

# College Road Trip

Junior Parent Meeting

March 9, 2009

# The Road to Options After High School

## Post Secondary Options

- ✓ Full-time work after graduation
- ✓ Military Options
- ✓ Trade and Technical Schools
- ✓ Community Colleges
- ✓ Universities



# Full Time Work After Graduation

Ask yourself the following questions:



- Do you have a clear idea of the career you want to follow and know that you can succeed without further education?
- Are you already employed part-time and know that the company wants you to start full-time after graduation?
- Will you be better in the long run by getting additional training or schooling now?

# If full time work is your best choice, how can you prepare now?

- Assessments – Know what type of job you want before you can find it.
- Career Materials – Read and find out about various careers.
- Newspapers – Investigate what jobs seem to be in demand.
- Resume – Prepare to impress.



# Military Enlistment



## Military Checklist

- ✓ Contact local recruiter (check with several branches of the military)
- ✓ Take the ASVAB test
- ✓ Earn your high school diploma

# Military Service Academies

## Spring of Junior Year

Determine whether you meet the basic requirements

Apply for nomination

Start a file at the academy by completing a Preliminary Application

Take the SAT or ACT



# Military Service Academies

## Fall of Senior Year

Complete Academy Application Forms in  
early Fall

Obtain Nomination

Complete Testing

## Spring of Senior Year

Await Evaluation and Status

Visit Academy



# Trade and Technical Schools

- Offer short term training in a wide variety of career fields.
- Check the credentials of the institution and check the costs.
- There are many wonderful careers that can be obtained in 1-2 years.



# Community/Junior College

Benefits of attending a Community College:

- Smaller classes
- More affordable
- One-on-one teacher-student contact
- Many academic student supportive programs
- Offer certificate, two year degrees, and the ability to transfer to a four year university.
- Counselors will work with transferring students to make sure that they are taking the right courses.

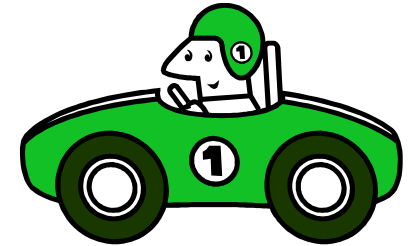


# Community College Checklist

- High School diploma
- THEA
- Application
- FAFSA
- Transcript
- Meet with community college counselor
- Contact Financial Aid Office



# Four Year Colleges



## Texas Common Application

- All public universities (and some private) in Texas require students to complete the Texas Common Application. It may be obtained on-line at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org). Most schools prefer that you apply on-line.
- This same application can be sent to any school in Texas that you are applying to.

# Transcripts

- Transcripts are required to be sent to any college that you apply to.
- Colleges will want an Official Transcript.
- Transcripts must be sent directly to the college from the high school.



# Know yourself and your reasons for attending college



- Recognize your strengths and weaknesses
- Analyze your interests and values
- Achieve a personal goal
- Increase your earning power
- Prepare for a career and expand learning
- Extracurricular activities and social life
- Influence of family and friends

# Consider College Characteristics

- How large is the university?
- How large are the classes?
- What bachelor degree programs are offered?
- What is the school's reputation?
- What are the expenses?
- What are housing and meal options?
- Is the size of the city in which the school is located important to you?
- Do you want to attend a college with a religious affiliation?



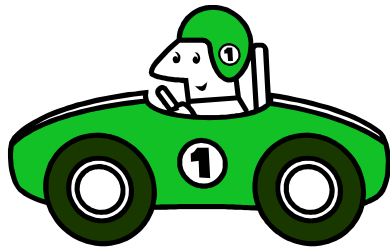
# List, Compare, and Visit Colleges

- Look at college-produced resources.
- Internet websites
- Visit with college admissions counselors.
- Information sessions
- Open house weekend
- College Day
- Talk with parents, alumni, counselors, and teachers.
- Schedule a campus visit.



# Apply for Admission

- Make sure you observe deadlines
- Apply only to schools you believe you will be happy at
- Don't just randomly apply to colleges – there is an application fee every time you apply (ranging from \$30 - \$70)





# Housing

- Apply early for housing
- There will be an application and usually a non-refundable housing fee
- Many colleges require freshman to live on campus
- Some campuses accept housing applications prior to acceptance, others require you to be accepted first

# Develop a plan to finance your Education

## Types of Financial Aid

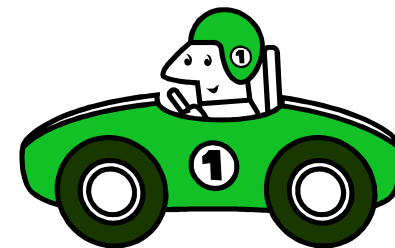
- Grants
- Loans
- Scholarships
- FAFSA – apply as early in January of senior year as possible



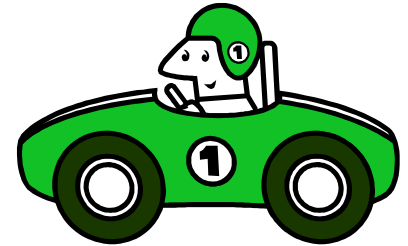
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

# What do colleges look for?

- Academic Record
- College Entrance Exam Scores
- Extra-curricular Activities and Community Service
- Recommendations



# Things Every Parent Should Know About the College Application Process



- Relax – your child will thank you
- Make a plan-of-action calendar and stick to it!
- Plan out all testing.
- Don't contact college admissions offices for your child.
- Keep copies of everything in folders.
- File all financial aid forms as soon as possible after January 1st.

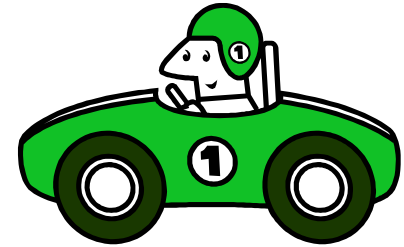
# More things to know...

- Encourage your child to apply, apply, and apply for scholarships.
- Visiting your child's top college options is extremely beneficial.
- Use technology to make the process easier.
- Remember that you're not going to college - your child is.



# College Success Factors

- Study Habits
- Motivation
- Course Selection
- Placement
- Commitment



# Top Ten Percent Rule

In Texas, students who are in the Top 10% of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in the state.

- You still must submit an application and meet all deadlines.
- You still are required to submit SAT/ACT scores.
- Automatic admission does not guarantee that you will be admitted to your choice of major.
- Apply early!!!



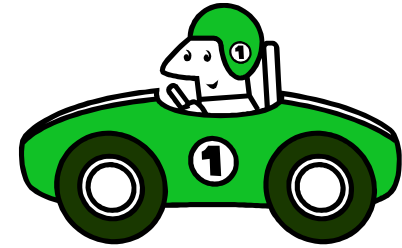
# SAT/ACT



SAT consists of three parts:

- Critical Reading: critical reading, reading comprehension, sentence completions, paragraph length Critical reading
- Math: basic arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, multiple choice, student produced responses
- Writing: grammar, usage, word choice, multiple choice questions, essay

# SAT/ACT



ACT consists of four parts:

- English: punctuation, grammar and usage, sentence structure, strategy, organization, style
- Math: Pre-algebra, elementary Algebra, intermediate Algebra, coordinate geometry, plane geometry, trigonometry
- Reading: derive meaning from several tests by referring to what is explicitly stated, and reasoning to determine implicit meaning
- Science: measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, problem solving
- Writing: (optional)

# In addition to free/reduced lunch...

Your child may also qualify for other benefits as well:

- SAT/ACT Fee Waivers
- Fee Waivers used to apply to colleges
- Fee Waiver for Advanced Placement Testing



# THEA

THEA is required if you are enrolling as a student in a Texas Public Community College, Technical College, or University

- This test assesses your college readiness in math, reading, and writing.
- Enrollment in developmental courses is required for those who do not meet the minimum standard.
- You can earn an exemption.





# THEA Exemptions

- ACT – Composite score of 23, with a minimum of 19 on the Math and English Test
- SAT – Combined Critical Reading and Math score of 1070, with a minimum of 500 on both the Critical Reading and Math Tests
- Exit Level TAKS – 2200+ ELA with a writing score of 3 and 2200+ Math

# Enjoy the Road Trip

- This is a very important time in your child's life.
- Assist them as much as possible, but let them have ownership over the decisions.
- Let them make the choices, then assist them in finding ways to make it happen.



# Thanks for coming tonight!

If you need any additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact me:



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