



EAGLE MOUNTAIN-SAGINAW
Independent School District

*Junior - Senior Information Booklet
Class of 2011*



DESTINATION GRADUATION AND BEYOND

YOUR TIME IS NOW!



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Graduation Plans

Recommended Program:

DEPARTMENT	# OF CREDITS	CLASSES
ENGLISH	4.0	English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4
MATH	4.0	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, + 1 Other State Approved Math Course (If Math Models, must be taken before Algebra 2)
SCIENCE	4.0	Biology, Chemistry, Physics + 1 Other State Approved Science Course (If IPC, must be taken before Chemistry and Physics)
SOCIAL STUDIES	4.0	W. Geography, W. History, U.S. History, Government, Economics
* HEALTH	0.5	Health or 1 credit of Health Science
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.0	P.E. , Athletics, Drill Team, Cheerleading, Band
* CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES OR TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS COURSE	1.0	Any two .5 credit courses or any 1 credit course listed under Career and Technical Education (pages 48-68) or any 1 Credit Technology Applications Course (page 83) in the Course Guide.
SPEECH	0.5	Communication Applications or Professional Communications
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	2.0	2 Levels of the Same Language
FINE ARTS	1.0	Art, Dance, Music, Theatre
ELECTIVES	4.0	
	26 Total	

Distinguished Achievement Program:

Recommended Program with Specific Acceptable Math and Science Courses

3 Levels of the Same Language

4 Advanced Measures

(see your counselor for more information)

ADVANCED MEASURES	# ALLOWED	APPROVAL
Score of 3 or above on an AP exam (AP exams taken during the senior year will be verified after graduation.)	1-4	None
Original research/project of professional quality as judged by a panel of experts	1-2	Prior
Score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of the College Board; or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation	1	None
College academic courses, advanced technical credit courses, and dual credit courses, including local articulation, with a grade of A or B	1-4	Prior

* Denotes EM-S ISD Graduation Requirement

Texas Scholars Program



The Texas Scholars – High School and Beyond initiative focuses students on education and career planning during middle and high school and prepares them for the transition to life after high school.

Beginning with the 9th grade class of 2007-08, to receive recognition as a Texas Scholar, students will be required to:

- ◆ Graduate from high school having completed the Recommended High School Program, and
- ◆ Complete at least two courses while in high school eligible for college credit.

Students who graduate as Texas Scholars receive a medallion and are recognized at graduation.

Early College High School



Early College High School is a national and state initiative that provides students with the opportunity to gain college credit while still in high school. Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD offers the following programs as a means of gaining college credit:

Advanced Placement Program

Courses offered through the College Board's Advancement Program enable Texas students to pursue college level coursework while still in high school. Based on AP Exam performance, students can gain college admission, earn scholarship awards, earn credit toward a college degree, skip introductory college classes, enter higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general college educational requirements, depending on the college or university. Boswell High School and Saginaw High School offer a variety of Advanced Placement Courses.

Dual Credit Courses

A student may enroll in academic and/or technical courses for college credit before they graduate from high school. Students receive both high school and college credit upon successful completion of these courses. Grades earned will be used in calculating grade point averages and class rank. To qualify, a student must:

- ◆ obtain permission from the high school.
- ◆ enroll at the college/university offering the course(s).
- ◆ meet the entrance requirements of the college/ university including the required placement exams

Dual Credit Opportunities with Tarrant County College Offered on High School Campuses include English III, English IV, United States History, United States Government, Principles of Economics, Advanced Aircraft Technology and Business Information Management II.

Students may also take dual credit courses on the college campus or through State U. Prior approval is required. Contact the Counseling Department for more information.

Concurrent Enrollment

A student may enroll in a college-level course for college credit only and attend classes during the summer or at night. Students must have written permission from their high school on an Early High School Enrollment Form.

Information and Resources for College-Bound Student-Athletes and Parents

Students who wish to participate in athletics in college must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.

What Do I Need To Do?

Grade 11

- Register with the eligibility center. http://eligibilitycenter.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html
- Make sure you are still on course to meet Division I core-course requirements (verify you have the correct number of core courses.)
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of natural/physical science (one must be a lab science)
 - 1 year of additional English, math or science
 - 2 years of social studies
 - 4 years of additional core courses (from any area listed above or from foreign language)
- After your junior year, send a copy of your transcript. If you have attended any other high schools, make sure a transcript is sent to the eligibility center from each high school. Transcripts are available from the registrar.
- When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").
- Begin your amateurism questionnaire.

Grade 12

- When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").
- Complete amateurism questionnaire and sign the final authorization signature online on or after April 1 if you are expecting to enroll in college in the fall semester. (If you are expecting to enroll for spring semester, sign the final authorization signature on or after October 1 of the year prior to enrollment.)
- Send a final transcript with proof of graduation to the eligibility center.

Hot Topics:

- Test score rule: Test scores must be reported to the eligibility center directly from ACT or SAT.
- High school core-course list: Is yours up to date? Verify the classes you are taking and/or scheduled to take appear on your high school's approved core-course list.
- Amateurism questionnaire and final authorization signature: Remember to log back in to your account and finalize your amateurism questionnaire before you enroll in college. If you are beginning school in the fall semester (August), you will need to complete the amateurism questionnaire and sign the final authorization signature on or after April 1 prior to enrollment. If you are beginning school in the spring semester (January), you will need to complete the amateurism questionnaire and sign the final authorization signature on or after October 1 of the year prior to enrollment.

Course Credit Options

Credit by Exam for Acceleration

Prior approval to take a credit by exam must be obtained through the counseling office. A student may earn credit for certain courses in which they have had *no prior instruction* by scoring a grade of 90 or above on an examination for acceleration and meeting other eligibility requirements. Testing fees may apply. See your counselor for further information on requirements and procedures.

Credit by Exam for Credit Recovery

Prior approval to take a credit by exam must be obtained through the counseling office. For courses where credit was denied because of grades or excessive absences, a student may earn credit toward graduation by scoring a grade of 70 or above on the exam. A fee is charged for the testing. See your counselor for further information on requirements and procedures.

Correspondence Courses

Prior approval to enroll in a correspondence course must be obtained through an application available in the counseling center. A student may be enrolled in only one correspondence course at a time unless special circumstances warrant with principal approval. See your counselor for further information and special requirements for students wishing to graduate using correspondence course work.

Texas Virtual School Network

Quality online courses will be available to students through the Texas Virtual School Network. Courses are led by an online instructor with Texas certification in the course subject area and grade level. Instructors have a combination of subject area knowledge and training in the unique methods for delivering online instruction. Visit <http://www.txvsn.org/> for more information and a course catalog. See your counselor for more information and to sign up for courses. Prior approval is required.

Capture

Capture is available to students who have previously failed a course or have been denied credit due to absences and is offered outside of the school day. These self-paced computer courses are independent study and are not teacher directed. See your counselor for more information.

Program

These self-paced computer courses are offered during the school day through an application process and are for students with credit deficiencies. See your counselor for more information.

College Entrance Exams

Why Should Students Take These Tests?

Most colleges require applicants to take one or more standardized tests prior to admission. Test scores are part of the student's application and are one factor colleges use to predict success.

When Should Students Take These Tests?

Most students take standardized tests late in the spring of their junior year or early in the fall of their senior year in high school.

How Do I Know Which Tests to Take?

ACT: The ACT assessment is a general standardized college admissions test. The highest total score on the ACT is 36. The student's score on the ACT is a good predictor of his or her freshman year grade point average. The score does not measure a student's intelligence, nor does it predict whether the student will graduate from college. Students who are not strong in math may want to consider taking this test. Your counselor can help you decide which test is best for you. Students should plan to take this test in the spring of their junior year. Refer to the next few pages and www.act.org for more information about the ACT test.

SAT I: Reasoning Test: The SAT measures mathematical problem-solving, critical reading, and writing skills. Each section is reported on a scale of 200 – 800 points. Students should take this test no sooner than the spring of their junior year. The SAT does not measure intelligence, nor does it measure skills like motivation or creativity. Refer to the next few pages and www.collegeboard.com for more information about the SAT test.

SAT II: Subject Tests: Subject tests are one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests, that measure how much students know about a particular subject and how well they can apply that knowledge. There are 22 different tests in five general areas, English, history, science, mathematics, and foreign languages. Students should check with an admissions officer of their chosen college or university to determine if the SAT II is required.

THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment): The THEA Test is designed to provide information about the reading, mathematics, and writing skills of students entering public colleges, universities, and educator preparation programs in public and private institutions. Students may be exempted from this test based on ACT, SAT, or TAKS scores. Check with your college or university to see if you are exempt or if they offer the Accuplacer or other placement test. If not, plan to take the test in the spring of your senior year.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): Students whose first language is not English may take this test. Admissions officers look carefully at TOEFL scores for these students, understanding that students whose first language is not English may have difficulty with verbal sections of the SAT or ACT.

ACT vs. SAT

How do the Tests Compare?

Both the ACT and the SAT are nationally administered standardized tests that help colleges evaluate candidates. Most colleges and universities accept either test. So as you begin to think about college and creating the best application package possible, your admissions plan should begin with the question, "Which test should I take?" When weighing your options, keep in mind that there are differences in test structure and the type of content assessed. Use the chart below to see which test makes the most of your strengths to help you determine which test might be best for you.

	ACT	SAT
Test Length	3 hours, 25 minutes <i>(including the 30-minute optional Writing Test)</i>	3 hours, 45 minutes
Test Structure	4 Test Sections <i>(5 with the optional Writing Test):</i> English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (Optional), Experimental Test <i>(sometimes added and clearly labeled)</i>	10 Sections: 3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing <i>(including the Essay)</i> , 1 Experimental <i>(unscored but included as a regular section)</i>
» Reading	Reading Comprehension—4 passages with 10 questions per passage	Reading Comprehension—short and long passages with questions Sentence Completion
» Math	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, algebra II, and trigonometry	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and algebra II
» Science	Analysis, interpretation, evaluation, basic content, and problem solving	Science not included
» Essay	Last thing you do (optional): 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included in composite score • Topic of importance to high school students 	First thing you do: 25 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factored into overall score • More abstract topic (vs. ACT)
Scoring	Composite score of 1–36, based on average of scores from 4 tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 scores of 1–36 for each test • Plus optional Writing Test Score of 0–12 	Total score out of 600–2400, based on adding scores from 3 subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 scores of 200–800 for each subject • Score of 0–12 for the Essay
Wrong Answer Penalty	No penalty for wrong answers.	¼ point subtracted for each wrong answer. <i>(except for Math Grid-In questions)</i>

SAT-ACT Score Comparison

Although there is no official conversion chart between the SAT and the ACT, the following gives you a sample conversion chart used by many colleges and universities.

SAT (Prior to Writing Test Addition)	SAT (With Writing Test Addition)	ACT Composite Score
1600	2400	36
1560–1590	2340–2390	35
1520–1550	2280–2330	34
1480–1510	2220–2270	33
1440–1470	2160–2210	32
1400–1430	2100–2150	31
1360–1390	2040–2090	30
1320–1350	1980–2030	29
1280–1310	1920–1970	28
1240–1270	1860–1910	27
1200–1230	1800–1850	26
1160–1190	1740–1790	25
1120–1150	1680–1730	24
1080–1110	1620–1670	23
1040–1070	1560–1610	22
1000–1030	1500–1550	21
960–990	1440–1490	20
920–950	1380–1430	19
880–910	1320–1370	18
840–870	1260–1310	17
800–830	1200–1250	16
760–790	1140–1190	15
720–750	1080–1130	14
680–710	1020–1070	13
640–670	960–1010	12
600–630	900–950	11

School Codes:
BHS 446084
SHS 446087



Assessment Test Dates

www.act.org

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee plus late fee)
April 10, 2010	March 5	March 6-19
June 12, 2010	May 7	May 8-21

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FALL TESTING DATES



Assessment Test Dates

www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee plus late fee)
May 1, 2010	March 25	April 8
June 5, 2010	April 29	May 13

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FALL TESTING DATES



www.thea.nesinc.com

You do not have to take the THEA if you:

have an ACT composite score of 23, with a minimum of 19 on both the English and math tests;

or

SAT combined verbal and math score of 1070, with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and math tests;

or

scored 2200 in math and/or 2200 in English Language Arts with a writing subscore of at least 3.

*** *Standards may differ at individual colleges.*

Choosing a College-Junior Timeline

February-March

- Create a personal file with items such as...

Transcript, list of awards and honors (dates included)

School and community clubs and organizations you have joined, including dates, responsibilities and activities

List of all jobs for the year and/or summer

List of community service/volunteer work, including dates and hours spent

Update your file at the end of each semester.

- Plan college campus visits for spring.
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you are a candidate for college athletics. (see page 5)
- Evaluate transcript.
- Select senior classes with the help of your counselor. You are responsible for selecting courses needed for graduation and/or college entrance.
- Begin college search using college guides and college websites.
- Investigate activities, community service, volunteer work and/or employment for summer.

April

- Take the ACT if registered.
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you and visit their website or write to them for information.
- Begin searching for scholarships.

Choosing a College - Junior Timeline (continued)

May

- Take the SAT if registered.
- Identify teachers, coaches, sponsors and others you can ask for letters of recommendation.
- Visit colleges while still in session or make plans for summer visits. Be sure to call ahead for an appointment.
- Prepare to take the Accuplacer at TCC for dual credit classes next year.

June

- Take the SAT or ACT if registered.
- Begin to organize all of the college materials you will be receiving in the mail.
- Visit college campuses.

July

- Update your personal file.
- Prepare a profile of the colleges that most interest you. Email them and ask your specific questions.

Choosing a College - Senior Timeline

August

- Verify scheduled courses and credits reflect graduation and college entrance requirements.
- Register to retake ACT/SAT if necessary.
- Plan ahead for any fall college trips.
- Make plans to attend a college fair or college open house.

September

- Contact colleges of your choice for admissions information and applications. Up-to-date information and online applications can be found on the college website. Most applications are due between September and January.
- Create a separate file for each college. Get organized! Create a personal calendar of events and deadlines.
- Fill out the Apply Texas Application online at www.applytexas.org.
- Listen for announcements regarding visits from college representatives.
- Begin the first drafts of your college application essays where applicable.
- Prepare a resume that includes work history, clubs and organizations, volunteer work and goals to share with those you are asking for recommendations. Letter of Recommendation Packets are available in the counseling office.
- Check your school's website and in the counseling office for scholarships.

October/November

- Visit colleges.
- Read all materials from schools and scholarships carefully. Pay attention to deadlines; mark them down on your personal calendar.
- Early admission deadlines are usually around November 15th. You have a better chance for acceptance if you apply by the early admission deadline.
- Register to retake ACT/SAT if necessary.
- Continue checking websites for available scholarships.

Choosing a College - Senior Timeline (continued)

December

- Complete as many applications as possible before Winter Break. Many schools have a January 15th admissions deadline.
- Check websites for available scholarships.

January/February

- Attend FAFSA workshop for financial aid.
- Complete federal financial aid forms and submit online or mail them early. Financial aid is given out on a first come, first serve basis. We recommend completing the forms by March 1st. You can apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Finish any other college applications.
- Plan ahead for any spring college visits.
- Request a copy of your mid-year transcript from the registrar.
- Register for Advanced Placement tests if applicable.
- Check websites for available scholarships.
- Apply for local scholarships.

March/April

- Continue to check your status at colleges to which you have applied.
- Register for the THEA test if necessary.
- Review your acceptance and financial aid offers carefully.
- If possible, visit colleges before making your final choice.
- Wait to hear from all colleges before you make your decision.
- Notify the college of your choice, national reply deadline is May 1.
- Submit local scholarship applications by their deadline.

May

- Notify schools you have decided not to attend.
- Provide documentation to your high school registrar of all scholarships you have been offered for recognition at Senior Awards Assembly.

Important Information for Seniors

Regarding Attendance:

State and federal guidelines require that a student must be in attendance 90% of the time in a class in order to receive credit. Students will be notified when credit has been denied due to attendance.

Regarding Schedule Changes:

The deadline for schedule changes is June 15th. Only Pre-AP and AP Level changes will be addressed through a committee process. Students must attend tutorials and parents must conference with the teacher before requesting to exit a Pre-AP or AP class. There is no guarantee that a student will be allowed to exit the class.

“Not needing a class for graduation” is never an acceptable reason for a schedule change. Most seniors only “need” English IV, government, economics and a fourth math and science to meet graduation requirements.

Regarding Recommendation and Transcript Requests:

When given the option, students should ask those people who know them best to write letters of recommendation. That person may be a teacher, coach, sponsor, counselor or someone in the community.

Students who are requesting a counselor recommendation need to turn in a Letter of Recommendation Packet to their counselor and request an official transcript with instructions for the registrar to give the transcript to his/her counselor. Counselors need at least two weeks to complete and mail recommendations.

Official transcripts must be requested from the registrar. The registrar must be given a minimum of three days to prepare and mail transcripts. Requests should be made well in advance of deadlines and the request form filled out completely.

The Importance of Your Senior Year

Interesting Facts:

- ⇒ “Taking it easy” your senior year may seem like a nice break but is likely to do more harm than good. According to recent reports, incomplete high school preparation can contribute to academic problems in college.
- ⇒ As many as half of all college students do not have adequate academic preparation and are required to take remedial courses which the student must pay for, but will receive no credit.
- ⇒ More than one quarter of the freshmen at 4-year colleges and nearly half of those at 2-year colleges do not even make it to their sophomore year.
- ⇒ Not only does taking the easy way out your senior year jeopardize your chances for success later in college, it may also affect your grades -- and college admission officers pay close attention to your performance during your senior year.
- ⇒ The senior year -- the entire senior year -- is actually of particular interest to colleges.
- ⇒ Many college applications require you to list your senior courses, including information about course levels and credit hours. It will be very obvious to the admission officers if you've decided to "take the year off."
- ⇒ Many college acceptance letters include warnings to students such as "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." This means colleges reserve the right to deny you admission should your senior year grades drop.
- ⇒ Changing or dropping some of the more rigorous courses listed on the original application can result in a college withdrawing their offer for admission.

Helping You Choose a College

Narrow Choices Using the Internet

These websites provide information on:

- * College Searches
- * Preparing and Applying for College
- * Test Preparation
- * Essay Help
- * Rankings and Guides for the Best Colleges
- * Financial Aid Information
- * Links to Campus Home Pages
- * Virtual College Fairs

Our Favorites:

www.collegeview.com

www.collegefortexans.com

www.petersons.com

www.usnews.com

www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/schools

www.collegeweeklive.com

Things to Consider

- * Think about who you are and what your interests are. You do not have to go in for heavy-duty analysis, but be honest with yourself. Choose a college that caters to your needs.
- * Do your homework. Do not base a decision on any one source, especially the materials from a college. Schools spend as much as a half million dollars to produce slick brochures and videos to entice you.
- * Consider geography and size. Location is something students often forget to think about. A rural setting is very different from an urban one, just as a large college has a different feel from a small one. Have you included the cost of car or plane trips home in your budget?
- * Visit the campus. Talk to students. Learn about academic programs. Make sure the college offers courses in the area you want to pursue.
- * Dress neatly. To really get a feel for the school, you need to walk around the quad, sit in on a class, and visit the dorms. Call ahead and make arrangements with the campus visit coordinator. Avoid campus visits during holidays or breaks and finals week; visit when classes are in session.
- * Have someone at the college provide you documentation of your visit on college letterhead. If your visit is during a school day, this letter will prevent your absence from counting against your exemptions.
- * Visit general education type classes while on campus. Most colleges will be happy to arrange the visit in advance. If they offer the very large lecture classes, ask to sit in on one to see how you feel about being one of 300 in a classroom.

Helping You Choose a College (continued)

Make College Visits Count

Dress neatly. To really get a feel for the school, you need to walk around the quad, sit in on a class, and visit the dorms. Call ahead and make arrangements with the campus visit coordinator. Avoid campus visits during holidays or breaks and finals week; visit when classes are in session.

Have someone at the college provide you documentation of your visit on college letterhead. If your visit is during a school day, this letter will prevent your absence (up to two days) from counting against you.

If you have a particular area of interest in which you want to pursue your degree, ask to meet with a professor in your field of interest. This gives you a chance to evaluate the quality of education you will be receiving. Don't just walk in cold; ask your admissions representative to set this up in advance of your visit. Have questions written out; be prepared to discuss the curriculum and your possible course options.

Take a look at the list below before planning campus trips to make sure that you allow enough time on each campus to get a sense of what the school and campus life is really like.

- √ Take a campus tour.
- √ Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts.
- √ Meet with a financial aid counselor and pick up financial aid forms.
- √ Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- √ Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- √ Talk to coaches of sports in which you might participate.
- √ Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- √ Read the student newspaper.
- √ Eat in the cafeteria.
- √ Ask students why they chose the college.
- √ Wander around the campus by yourself.
- √ Ask students what they love about the college.
- √ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

Applying to College

12 Steps to Follow

1. Visit colleges and finalize SAT/ACT testing .
2. Prepare a resume.
3. Register with the NCAA if you plan to participate in college athletics.
4. Actively pursue scholarships.
5. Request recommendation letters, and transcripts at least two weeks ahead of time.
6. Obtain and complete college applications.
7. Write essays when required. If an essay says “optional”, write it anyway.
8. Mail your applications or submit them Online before the deadline.
9. Follow up with your counselor.
10. Check with the college to confirm they have received your documents.
11. Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) before March 1st.
12. Review your financial aid packet carefully.

Applying Online

3 Ways to Apply:

Apply Texas Application

<http://www.applytexas.org>

Common Application

<http://www.commonapp.org>

(for specific schools
outside of Texas)

Campus websites

Freshmen Admissions Link

Important Tips:

- Neatness definitely counts.
- Print out a copy of your application before you send it.
- Ask several people to proofread your application before sending it.
- Make sure you include as much information as you can. Details count. For example, if you are an Eagle Scout, don't just list Eagle Scout. Also list all of the community service and leadership activities associated with being an Eagle Scout.

Applying to College (continued)

Resume Tips

- ◆ Make it easy to read.
- ◆ Always begin with your personal information.
- ◆ Use a chronological format beginning with most recent year.
- ◆ List school and related activities and leadership positions.

Checklist for Essays

- √ Be Concise = 500 words or less
- √ Be Honest = no “gimmicks”
- √ Be an Individual = set yourself apart from peers
- √ Be Coherent = make sense and address the topic
- √ Be Accurate = error free writing

Recommendation Letters...Step by Step

- * Give the recommendation writer at least 2-3 weeks to write recommendation letters and complete their portions of the applications.
- * Provide complete information including your full legal name and social security number.
- * Make sure your part of the application is

complete...signatures and etc..

- * Request official transcripts if needed with letters.
- * Give **teachers** a stamped envelope.
- * Check frequently to make sure the recommendation writer has all needed information.
- * Remember to send a thank you note to those who write on your behalf.

Application Process...Final Thoughts

- ✦ Apply early-many colleges want applications before Thanksgiving.
- ✦ Create a file for each college you apply to. Make copies of everything you send to each college and keep these in your files along with any information they send you.
- ✦ Make several contacts with the school of your choice. The more you email admissions, advisors, and student affairs, the more interest you show.
- ✦ Visiting the school of your choice can also show interest. Dress to impress and have questions ready. Visit more than once if possible.
- ✦ Proofread everything you send to the colleges. Paperwork is all the admissions office knows you by at this point.
- ✦ If essays or extra opportunities are offered through the application as optional, do them.

Early Graduation Scholarships

To receive an award through the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program, a student who graduated from high school on or after 6/15/2007 must:

- Graduate from a Texas public high school;
- Complete either the recommended high school curriculum or the distinguished achievement high school curriculum* in no more than 36 consecutive months, no more than 41 months or no more than 46 months;
- Attend one or more public high schools in this state for the majority of time the person attended high school;
- Register for the Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement; and
- Be US citizens or otherwise lawfully authorized to be in the United States.

Eligibility to receive an award through this program begins with the first regular semester or term following high school graduation (excluding the summer session between graduation and the first fall term). Eligibility ends six years later, unless the student seeks and is granted a hardship extension.

Eligible Institutions

May be used at both public and private, non-profit colleges and universities in Texas. If the award is used at a Texas non-profit private college or university, the college or university must provide a *matching* scholarship (or combination of smaller scholarships of matching value) to use this credit. No funds may be used to pay for continuing education classes for which the college receives no state tax support. To access listings of Texas colleges and universities, go to www.collegefortexans.com.

Award Amount

- An otherwise eligible student who graduates in no more than 36 months receives \$2,000 for use toward tuition and required fees. If he/she also graduates with at least 15 semester credit hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional \$1,000.
- An otherwise eligible student who graduates in more than 36 months but no more than 41 months receives \$500 for use toward tuition and required fees. If he/she also graduates with at least 30 semester credit hours of college credit, he/she may receive an additional \$1,000.
- An otherwise eligible student who graduates in more than 41 months but no more than 45 months (46 months for students graduating after 6/15/2007) can receive \$1,000 if he/she graduates with at least 30 semester credit hours of college credit.

Application Process

Your high school counselor must submit a certification form to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on the student's behalf. The Board then assesses the student's eligibility, determines his/her award, and if the student qualifies, sends an award letter to the student, the relevant high school and the college the student plans to attend.

Automatic Admission to College

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §51.803, a student is eligible for automatic admission to a college or university as an undergraduate student if the applicant earned a grade point average in the **top 10 percent** of the student's high school graduating class, or the **top 8 percent** for admission to the University of Texas at Austin, and the applicant:

- (1) successfully completed the requirements for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP); or
- (2) satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent.

In accordance with Title 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §5.5(e), high school rank for students seeking automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution on the basis of class rank is determined and reported as follows.

- (1) Class rank shall be based on the end of the 11th grade, middle of the 12th grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent at the application deadline.
- (2) The top 10 percent of a high school class shall not contain more than 10 percent of the total class size.
- (3) The student's rank shall be reported by the applicant's high school or school district as a specific number out of a specific number total class size.
- (4) Class rank shall be determined by the school or school district from which the student graduated or is expected to graduate.

An applicant who does not satisfy the course requirements is considered to have satisfied those requirements if the student completed the portion of the RHSP or the DAP that was available to the student but was unable to complete the remainder of the coursework solely because courses were unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the student's high school career as a result of circumstances not within the student's control.

To qualify for automatic admission an applicant must:

- (1) submit an application before the deadline established by the college or university to which the student seeks admission; and
- (2) provide a high school transcript or diploma that indicates whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule to satisfy the requirements of the RHSP or DAP or the portion of the RHSP or DAP that was available to the student.

Colleges and universities are required to admit an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student if the applicant is the child of a public servant who was killed or sustained a fatal injury in the line of duty and meets the minimum requirements, if any, established by the governing board of the college or university for high school or prior college-level grade point average and performance on standardized tests.

Admissions Standards for Selected Texas Colleges & Universities

COLLEGE CONTACT INFORMATION		ENROLLMENT	CLASS RANK	SAT	ACT	MOST POPULAR MAJORS
ANGELO STATE	www.angelo.edu	6,239	Top Half	No Min.	No Min.	Psychology
San Angelo	325-946-8627		3rd Quarter	1030	23	Education
			4th Quarter	1270	30	Business/Marketing
MIDWESTERN	www.mwsu.edu	6,594	Top 25%	870	18	Nursing (Health Sciences)
Wichita Falls	800-842-1922		2nd Quarter	950	20	Education
			3rd Quarter	1030	22	Business
			4th Quarter	1110	24	
PRAIRIE VIEW	www.pvamu.edu	6,970	All Students	820	17	Engineering/ App. Sciences
Prairie View	800-787-7826					Health Sciences & Business
SAM HOUSTON	www.shsu.edu	13,761	Top 25%	850	17	Elementary Education
Huntsville	936-294-1828		2nd Quarter	930	19	Criminal Justice
			3rd Quarter	1030	22	
			4th Quarter	1140	25	
S.F. AUSTIN	www.sfasu.edu		Top 25%	No Min.	No Min.	Teacher Education
Nacogdoches	936-468-2504	10,758	2nd Quarter	850	18	Communications
			3rd Quarter	1050	23	
			4th Quarter	1250	25	
TARLETON	www.tarleton.edu	8,789	Top 50%	No Min.	No Min.	Agricultural Service
Stephenville	800-687-8226		Bottom Half	930	20	Business/Marketing
TEXAS A&M	www.tamu.edu	37,187	Top 25%	1300	30	Business/Marketing
College Station	409-929-3741		All Others	Review	Review	Engineering
Texas A&M	www.tamu-commerce.edu	6,247	Top 25%	Automatic	Automatic	Elementary Education
Commerce	903-886-5102		All Others	920	20	Parks & Recreation
Texas A&M	www.tamug.edu	1,846	Top 25%	920	19	Marine Biology
Galveston	409-470-4400		2nd Quarter	1050	23	Ocean Engineering
			Bottom Half	1180	27	Naval Arch. & Marine Eng.
TX SOUTHERN	www.tsu.edu	11,018	All Students	No Min.	No Min.	Pharmacy
Houston	713-313-7011					Public Administration
TX STATE	www.txstate.edu	23,568	Top 25%	920	20	Business Administration
San Marcos	512-245-2340		2nd Quarter	1010	22	Social Sciences/History
			3rd Quarter	1180	26	Curriculum & Instruction
			4th Quarter	1270	29	
TEXAS TECH	www.ttu.edu	22,839	Top 25%	1140	25	Engineering
Lubbock	806-742-1480		2nd Quarter	1230	28	Business/Marketing
			Bottom Half	1270	29	Agricultural Services
TEXAS WOMANS	www.twu.edu	6,943	All Students	1000	21	Health Science (Nursing)
Denton	940-898-2000					Occupational Therapy
UNIV. OF HOUSTON	www.uh.edu	31,867	Top 20%	No Min.	No Min.	Engineering
Houston	713-743-1000		21-50%	1000	21	Business & Psychology

Admissions Standards (continued)

COLLEGE CONTACT INFORMATION		ENROLLMENT	CLASS RANK	SAT	ACT	MOST POPULAR MAJORS
UNIV. of N. TEXAS	www.unt.edu	26,598	Top 25%	950	20	Education
Denton	940-565-2681		2nd Quarter	1050	23	Business/Marketing
			3rd Quarter	1180	26	Liberal & Fine Arts
			4th Quarter	Review	Review	Criminal Justice/Forensics
UNIV. of TEXAS	www.uta.edu	19,205	Top 25%	No Min.	No Min.	Health Sciences
Arlington	817-272-6287		2nd Quarter	1050	22	Engineering
			3rd Quarter	1150	25	Architecture
			4th Quarter	Review	Review	
UNIV. of TEXAS	www.utexas.edu	40,681	No specific rank in class, test score, gradepoint average or other qualification by itself will guarantee admission. Individual evaluation is based on SAT/ACT; academic background including difficulty of classes; achievements/accomplishments; essays; competitiveness of the major to which you apply.			
Austin	512-471-3434					
UNIV. of TEXAS	www.utdallas.edu	7,959	All students not in the top 10% will be reviewed.			Computer Science
Dallas	972-883-2111					Education
						Business Administration
UNIV. of TEXAS	www.uttyl.edu	5,010	Top 25%	950	20	Criminal Justice
Tyler	903-566-7000		2nd Quarter	1000	21	Nursing
			3rd Quarter	1050	22	Business
			4th Quarter	1100	23	
WEST TX A&M	www.tamu.edu	5,323	Top 50%	950	20	Nursing
Canyon	800-999-8268					Business

Contact the admissions office at the university for specific requirements.

Many universities require additional math and foreign language courses above those required for the State of Texas Recommended Graduation Program.

Community colleges, which are not listed, generally require only a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Admissions Definitions and Criteria

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Action (REA)
DEFINITION: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.	DEFINITION: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	DEFINITION: Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.	DEFINITION: Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.	DEFINITION: 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: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

What Counts in College Admissions

What Admissions Staff found as "considerably important" in a National Survey

Grades in Academic/Challenging Courses.....	(80%)
SAT I/ACT Score.....	(52%)
Grades in All Subjects.....	(45%)
Class Rank.....	(30%)
Essay.....	(20%)
Counselor Recommendation.....	(17%)
Teacher Recommendation.....	(16%)
Community Services.....	(8%)
Work/School Activities.....	(6%)

Source: NACAC

Texas Admission Office Phone Numbers

A Partial List of Four Year Schools in Texas

Angelo State University	(915) 942-2058	Rice University	(210) 436-3126	Texas Tech University	(806) 742-1482
Austin College	(800) 299-5678	Saint Edwards University	(512) 448-8500	Texas Wesleyan University	(800) 580-8980
Baylor University	(817) 755-1811	Saint Mary's University	(210) 436-3126	Texas Woman's University	(888) 898-9984
Concordia Lutheran Univ.	(800) 865-4282	Sam Houston State University	(409) 294-1828	Trinity University	(800) 874-6489
Dallas Baptist University	(214) 333-5360	San Antonio Art Institute	(800) 369-7224	University of Dallas	(800) 628-6999
East Texas Baptist University	(800) 804-3828	Schreiner College	(800) 343-4919	University of Houston	(713) 221-8522
Hardin-Simmons University	(915) 670-1206	Southern Methodist University	(800) 323-0672	University of Houston	(713) 743-1010
Houston Baptist University	(800) 969-3210	Southwestern Christian College	(972) 524-3341	University of North Texas	(940) 565-2681
Howard Payne University	(915) 649-8027	Southwestern University	(800) 731-2902	University of Saint Thomas	(713) 525-3500
Incarnate Word College	(512) 829-6005	Stephen F. Austin State Univ.	(409) 568-2504	University of Texas @ Arlington	(817) 273-6287
Jarvis Christian College	(800) 292-9517	Sul Ross State University	(915) 837-8431	University of Texas @ Austin	(512) 471-7399
Lamar University	(409) 880-8888	Tarleton State University	(817) 968-9125	University of Texas @ Dallas	(972) 883-2342
Le Tournea University	(800) 756-8800	Texas A&I University	(254) 595-2811	University of Texas @ El Paso	(915) 747-5576
Lubbock Christian College	(806) 792-3221	Texas A&M University	(956) 326-2200	Univ. of Texas @ San Antonio	(800) 669-0919
Mary Hardin-Baylor	(800) 727-8642	Texas A&M Univ. @ Galveston	(409) 740-4428	Univ. of Texas-Pan American	(956) 381-2206
McMurry University	(915) 793-4700	Texas Christian University	(800) 828-3764	Wayland Baptist University	(800) 296-4709
Midwestern State University	(800) 842-1922	Texas College	(800) 306-6299	West Texas State University	(806) 651-2020
Our Lady of the Lake Univ.	(210) 434-6711	Texas Lutheran College	(800) 771-8521	Wiley College	(903) 938-8341
Paul Quinn College	(800) 237-2648	Texas State University	(512) 245-2364		

A Partial List of Two Year Schools in Texas

Amarillo College	(806) 371-5030	El Paso Community College	(915) 831-2580	North Lake College	(972) 273-3101
Art Institute of Dallas	(800) 275-4243	Grayson County College	(903) 465-6030	Palo Alto College	(210) 921-5310
Blinn College	(409) 830-4140	Hill College	(254) 582-2555	Paris Junior College	(903) 785-7661
Brazosport College	(979) 230-3217	ITT Technical Institute-Arlington	(817) 640-7100	Richland College	(972) 238-6106
Brookhaven College	(972) 860-4883	ITT Technical Institute-Austin	(512) 467-6800	San Antonio College	(210) 733-2582
Cedar Valley College	(972) 860-8201	ITT Technical Institute-Garland	(800) 683-4888	San Jacinto College	(281) 476-1818
Central Texas College	(800) 792-3348	Kilgore College	(903) 983-8218	South Plains College	(806) 894-9611
Cisco Junior College	(254) 442-2567	Lamar University-Port Arthur	(409) 983-6168	Southwest Texas Junior College	(830) 278-4401
Clarendon College	(806) 874-3571	Laredo Community College	(956) 721-5109	SW Collegiate Inst. for the Deaf	(915) 264-3700
College of St. Thomas More	(817) 923-8459	Lee College	(281) 425-6393	Tarrant County College-NE	(817) 515-8223
Collin County College	(972) 881-5790	Lon Morris College	(903) 589-4005	Tarrant County College-NW	(817) 515-8223
DelMar College	(512) 886-1248	McLennan Community College	(254) 299-8622	Texas State Technical College	(210) 425-0644
Devry Institute of Tech.	(214) 258-6330	Navarro College	(903) 874-6501	Texas State Technical-Waco	(817) 867-3371
Eastfield College	(972) 860-7400	NE Texas Community College	(903) 572-1911	Tyler Junior College	(903) 510-2398
El Centro College	(214) 860-2311	North Central Texas College	(940) 668-7731	Weatherford College	(817) 598-6241

Paying for College

Are you worried about how you are going to pay for college? With the right planning, a college education is within reach for every Texas student. Below are answers to common questions about paying for college.

How much does college actually cost?

The cost of a college education varies, depending on the college you select and whether you live at home, in an apartment, or on campus. In Texas, the average price tag for a college degree (tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation, and other expenses) ranges from a low of \$5,796 (one year at a public community college) to a high of \$30,938 (one year at a private college or university). Some colleges cost much less than the average; others will be higher.

How will you pay for college?

Many students receive financial aid to help pay for college. Families are expected to contribute to their student's education, even if the contribution is a small one. Most families use a combination of resources to help pay for college. These include:

- * Money they have saved over time
- * A portion of their current income
- * The student's part-time and summer earnings
- * Financial aid, including educational loans
- * Other resources

What is financial aid?

Student financial aid is money used to help pay for college expenses. It is available from many sources and in many forms: grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities, loans, and other programs. Grants and scholarships are “free money”, while loans must be paid back. Financial aid can be used to pay for tuition and fees, books and supplies, and the living expenses associated with attending college.

Am I eligible to apply for financial aid?

You might be surprised to find out how much assistance you can receive, regardless of your family's income level. You won't know unless you apply.

To apply for federal financial aid (grants, loans, work-study), here are some of the requirements. You must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non citizen.
- have a valid Social Security number.

Paying for College (continued)

- have a high school diploma or a GED (general equivalency diploma).
- be accepted for admission by the university and enrolled in a degree or certification program.
- not be in default on any Title IV loan (Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Stafford Loan) or owe a refund or repayment on educational funds received at any institution.
- be registered with the Selective Service, if required.
- enroll in and maintain at least a half-time class load at and demonstrate satisfactory academic progress.

Three Principle Types of Student Aid

1. **Grants** - money awarded to the student which does not have to be repaid.
2. **Loans** - money which must be repaid after leaving college.
3. **Part-time work** - jobs which are often related to a student's field of study.

Federal Student Aid

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Direct Loans
- Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Federal Perkins Loans

Direct and FFEL Program Loans

Low interest loans for students and parents are available through the Federal Direct Student Loan (Direct Loan) program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. Both the Direct Loan Program and the FFEL Program help students meet education costs. Many of the benefits to students are identical in the two programs. Financial need does not need to be established. Be sure to inquire about:

HOPE – Federal Education Tax Credits Program
Stafford Loans-subsidized and unsubsidized
PLUS Loans

State Financial Aid Programs

Listed below are four of the most common Financial Aid Programs available for Texas Students. For a complete list, please refer to *Financial Aid for Texas Students*, a brochure published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This publication may be requested by calling 1-800-242-3062.

- Hinson-Hazelwood College Student Loan (HHCSL)
- Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)
- Institutional Scholarships of Texas
- Texas Vocational Rehabilitation Commission Assistance

Paying for College ... Free Application for Federal Student Aid

How Financial Need is Determined

The federal Department of Education determines your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) based on information you provide on the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Parent and student resources are considered the first source of funds to finance an education. Parents income is not included in the EFC for independent students. Financial need is the difference between the cost of education (COE) and the EFC. Each university determines its own COE, which includes average cost of tuition and books, room and board, and personal and travel expenses. Your college or university's financial aid office will review your eligibility for need-based programs up to the amount of your financial need, then review your eligibility for aid programs that are not based on need up to the amount of your COE. Your eligibility for need-based aid is not a guarantee that you will receive that amount.

Some General Hints

Since your financial aid situation can change from year to year, you **MUST** apply for financial aid each year. Always keep copies of forms you submit to the school, government or lender during the financial aid process.

The Process:

1. Apply using FAFSA Online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can not apply before January 1st. You **SHOULD** apply as soon after January 1st as possible.
2. Find out your college's priority dead line for applying for aid.
3. Contact the college financial aid office to make sure it receives all information it needs.
4. You will receive a summary statement referred to as a student aid report or SAR. If necessary make corrections and return to processor OR mail correct SAR to financial aid office of the college you are interested in attending.
5. The college will review your SAR and put together the package of financial aid it can offer. You will be informed via an award letter.
6. If you wish to accept the offer, sign the award letter and return [keep a copy!] If you wish to decline, notify the college immediately so the financial aid can be offered to other applicants.

Contacting the College:

Write to the financial aid officer to inquire whether the college has its own financial aid form that must be completed in addition to the FAFSA. Be sure to ask about general scholarship information

Useful Web Addresses

FAFSA online:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

General Financial Aid Information:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>
www.collegefortexans.com
www.collegefundingco.com
www.studentloan.com
www.fastweb.com

Paying for College ... Military Options

Military Academies

If you are considering a service academy or military college, start planning early. **You should contact the Academy of your choice soon after January 31st of your junior year and send a written request for an application to your State Senator or Representative in April.** Academy appointments are highly competitive and sought after. Military Schools combine a top-notch education with the opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills. Students who choose to attend a military institution become part of a tradition of national service and principle.

The estimated dollar value of a military academy appointment/scholarship is over \$250,000. By attending an academy you have also committed to fulfilling a service requirement in that branch of the military. Your service time begins after graduation and varies among the armed forces branches.

Steps for Applying:

1. Select the military academy you would like to attend. The five military academies include the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy and the United States Merchant Marine Academy (see Resources below).
2. Meet the eligibility requirements. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, at least 17 but younger than 23 by July 1 of the admission year, unmarried and without dependents and not pregnant. Noncitizens may be eligible through a special agreement between the government of their country and the United States.
3. Submit a preliminary application. Each academy makes this application available for download online, or you can request that a copy be mailed to you. You can also fill and submit this form online.
4. Apply for a nomination. Every applicant must obtain an official nomination to qualify for admission to an academy. Those qualified to nominate candidates include the Vice President of the United States, U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators.
5. Take the college admissions tests. The academies require high scores in the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT).
6. Complete a medical examination. The medical exam is given by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB).
7. Take the Candidate Fitness Assessment. Due to the rigorous nature of the academy programs, candidates must be in top physical condition.
8. Wait for your status. The academy will make a decision when it has received every part of your application package. Incomplete application files will not receive further consideration after the first Monday in March.

Reserve Officer Training Corps

ROTC scholarships can be a great way to pay for college and include money for tuition, books, and monthly stipends. ROTC programs are available at over 1,000 colleges and universities. A service commitment is required upon graduation.

GI Bill Based on Military Service

The GI Bill provides money for service members who wish to pursue their education and can help pay for tuition and books. Talk to a recruiter for more information.

Paying for College ... Scholarships

Applying for Scholarships

You have probably heard that “millions of scholarship dollars go unclaimed each year.” You have probably also heard stories about outstanding students who couldn’t get scholarships. The fact is, there are thousands of scholarships available. Most scholarships, however, have very specific eligibility criteria (a student must go to XYZ college, have an ACT score of 28+ and be in the top 5% of his/her class, or a student must belong to a particular ethnic group, race, or religion, have leadership ability, a specific major, have overcome a great obstacle, etc.).

When it comes to academic scholarships, students generally must have an outstanding GPA (3.5 or better), high ACT/SAT scores (ACT 26+ / SAT 1200+{math and critical reading sections combined}), and excellent recommendations. For most scholarships, applicants are also expected to be involved in extracurricular and/or community activities. To receive an athletic or talent scholarship, a student must *truly* be outstanding.

Even though it is not easy to obtain an academic or talent scholarship, students and parents who are willing to invest the time and energy sometimes find that their efforts pay off handsomely.

When looking for scholarships, keep the following in mind:

1. Start early. Begin looking into scholarship possibilities during your junior year, and locate and complete applications in the fall of your senior year.
2. Finding and applying for scholarships takes time and energy.
3. While groups and organizations offer numerous scholarships, most of the large scholarships are awarded by the individual colleges. Contact the financial aid office of the college(s) you are considering and ask them for information on the scholarships they offer.
4. Private colleges are often more generous when awarding scholarships, thus, making them competitive in price with public colleges. Don’t rule out a private college until you’ve seen their aid package.
5. Apply for local scholarships (Rotary, PTO, Kiwanas, etc.). While these scholarships are generally for smaller amounts (\$100 - \$1,000), they are usually easier to get.
6. ***Be aware of deadlines.*** Scholarship applications become available throughout your senior year, and sometimes they are due only weeks after being publicized.
7. Network. Tell everyone that you are looking for scholarships. Check for scholarship opportunities with your place of employment, your church, and with organizations to which you belong. Also, look for scholarship opportunities in your local newspaper(s).
8. The Internet can provide students and parents with a great deal of information on a wide variety of scholarships.
9. Make sure that teachers and counselors are given plenty of time (at least two weeks) to write recommendations and to prepare transcripts. Be aware of deadlines!!

Paying for College ... Scholarships (continued)

10. Remember that most financial aid is *not* awarded in the form of a scholarship. Pursue *all* financial aid opportunities.
11. You will have a better chance of getting a scholarship at a college where you are in the top 25% of the applicants.
12. Always check to see if financial aid and scholarship awards are renewable.

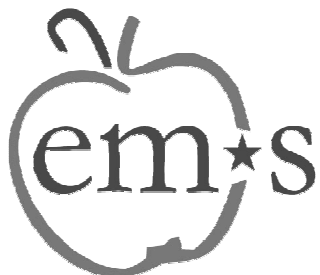
Protect Yourself from Scams

- ▶ Scholarship searches that charge a fee are very seldom worth the money.
- ▶ If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- ▶ Never invest more than a postage stamp.
- ▶ Legitimate foundations do not charge application fees.
- ▶ Spend the time, not the money. You have access to the same information scholarship search services provide.

When in doubt, seek help from your guidance counselor.

Top Ten Scholarship Application Tips

1. Apply only if you are eligible.
2. Complete the application.
3. Read and follow all instructions.
4. Submit a clean and neat application.
5. Submit a well-composed essay that makes a definite impression.
6. Be aware of and meet all deadlines.
7. Mail application to the proper address with the proper postage affixed.
8. Give your application materials a final review.
9. Seek assistance if you feel you need it.
10. Make sure you're proud of and satisfied with, your application.



“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life.” Plato