be more educated."  
-Matthew Rivera, ICHS student

**Survey of ICHS Community**

Is college worth the cost?  
Yes: 61% No: 26% Depends: 13%

Should college be free?  
Yes: 75% No: 20% Depends: 5%

Should undocumented students be able to go to college in the U.S.?  
Yes 98% No: 2%

Should federal aid be available to undocumented students?  
Yes: 88% No: 12%

Do you agree with New York's free tuition plan?  
Yes: 91% No: 9%

"Go to college! Don't worry about what job you are going to have in the future. Just pick something you love to study at college and the rest will follow!"  
-Yadira Echevarria, ICHS teacher

**FREE FOR ALL?**

**Should college be free? For everyone?**



On April 12, 2017, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the free college tuition bill into law. The Excelsior Scholarship makes the City and State Universities of New York tuition-free, but only for qualifying students. Students that are part-time, undocumented, or whose families make over \$125,000 per year are not eligible. Should college be free for everyone?

In the winter of 2018, CUP collaborated with Teaching Artist Gabe Gordon and Yadira Echevarria's internship class at the International Community High School (ICHS) in the Bronx to dig deeper into the financial pockets of college tuition. To investigate, students got out of the classroom and into the realm of higher education to survey educators and school staff on the value of a degree. What are the different types of academic degrees? How much does higher education cost? Who decides?

Students created this school newspaper to teach others what they learned and to help students navigate their higher education options.

**WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?**

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT FORMS OF EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL, KNOWN AS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

TWO YEAR or FOUR YEAR DEGREE?	TRADE SCHOOL	COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE	COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$ 1 year or less</li> <li>\$ Earn a certification</li> <li>\$ Learn a skill related to a specific job</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$ 2+ years</li> <li>\$ Earn an Associates Degree</li> <li>\$ Take core courses, like math or English language arts, that can prepare you for a Bachelor's Degree program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$\$\$ 4+ years</li> <li>\$\$\$ Earn a Bachelor's Degree</li> <li>\$\$\$ Take both core courses and specialized areas of study</li> </ul>	

**TUITION**, or the price schools charge for classes, can range from totally free to over \$50,000 per year.

PUBLIC or PRIVATE SCHOOLS?	IN-STATE or OUT-OF-STATE?
<p><b>PUBLIC</b> schools are partially controlled by the state and are usually the most affordable option.</p> <p><b>PRIVATE</b> schools do not receive government funding and can sometimes cost more than public schools.</p>	<p>The state that you live in can impact the cost of tuition, but only for public schools.</p> <p><b>IN-STATE</b> schools are in the same state that you have lived in for at least one year prior to applying for school.</p> <p><b>OUT-OF-STATE</b> schools are in a different state than where you live and can sometimes cost \$10,000 or more per year than in-state schools.</p>

**ONLINE** courses and degrees are offered by many public and private schools, but be sure to check if the programs offered are accredited and officially recognized by the federal government.

CALCULATE THE COST OF THE SCHOOL YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AT [money.cnn.com/tools/collegecost/collegecost.html](http://money.cnn.com/tools/collegecost/collegecost.html)



The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities.

The International Community High School (ICHS) is a progressive public school for English Language Learners in the South Bronx. To learn more, visit [ichs.weebly.com](http://ichs.weebly.com)

City Studies are CUP's project-based in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city. To learn more about CUP, visit [welcometocup.org](http://welcometocup.org)

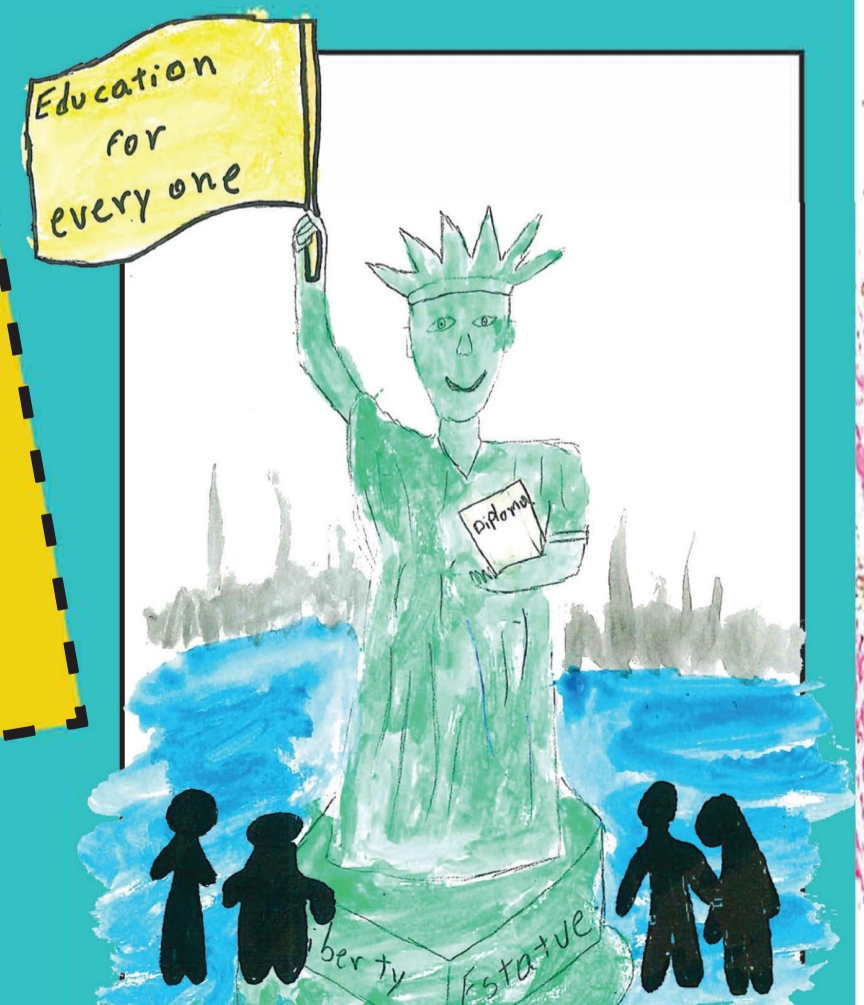
CUP Teaching Artist: Gabe Gordon  
Project Lead: Jenn Anna Williams  
Project Support: Clair Beltran + Nick Johnson

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- ICHS Students**
- |                        |                       |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Helal Abdulla          | Franklin Figueroa     | Michael Medina         |
| Maria Abreu Cappellan  | Silvio Francisco Pena | Madeline Mejia         |
| Camila Alberto         | Diesel Frica          | Nicole Mendez Ramirez  |
| Carlos Alberto         | Gleidy Grullon        | Orlando Miranda        |
| Julio Alberto          | Alejandro Guerrero    | Ana Mogena             |
| Alma Almonte Perez     | Ambar Guerrero        | Wagner Montero         |
| Yorjony Almonte        | Francisco Guerrero    | Anthony Moreira        |
| Khadeja Alomari        | Osman Guevara Castro  | Leitsha Moreira        |
| Julia Alvarenga        | Angel Gutierrez       | Manuel Morel           |
| Mamadou Bah            | Luis Gutierrez        | Scarlet Morel          |
| Mamadou Macka Bah      | Bryan Guzman          | Yudelkis Morel         |
| Samantha Barrera       | Leonel Hernandez      | Mamoudou Niane         |
| Sadou Barry            | Luz Milka Hidalgo     | Mame Niang             |
| Renato Bello Ogando    | Saleh Humaidi         | Angel Nina Rodriguez   |
| Warlenny Breton        | Karina Jimenez        | Kindry Norales         |
| Mary Cabrera           | Jeremy Ladines        | Perla Novas            |
| Nicole Camacho Taveras | Maryuri Lainez        | Aldris Nunez           |
| Alexandra Castillo     | Oscar Lino            | Elydians Ortiz         |
| Genesis Castillo       | Albert Lopez          | Rikelmey Ortiz         |
| Manny Castillo         | Carlos Lopez          | Blaymi Paez            |
| Celine Collado         | Joseluis Lopez        | Virgilio Parache       |
| Lucas De La Cruz       | Chariny Luciano       | Kimberly Polanco       |
| Tania De Los Santos    | Oziel Luzon           | Maria Pastor           |
| Sakho Diakhate         | Jose Maldonado        | Giuseppe Pazmino       |
| Mariam Bobo Diallo     | Dalline Manco         | Katherine Pichardo     |
| Mohamadou Diallo       | Michael Martinez      | Willianny Pichardo     |
| Frica Diosnel          | Yunior Matos          | Yessica Pichardo       |
| Alhoussein Essaedi     | Katherine Mayancela   | Arafath Radji          |
| Fatou Faye             |                       | Sergio Alberto Ramirez |
| Lisson Fernandez Taver |                       | Matthew Rivera Mora    |





# HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE...



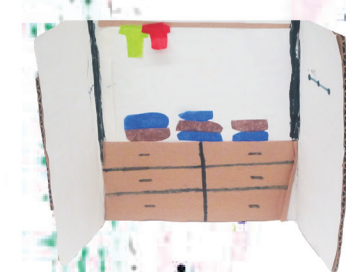
**W**hat college do you want to go to?  
**H**ow much will tuition cost per year?  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOM AND BOARD**  
 is the term many schools use to refer to the total cost of housing, such as a dorm room, plus the cost of on-campus meals for the entire year.



**MEALS**  
 can vary in cost, from cooking your own food, eating in the school cafeteria, or eating in a restaurant. Ask your school how much their meal plans cost.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



**HOUSING**  
 costs vary, from choosing to live at home to a dorm room on school campus to renting your own apartment. Ask your school about their housing options.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



**BOOKS**  
 can be purchased new or used, and can even be found online or in your local library.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



**TRANSPORTATION**  
 can vary depending on if you live on or off the school's campus, as well as the location of your classes.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



**MEDICAL INSURANCE**  
 and dental insurance are required to attend many schools.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



## REALLY COST?



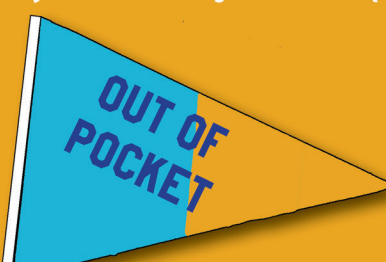
**I**n addition to tuition, students will also need to consider many other costs of postsecondary education.

Fill in the estimated amounts for your school choices to see how much school will actually cost per year.

### WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Many people use a combination of these five methods to pay for college.

Out of pocket are personal funds, such as money from a job or family member(s).



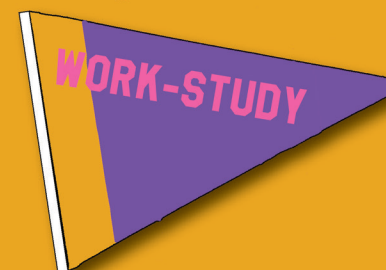
Scholarships are money given based on merit or need that can come from schools, corporations, or foundations.



Private loans are money that you borrow from a bank that you need to pay back with interest, an additional percentage of money added to the total amount of money you owe.



Work-study is a part-time job at your school to earn money while you are a student.



Federal loans are money you borrow from the government that you need to pay back, usually with lower interest rates than bank loans.



#### SUPPLIES

can vary in cost, from notebooks and pens to art supplies or musical instruments.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



#### CLASS FEES

for certain classes, like a science lab or a studio art class, are an additional cost outside of tuition. Clubs, sports, and social events can also have additional activity fees.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



#### ELECTRONICS

may need to be purchased for school, such as a new phone, computer, or even software.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



#### OTHER EXPENSES

can vary in cost, from doing laundry to paying for entertainment like seeing a movie or concert.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



### WHAT'S THE TOTAL COST?

Add school tuition plus all of the other estimated amounts to see what it may actually cost each year to attend school.  
**TOTAL COST PER YEAR**  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**ALL OF THE ITEMS CAN ADD UP, BUT THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO REDUCE THE COST OF COLLEGE.**

- \$ Learn more about the differences in financial aid options at [bit.ly/2Ey1Cc9](http://bit.ly/2Ey1Cc9)
- \$ Apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.ed.gov/](http://fafsa.ed.gov/)
- \$ To see if you qualify to apply for New York's free tuition visit [on.ny.gov/2uUSiji](http://on.ny.gov/2uUSiji)
- \$ Undocumented students can't receive federal student aid, but can attend college and still have options for financial aid. For more information, visit [bit.ly/1lSWPDV](http://bit.ly/1lSWPDV)

