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What do you want to do?

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



There is a place for everyone!



Post-Grad Planning

The steps you need to take, when you need to take them

Mrs. Jakubik, College and Career Readiness Advisor

So What Should I Do...And
When?

March-August 2026

- 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 2026

- 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 2026-February 2027

- 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 2027-May 2027

- 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



Before You Do Anything...

- Ask yourself...can you get into SchooLinks?
- It's the FBISD software platform that supports students as they navigate their college and career planning process
- Students access SchooLinks through Clever (1Link)
 - Parents can also access SchooLinks with a claim code from their student
- If you have never been in SchooLinks, you need to do that soon!



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 SchoolLinks, 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 4, 2026
 - 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 me 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[®]

Reading & Writing 40
Math 22

SAT[®]

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
 - All Texas public and most Texas private colleges and universities
- Common App
 - www.commonapp.org
 - 20 Texas universities and more than 1000 others worldwide
- Coalition Application
 - www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
 - Six Texas universities and more than 175 others nationally
- Common Black College Application
 - 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 SchooLinks
- Log in to your college portals as soon as you receive login information
- Pay your application fee or request a fee waiver in SchooLinks
- Send test scores through College Board or ACT, if applicable
- Request teacher/counselor recommendations in person and follow up with SchooLinks 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 (Enrolling)



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



How Important are Essays?

- Most colleges require at least one essay from applicants
- Common App, ApplyTexas and the Coalition app all have released their 2025-27 essay questions
 - You can find them on my website
- Start looking at them now and be thinking about what you will write
- Think about how you can share who *you* are with the admissions committee

Transcripts and Ranking



Ranking

- FBISD provides rank and quartile to a student separate from the transcript
 - The rank document is available in the Skyward Portfolio tab
- Juniors will next be ranked in June 2026, and again in September 2026
 - A transcript will also be run in September that includes all coursework up to and including summer 2026
 - 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



Requesting Transcripts

- Unofficial transcripts can be found in your Skyward Portfolio or in SchooLinks under School/Record Requests
- Official transcripts are automatically requested in SchooLinks when you add a college application
- Need a transcript for a scholarship or a coach? Go to School/Record Request and select “Send official transcript” at the top
- Need a dual credit or OnRamps transcript? Request directly from HCC or UT for each school you’re applying to

FBISD Policy: A student/parent cannot request an *official* transcript to be handed to them. They may only receive *unofficial* ones.

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
- More to come when we meet in the fall

Letters of Recommendation



Letters of Recommendation

- Valuable tool in the holistic application process
- Know what your college or trade school requires
- Recommendation letter timeline
 - Now: identify and reach out to 2-3 recommendation letter writers
 - Senior fall: apply to colleges
 - Senior fall: In SchooLinks, make an official request to the letter writer.
- Recommendations will be uploaded into SchooLinks and sent directly to the student's school (not given to the student)
- I will train all RPHS staff on how to upload into SchooLinks

What Do Lunch and College Have in Common?



Free and Reduced Lunch: More Than Meals!

- If you qualify for Free and Reduced lunch your SAT and ACT fees, along with many college admissions fees, could be waived
 - If you're taking four admissions tests at about \$50 each, that's \$200
 - Admissions fees are between \$0 and \$95, so applying at 10 colleges could cost nearly \$1000
- How do you apply for a fee waiver?
 - Review the qualifications on the CCR website
 - Complete the form on the site



Military Bound



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
- I 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 Homework



Your Homework

- Review the essay prompts draft responses for 1-2 essays
- Sign up for your SAT/ACT tests if you still need one
- Create a personal email that belongs to only you
- Think about who you will ask for letters of rec and talk to them in advance
- Create your college/trade school list. Use the research filters in SchoolLinks. Check all deadlines and set reminders in your phone
- Have a parent apply for free/reduced lunch if you qualify
- Update your resume with education, employment and community service

And...Whew!



Do you still have questions?

- That's OK!
- How do you get them answered?
 - Review Mrs. J's website
 - Come visit Mrs. J in the CCR Center (K145)
 - Email Mrs. J
 - Follow RPHS CCR on Instagram and Twitter



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