Students seek out financial aid programs for education

An alphabet soup of assistance is available — and all students are eligible for some aid.

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There's no doubt they're not going to college, but when it comes down to paying for it, some students and parents are feeling a budget strain.

"Some way somehow. That's how I feel," said Dede Haynes, mother of Carencro High School junior, Averinne. "I know he's concerned about cost, but I feel he's going to get in.

But that's sometimes easier said than done.

Dennis Haynes said he'll likely receive a TOPS scholarship — money

...the state will direct toward its education, but it does cover the tuition of where he'd like to go and education - Tulane University in New Orleans.

Averinne said she was offered $15,000 from Carencro High senior said he also would like to go to Tulane but both said they feel it's out of the question.

"It's a horrible year, my parents can't afford that," Averinne said. "TOPS wouldn't cover that. There's not enough state or federal money out there. Give the choice between $30,000 versus nothing to go to a state college," Averinne said he feels his chances are slim.

He and Haynes both plan to start college in the fall, but with hopes of transferring to Tulane on scholarship. Next year's high school seniors are now full of deadlines and decisions.

"They have what they need to do," Haynes said. "We're going to sit down and answer questions about financial aid opportunities for students from TOPS to the START program and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Carencro Area high schools have set up a date to help students fill out the Federal Student Aid.

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Aid

the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

All students are eligible for some type of assistance — such as forms with low interest rates.

For those parents trying to gear up for their child’s full-time education, the best advice is to start saving early, said the Lees, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance director of public information.

"The younger, the better," Lees said. "If they start soon after a child's birth, they're going to have an easier time saving money over 16 years. The

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