

COLLEGE



PLANNING



Steps, Tricks, and Strategies to Navigate the College Process

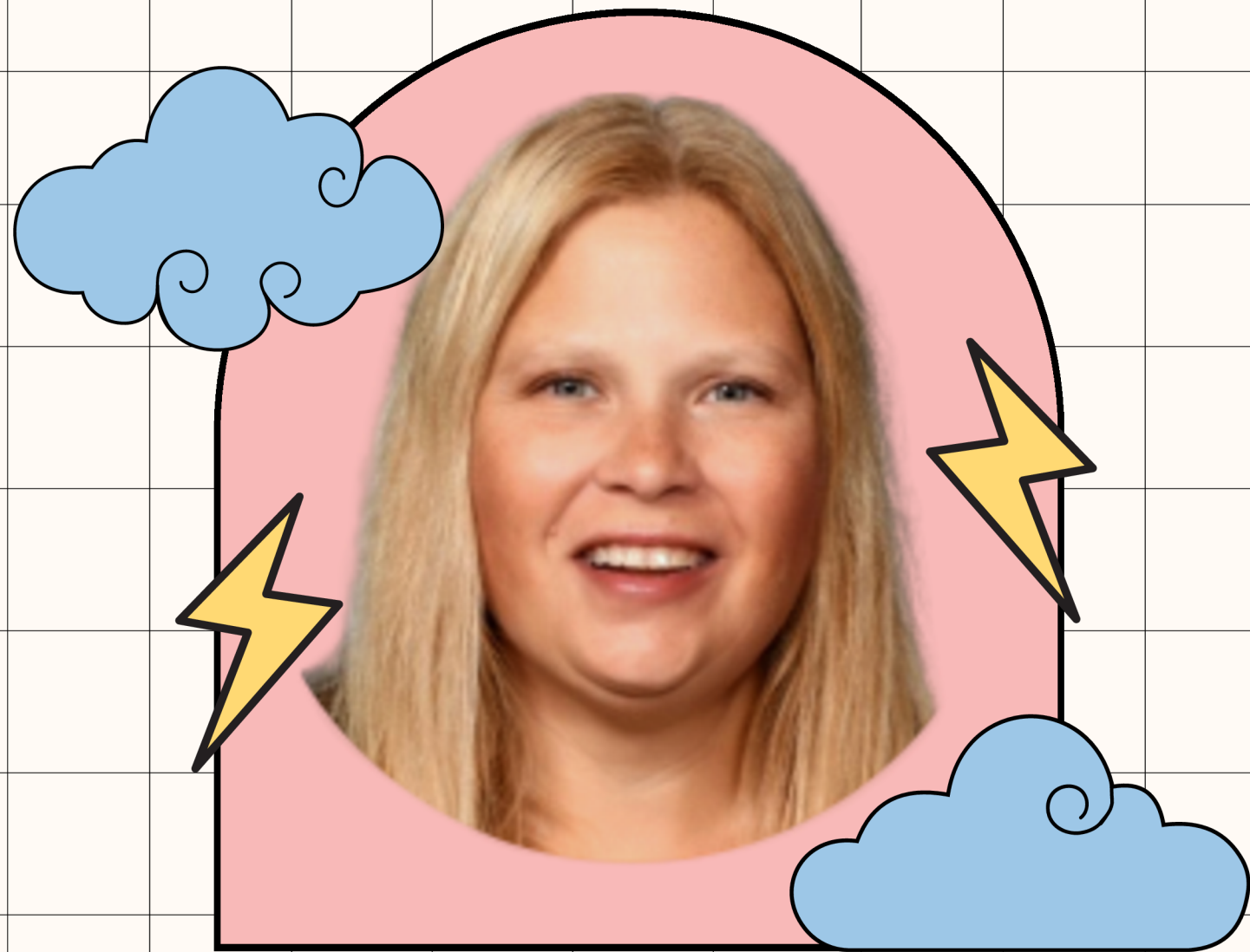


ITAG

IOWA TALENTED AND GIFTED ASSOCIATION



Welcome! While we wait, add your name, student grade, and student interest in the chat.



INTRODUCTION

Natasha Cooper

As a gifted educator and parent of two gifted children and as a part of the ITAG board, I went through this process with my two children in 2023 and 2024. I teach ELL at Des Moines Lincoln High School - Go Rails!

My contact information is:

natasha.cooper@dmschools.org



OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- College/Career Interests
- Course Planning
- Testing/Essays
- College Visits/Applications
- Scholarships/Financial Aid
- Work Room
- Other Resources



By Natasha Cooper

CAREER/COLLEGE GOALS

Interests

- What subjects does your student enjoy?
- What kind of career do they envision for themselves?
- What are your academic, personal, and professional aspirations?

Research

- Explore various colleges and universities, including their academic programs, campus culture, location, size, and student life.
- Identify colleges that offer the specific majors you're interested in and explore their academic program, and visit.

CAREER/COLLEGE GOALS

Planning

- Learn about scholarships, grants, loans, and other financial aid programs that can help you fund your education.

Preparation

- Take rigorous coursework and maintain a strong GPA to demonstrate your academic capabilities.
- Master effective study techniques and time management skills to prepare for college-level coursework.
- Get involved in clubs, sports, or volunteer work to develop skills, build your resume, and showcase your interests.

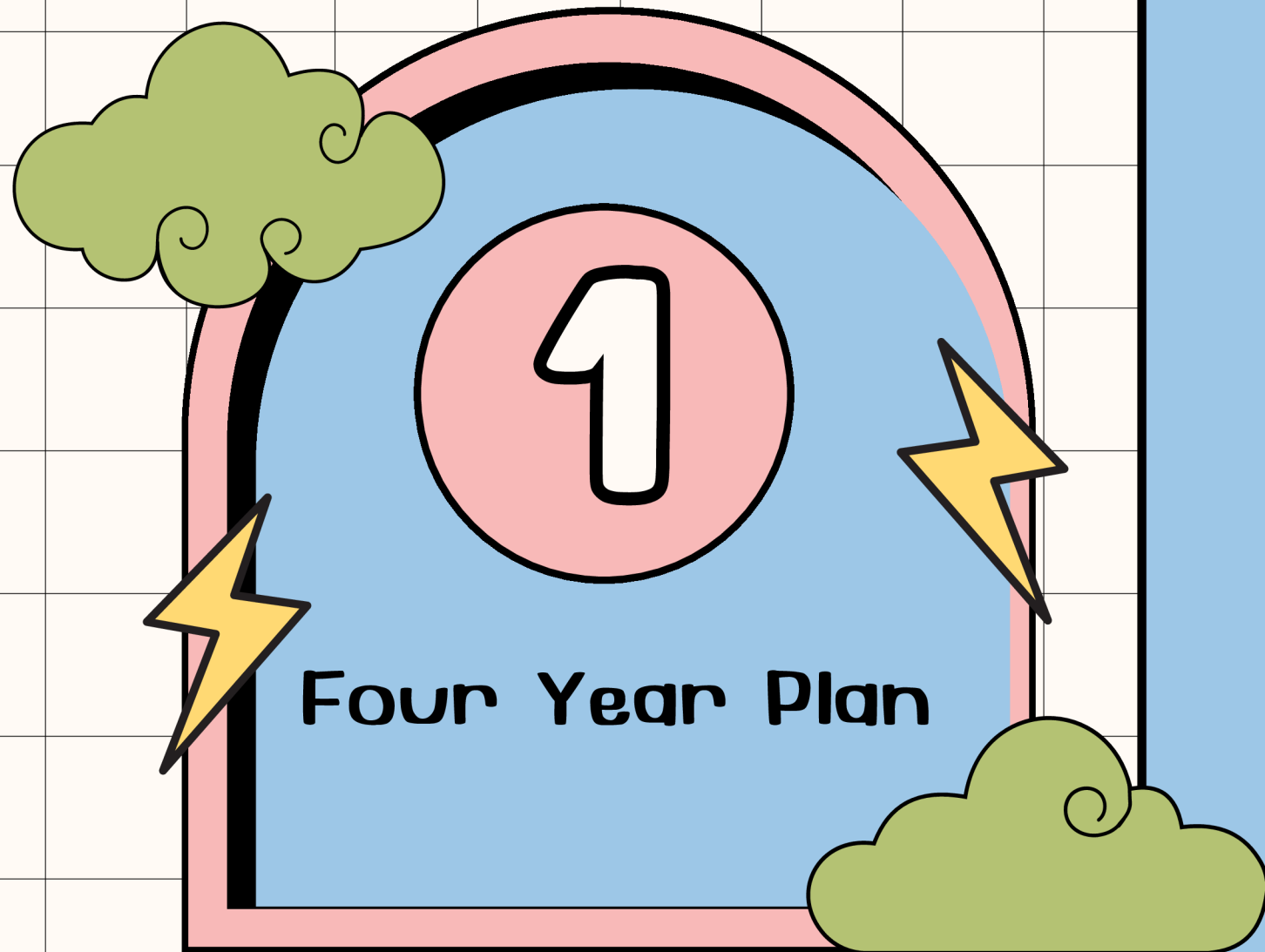
CAREER/COLLEGE GOALS

Financial

- Research the tuition, fees, housing, and other expenses associated with attending your chosen college.
- Learn about scholarships, grants, loans, & other financial aid programs that can help you fund your education.

Management

- Stay organized & keep track of application deadlines, test registration dates, and financial aid requirements.
- Familiarize yourself with the SAT or ACT, and know deadlines and if they take super scores.
- Apply for scholarships and financial aid programs that align with your qualifications and financial needs.



COURSE

PLANNING

4 Year I Can Plan

Xello Career and College Planning

Truity.

Yourself First Career Survey.

Career Explorer Survey.

AP VERSUS

CONCURRENT

2

Types of Classes

Comparing Concurrent Enrollment and AP:
What is Important for Academically Talented Students to Know?

	Concurrent Enrollment	Advanced Placement Courses
1. Level of academic challenge	More challenging than typical high school courses, but not as challenging as AP	More challenging than typical high school courses. Often are more challenging than high school honors courses.
2. Opportunity to take courses with intellectual peers	High school students are likely to be placed in introductory college courses; these can be filled with other students of a variety of skill levels	Typically, the top students in a high school take AP courses.
3. Preparation for college	No standardization of content; some courses may be extremely challenging, while others are not	AP exams are carefully developed and standardized to meet rigorous criteria.
4. Save money on college tuition	This is not guaranteed. Students may receive elective credit but still be required to take introductory-level courses. In other words, their credits may not count toward graduation requirements. Because courses are required in a set sequence, students may not be able to finish the course sequence early, even though they have additional credits.	Students earning a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam are likely to receive credit for the course, even at selective colleges. They may be excused from taking that course and placed in a higher-level course during their first semester in college.
5. Save time; possibly be able to graduate from college in less than 4 years	Not guaranteed. (See point 4 above.)	Although not all selective colleges grant credit and placement for AP exam scores, there is a greater chance this will happen with AP exams than with concurrent enrollment courses. This is because AP exams are standardized, while concurrent enrollment courses are not.
6. Availability in rural areas	May or may not be available, depending on how far away the closest college is.	Because of IOAPA, even students in Iowa's very small, rural schools have opportunities to take AP courses

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TESTING

ESSAYS

- PSAT
 - 8th -10th grade: a preliminary SAT
 - National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test during Junior Year
- SAT
 - Juniors and Seniors
- ACT
 - Juniors/Seniors

6 tips for crafting your best essay.





COLLEGE

APPLICATIONS/VISITS

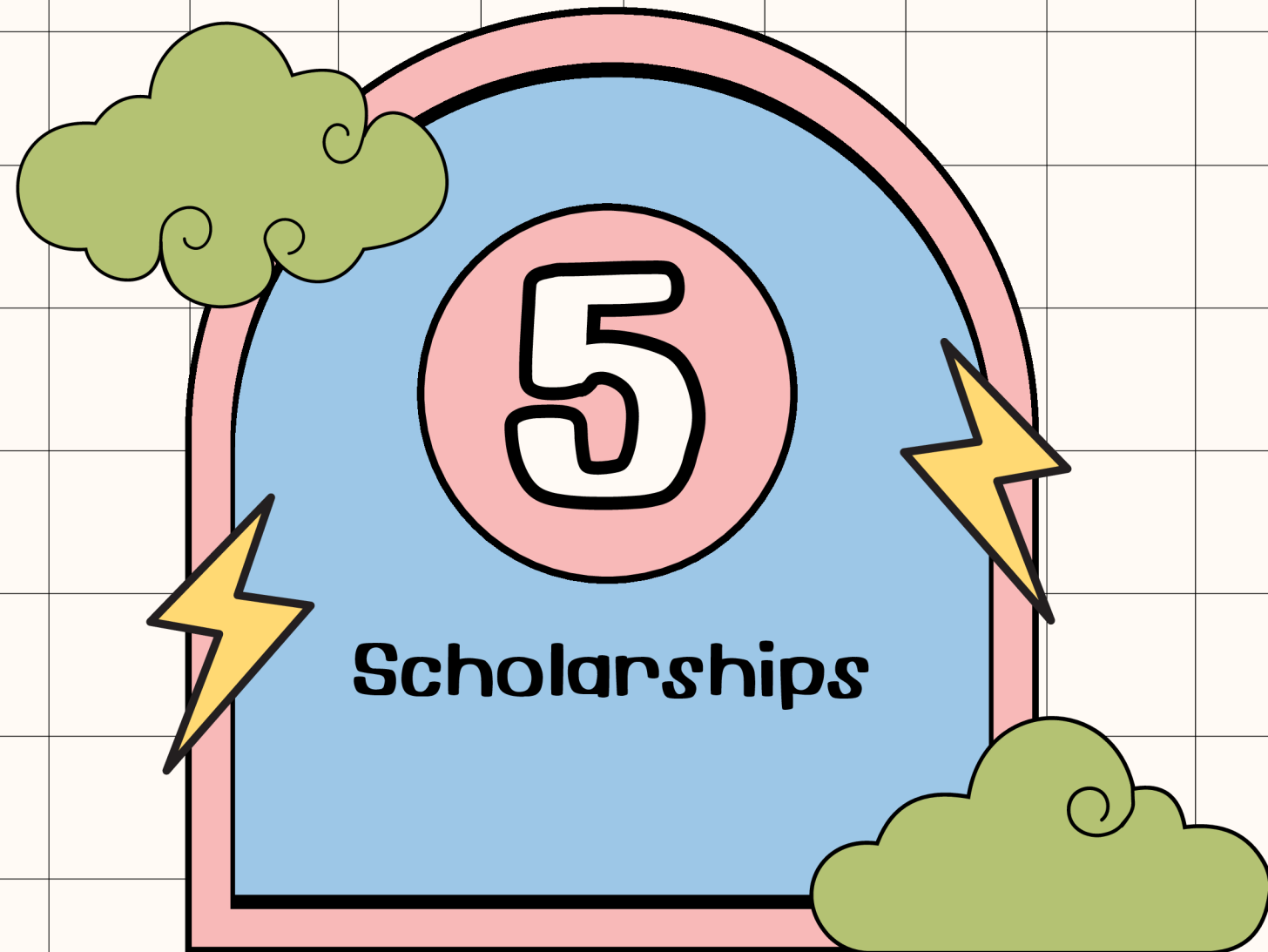
- Many college applications open the Summer before senior year

Common App

Niche College Comparison

- Schedule College visits in Junior and Senior Year
- (sometimes Sophomore Year)
- Go on visits when students are there.
- If possible, College visit days with panels are excellent resources.

Sample Documentation of Colleges



COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Check out school counseling page for local and national scholarships
- Each college does scholarships differently. Some have separate applications, some automatically consider when you apply.

Big Future College Board Scholarship Search

U.S. News Scholarship Search

Appily (formerly Cappex)

Bold Scholarship Search

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FINANCIAL AID

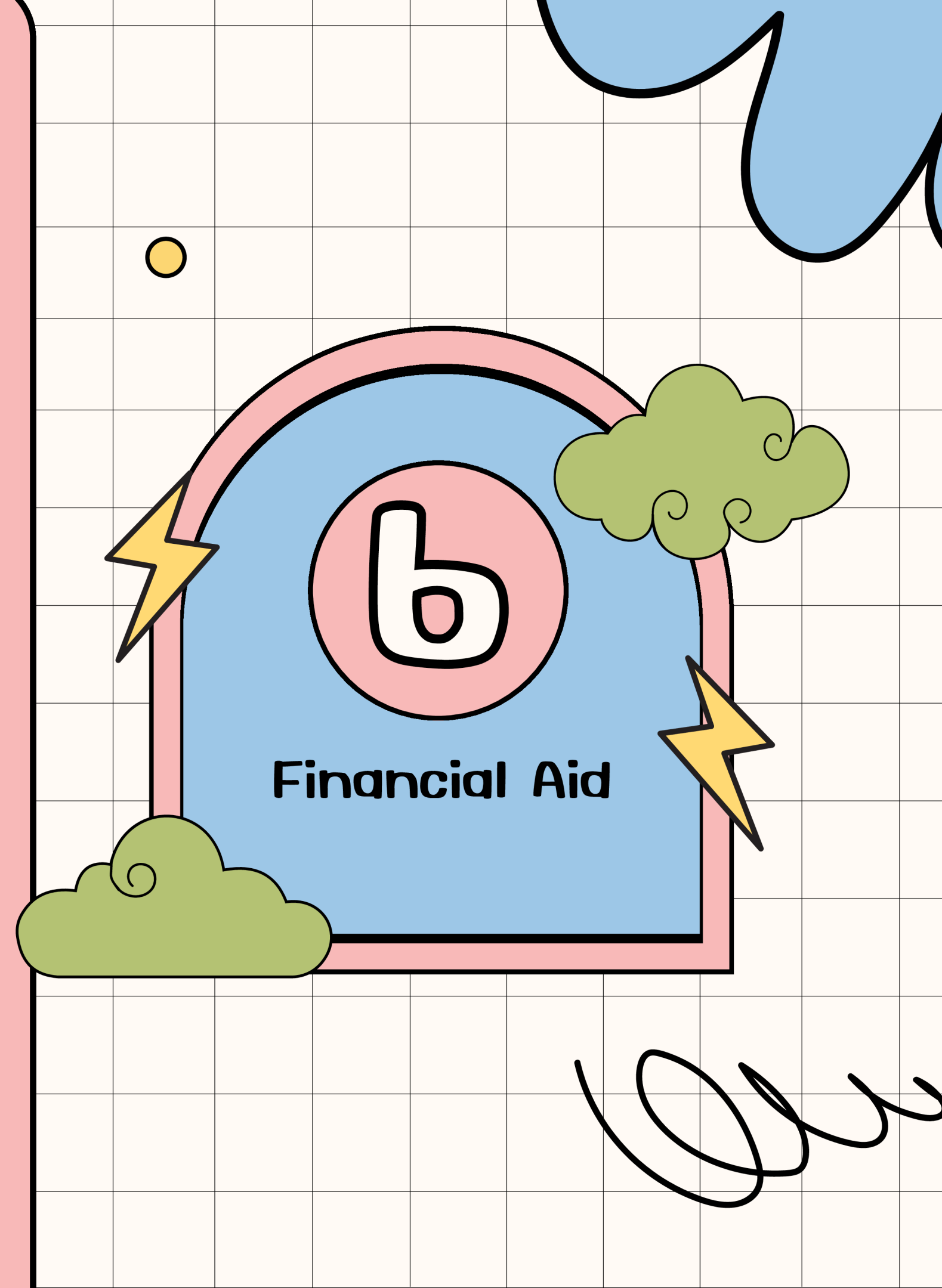
FASFA opens October 1st, fill out even for
scholarships

ISave 529

Paying for College 101

Student Loan Options

Encourage your child to get a job





WORKROOM

OTHER RESOURCES

Workplace Personality Tests

Harlan Cohen

Ramona Barber Counselor

Kent and Ramona Barber Contact Information: 515-360-1259

All resources (with a cautious, open mind)

Email questions to info@iowatag.org



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EMAIL ITAG AT INFO@IOWATAG.ORG

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INSTAGRAM.COM/IOWAGIFTED



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https://iowatag.org/form.php?form_id=8

For Annual Membership Benefits
see
<https://iowatag.org/join>





THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS

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[Iowa TAG Website](#)

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