



Resources for High School Students, Parents, and Educators

The Washington County Free Library has several resources that will help support your success in school. Below are descriptions and hints on how to best use these resources. With all resources, please first sign in with your library card on the WCFL homepage. To sign in,

navigate to the  icon located in the top right corner of the homepage. You'll need your library card and pin number to sign in. Each listed resource has a hyperlink you can use once you are signed into WCFL. The resources marked with ** indicated that there is specific materials for educators.**

Academic Resources

Gale In Context: High School - When you have a paper, project, or presentation to complete, the hardest part is figuring out where to start. *Gale In Context: High School* simplifies your search for information by bringing together hundreds of thousands vetted primary sources, peer-reviewed academic journals, magazine articles, current newspaper articles, biographies, critical essays, images, and audio and video resources. *Gale In Context: High School* gives you access to nearly 1,000 topics in history, literature, government, science, and economics, just to name a few. A few of the sources for this database include publications like *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *Popular Science*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*. Users are also given access to video and audio sources from *BBC News*, *NPR*, and *The New York Times* video collection. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *Gale In Context: High School*.

<https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=SUIC&u=wacntyfl&sid=geo>

Gale OneFile: High School Edition - *Gale OneFile: High School Edition* is similar to *Gale In Context: High School* in that it is a database that will link you to information resources. However, *Gale OneFile* has several hundred more titles and allows you to search by different criteria. For example when you search a topic, keywords related to your topic are fed into an algorithm that allows you to view the results visually. You can also filter your results by subject, publication date, or document type. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *Gale OneFile: High School*.

<https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=STOM&u=wacntyfl&sid=geo>

Advice: Start with *Gale in Context: High School*. This will give you an excellent overview of the topic. Then, to further research your topic use *Gale OneFile: High School Edition*. *Gale OneFile* will allow you to explore how your topic intersects with other ideas and topics.

Help Now! Powered by Brainfuse - *Brainfuse's "HelpNow"* is a comprehensive suite of tutoring services designed for a range of academic needs; whether it's tackling a tough homework problem, learning an academic skill, or writing a term paper. *"HelpNow"* is available for students in grades K through Adult Learners in the following subjects: Math, Science, Social Studies, English/Language Arts, and Foreign

Languages. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *Help Now! Powered by Brainfuse*. https://www.brainfuse.com/highed/helpNow.asp?a_id=716B86E4&ss=&r=

Brainfuse Adult Learning Center - Whether you are going back to school, switching jobs, or just want to brush up on an academic skill, *Brainfuse Adult Learning Center* is here to help. For high schoolers, the site contains skill building exercises, live tutoring, a writing lab, and a test center with practice tests. Topics include Algebra I, Algebra II, Calculus, English and Language Arts, Geometry, Math, Pre-Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, and Writing. https://alc.brainfuse.com/alc/home.asp?a_id=716B86E4&adult=1

Learning Express Library – This resource is excellent for all students grade 3 through graduate and trade school. The resources are organized by grade level and are guided by the Common Core Curriculum of which Maryland is a participant. To access resources for high schoolers start on the *Learning Express* home page and select School Center > High School. Here you will find help with Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Technology skills. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *Learning Express*.

<https://www.learningexpresshub.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/center/school-center-ccss/home?AuthToken=7E9F9E17-E903-450C-BE51-4712351FB979>

*****Gale OneFile: Educator's Reference Complete***** - This resource provides educators access to professional journals, magazines, books and news articles. Many of the journals are peer reviewed and are available in full-text. Educators can also find reviews of current professional books. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *Gale OneFile: Educator's Reference Complete*. <https://www.washcolibrary.org/db-educators-reference-complete>

College and Career Resources

Brainfuse Adult Learning Center - For those looking for help with career seeking, *Brainfuse Adult Learning Center* offers help to craft a winning resume and cover letter or help learning Microsoft Office Word, Excel or Powerpoint. You can also get help studying for the GED or U.S. Citizenship Test. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *Brainfuse Adult Learning Center*. https://alc.brainfuse.com/alc/home.asp?a_id=716B86E4&adult=1

LearningExpress Job and Career Accelerator - *LearningExpress Job and Career Accelerator* features online tutorials, practice tests, and e-books to help patrons of all ages. It offers job search and workplace skills improvement, skill building in reading, writing, math, and basic science, career certification and licensure exam prep, college and grad school entrance test prep, GED® test prep, and more. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *LearningExpress Job and Career Accelerator*. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *LearningExpress Job and Career Accelerator*.

<https://www.learningexpresshub.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/learningexpresslibrary/libraryhome>

Career Information Center - *The Career Information Center* provides information every job seeker needs to be successful. Updated with a full volume devoted to computer careers, the first 12 volumes each focus on a different career area, and contain over 700 job profiles. Each profile includes a job summary chart, a job description, and up-to-date salary information. The 13th volume contains the index, as well as essays on different aspects of employment. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this

link to access *The Career Information Center*.

https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7C9780028662435&v=2.1&u=westmd_wcl&it=etoc&p=GVRL&sw=W

College Blue Book - *College Blue Book* is a comprehensive guide to thousands of 2- and 4-year schools and programs in the U.S. and Canada. The series is part of the Gale Ebooks Education Collection. The Blue Book is divided into 6 sections: Narrative Description, Tabular Data, Degrees offered by College and Subject, Occupational Education, Scholarship, Fellowships, Grants, and Loans, and Distance Learning Programs. Once you have signed in to the WCFL you can use this link to access *College Blue Book*.

https://go.gale.com/ps/displayAllBooksForSubject?subject=Education&userGroupName=westmd_wcl&nPS=true&prodId=GVRL

College Navigator - *College Navigator* is a website from the Institute for Educational Sciences, which is the research and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education. *College Navigator* provides you and your family with information about colleges and federal financial aid. The website also provides current data on expenses, financial aid, enrollment, admission, graduation rates, majors and the college selection process. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Life Skill Resources

Driving-Tests.org - Every person with a driver's license, from a regular commuter to a racecar driver, started exactly where you are right now: worried about passing their permit test. *Driving-Tests.org* gives you the chance to practice in the best way possible: with realistic practice tests, filled with accurate questions, based on the permit manual from Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration. The website includes: 10 car practice tests, 6 motorcycle practice tests, 1 CDL (Commercial Driver's License) practice test, 2 online driver's manuals (car and motorcycle), a FAQ section with detailed answers to 100+ DMV-related questions. Once you have signed into the WCFL you can use this link to access *Driving Tests.org*. <https://washcolibrary.driving-tests.org/maryland/>

Financial Literacy (for teens) - Financial Literacy is a content-driven, visually stimulating, and media-rich online economics and personal finance resource specifically designed for students in grades 7–12. Include are sections on Teen Health & Wellness, Real Life, Real Answers, and Financial Literacy. Financial Literacy delivers curriculum-correlated content; promotes digital literacy and 21st-century learning skills. The website offers research, reports, and homework help. <https://financialliteracy.rosendigital.com/>

Free Resources

Maryland Common Core State Standards - At this site you will find the curriculum guide for schools in Maryland. The list covers all topics and the goals which each student should meet at each grade level. You can use this information to select activities and topics to support your progress. For example, you might be struggling in Algebra 2. With this online guide you can select Mathematics > Algebra 2 > the select one of four units to review. This link will take you to a page that will give an overview of the topic, goals you should accomplish and even links to free resources. Just copy and paste this link into your browser to access *Maryland Common Core State Standards*.

<https://mdk12.msde.maryland.gov/INSTRUCTION/commoncore/Pages/index.aspx>

Khan Academy – *KhanAcademy* has wonderful resources for every level of school. For middle schoolers, *Khan Academy* offers Math and Reading and Language Arts. Each topic is introduced by a video and interactive exercises, then mastery is assessed by topic quizzes and unit tests. Each learner, educator, or parent can create their own login for specific content. Just copy and paste this link into your browser to access *Khan Academy*. [_ https://www.khanacademy.org/](https://www.khanacademy.org/)