



# **Application Instructions**

## Weld County Bright Futures

The Bright Futures program was designed with one objective in mind—**strengthening the vitality of the Weld County community through its workforce**. By nurturing and supporting our young generation, we are building a strong foundation for a stable economy. Understanding the importance of trade skills as well as academic skills, the Board of Commissioners designed the program to financially assist students who pursue post-secondary education or training from an accredited higher-education institution or certified training program.

*There are no restrictions concerning program selection.*

Whether a student wants to train to be a chef, a mechanic, an electrician or wants to pursue an Associate's or Bachelor's degree, they can utilize the Bright Futures grant program to pursue their dream.

# The Bright Futures Program Benefits...

- **Students**
  - Tuition assistance for high school graduates, GED recipients, and honorably discharged US Veterans to further their education.
- **Residents & Businesses**
  - Residents & businesses who donate receive a 50% property tax credit incentive.
- **Workforce**
  - A better trained and skilled workforce to improve and invest in our growing community.



# 2018 Updates

# 2018 Changes...

## Previously:

- Annual amount students received could be up to \$3,000 per year.
- Stipend must be used within 10 years of graduation or GED date.
- First dollar in.



## Beginning August of 2018:

- Annual amount students can receive is up to \$2,000 per year.
- The grant must be started within 2 years of graduation and completed within 6 years of graduation.
- Last dollar in.
- FAFSA required.
- Required 16 hours of community service in Weld County each year.
- Changing geographic region.

# Additional Changes...

- New board.
- New staff.
- New office.
- New website ([www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com)), marketing material and focus on increased relationships with schools & students and community & businesses.



# Funding of Bright Futures

100% of donor funds go to students!

# Funding Structure

- Bright Futures is funded through a variety of mechanisms:
  - Donors
  - Tax Credit Incentive
  - Weld County Government
  - COSI Grant
- Donations can be sent to the Weld County Treasurer's Office or made directly at [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com).
- Funding of this program is reliant upon donations received.





# **Eligibility & Requirements**

# What are the eligibility requirements?

- All students who graduate from high school starting in 2016, who reside in Weld County, and have been residents of Weld County for at least two of the last four years; one of those years being the year of graduation from high school.
- A Weld County resident graduating from high school outside of Weld County also qualifies.
- An individual earning a GED after January 1, 2016, in lieu of graduating from high school who has resided in Weld County two years prior to the application date; one of those years being the year of receiving a GED.
- Admitted to and enrolled at any higher education institution or certified training program.
- Must make regular progress toward a degree or certification.
- Must maintain a 2.0-grade point average at the post-secondary institution.
- Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
- Full eligibility requirements can be seen at [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com)

# Where can the grant be used?

- Must be an accredited Title IV school:
  - College/University
  - Technical Trade School
  - Must be in Colorado or surrounding state.
- **The grant can only be used for tuition & fees.**



# What are the grant timeframes for students?

- Annual application deadlines - no grace period
  - Fall semester - June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Spring semester - October 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Summer semester - April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Apply once for the entire length of the grant
- Apply whether you plan to use it soon, or in the future
- Students must begin within two years of graduating and end within six years.

# What you need to know...

- The Bright Futures grant is UP TO \$2,000 per year.
  - The grant is last dollar in. This means that all scholarship, grants and “free monies” will be applied to your student account first. Bright Futures can ONLY be applied to tuition and fees.
    - Examples:
      - Ben’s tuition & fees are \$4,000. Ben receives a \$500 scholarship from a local rotary. He received \$1,000 from the PELL grant. Ben is then eligible for \$1,000 in a Bright Futures grant.
      - Alicia does not receive any scholarships, grants or “free monies.” Alicia is eligible for \$1,000 per semester, up to \$2,000 that year.
      - Carrie receives \$1,000 from the PELL grant and \$1,000 scholarship from the university. Carrie is not eligible that semester to receive Bright Future funds as her tuition & fees are fully paid for.
- Bright Futures grants can only be used in Colorado or bordering states. That includes Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Utah.

**Full application instructions are available at [www.brightfuturesco.com/resources](http://www.brightfuturesco.com/resources).**

# Requirements after application

- **Stay enrolled** at a Title IV accredited higher education institution or certified training program
- **Maintain a 2.0** cumulative GPA (average)
  - If student's cumulative GPA drops below 2.0, they are not eligible for the grant until they meet the 2.0 cumulative GPA again.
- **Each semester you are responsible for providing information updates at [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com).** Many schools provide this so please visit our website for the list of schools that do.
  - School transfers
  - Proof of 2.0 or higher GPA
  - Copy of transcript to prove enrollment
  - Itemized tuition, &
  - Credit hours for next term/semester

# What we expect of you...

- Succeed academically.
- Explore options.
- Seek a good paying career.
- Meet personal goals.
- Ultimately, contribute to a strong workforce.

*This is a Weld County  
investment in your & our  
future!*

# **Bright Futures Application**

Questions and Answers



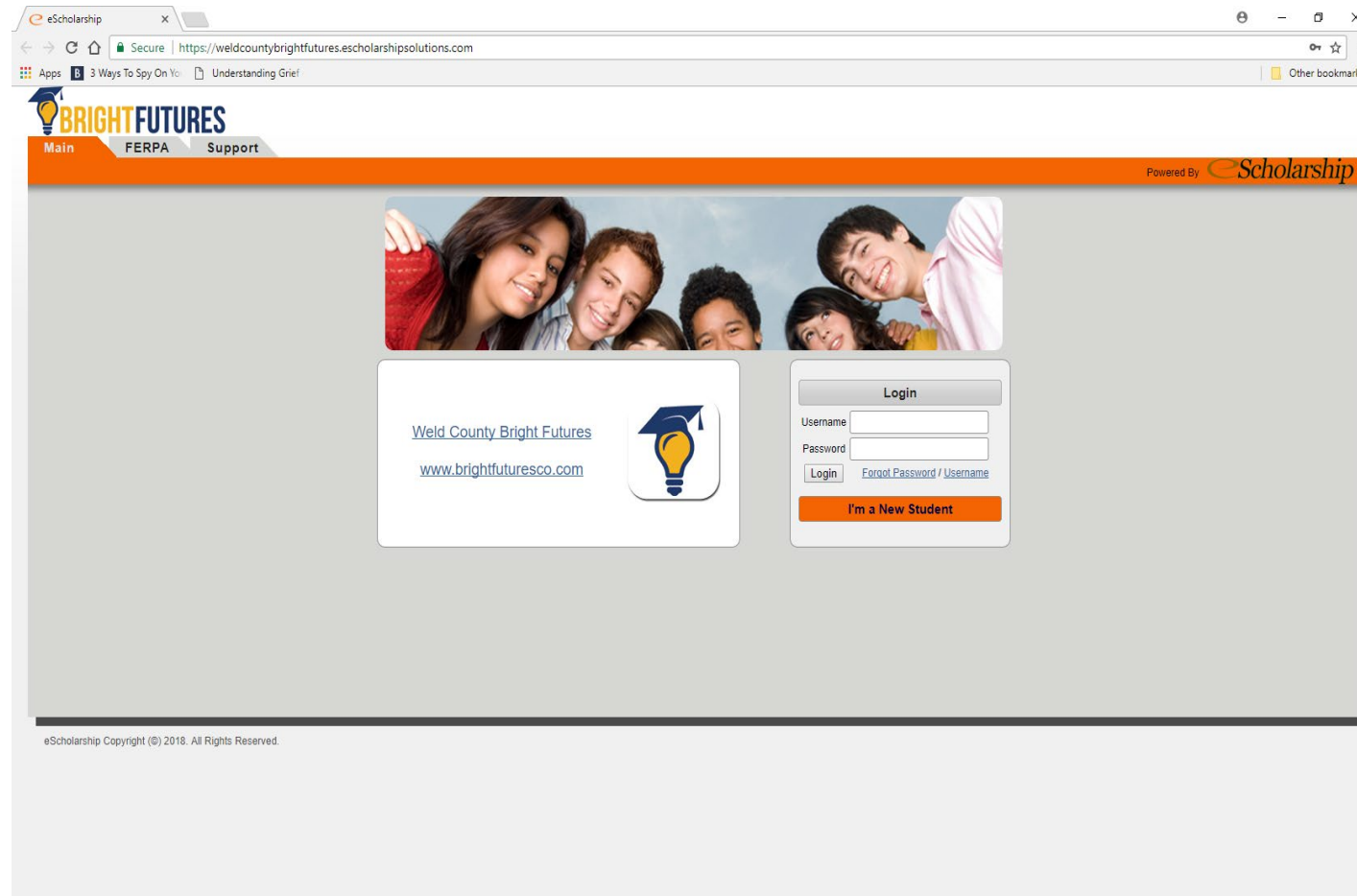
# Application Process

- Step 1: Go to [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com).
- Click students or eScholarship portal.



# Application Process

- Step 2: At eScholarship click on “I’m a New Student” highlighted label.



# Application Process

## Step 3: Complete “Create your Weld County Bright Futures Student Account.”

- Birth date and state assigned student identifier data (SASID) must match your school information.
- Create password.
- **Do not use school email** – when you graduate it will be turned off.
- Complete and click “Create Account” this will take student to portal & application.
- After you create your account **you will receive an email with your user id you will need this user id to log-in and check your account status & emails.**

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#>. The page features the 'BRIGHT FUTURES' logo and navigation links for 'Main', 'FERPA', and 'Support'. A 'Create New Account' modal window is open, containing the following fields and instructions:

**Create your Weld County Bright Futures Student Account**

Please complete the information below to create your student account. If you do not know your *Student High School ID#*, you will need to contact the counselor at your High School or your local Weld County Bright Futures office. If the information below **does not match** our current records, an account **will not** be created. If you are unable to create an account please contact your local Weld County Bright Futures office.

\* The following fields are required to create your student account. Passwords are case sensitive, must be at least 8 characters, and include letters and at least one number.

First Name	Harry	Create a Password	*****
Last Name	Potter	Confirm your Password	*****
Date of Birth	07/28/2001 <small>MM/DD/YYYY</small>	Your current email address	hpotter@gmail.com
Your High School Student ID#	1234567	Confirm your email address	hpotter@gmail.com

Below the form is a reCAPTCHA widget with a green checkmark and the text "I'm not a robot". At the bottom of the form is a "Create Account" button.

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# Application Process

## Step 4: Profile Page

- *eScholarship* message (Bright Futures software program.)
- “You must complete your Scholarship Application to continue.”
- This is incredibly important as this is the information we use to contact you. Please confirm the phone, email and text confirmation. Do not use your high school email!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#myaccount>. The page features the BRIGHT FUTURES logo and navigation tabs for Main, FERPA, and Support. A left sidebar lists navigation options: Student Home, My Application, Messages, Appeals, My Colleges, Documents, and Guardians. The main content area is titled "My Account" and contains a form with the following fields: Username (hpotter6594), Change Password, Repeat Password, Email \*, First Name (Harry), Middle Name, Last Name (Potter), Suffix, Address, Address 2, City, State (dropdown menu), Zip, Primary Phone \*, Cell Phone \*, and Optional Phone \*. There is also an "Allow Texting" checkbox. A red asterisk indicates that the Username, Email, and Primary Phone fields are required. A red note states: "\* Denotes fields - One of three is required". At the bottom of the form, there is a checkbox for "By checking this box you are confirming that your Contact Information on this page is current and valid." and an "Update" button. An "eScholarship Message" dialog box is open, displaying the text: "Welcome to your eScholarship portal. Before continuing you are required to update your password and confirm your account information is current and valid." with an "Ok" button.

# Application Process

- Blanks will automatically fill with information high school has provided.
- Review information and fill it out to the best of your ability. You can log back in to complete the application before submission.
- All Fields with a \* must but have a response to complete the application.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#my\\_application](https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#my_application). The page title is "My Application" and the main heading is "Bright Futures Grant Program APPLICATION".

Key deadlines and information are displayed:

- Annual Fall Deadline: June 30th
- Release of Information
- Annual Spring Deadline: October 31st

The form is divided into several sections:

- Account Information:** Fields for First Name (Harry), Last Name (Potter), High School (UNIVERSITY SCHO), Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY), Your HS Student ID# (102020), Date of H.S. Graduation (MM/YYYY), Name of HS Counselor, and First Generation Student checkbox.
- Contact Information:** Fields for Address, City, State (Select...), Zip, Home Phone, Cell Phone, and Email - not HS email. A red error message states: "Your school has provided residency status which indicates you are not a resident of Weld County, therefore, you are not eligible for this grant." There is also a "Permission to Text" checkbox.
- Demographic Information:** Fields for Ethnicity (Select...) and Gender (Male/Female).
- Guardian Information:** Fields for Guardian First Name, Guardian Last Name, Guardian Email, and Guardian Phone. A note says: "Please enter contact information for your primary guardian."
- Account Confirmation:** A checkbox for "Responsibility" with a text block: "By checking this box I certify that: 1) all information provided is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge, 2) I will submit all information in a timely manner and meet all deadlines, 3) I will meet or exceed the academic standard of 2.0, 4) I will provide all..."

# Application Process

- Electronic Signatures – use keyboard.
- Parents must sign if student is under 18 years.
- Read & check each section.
- Submit will take student back to student portal.

eScholarship

Secure | https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#my\_application

Weld County Resident \* No **Your school has provided residency status which indicates you are not a resident of Weld County; therefore, you are not eligible for this grant.**

Address \* 4 Privet Drive City \* Greeley

State \* Colorado Zip \* 80631

Home Phone \* (970) 123-4567 Cell Phone \* (970) 123-4567

Email - not HS email \* hpotter@gmail.com Permission to Text

**Demographic Information**

Ethnicity \* Anglo, not Hispanic Gender \* Male  Female

**Guardian Information**

Please enter contact information for your primary guardian.

Guardian First Name \* Petunia Guardian Last Name \* Dursley

Guardian Email \* pdursley@AOL.com Guardian Phone \* (970) 456-7891

**Account Confirmation**

**Responsibility** : By checking this box I certify that : 1) all information provided is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge, 2) I will submit all information in a timely manner and meet all deadlines, 3) I will meet or exceed the academic standard of 2.0, 4) I will provide all academic and college/institution information and updates as required by Bright Futures. This is required to maintain a good standing and to continue my eligibility for the Bright Futures grant.

**High School / GED / Home-School Release** : I authorize my high school or other institution of secondary education where I attended to release all requested information as needed by Bright Futures to verify my graduation and process my application.

**Identify College or Institution** : I will provide Bright Futures with the name of my chosen college / institution in a timely manner as requested to assist the program to process and send the grant payment to my college / institution.

**College / Institution Release** : I authorize the college / institution I attend to release all requested information from Admissions, the Business Office / Bursars, Financial Aid, and the Registrar to Bright Futures for the duration of the program's grant eligibility timeframe. The college where I enroll / attend may release to Bright Futures admission and enrollment information (student ID#, GPA and credit hours earned, current number of credits registered, degree program, intended major), financial Aid status / work-study (any outstanding requirements causing aid to be estimated), financial aid received (Federal Pell, State Aid, Institutional Aid, SEOG, external scholarships and loans), cost of attendance (tuition, and mandatory fees), as well as any additional information requested. With this authorization Bright Futures may directly contact my college / institution to verify all required information, process my grant, & make payment.

**Parent / Guardian authorization** : I authorize Bright Futures to communicate with my parent / guardian in regards to education records and other information related to the records identified in this disclosure, regarding any matters related to my enrollment, financial aid, and / or academic progress for reasons determined by the program.

Please type name/s (electronic signature accepted) below as agreement to the terms above.

\*\*\*Student - Legal first & last name Harry Potter

\*\*\*Parent/Guardian - Legal first & last name Petunia Dursley

Submit Application Cancel

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# Student Dashboard

Student website:

- 'My Status' will provide student application status.
- Provides Bright Futures information.
- 'Messages' where students can receive messages.
- Receive & send messages (updates/requests.)
- Upload documents to Bright Futures administrators. Make sure your name is on ALL documents.

The screenshot displays the Bright Futures Student Dashboard in a web browser. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#student\\_home](https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#student_home). The page features a navigation bar with 'Main', 'FERPA', and 'Support' links, and a 'Logout' button. The user's name, 'Harry', and account information are visible in the top right corner. The dashboard content includes:

- My Status:** Insufficient Data | My Annual Award up to: \$0.00
- My Username:** hpotter6594
- Dashboard:** A section with 'Messages' and 'Documents' tabs. The 'Messages' tab is active, showing 'None to display.'
- Eligibility Details:** A section showing 'Your Current Status : Insufficient Data' and 'Your annual award up to : \$0.00'. A red box highlights 'Eligibility Issues :'
  - Continuous Enrollment - Insufficient Enrollments.
  - Graduation/Graduating Year - Invalid Year supplied.
  - Graduation/Graduating Year - Graduation Year Outdated (obtained 2016 required).
  - Incomplete Setting - Max Award Not Set For Year.
- My Enrollment History:** A table with columns: School, Sem. GPA, Cum. GPA, Year, Semester, Credit Hours, Award Payment, and Payment Date. The table is currently empty, showing 'No results.'

At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: 'eScholarship Copyright (c) 2018. All Rights Reserved.'

# Eligibility

## Step 6. Status

- Tentatively Ineligible (red) - A pop-up box 'Eligibility Issues' in red will appear, contact BFG administration
- Tentatively Eligible (blue)- Student will remain in this status until they graduate
- Eligible (green) - Student status will change to Eligible once the student graduates
- Other (black) – contact Bright Futures Administration

## Step 7. Awarded

- **Bright Futures** will provide email confirmation of award.

## FUTURES

ERPA Support

My Status: [Insufficient Data](#) | My Annual Award up to: [\\$0.00](#)

### Dashboard

Messages

Documents

None to display.

### Eligibility Details

Your Current Status : Insufficient Data  
Your annual award up to : **\$0.00**

#### Eligibility Issues :

- Continuous Enrollment - Insufficient Enrollments.
- Graduation/Graduating Year - Invalid Year supplied.
- Graduation/Graduating Year - Graduation Year Outdated ( obtained 2016 required).
- Incomplete Setting - Max Award Not Set For Year.



# Part Two: Enrollment

*Same deadline as application!*

- In Bright Futures website click on “My Colleges.”
- Must complete to indicate where to distribute grant.

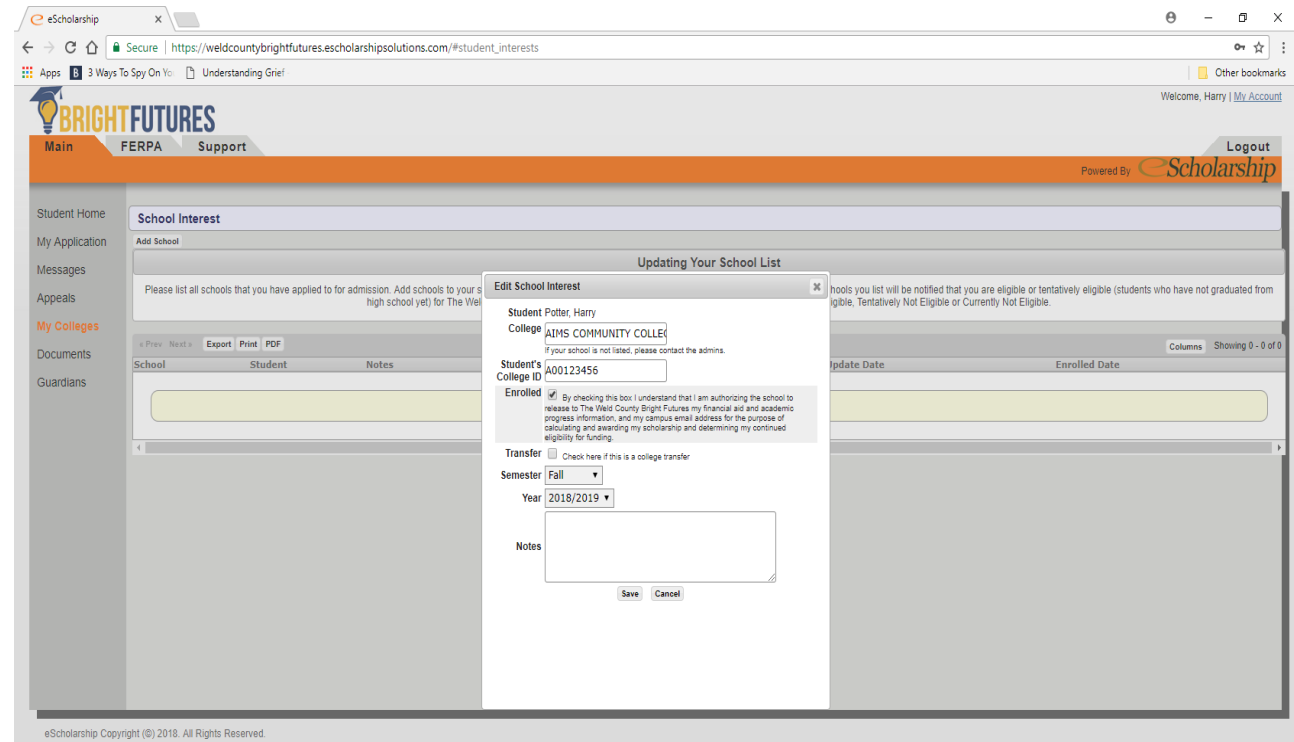
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Bright Futures eScholarship website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#student\\_home](https://weldcountybrightfutures.escholarshipsolutions.com/#student_home). The website header includes the Bright Futures logo and navigation links for Main, FERPA, and Support. A user is logged in as Harry, with a My Account link. The main content area shows the student's status as "Insufficient Data" and an annual award of \$0.00. A red box highlights "Eligibility Issues" with the following list:

- Continuous Enrollment - Insufficient Enrollments.
- Graduation/Graduating Year - Invalid Year supplied.
- Graduation/Graduating Year - Graduation Year Outdated (obtained 2016 required)
- Incomplete Setting - Max Award Not Set For Year.

Below the eligibility details is a section for "My Enrollment History" which is currently empty, showing "No results." The footer of the page contains the text: "eScholarship Copyright (©) 2018. All Rights Reserved."

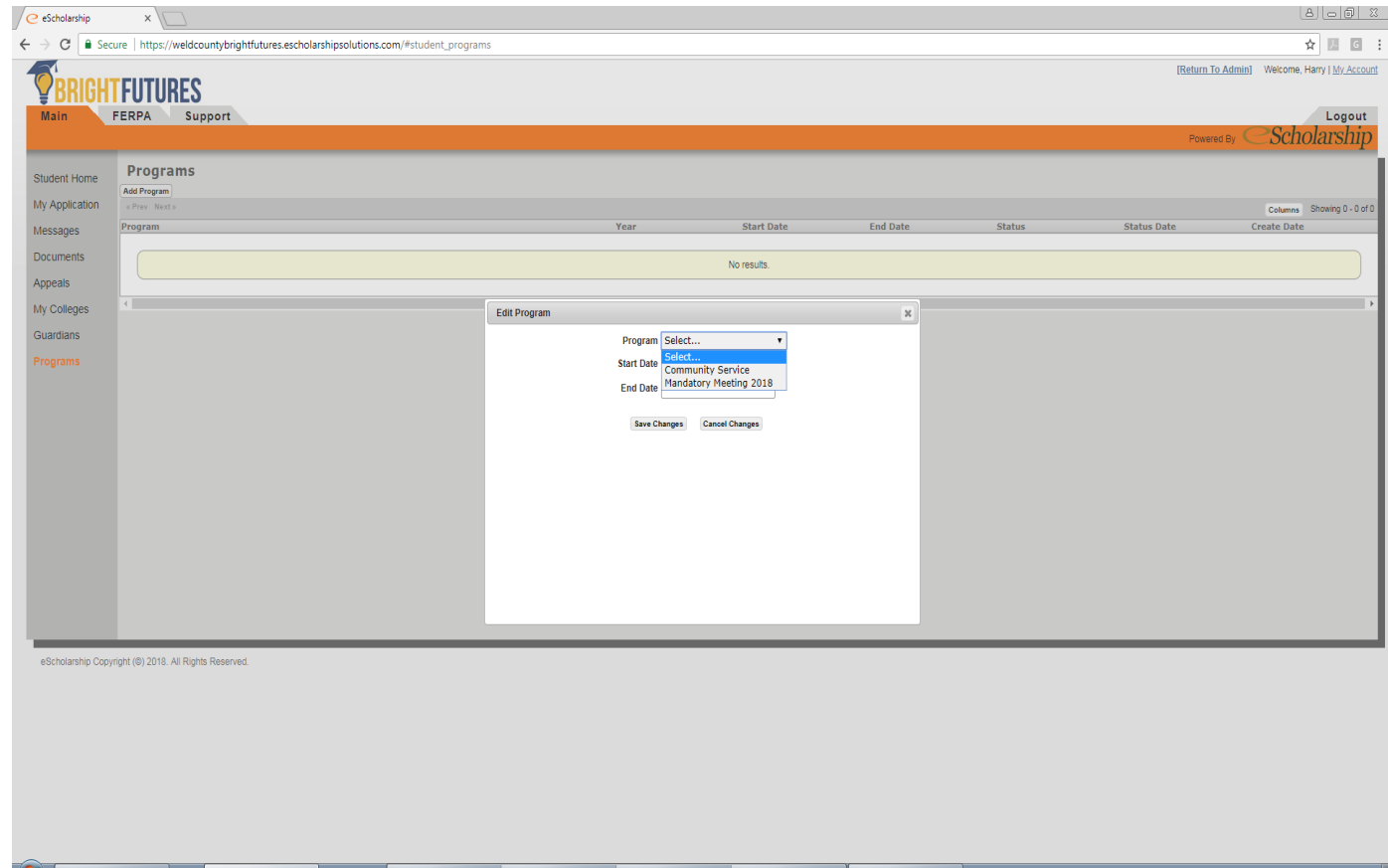
# Part Two: Enrollment

- Click school interest.
- Click add school.
- Be sure to find the exact match.
- Click the enrolled box and choose the semester & year based on school calendars.
  - Example January 2018 is within the 2017-2018 school year.
- Click on save. Once completed, it will automatically return you to Student Portal.



# Requirements: Mandatory Meeting

- Select programs
- Click add program
- Select mandatory meeting
- Enter date of meeting or online presentation viewed



# Requirements: Community Service

- Select programs
- Click add program
- Select community service
- Select where community service was completed under subprogram. If your organization is not listed, contact our office to review and add if the organization meets program requirements. Enter the dates community service was completed and the number of hours. Upload the community service form. (Can be found on [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com).)

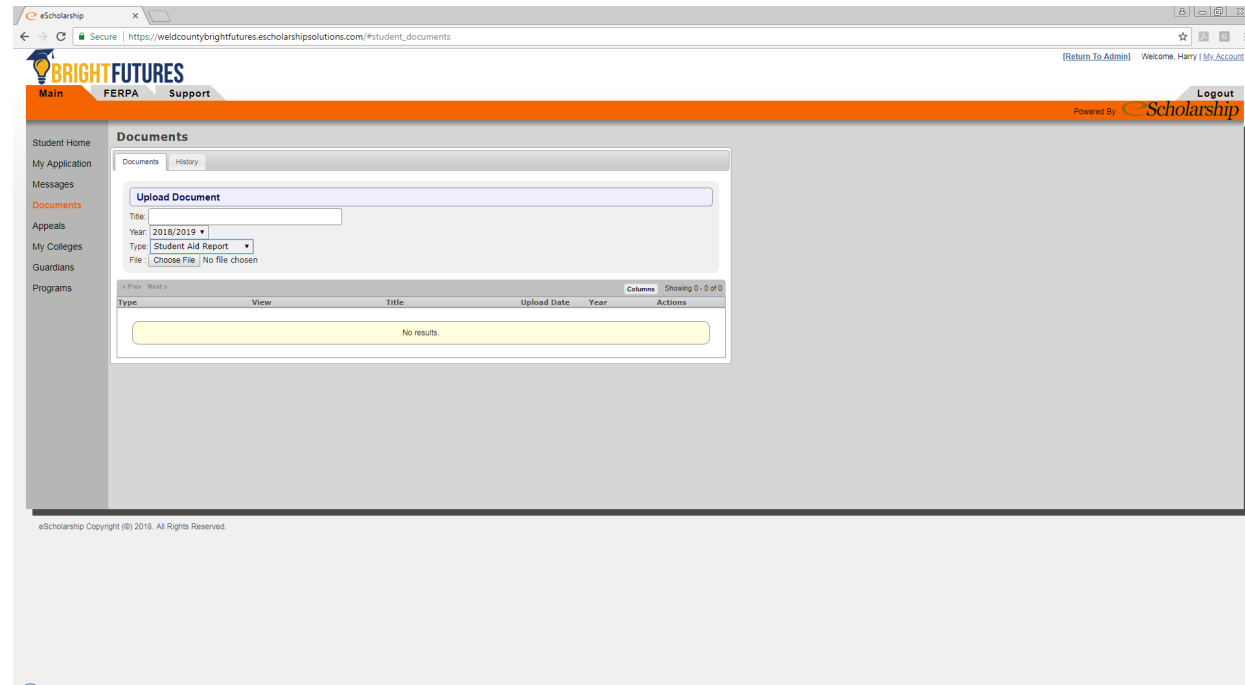
The screenshot displays the Bright Futures eScholarship portal interface. The main navigation bar includes 'Main', 'FERPA', and 'Support'. The user is logged in as 'Harry' and is viewing the 'Programs' section. A table with columns for 'Program', 'Year', 'Start Date', 'End Date', 'Status', 'Status Date', and 'Create Date' is shown, but it contains no results. An 'Edit Program' modal window is open, showing the following details:

- Program:** Community Service
- Subprogram:** Select...
- Description:** ALL grant recipients are required to complete 8 hours of community service in Weld County per semester. To receive grant funds for the fall semester, complete 8 hours of community service by June 30th. To receive grant funds for the spring semester, complete 8 hours of community service by October 31st. Any community focused efforts in Weld County will be accepted for the community service requirements. Please visit the community service page on our website at [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com) for more details. If you do not see your organization listed here, please email the name and address of the organization to [hello@brightfuturesco.com](mailto:hello@brightfuturesco.com).
- Academic Year:** 2017/2018
- Start Date:** [Text input field]
- End Date:** [Text input field]
- Hours Completed:** ## [Text input field]
- Documents:** Select... [Dropdown menu] with a 'Choose File' button and 'No file chosen' text.

The footer of the page reads: 'eScholarship Copyright (©) 2018. All Rights Reserved.'

# Requirements: FAFSA

- Select documents
- Enter FAFSA as the title, enter school year, and select “Student Aid Report” and upload document.



# Future Login Information

Step 1. Visit: [www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com) and click eScholarship.

Step 2. Enter student User ID and Password – created during the application process.

- If you cannot remember your email and password, please click forgot password or username. With continued issues, contact Bright Futures.
- To prevent your Bright Futures Grant emails from going to “Junk Mail” add “Noreply@escholarshipsolutions.com” to your email list.

# How 2018 Changes Impact Applicant

- Last dollar in. The Bright Futures grant can be applied to tuition and fees only. As a last dollar in program, your state and federal funding, grants and scholarships will be applied prior to the Bright Futures stipend but before your private funding including loans.
- FAFSA required. **REQUIRED DOCUMENT UPLOAD.**
- Required 16 hours of community service in Weld County each year. Bright Futures will have a full community service opportunity list on our website beginning in February 2018 along with the form we need signed by who they volunteered for. Students will need to upload their signed form in their application process. **REQUIRED DOCUMENT UPLOAD.**
  - Community service hours for the fall can be completed anytime between January 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Community service hours for the spring can be completed anytime between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - You can complete your full 16 hours between April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to.
- Changing geographic region.
  - Includes Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.
- Mandatory meetings. You will need to click a box stating you attended the required mandatory meeting.
- Must be full time student. (At least 12 hours.)

# Final Important Information



- Annual application deadlines:
  - Fall semester: June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Spring semester: October 31<sup>st</sup>
- The Bright Futures website has a TON of information & resources for you:  
[www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com)
- Contacts:
  - [hello@brightfuturesco.com](mailto:hello@brightfuturesco.com)
  - 970-400-3258
- Also we encourage you to check out <http://www.mylibrary.us/whats-here-for-you/> and scroll to College Bound for information on careers, test preparation, locating scholarships and more.





**BRIGHT FUTURE**S

**Nurture-Support-Engage**

*100% of donations go to Bright Futures!*

**Questions?**



[www.brightfuturesco.com](http://www.brightfuturesco.com)  
[hello@brightfuturesco.com](mailto:hello@brightfuturesco.com)  
970-573-5974