GLOBAL DISTRICT
IN A GLOBAL CITY

SENIOR PARENT COLLEGE NIGHT

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
DO FIRST: THINK. PAIR. SHARE.

• My student’s college application is going...

• ____________ excites me the most about my student’s college process.

• ____________ concerns me the most about my student’s college process.
COMMON QUESTION:

- “What is this thing called “college”?"
  “How can I assist my student through the college process?”
  “Where’s the money?”
  “So my student has been admitted, now what?”
SESSION OVERVIEW

• East Early CHS College Center Team Introduction
• Defining College
• College Admissions Process
• College Affordability
• Resources
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College

An educational or establishment offering instruction in a professional, vocational, or technical field.
TYPES OF COLLEGES

• **Two Year Community Colleges**
  – 2 year Associates' Programs
  – 1 year Certificate Programs
  – Degrees may be earned at community, technical, vocational colleges.
  – Students can transfer to 4 year colleges/universities

• **Four Year Universities**
  – 4 year Bachelors’ Degrees
  – Typically four to six years *(depending on academic program)*
  – Normally entails a core curriculum
  – Bachelors of Arts or Bachelors of Science

• **Professional Schools**
  – Law School (3 years after a four year university)
  – Medical School (5 years after a four year university)
  – Pharmacy School (4 years after 2 to 4 years of university study)
COLLEGE VOCABULARY

• **College Credit Hour (s)**
  – Another name for the number of credits you take
  – Hours also = length of time in a class a week

• **Full time or Full Load**

• **Degree vs. Major**
  – Degree = how many years you go to college.
    • One year = certificate
    • Two years = associates
    • Four years = bachelors
  – Major = what you study.

• **College vs. University**
  – Community College = 2 years
  – University = 4 years or more
  – College (used just by itself) = any place you study after high school.
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

“How can I assist my student through the college process?”
KEY COLLEGE ADMISSION TERMS

- **College Admissions** – the process for getting accepted into a college.
- **Application/ Acceptance/ Admission Application** – is what a student needs to do, in order to be considered be a college.
- **College Application Essay** – an essay that a college requires students to write and submit as part of their college application file. Some colleges offer applicants specific questions to answer, while other simply ask applicants to write about themselves. Colleges may refer to this as a “personal statement.”
- **College Credit** – What a student receives when they successfully complete a college-level course. Students need a certain number of credits to graduate with a degree.
- **Placement Test** – test that measure the academic skills needed for college-level work. The cover reading, writing, math, and sometimes other subjects. Placement test results help determine what courses student are ready for and whether the you would benefit from remedial classes.
  - The Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) is an example of a placement test used for all incoming college students.
- **Priority Date or Deadline** – the date by which your application – whether it’s for college admission, student housing, financial aid – must be received to be given the strongest consideration.
• **Reach School** - A college or university where a student’s academic profile is below the institution’s admission requirements. Although they do not meet the requirements, their academic profile is not too far outside the average admit range.
  – Example: A student’s Dream School they would love to attend in the fall but do not meet admissions requirements

• **Target School** – A college or university where a student’s academic profile meets 1 or 2 admission requirement, but not all of them. There is a possibility of gaining admission.
  – Example: Applicant may meet the testing requirement, but their GPA is below the admission requirement.
SAFETY SCHOOL = ASSURED ADMISSIONS

• **Safety School** - A college or university where a student met all the admission requirements. Potentially gain automatic acceptance to the institution based off their academic profile.
  – Example: you have met SAT/ACT requirements, GPA, and quartile.

• Having a list of Safety Schools will guarantee
  – Automatic entrance to the college or University (Students will receive an acceptance letter).
  – A safety school will give students the option to select the college or university they would like to attend.
**WHAT IS “ASSURED ADMISSIONS” IN TEXAS?**

Assured admission is based on the required combination of the high school class rank and college entrance test scores as indicated below. The State of Texas guarantees automatic admissions to all state-funded universities in the state.

### Automatic Admission Requirements 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Texas</th>
<th>No Min</th>
<th>Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Dallas</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1350/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Galveston</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1380/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1180/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Houston</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1080/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1030/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Tyler</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1020/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas State University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1000/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamar University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>930/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen F. Austin State University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>930/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelo State University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>900/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>830/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Southern University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>GPA 2.5 and 900/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View A&amp;M University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>800/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-San Antonio</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1170/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Arlington</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1130/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1080/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Woman's University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1080/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwestern State University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1070/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>1050/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M International University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>980/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>940/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas El Paso</td>
<td>No Min</td>
<td>GPA 2.5 and 900/17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students with assured admissions must “file complete” with each college to receive a formal acceptance.*
The Common Application

- **Explore** – Research on 750 colleges and universities from across the world.
  - 13 Texas Public and Private institutions are affiliated with The CommonApp.
- **Apply** - Complete and submit an application to your choice institution.
- **Repeat** - Apply to more institutions using ONE application.
- The Common Application include 2 main components:
  - The Common Application Profile.
  - Supplemental College Application *(requirements varies by college).*

ApplyTexas Application

- **Explore** - Search 2-year and 4-year institutions in Texas.
  - All Public Texas institutions
  - 21 Private Texas institutions
- **Apply** - Complete and submit an application to your choice institution.
- **Repeat** - Apply to more institutions using the same application.
- Apply for scholarships and submit college application essays.*
WHAT ARE TEST OPTIONAL SCHOOLS

• A test-optional admissions policy means some applicants can choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores. The rules vary per college. Some colleges may require applicants to provide supplemental information in place of test.

Benefits

● Admissions flexibility for students who do not test well (i.e., students with strong GPA and low test scores)

● Focus on other portions of the application (i.e., extracurricular activities, experiences, personal statement)
ASSURED ADMISSION VS. HOLISTIC REVIEW

Assured Admission
Guaranteed admission based on class rank and/or test score (i.e., top 10%)

- Students who are “file complete” and are guaranteed admission, will receive an acceptance letter from any Texas public institution.

Holistic Review
Admission based on the review of all application items

- GPA/Rank
  - Academic Rigor
- SAT or ACT score
- Resume
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Leadership experiences
  - Talents Awards
- Essays
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Interview(s) (more selective institutions)
## COLLEGE ADMISSION REVIEW PROCESS

### STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Restrictive Application Plans</th>
<th>Restrictive Application Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Decision</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Decision (ED)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definiton:</strong> Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.</td>
<td><strong>Definiton:</strong> Students make a commitment to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment:</strong> Non-Binding</td>
<td><strong>Commitment:</strong> Binding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Rolling Admission**             | **Restrictive Early Action (REA)** |
| **Definiton:** Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. | **Definiton:** Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm. |
| **Commitment:** Non-Binding       | **Commitment:** Binding        |

| **Early Action (EA)**             |                                     |
| **Definiton:** Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. | Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions. |
| **Commitment:** Non-Binding       |                                     |

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “FILE COMPLETE”

- **Complete Admission File** - An applicant is considered “file complete” once the application and ALL required documents are submitted. Files must be received on or before the institution’s admissions deadline.

- **Required documents** (*if applicable)
  - Essay
  - Application fee/Fee waiver
  - Official high school transcript
  - Official test scores (SAT/ACT/ SAT Subject Test)
  - Permanent Resident Card or I-551*
  - Senate Bill 1528 Affidavit*
  - Letter of Recommendation
## STANDARDIZED TESTING

### SAT

*College Admissions Process*

- No point penalty for wrong answers
- 2 Sections
  - Evidence Based Reading and Writing
  - Math
  - Optional Essay *(Strongly recommended)*
- Score: Min 200, Max 800 - per section
- Length: 3 hours and 50 minutes
- **Send your own scores**
- Costs $54.50
  - Waivers available for students on free/reduced lunch

*Students on free/reduced lunch can send an unlimited amount of score reports.*

### ACT

*College Admissions Process*

- No point penalty for wrong answers
- 4 Sections
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science
  - Writing optional *(Strongly Recommended)*
- Score: Scale of 1-36
- Length: 3 hours and 50 minutes
- **Send your own scores**
- Costs $56.50 w/writing
  - Waivers available if on free/reduced lunch

### TSI

*Placement Test*

The *Texas Success Initiative (TSI)* Assessment is to determine if a student is ready for college-level work in the areas of **reading, writing, and math**. Success in these areas can help the student complete their college degree or certificate program.
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

October
- FAFSA/TASFA/CSS available Oct 1st
  - First Come/First Serve
- Finalize college essays (if applicable)
- Continue submitting college applications
- Follow Up with your Recommenders (if applicable)
- Submit supplemental information to colleges

November/December
- Early Admissions application deadlines begin (Nov 1, 15, 30)
- Finalize your college admissions applications (if applicable)
- Check admissions status and verify that all documents have been submitted
- Submit financial aid application ASAP
COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

DON’T LET THE PRICE TAG SCARE YOU!
KEY COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY TERMS

• **Financial Aid** – refers to money awarded to students to help pay for college.
• **Scholarship** – money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.
  – **Need-based scholarships** are awarded based on a student’s family income. Grades and test scores have no bearing on this.
  – **Academic (Merit) scholarships** are based on a variety of components, such as your performance and involvement in high school.
• **Subsidized Loan** – a loan based on financial need for which the federal government generally pays the interest that accrues while the borrowers is in an in-school, grace, or deferment status.
• **Unsubsidized Loan** – a loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.
• **Verification** – the process your school uses to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA form is accurate. Your school has the authority to contact you for documentation that support income and other information that you reported.
• **Work-study** – a refer student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enroll in school to help pay for educational expenses.

See handout for additional terms.
What makes up the sticker price of a college?
WHAT DOES COLLEGE COST?

**Tuition & Fees:** The amount a student pays for college classes and any extra fees.

**Books & Supplies:** Textbooks needed for each class and any additional supplies or required materials.

**Room & Board:** The cost for living on campus and eating meals on campus.

**Personal & Transportation:** Any additional expenses such as laundry, cell phone service, going out money, and flights home throughout the year.

= Cost of Attendance
COST OF ATTENDANCE

DIRECT COSTS
- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board

INDIRECT COSTS
- Books and Supplies
- Travel Expenses
- Miscellaneous or Personal Expenses

Direct Costs + Indirect Costs = Cost of Attendance

Direct Costs, on average, are the primary items included in the student bill.
# Cost of Attendance Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-State Public College or Public University</th>
<th>Out-of-State Public College or Public University</th>
<th>Private College or Private University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$9,410</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
<td>$32,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Fees</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$8,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,410</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,160</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

How do students apply for financial aid?

Are there multiple types of financial aid applications, or is there one general financial aid application?
TYPE OF FINANCIAL AID

- **SCHOLARSHIPS**
  - Need-based or academic (merit) – based
  - Do not have to pay back *(FREE)*

- **GRANTS**
  - Need-based or academic (merit) – based
  - Do not have to pay back *(FREE)*

- **WORK-STUDY**
  - Students work on campus and get paid

- **LOANS**
  - Must pay back
  - With/without interest
BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

- Applying for financial aid helps students automatically qualify for
  - The Federal Pell Grant (max of $6,095) [not TASFA]
  - Scholarships offered by the university
  - Grants offered by the university

- Even if you don’t think you qualify for financial aid, completing the FAFSA, or TASFA, and or CSS Profile will allow colleges to see what other scholarships & grants a student can qualify for
STEPS TO HAVING A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

1. Gather Information
2. Determine Dependency Status
3. Create FSA ID
4. Apply for Financial Aid
5. Review Student Aid Report
6. Verification Steps & Updates
TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

**FAFSA**
- US Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Refugee or Asylum
- Visa (please check website for eligible Visa requirements)

**TASFA**
- TX Resident (3+ years)
- HS Grad/GED
- Temporary Residents (DACA/Work Permit)
- Undocumented Students

**CSS PROFILE**
- Non-federal financial aid over 400 colleges/universities.
- All students can complete the application
- Not required by all institutions*
- $25 Initial application fee, $16 for Additional Reports*
  *For eligible students, the CSS Profile waiver will cover ALL applications and reporting fees.
- Collegeboard Account Required

*Not required by all institutions.
DEPENDENCY STATUS

You are a **dependent** if:

- You live with your biological parent(s)/legal guardian
- Parent(s)/Legal guardian pays over 50% of your expenses

You are an **independent** if:

- Student has a child and pays over 50% of child’s expenses
- 24 years or older
- Married
- Unaccompanied Homeless youth, orphan, foster care, ward of state
- Military
WHO’S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA®?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For reporting purposes, “PARENT” means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent’s information to include (depending on your family situation).

The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

- Midwives
- Stepparents
- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Older Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles

If you’re not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/FAFSA/filling-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

If you’re not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/FAFSA/filling-out/dependency

Report information on the FAFSA for the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months or in the last year you received support.

Has this parent remarried?

No

Yes

Do you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?

No

Yes

Did you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?

No

Yes

Are your parents married to each other?

No

Yes

Report information for both parents on the FAFSA.

Report information for both parents on the FAFSA, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated.

Report information on the FAFSA for the parent you lived with more.

Has this parent remarried?

No

Yes

You do not need to report additional parent information.

Also report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA.
• Talk to counselor if you live with anyone else besides **biological parents**
  
  Including: aunts, uncles, siblings, grandparents etc.

  **Can I use them on my taxes?**

  No. Unless there is a court order for legal guardianship, you are considered an **INDEPENDENT STUDENT**
**TAX INFORMATION**

**W2 Form**  
Your parents (and you if you work) receive this from their place of employment starting Jan 1st

**1040 Tax Return**  
After filing taxes, your parents (and you if you worked) will receive this.
FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA = **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid

- Application opens **October 1st**
- Parent(s)/Student’s social security number
- Permanent resident card (If applicable)
- Parent(s)/Student’s date of birth
- 2017 Parent(s)/Student’s tax information*
- Selective Service is **MANDATORY** for male students completing the FAFSA
CREATE FSA ID

The FSA ID is a username and password that must be used to log in to your FAFSA account.
**Student requirements**

- Paper Application - [collegeforalltexans.com](http://collegeforalltexans.com)
- Application available **October 1**
- Student’s date of birth
- Student’s 2017 Tax Information *(if applicable)*
- IRS Non-Filer Letter *(if applicable)*
- SB 1528 Affidavit
- Student university ID # for each college
- Selective Service Registration Card *(male students)*

A copy of application and supplemental documents should be sent to **EACH** college applied to.

**Parent Requirements**

- Parent date of birth
- Marriage Date *(if applicable)*
- 2017 Income Tax Return & Tax Transcript
- IRS Non-Filer Letter *(if applicable)*

Parent information is **required** unless student is classified as independent.
CSS PROFILE

Non-federal financial aid over 400 colleges/universities.

All students can complete the application
Not required by all institutions*

$25 Initial application fee, $16 for Additional Reports*

*For eligible students, the CSS Profile waiver will cover ALL applications and reporting fees.

Collegeboard Account Required
CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Name one requirement students need to complete the FAFSA, TASFA, and or the CSS Profile?
SUBMITTED, NOW WHAT?

- Verify that financial aid application has been processed successfully
- Review Student Aid Report (SAR) for EFC or mistakes
- Follow-up with each college to verify that all required documents have been submitted
- Apply for independent scholarships
- Wait for financial aid award letter
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID TERMINOLOGY AND PROCESSES
WHAT IS VERIFICATION?

**Verification** is the process financial aid offices at colleges and universities use to verify that a student's FAFSA information is accurate. 

50% - 70% of students are Verified* within HISD.

If you are **selected** for verification, then you will see an asterisk (*) next to your EFC.

Follow these steps if selected for verification*...

- Get a tax transcript asap at the IRS Tax Office or IRS.gov
- Keep your financial information together and respond to any verification requests from colleges/universities in a timely manner
- Update FAFSA, using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to decrease the chances of being selected for verification!

**NO FOLLOW UP = NO FINANCIAL AID**
Expected Family Contribution will be given to students upon submitting their FAFSA.
ORDERING TAX TRANSCRIPT

- Tax transcripts may be required for some schools
- College will email you to let you know if you need to send a tax transcript
- Request one ASAP

IRS Tax Transcript
The IRS will MAIL this to your home. If the college needs it, bring it to the CCC and we will mail it.
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DREAMERS/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- Undocumented students cannot legally receive federal student financial aid of any form, including loans, grants and scholarships. However, scholarships are available to help undocumented students pursue their dreams of going to college.

- It may take some research but there are scholarships ranging from academic to need based scholarships.

- Make sure to reach out to your College Counselor and College & Career Readiness Advisor so they can provide resources and steps to college access and affordability!
HELPFUL RESOURCES

- HISD FAFSA Website
  - http://hisd-fafsa.org
- HISD College Readiness - Naviance
  - https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/108553
- College for All Texans
  - www.collegeforallteans.com
- Federal Student Aid
  - www.studentaid.ed.gov
- College Board
  - www.collegeboard.org
- ApplyTX Application
  - www.applytexas.org
- The CommonApp
  - www.commonapp.org
A GLOBAL DISTRICT
IN A GLOBAL CITY

THANK YOU

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT