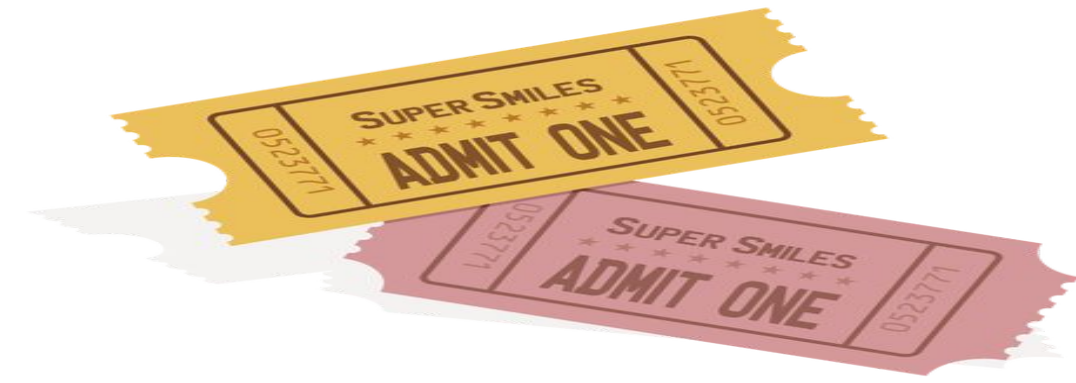


COLLEGE PLANNING AND PREPARATION

PRESENTED BY: THE HHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT



UPCOMING EVENTS



Tuesday, March 15, 2022: Everything you need to know about Financial Aid and Scholarships by College Aid Pro- Virtual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 30, 2022: College Admissions Panel- Virtual Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 6, 2022: Pre-ACT (Sophomores only)- during school day

Wednesday April 13, 2022: School Day SAT (Juniors only)



Google Classroom

Classroom helps classes communicate, save time, and stay organized.
[Learn more](#)

A guidance google classroom page is provided to each grade when they begin high school. The classroom page provides students with the following:

- Scholarship opportunities
- Summer Enrichment Opportunities
- College Experience Opportunities
- Career/Job Opportunities
- Important Announcements

HHS COUNSELING 2021-2022

Social Emotional Learning

- Anxiety and Stress management
- Depression and Suicide Depression
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Self-Awareness and Self-Management
- Responsible Decision Making

College Preparation

- PreACT and PSAT/NMSQT Opportunities
- SAT School Day
- College search and research
- Course planning and selection
- YouScience Career Profiler
- Counselor college/career recommendations review and research
- Standardized testing registration instruction
- Teacher recommendation process review

Senior Workshops

- Applying to College
 - Common Application and other apps
 - Teacher recommendations
 - Transcripts
 - Test scores
 - College essay
 - Review of college list and future plans
- Scholarship review



WHAT DO COLLEGES REVIEW DURING ADMISSIONS?

- GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) and RANK/RANK PERCENTILE
- COURSE CURRICULUM
- STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- COLLEGE ESSAY
- EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- COLLEGE INTERVIEW (if applicable)
- DEMONSTRATED INTEREST (if applicable)

**Not listed in order of importance*



IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Admissions will understand if grades are incomplete or significantly different than previous years
- Standardized tests may be less important than previous years
- Essays may count more than ever before
- Letters of recommendation may come from a teacher with whom students only know from hybrid or remote learning
- The nation's top schools saw a record number of early applications for fewer spots
- The rest of the country's colleges are facing a decrease in enrollment



HELPFUL WEBSITES

College Board: www.collegeboard.org

ACT: www.act.org

FairTest: www.fairtest.org

NACAC: www.nacacnet.org

Federal Student Aid: www.studentaid.gov

ADMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS



English	4 courses
Mathematics	4 courses (Algebra I and II and Geometry or Trigonometry or comparable math course work) including mathematics during the final year of high school
Science	3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/Engineering) including 3 courses with laboratory work.
Social Studies	2 courses (including 1 course in US History
Foreign Language	2 courses (in a single language)
Electives	2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences
Required minimum weighted high school G.P.A	State University: 3.0 University of Massachusetts: 3.0



COURSE CURRICULUM PLANNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Students discuss course planning and selection each year with their guidance counselors so they are both challenged and successful.

Students are encouraged to enroll in courses that challenge them as well as pertain to their future goals, if possible.

If a student is thinking about attending college, they should consider the following **minimum** core course curriculum:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math
- 3 years of Science
- 3 years of History
- 2 years of World Language

When does course selection begin?

February–March 2022 for all grades

- Courses are recommended by current classroom teachers
- All course registrations are reviewed by the students guidance counselor

COLLEGE RESEARCH AND CAREER PLANNING

Scoir: A college admissions network that connects students, families, high schools, and colleges for a better admissions experience.

<https://vimeo.com/488492186>

<https://www.scoir.com/students-families?hsLang=en-us>

YouScience via Scoir: YouScience is the science of YOU – how your mind is wired, what makes you tick, the skills and knowledge that set you apart. You have talent and there's a path that's right for you

<https://vimeo.com/647002647>

The College Process

- College Search and College Match
- Virtual College Tours, college profiles, scattergrams and admissions data
- Setting college preferences, creating resumes and creating an electronic portfolio
- View personal information including G.P.A, SAT/PSAT scores, etc.

From Class

2016 ▾

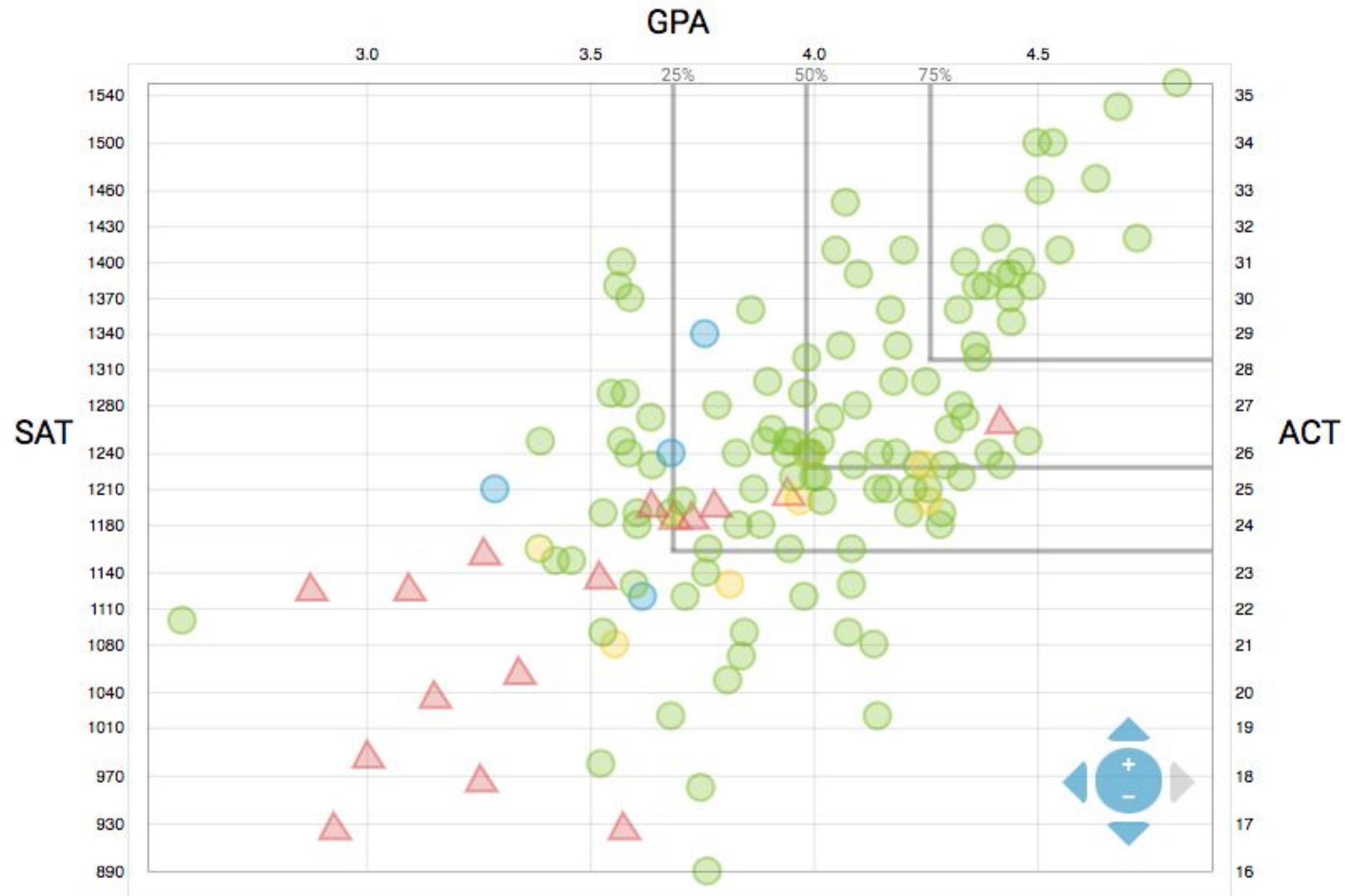
To

2021 ▾

Early Action ▾

Outcomes

● Accepted ▲ Not accepted ● Waitlisted ● Deferred



THE PSAT/NMSQT

- All juniors were required to participate in the PSAT/NMSQT
- The test took place in October of 2021
- Scores are sent to students electronically from the College Board in early December (October exam)

How do I read PSAT Scores?

- The Benchmarks are the scores that represent college readiness.
- If a student scores at or above the benchmark, they are on track to be “ready” for college when they graduate high school

What is the average score?

- It is important to look at the benchmarks to determine the “average” score



SAMPLE SCORE REPORT

960 | 320 to 1520

You are in the **51st** percentile



You scored equal to or higher than 51% of students

Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score

430 | 160 to 760

You are in the **31st** percentile



Your score shows that you're almost on track to be ready for college, but you need to keep building your skills.

Your Math Score

530 | 160 to 760

You are in the **69th** percentile



Your score shows that you're on track to be ready for college.

Your Test Scores*

Reading
23 | 8 to 38

Writing and Language
20 | 8 to 38

Math
26.5 | 8 to 38

* Additional detailed scores, like test scores, provide students with a deeper understanding of their performance. Test scores are also used to calculate your NMSC Selection Index.

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Hi, Ima

Your Full Score Report

960 | 320 to 1520

Question-Level Detail

See Subscores

Strengths and Weaknesses

Personalized Practice

psat.org/myscore

Go online for your full report

Ima,
this was your score when you took the test; it is not a measure of how far you can **grow!**



Students with scores like yours increased their performance from the PSAT/NMSQT® to the SAT® by 130 points after 10 or more hours of personalized practice on Khan Academy®.

COLLEGE BOARD AND KHAN ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP

- 20 hours of practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average 115-point score increase
- In 2017, Khan Academy and the College Board, the maker of the SAT, analyzed gains between the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT and found a positive relationship between use of Official SAT Practice and score improvements on the SAT.
- Students can link their PSAT scores to Khan Academy through their College Board account to receive personalized review based on their performance on the PSAT



STANDARDIZED TESTING: THE SAT

- Composed of three main sections- Math, Evidence-Based Reading, and Writing
- Scored out of 1600 points
- Students may register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org

When should students take the SAT?

- Students are recommended to take the SAT in March, April or May of their junior year
- Tests are offered in March, May, June, August, October, November and December offsite
- Students can take the SAT at Hanover High School on Wednesday, April 13, 2022

QUESTIONS

1- ☒ A B C D

2- A B C ☒ D

3- ☒ A B C D

4- ☒ A B C D

5- A B ☒ C D

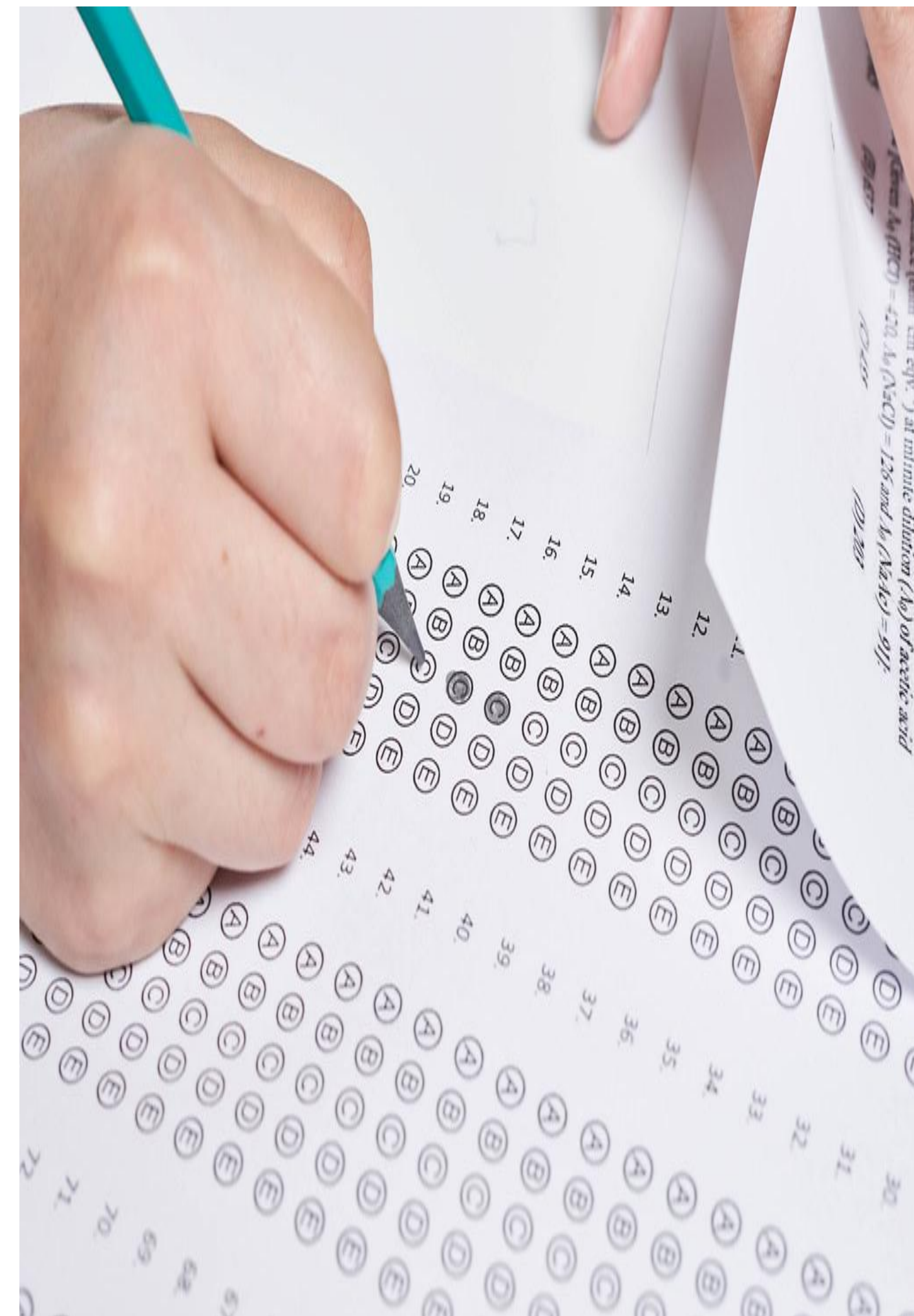
6- ☒ A B C D

THE PRE-ACT

The PreACT® offers 10th graders an early experience with ACT test items, provides a predicted ACT test score, and offers a wealth of information to help students get the start they need to be college ready.

Anchored on the ACT college and career readiness standards, PreACT assessments help educators, students, and parents, identify areas of academic strength and opportunity.

Students may opt to have their information shared with colleges and scholarship agencies when they take the PreACT, providing greater opportunities for recruitment and scholarship awards.



STANDARDIZED TESTING: THE ACT

- Contains multiple-choice tests in four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science
- Scored out of 36 points
- The writing test is optional and will not affect your composite score
- Takes 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete (including breaks)
- If you sign up for the optional essay, the test clocks just over 4 hours with breaks
- Students may register for the ACT at www.act.org

When should students take the ACT?

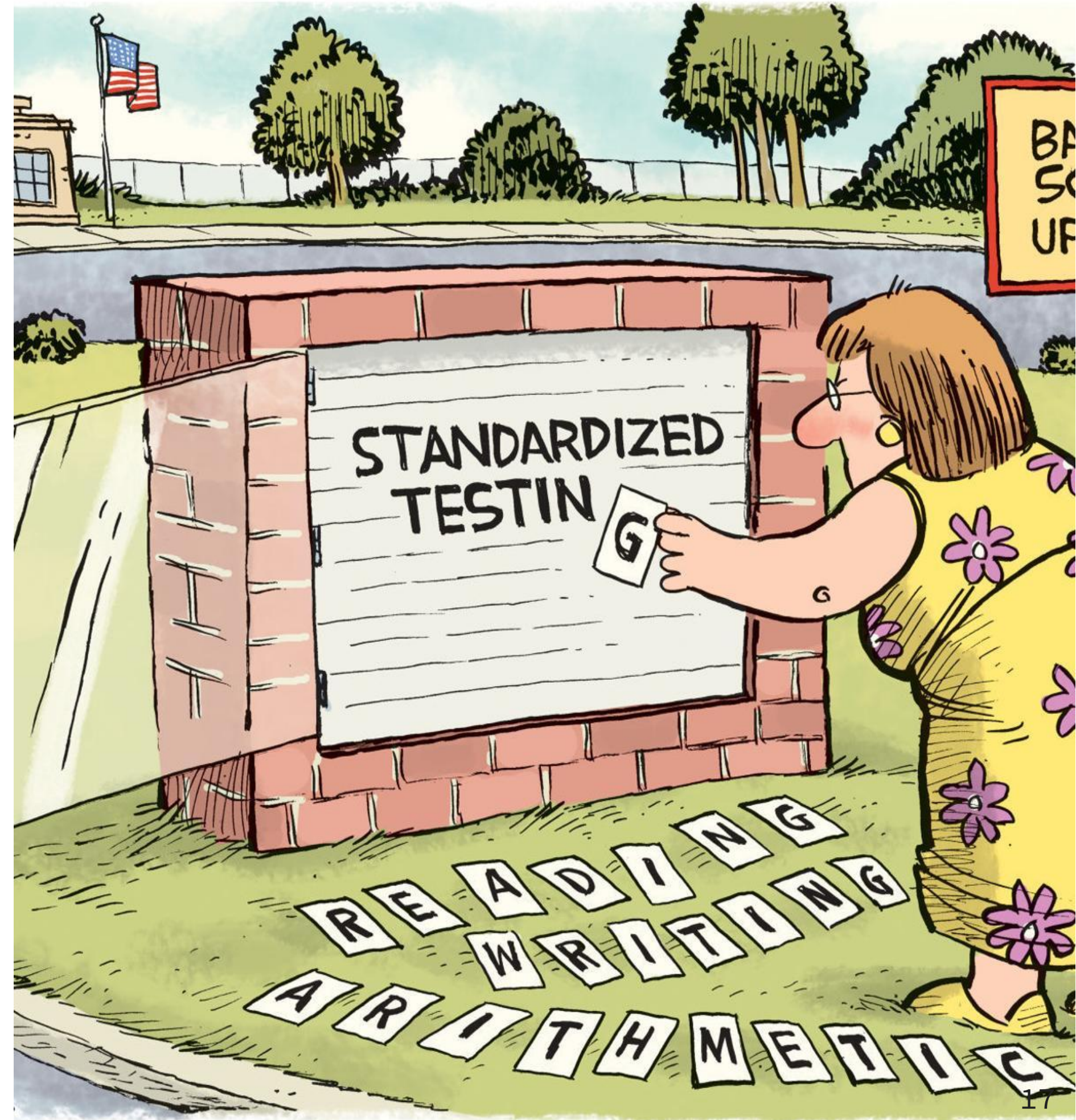
- It is recommended that students take the ACT at the end of their junior year
- Tests are offered in February, April, May, June, July, October and December.

SAT OR ACT?

Colleges accept both the SAT and the ACT as part of their admissions criteria.

Students can take both tests and send either their SAT or ACT score.

*College Board is no longer offering SAT Subject tests or the SAT w/essay



TESTING OPTIONAL



Many colleges and universities have made standardized testing optional for students.

How do I know who is testing optional?

- Students can go directly to the college website to learn about admissions criteria
- Go to www.fairtest.org to view a list of colleges with optional testing

Will I be at a disadvantage if I choose not to send my standardized testing scores?

- No. If a college is testing optional, they do not penalize students who do not send scores; nor do they provide an advantage to those who choose to have their test scores as part of their application.

Why are Colleges Becoming Test Optional?

"Standardized tests only reveal verbal and mathematical aptitude within a very controlled environment. . . ."

"We often see no correlation between SAT scores alone and academic success, so we wanted to establish a new policy that looks beyond verbal and math skills."

"Classroom achievement as reflected in GPA (grade point average) and class rank, not standardized tests, provides the best predictor of academic success."

(reference: <https://www.fairtest.org/test-optional-admissions-movement>)



TYPES OF ADMISSIONS

Regular Admission

Rolling Admission

Open Admission

Early Decision

Early Action

Restrictive Early Action

Deferred Admission

How do I know which type of admission plan is best for me if a college offers early action, restrictive early action or early decision?

Every student's academic and personal profile is different. It is recommended that students and counselors discuss the type of admissions that best fits their profile.

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION: HOW TO APPLY

The Common Application

- One application that can be used to apply to over 900 colleges
- Available on August 1st for the upcoming school year
- Go to www.commonapp.org to see which colleges accept the application

School-Based Application

- Applications can be found at the college website

Coalition Application

- A diverse group of more than 150 distinguished colleges and universities
- Has a set of free online college planning tools that helps students learn about, prepare for, and apply to college

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ask two teachers, in person, for a letter of recommendation by the end of their junior year
- Teachers should be from two different subject areas or focus on the major the student wishes to pursue in college
- Provide them with a completed senior information sheet. This is provided to students during their junior workshop. It is also located on google classroom



THE COLLEGE ESSAY

What are the essay topics?

- Members of the common application allow students to choose from multiple essay prompts
- Colleges who do not use the common application may have essays specific to their school.

What are some tips for the college essay?

- Be creative and unique
- Get personal
- Ask teachers for assistance with writing style, grammar and content
- Ask guidance counselors for advice on topics and how to write a successful essay





VISITING A COLLEGE CAMPUS

Due to COVID-19, many colleges are offering virtual tours in lieu of in person

How do I know if I can attend a college tour in person?

Contact the admissions office and/or go to the website to see if they register for an in person visit

What are other ways to learn about a college experience?

- Reach out to alumni and people you know through social media (linked in, facebook groups etc)
- Begin an email dialogue with an Admissions Officer

Websites offering Virtual Tours

Campus 360: <https://campus360.org/en/>

Go See Campus: <https://goseecampus.com/>

You Visit:

<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>

Campus Tours: <https://campustours.com/>

ECampusTours: <https://www.ecampustours.com/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE

Students can begin researching national scholarships as soon as they begin high school

Sample National Scholarship Websites

www.unigo.com

www.fastweb.com

www.scholly.com



What about financial aid?

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available October 1st.
- Completed during the students senior year, and then every year they attend college in order to receive financial aid
- Parents and students can complete the FAFSA 4caster prior to the FAFSA. This is a “practice FAFSA”. <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

College Scorecard

An online site from the US Department of Education that provides great information regarding college cost, debt and success of graduates. Check them out at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

FINANCIAL OPTIONS: TUITION BREAK FOR NEW ENGLAND RESIDENTS



- NEBHE's Tuition Break Program, the New England Regional Student Program (RSP), enables thousands of New England residents to enroll at out-of-state New England public colleges and universities at a discount
- Students are eligible for the RSP Tuition Break when they enroll in an approved major that is not offered by the public colleges and universities in their home states
- New England includes the following six states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont

<https://nebhe.org/tuitionbreak/>

OTHER HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

- **Community Colleges and Mass Transfer**
- **Gap Year Programs**
- **Trade Schools**
- **Career Options with MassHire:**
<https://www.mass.gov/topics/masshire>
- **Military Options**



QUESTIONS

