

FBISD

# Rising Senior Night March 25, 2025



**Lead**  
**THE PAC**



**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!



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

# Q1

## March-August 2025

- 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

- 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 SchoolLinks to satisfy graduation requirement
- Update your SchoolLinks account with your personal email address
- Request teacher letters of recommendation in SchoolLinks
- Request counselor recommendations and/or School Reports in SchoolLinks
- Request initial transcripts in SchoolLinks

# 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

# Q4

## 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!



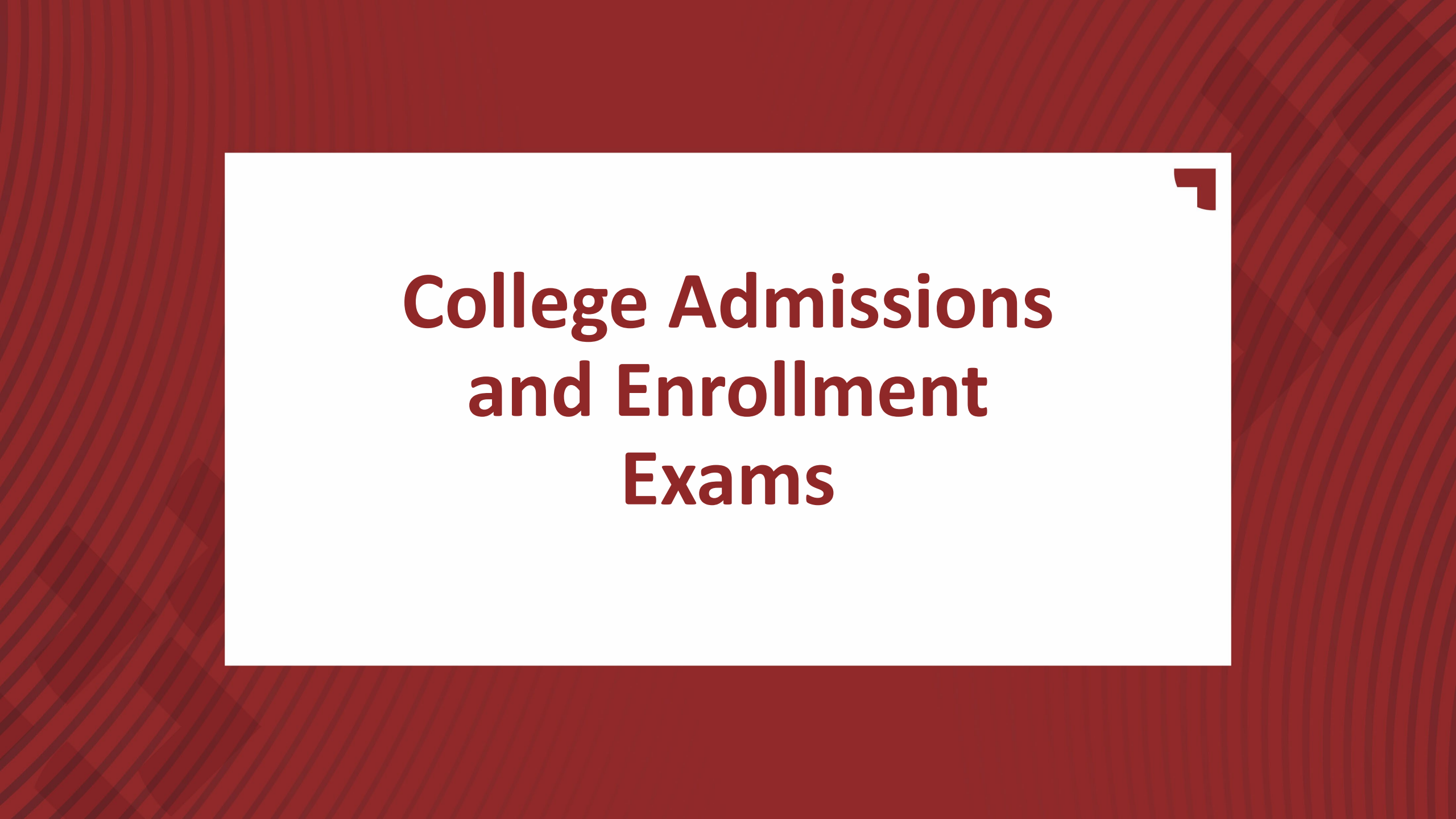


# **Making a List of Colleges and Trade Schools in SchoolLinks**

# 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


### 1 Incomplete



Edit an application below to **request recommendations** or **update checklist**.



The University of Texas at San Antonio

Regular Decision | Jun 1


 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







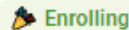
Prairie View A & M University





Sam Houston State University



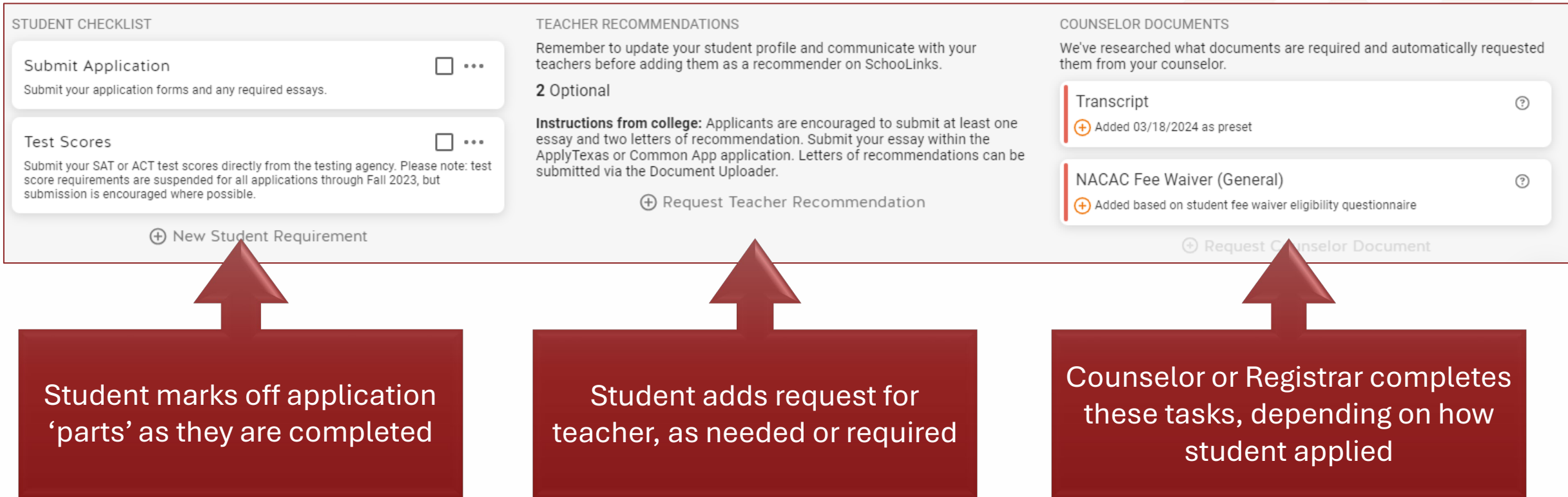


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# College Apps in SchoolLinks



- Expanded view of College Applications page





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

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



The background is a solid dark red color. Overlaid on this is a large white rectangle. In the top right corner of the white rectangle, there is a small, dark red icon resembling a stylized 'L' or a corner bracket. Centered within the white rectangle is the text 'Military Options' in a bold, dark red font.


# **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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presentation and  
additional  
resources.**