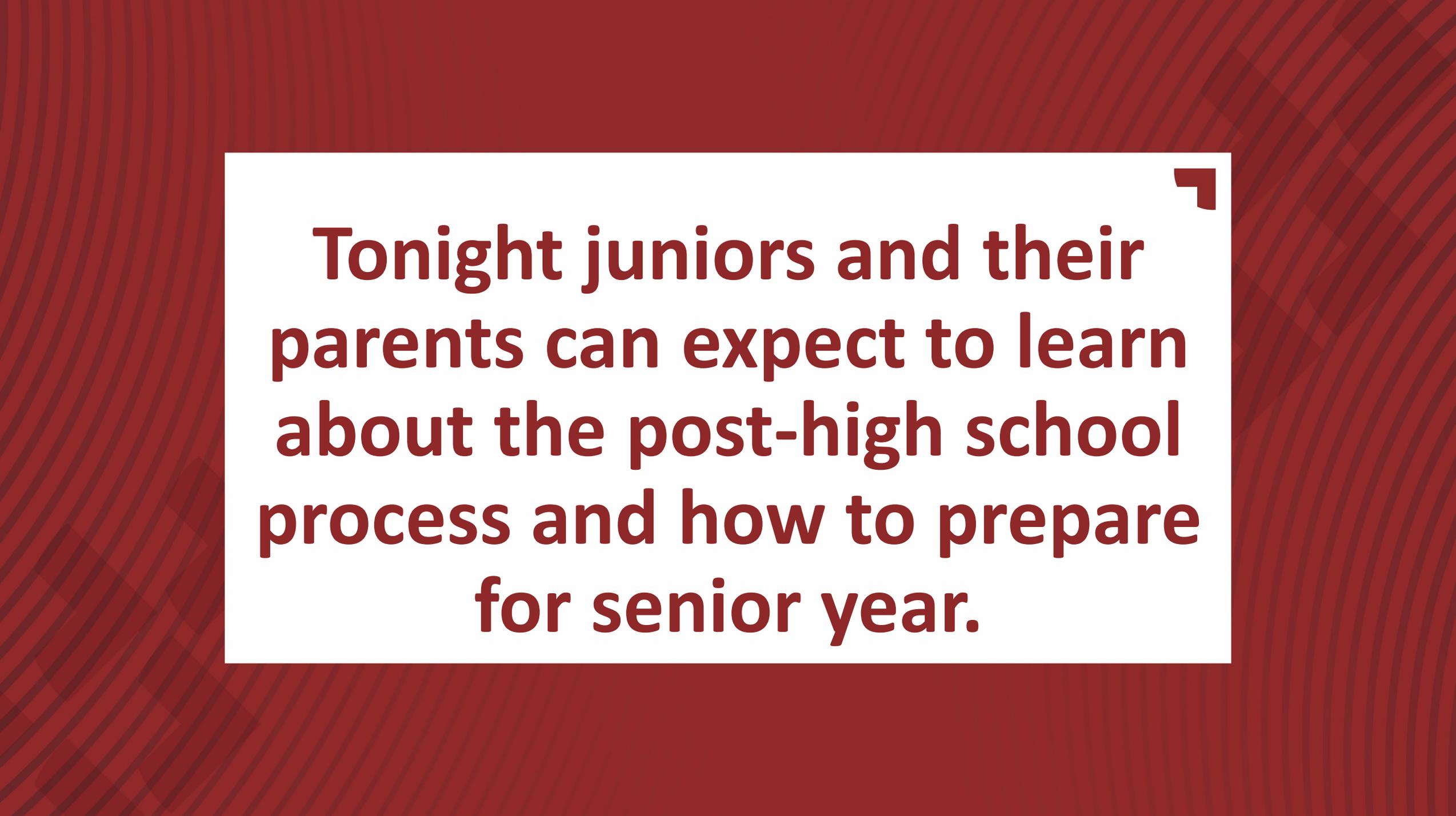


FBISD

**Rising Senior Night**  
**March 25, 2025**



**Lead**  
**THE PAC**

The image features a dark red background with a subtle pattern of concentric, slightly wavy lines. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with a thin black border. Inside this box, the text is written in a bold, dark red font. The text is centered and reads: "Tonight juniors and their parents can expect to learn about the post-high school process and how to prepare for senior year." There is a small, dark red L-shaped corner marker in the top right corner of the white box.

**Tonight juniors and their parents can expect to learn about the post-high school process and how to prepare for senior year.**

# What Do You Want to Do?

- College?
- Military?
- Trade School?
- Workforce?
- Still thinking about it?



## There Is A Place For Everyone!

The image features a dark red background with a subtle pattern of concentric, slightly curved lines. In the center, there is a white rectangular box. Inside this box, the text "So What Should I Do...and When?" is written in a bold, dark red font. The text is centered and occupies most of the white box's area. In the top right corner of the white box, there is a small, dark red L-shaped icon.

**So What Should I  
Do...and When?**

# March-August 2025

# Q1

- Make your college or trade school list based on your goals
- Request fee waivers for college entrance exams or application fees
- Take or schedule your ACT and/or SAT
- Write your college essays
- Update your resume
- Tour your schools if you haven't already
- Consider which teachers you will approach about writing letters of recommendation
- Create your account on your application platform of choice

# September-October 2025

# Q2

- Reapply for free/reduced lunch if you qualify
- Continue to work on your applications on your platform of choice
- Attend the district college fair on October 1 (Travis HS) or 8 (Marshall HS)
- Complete your FAFSA/TASFA (October) and upload proof in SchooLinks to satisfy graduation requirement
- Update your SchooLinks account with your personal email address
- Request teacher letters of recommendation in SchooLinks
- Request counselor recommendations and/or School Reports in SchooLinks
- Request initial transcripts in SchooLinks

# November 2025 - February 2026

# Q3

- Start applying for school-based scholarships
- Submit applications to colleges with November-February deadlines to ensure you don't miss out on scholarships
- Take the ASVAB if you are planning on joining the military
- Ensure mid-year transcripts are sent to your schools who require them (mid-January)
- Bookmark all portals and save the passwords to them

# March 2025 - May 2026

- Apply for housing
- Take the TSI if necessary
- Submit all scholarships earned into SchooLinks
- Make final transcript request in SchooLinks
- Register for New Student Orientation at your university
- Schedule your meningitis shot
- Request OnRamps or Dual Credit transcripts from UT or HCC
- Graduate and celebrate!

# Q4

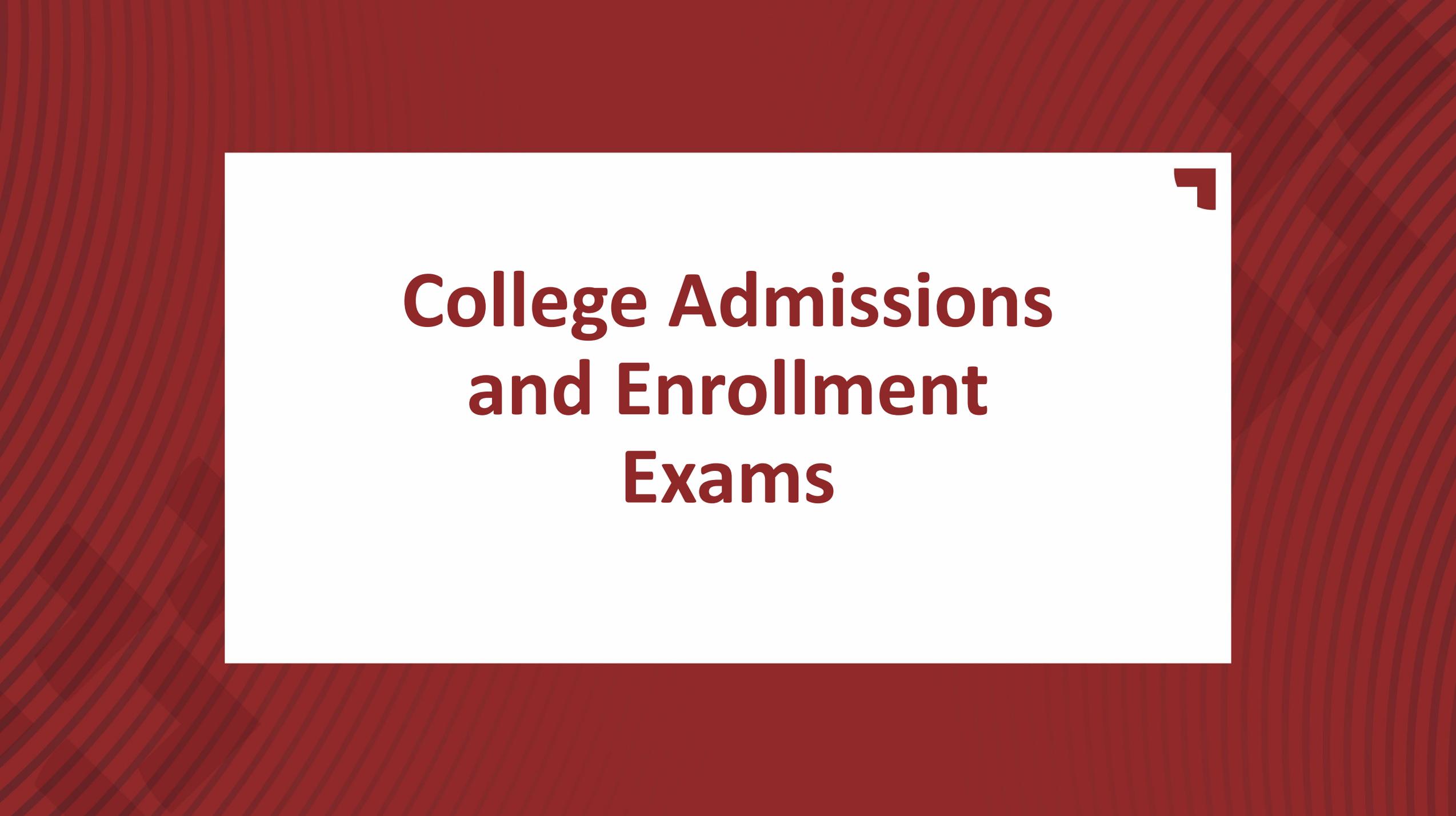


# **Making a List of Colleges and Trade Schools in SchoolLinks**

# How To Make A College List

- Plan to make a list of 5-7 schools
  - Two Target Schools, 1 Reach School, two Safety/Likely Schools
- In SchooLinks, click on Colleges/School Search
- Adjust the filters to meet your needs, based on School Type, Campus Location, Acceptance Rates and more
- Click the heart to add any school to your list of favorites
- Go to Final List and add the colleges from your Favorites list to one of the four categories





# **College Admissions and Enrollment Exams**

# College Entrance Exams



- **Some schools are test-required, some are test-optional**
  - Be sure you know what is required for your schools of choice
  - It might change in the summer
- **Most schools accept either the SAT or the ACT**
  - All FBISD juniors took the SAT on March 5, 2025
  - Test scores can be used for merit-based scholarships
  - Test scores can be used for TSI exemption at public Texas schools
- **Students on free/reduced lunch are eligible for a fee waiver**
- **See your campus CCRA for fee waivers and the testing schedule**

# College Enrollment Benchmarks

- Many schools require that students demonstrate college readiness in order to enroll in classes
  - Enrollment is different than admission
- Texas public colleges and universities require students to exhibit this through test scores

**ACT**<sup>®</sup>

Reading & Writing 40  
Math 22

**SAT**<sup>®</sup>

EBRW 480  
Math 530

**TSI** 

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

English 945/5 or 910-949/5/5  
Math 950 or 910-949/6



# Creating Your Application

# College Application Platforms

- ApplyTexas
  - [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
  - All Texas public and most Texas private colleges and universities
- Common App
  - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - 20 Texas universities and more than 1000 others worldwide
- Coalition Application
  - [www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)
  - Six Texas universities and more than 175 others nationally
- Common Black College Application
  - [www.commonblackcollegeapp.com/](http://www.commonblackcollegeapp.com/)
  - More than 50 HBCUs on one application
- College and university websites
  - Many schools have their own application process
- Regardless of which platform you choose, please create your account with your personal email address
  - Your school email address will shut down at graduation and you might need access to these sites afterward





# **The College Application Process**

# College Application Deadline Types

- **Early Decision**
  - A binding commitment in which if you are accepted, you are obligated to attend
  - You can only apply to one school
  - Most ED deadlines are in November. Only apply if school is your top choice and you are sure you will attend
- **Early Action**
  - Non-binding commitment and you can apply to multiple schools
  - Most EA deadlines are in November-January
  - Restricted Early Action allows only one application but is not binding like ED
- **Priority**
  - Non-binding and you can apply to multiple schools
  - Most Priority deadlines are in November or December and will provide early consideration for scholarships
- **Regular**
  - Deadlines are in January or February and you can apply to multiple schools

# College Application Process

- Submit your application using your platform of choice
- Make sure that your application is listed in SchoolLinks
- Log in to your college portals as soon as you receive login information
- Pay your application fee or request a fee waiver in SchoolLinks
- Send test scores through College Board or ACT, if applicable
- Request teacher/counselor recommendations in person and follow up with SchoolLinks request

# College Apps in SchooLinks



- College apps must be added to SchooLinks in order to request transcripts, recommendations and application fee waivers and so that counselors can complete required Common App documentation
- Adding a college application to SchooLinks will automatically trigger a transcript request

The screenshot displays the SchooLinks interface with three columns of college applications:

- 1 Incomplete**: Edit an application below to request recommendations or update checklist.
  - The University of Texas at San Antonio (Regular Decision | Jun 1) with a progress indicator of 0/2.
- 6 Completed & pending**: Select a completed application below to update results or track documents.
  - 6 Awaiting
  - University of Houston
  - Texas State University
  - Texas Tech University
- 6 Accepted**: Be sure to upload award letters and add an enrollment decision.
  - Houston Community College
  - Prairie View A & M University
  - Sam Houston State University (with an Enrolling status indicator)



# College Apps in SchoolLinks

- Expanded view of College Applications page

**STUDENT CHECKLIST**

Submit Application  ...  
Submit your application forms and any required essays.

Test Scores  ...  
Submit your SAT or ACT test scores directly from the testing agency. Please note: test score requirements are suspended for all applications through Fall 2023, but submission is encouraged where possible.

+ New Student Requirement

**TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Remember to update your student profile and communicate with your teachers before adding them as a recommender on SchoolLinks.

2 Optional

**Instructions from college:** Applicants are encouraged to submit at least one essay and two letters of recommendation. Submit your essay within the ApplyTexas or Common App application. Letters of recommendations can be submitted via the Document Uploader.

+ Request Teacher Recommendation

**COUNSELOR DOCUMENTS**

We've researched what documents are required and automatically requested them from your counselor.

Transcript  ?  
+ Added 03/18/2024 as preset

NACAC Fee Waiver (General)  ?  
+ Added based on student fee waiver eligibility questionnaire

+ Request Counselor Document

Student marks off application 'parts' as they are completed

Student adds request for teacher, as needed or required

Counselor or Registrar completes these tasks, depending on how student applied

# What is Holistic Review?

- Holistic review looks at the entire student in and out of the classroom
- The review committee will examine the traditional test scores and classroom grades, but will also assess the applicant's achievements, work experience, extracurricular activities, essays and more
  - It looks at who the student is in their heart and in their head
- Pro: It provides colleges an expanded look at a student beyond the traditional
- Con: It takes longer to receive admissions decisions as the committees take adequate time to review
- While some schools still have auto-admit based on numbers, more and more are incorporating the holistic process to round out their student body

# Ranking, Transcripts and College Apps

- FBISD provides rank and quartile to a student separate from the transcript
  - The rank document is available in the Skyward Portfolio tab
- Rank will not be included on the transcript as articulated in the rank policy EIC Local
- Students are allowed the ability to provide this information to the colleges of their choice and the opportunity to submit this information with scholarship applications via the Rank/Quartile Notification document
- Juniors will next be ranked in June 2025, and again in September 2025
  - A transcript will also be run in September that includes all coursework up to and including summer 2025
  - This transcript and rank will be used for most college applications
- Students will have the ability in SchoolLinks to select if they want their rank shared with colleges
  - **Please note that once a student has selected this option, they cannot change it**



# **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

# What are Scholarships?

- Scholarships are free money that the student does not have to pay back
- They can bridge the gap between the Cost of Attendance (COA) and the amount of money the student has saved for college or trade school
- Academic scholarships are based on GPA, test scores and academic achievements
- Merit scholarships stem from success in sports, arts or community service
- Needs-based scholarships support students who demonstrate financial need
- Specialized scholarships are targeted at specific demographics, majors or career paths
- Scholarships can be funded by colleges or external organizations such as the Houston Rodeo

# How To Find and Apply for Scholarships

- Students will have to spend time researching and applying to scholarships: it can be a part-time job
- Start as early as possible (even right now!) because most scholarships are repeated annually
- Utilize your resources to identify scholarships, including SchoolLinks, your colleges, internet research and friends and family
- Make sure that you complete the scholarship application (including any required recommendations or transcripts) and meet all deadlines

# Finding Scholarships in SchoolLinks



- Browse to Finances/Scholarship Matching
- Use the Eligibility, Interests and Colleges filters at the top to locate scholarships that match your needs and pursuits
- The system will display the matching scholarships when you click the blue View Matches button
- Review the matches and mark favorites using the heart symbol. You can also apply directly from SchoolLinks.
- These scholarships are posted by your campus, your district and by SchoolLinks

Daikin Most Valuable STEAM Scholarship  
Daikin and the Houston Astros Foundation

FAVORITE  MARK AS APPLIED  [Apply >](#)

Deadline April 14, 2025	Amount \$10,000	Annual Winners —
----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------

Description

The Astros Foundation is proud to announce the Daikin's Most Valuable STEAM Scholarship program, which will award \$100,000 to Houston area high school seniors in the 2025 graduating class.

- Students are required to provide a 300-word essay, 2 letters of recommendation, and proof of acceptance.
- If selected as a semifinalist, a personal interview will be conducted with the Daikin's Most Valuable STEAM Scholarship program committee.

# Applying for the FAFSA or TASFA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid or Texas Application for State Financial Aid
- Both enable students to apply for
  - Loans
  - Grants
  - Scholarships
  - Work-study programs
- Both open on October 1
- All seniors will complete a FAFSA, TASFA or opt-out form as a graduation requirement

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup>  
Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

**TASFA**  
TEXAS APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID

The image features a dark red background with a subtle pattern of concentric, slightly curved lines. A white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the text "Military Options" in a bold, dark red font. In the top right corner of the white box, there is a small, dark red L-shaped graphic element.

# **Military Options**

# Military Service



- **Military academies are highly competitive and prepare students for service in the officer corps of the Army, Navy or Air Force**
  - The US Military Academy at West Point, the US Naval Academy, the US Air Force Academy
- **The Reserved Officer Training Corps is a college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States armed forces.**
  - The ROTC scholarship is viable at many different colleges and universities and includes full tuition benefits
- **Enlistment in active duty or in the reserves requires a commitment for 4-5 years, depending on the branch**
- **Your campus CCRA can assist with:**
  - Connecting you with a local recruiter
  - Helping to identify the variety of MOSs available that are tailored to your skill set
  - Registration for a local ASVAB administration to identify an appropriate military career





# **Your College and Career Readiness Advisors**

# College and Career Readiness Advisors

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**Scan this QR code  
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additional  
resources.**