



School Support Services
A Driving Force for Student Success



COLLEGE & CAREER GUIDE

for
High School Students

FORT HAMILTON



College & Career Guide for High School Students



It's never too early to start planning for post high school life, should it be college, vocational school, the military, or entering the workforce. This guide should assist you in that journey. Military connected students may have some challenges, but also some advantages in their life experiences. This handbook is designed to support military connected high school students. It is not the sole resource for college & career information, but it should be a good start in mapping out your life after high school.

Find your way forward! The future belongs to you!



NEW YORK GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

[https://
www.schools.nyc.gov/
learning/student-journey/
graduation-requirements](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/graduation-requirements)



New York was one of twelve states selected by the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Jobs for the Future to participate in the [Pathways](#) to Prosperity Network, a national education initiative designed to build career pathways systems for high-school-aged students.

[Career Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) is an education pathway that provides students with the academic, technical, and real world knowledge, skills and experiences they need to prepare for a variety of career options. CTE gives students training and skills in many different types of careers in high growth industries such as science and technology, healthcare, and business management. CTE programs are personalized, hands-on, and let students explore different career fields. CTE is part of the middle school and high school experience, and prepares students for the full range of post secondary opportunities, including college and careers. Please see your school counselors and CTE teachers to learn more about CTE Career Clusters and Pathways, and earning a CTE Pathway Endorsement.



FIND A COLLEGE

School Search Engines

[Petersons College Search](#)

[U.S. News Best Colleges](#)

[Big Future](#)

[Find a college on Common App](#)

[Community College Review \(review and search feature\)](#)

[US Dept. Of Education Database of Accredited Post Secondary Institutions & Programs](#)

Online Colleges

[Accredited School Online](#)-guide to online education with school search feature



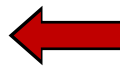
ADMISSIONS
OPEN



COLLEGE FAIRS & TOURS

Local high schools will usually host a college fair in both the fall and spring for their students. They often invite local and out of state colleges, vocational schools, Military Recruiters, and employers that will hire students that have completed career training through the school system. Due to COVID-19 many school counselors are inviting these individuals to the schools and encouraging interested students make one on one appointments or allowing small student groups to meet. By taking advantage of virtual college fairs and virtual tours allows you to consider schools you might not have before.

- [College Fair Checklist](#)
- [15 Questions to ask at College Fairs](#)



Click to connect to virtual
College Fairs everywhere

[New York College Fair Guide](#)

[https://www.collegefairguide.com/
new-york-city-national-college-
fair](https://www.collegefairguide.com/new-york-city-national-college-fair)

[Connect with Colleges](#)

[https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/
undergraduate/college-fair/#colleges](https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/college-fair/#colleges)

TESTING for COLLEGE



The primary purpose of testing is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. Some tests help students focus on preparing for college, others provide access to scholarships and early college credit.

American College Testing or ACT-The ACT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. It is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test administered by ACT, Inc. There are four ACT sections: English, Reading, Math, and Science. The ACT also includes an optional 40 minute Writing Test.

Scholastic Aptitude Test or ACT-The SAT is a multiple-choice pencil-and paper test created, tested, and administered by the [CollegeBoard](https://collegeboard.org). There are two SAT sections: Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. The optional essay section was dropped in January 2021. The CollegeBoard is working on making the test more digital friendly in light of the recent COVID-19 restrictions. Check with the CollegeBoard for latest updates.



National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT)-is used to determine eligibility and qualification for entry in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Preliminary SAT (PSAT10)- is essentially the same as the NMSQT but only offered to 10th graders. While this test may connect students to scholarships it doesn't connect them to the National Merit Scholarship. Scores assist students in selecting AP level classes.

Preliminary SAT (PSAT 8/9)- is similar to the PSAT10, but is shorter with a lower score range. The test will help students and their teachers figure out what the students' need to work on most so that they're ready for college when they graduate from high school. Colleges do not review PSAT 8/9 scores. It tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, NMSQT, and PSAT10 in a way that makes sense for the students' grade level. [Sample PSAT 8/9 test results report](#) students receive.

Advanced Placement or AP Tests- are college-level exams on specific subjects and are administered in May upon completion of an AP course taken at a student's high school. At many colleges and universities, a high enough score will earn the student college credit. There are AP tests that cover a range of subjects from biology to European History to Music Theory. There are currently over 38 AP test options, though few high schools offer classes in every subject. AP tests are scored on a scale of 1-5. While every college is different, most schools will qualify a score of 3 or more for credit according to collegeboard.org.



Online Resources - COLLEGE TESTING

[About AP Exams](#)
[Why Take AP Classes?](#)
[AP Exam Dates](#)
[Free AP Prep](#)
[Free Resources](#)

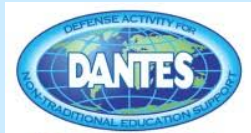
[About the SAT](#)
[SAT Test Dates](#)
[SAT Practice](#)
[Questions Pop Quiz:](#)
[Full-length Practice SAT](#)
[SAT vs. ACT](#)
[Tips and tricks from SAT experts](#)

[ACT](#)
[About the ACT](#)
[ACT Test Dates](#)
[ACT Practice Questions](#)
[Pop Quiz: ACT](#)
[Full-length Practice ACT](#)
[Test Fee Waiver](#)

Future of College Testing

Some schools have shifted their admission requirements by waiving or dropping the SAT/ACT test scores direct response to COVID-19 pandemic. Some schools have taken this as an opportunity to implement long-term changes to their testing requirements. While some schools are removing testing requirements, some are shifting to different tests, such as the [Classic Learning Test \(CLT\)](#). As you progress toward college applications, be cognizant of all admission requirement and changes at the schools you are considering.

GET COLLEGE CREDIT EARLY



DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support) is part of the DOD Voluntary Education Program . DANTES makes testing for college credit accessible to military connected students at a low cost. (Testing can also be purchased by anyone.) Testing PRIOR to college can give you a head start on credits at a far lower price. Two different programs offers these tests. **CLEP (College Level Examination Program) & DSST (Dantes Subject Standardized Tests.)** **(See: Difference between CLEP and DSST)**

Be sure to check out your school's policy regarding acceptance of credit by testing prior to testing. Some schools do not accept these credits. Testing is often available at Education Centers on military bases. See program links for testing locations.

Get college credit for what you already know, and save tuition costs!

REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR CHOSEN COLLEGE

It is important to remember that your high school graduation requirements might not match or meet the requirements at school of your choice. You can choose to take required course through a community college prior enrolling or speak with the college counselor who can and waive the requirement and have you take the course at the college.



What is Common App

Common App is a non-profit college access organization that helps students apply to college every year. Common App is a free college application tool designed to make applying to college faster and easier. With Common App you only need to use one system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. There are two main parts you fill out: a set of common questions and each college's own specific questions. The best part is you only have to fill out the common questions one time!

Common App at a Glance

- Almost 900 college and universities use Common App
- 204 public colleges and universities
- 62 international universities in 18 countries
- 12 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU)s
- More than 325 without application fee
- Nearly 260 test optional/flexible

Common App is a place for you to learn about the college admissions process, understand how to plan and apply for college, and discover all that different colleges have to offer. It's a hub of information that can guide you through each step of the application journey. It's a resource that connects you with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Whatever questions you might have, we're here to help.

Application guide to give you step-by-step instructions on completing your application.

A college roadmap designed to guide you toward your next destination - no matter where you start. An application dictionary to help you understand and terminology related to college application.

A library of FAQs and video tutorial to answer any question you may have, and a support team that's available 24/7/365.

What's Next

Visit commonapp.org to create your Common App account and start exploring colleges.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Essays are one of the best ways to show your skills!

It is best if you finish your essays during the summer prior to senior year. The time to write college a essay is **not** the night before the deadline. Some colleges do not require you to submit an essay for admission, while others are “essay option”. If you are very interested in a specific college which states the essay is an option, ALWAYS view it as a requirement so they will view you as a serious candidate.

Tips

- Make sure to thoroughly answer the question or prompt! Think about who you are and what message you want to convey.
- Grab the reader's attention.
- Utilize this opportunity to spotlight your talents.
- Tell the college why they should admit you.
- Read your essay OUTLOUD to yourself and others.
- Write, rewrite, revise, and proofread multiple times.
- Check for grammatical or spelling errors.
- Get second or third opinions from teachers, counselors, or other editors.
- Adhere to the word count.
- Most of all be yourself, be unique, be meticulous, and be honest!



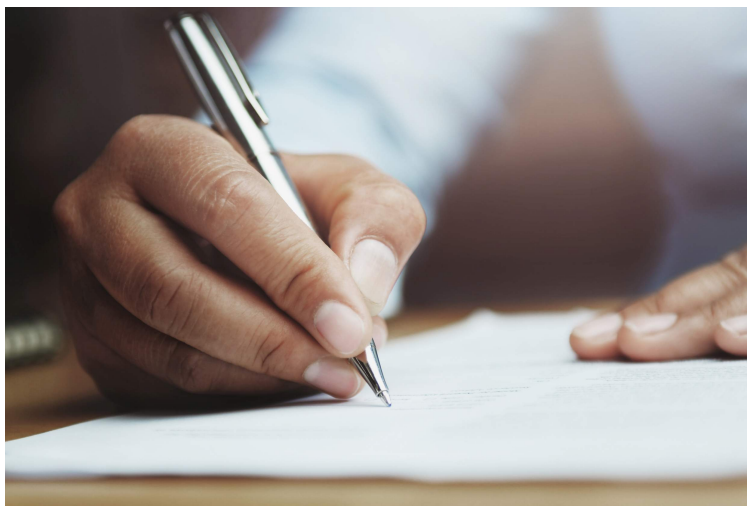
High School Transcripts

A high school transcript is like an official and thorough report card. It's a record of your academic performance and accomplishments throughout high school. Which makes this one of the most important documents in college admissions decisions, if not the most important. The transcript demonstrates your strength of schedule, improvement over time (if applicable), and overall performance in high school. Colleges view the transcript as a solid way to predict how you'll perform in college.

Who sends my transcripts?

Your high school guidance counselor will be responsible for sending your transcripts to colleges. You can't personally provide the transcript because it must be an “official transcript” received directly from your high school. Your role is to ensure that your transcript request is into your guidance counselor with all the information he or she needs to get your transcripts to colleges in a timely fashion.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS



Letters of Recommendation

Colleges value recommendations because they:

- Reveal things about you that grades and test scores can't
- Provide personal opinions of your character
- Show who is willing to speak on your behalf

Letters of recommendation work for you when they present you in the best possible light, showcasing your skills and abilities. Make sure to give your references at least one month before your earliest deadline to complete and send your letters. The earlier you ask, the better. Remember that some teachers will be writing whole stacks of letters, which takes time. Your teachers will do a better job on your letter if they don't have to rush.

Whom to Ask:

Choose one of your teachers from junior year or a current teacher who has known you for a while. Colleges want a current perspective on you, so a teacher from several years ago isn't the best choice. Consider other adults — such as an employer, a coach or an adviser from an activity outside of school — who have a good understanding of you and your strengths. Perhaps most important, pick someone who will be enthusiastic about writing the letter for you.

Getting the Best Recommendations Letters:

Make it easy for them to give positive, detailed information about your achievements and your potential by refreshing their memory.

Tips:

Give your references addressed and stamped envelopes for each college that requested a recommendation.

Make sure your references know the deadlines for each college.

Once you've decided which college to attend, write thank-you notes.

Find a Trade or Vocational School

- [What is a Trade School?](#)
- [The Importance of Skilled Trades](#)
- [Which Trade School Right for You?](#)
- [Trade/Vocational Schools](#)



Find a Career that is Right for You

[Career Builder](#)

[Career Test 1](#)

[Career Test 2](#)

[Career Personality Test](#)

[Career Personality Profiler Quiz](#)

[Bureau of Labor & Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)



Getting that job!

[Step-by-Step Guide to the Job Application Process](#)

[Dos & Don'ts of Applying for a Job](#)

[Resume Templates and Tips](#)

[Resume Builder](#)

[Ultimate Job Search Guide](#)

[Interview Tips](#)

[Finding a Job](#)

[US Government Jobs](#)

[Career Search Sites](#)

Moving during high school? Stay ON TRACK to graduate!

As mobile military students move through various sets of curriculum, graduation requirements, and school systems they can suffer academically and socially. This is finally a front burner issue with many school districts. All 50 states and several territories have signed an interstate compact that provides support for transitioning military families.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

provides state commitment to support transitioning military children in the areas of Enrollment, Eligibility, and Graduation.

Don't let a PCS move during high school derail your graduation plans! The Interstate Compact allows your sending and receiving schools to work together to keep you from being penalized for your PCS move. For example if a student moves during senior year to a school whose graduation requirements are different, instead of setting that student back, he can attend the new school and graduate with a diploma from his previous school.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission ([MIC3](#)) has established a website to keep military families abreast of updates and how they can rely on the compact provisions to support their transitioning students.

For more information:

[MIC3 website](#)

[Interstate Compact Guidebook](#)

[MIC3 in Missouri](#)

[Locate a School Liaison Officer](#)



MILITARY INTERSTATE
CHILDREN'S COMPACT
COMMISSION



Post-Secondary Preparation and Special Needs

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) can apply in post-secondary education testing, admissions, and learning. You will need to ensure you have up-to-date documentation. Reaching out to potential schools and working with your high school counselor is vital. Knowing the options and planning ahead is crucial no matter the type or level of support a student may need.

Resources

Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education

Wrightslaw - College: Continuing and Higher Education

Rights and Responsibilities of College Students with LD (Learning Disabilities Association of America)

Educational Testing Service accommodations

ACT Accommodations

AHEAD (Association on Higher Education and Disability) This is a professional association committed to full participation of persons with disabilities in post-secondary education

Applying for Accommodations on College Entrance Tests

Preparing Students with Disabilities for Trade School

DOD Guide for Adults with Special Needs

Military OneSource with Special Needs– The Essentials

DOD Adult Child Benefits

Disabled Military Child Protection Act

Success Tips:

1. Have an up-to date Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.
2. Start communication early to ensure accommodations are honored.
3. Stay in contact with counselors at HS and post secondary school.
4. Meet with team of teachers at the high school to identify recommendations for success.
5. Student input is critical to success.
6. Seek help from advocacy groups if you encounter any barriers.



GI Bill for Dependents

Service members who haven't used all of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, may be able to transfer up to 36 months of benefits to a spouse or dependent child.

[Dependents Education Assistance](#)

[Transferability of Educational Benefits](#)

[GI Bill FAQs](#)

[Post 911 GI Bill Overview](#)

[Five MUST KNOW GI Bill Facts](#)

[Video on Post 911 GI Bill](#)

[GI Bill Website](#)

[State-by-State Veteran Education Benefits](#)



Education Benefits for Dependents of Wounded or Fallen Heroes

Students with a parent who was wounded or has fallen in service to our nation may be eligible for specific educational benefits as a token thanks from a grateful nation.

[Heroes Legacy](#)

[BVA Kathern F. Gruber Scholarships](#)

[Freedom Alliance Scholarship](#)

[Survivors & Dependents Assistance Program](#)

[Fry Scholarship](#)

[American Legion Legacy Scholarship](#)

[No Greater Sacrifice](#)

[Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation](#)

[Operation One Voice](#)

[Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund](#)

[Special Operations Warrior Foundation](#)

[TAPS Education Support Services](#)

[Iowa War Orphans Educational Aid](#)

[Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Service Members](#)

In-State Tuition Requirements

As of 1 July 2009, members of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days and their families are eligible to receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in the state where they reside or are permanently stationed. When a service member or their family members are enrolled, they'll continue to receive the in-state tuition rate as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the institution, even if the service member is reassigned outside the state. This change is included in section 135 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H. R. 4137) (HEOA). In cases where the military member requires additional assistance, contact the on-campus DVA Representative, or the Department of Education's office (toll-free at 877-557-2575).

[Higher Education Opportunity Act 2008](#)

[State by State In-State Tuition Requirements](#)



Saving for College

A 529 plan is an education savings operated by a state or educational institution designed to help families set aside funds for future

college costs. There are some tax benefits.

[Pre-Paid 529](#) is a program that allows you to pay money now to be used for future college expenses. Pre-paid plans come in several forms, and in comparing plans you will find many differences. For example, some pre-paid plans cover tuition and fees only, while others cover all qualified higher education expenses. The essential benefit is that you lock in those cost: Once you've paid that plan's price, it becomes the obligation of the plan to deliver the promised benefits down the road. Each state has its own 529 plan with state specific rules and requirements.

[529 Plans by State](#)

[Missouri 529 Plan](#)

[Upromise](#)

[Tax Benefits by State](#)



ROTC

[ROTC Information](#)

[Army ROTC & Army Junior ROTC](#)

[Navy ROTC & Navy Junior ROTC](#)

[Air Force ROTC & Air Force Junior](#)

[ROTC Marine Corps Junior ROTC](#)

Schools With ROTC

[Schools with Army ROTC Programs](#)

[Schools with Army ROTC Programs by State](#)

[Schools with Navy/Marine ROTC Programs](#)

[Schools with Air Force ROTC Programs](#)

Military Academies and Federal Service

[US Military Academy at West](#)

[Point United States Naval](#)

[Academy US Air Force Academy](#)

[Coast Guard Academy](#)

[US Merchant Marine Academy](#)

[Peace Corps](#)

Military Recruiters

[Army](#)

[Navy](#)

[Marines](#)

[Air Force](#)

[Army National Guard](#)

[Air National Guard](#)

SERVICE TO NATION



The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude test battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. Your choice of job within the military can be tied to your ASVAB score.

Prep Resources:

[ASVAB Prep](#)

[Union- ASVAB Prep](#)

[ASVAB Tutor](#)

[Free ASVAB Practice Tests](#)

[Understanding ASVAB Scores](#)



FINDING MONEY FOR SCHOOL



Grant/Loan/Scholarship Search Engines

[Search for Military Dependent Scholarships](#)

[Scholarship America](#)

[School Soup](#)

[Fast Web](#)

[CSS / Financial Aid Profile](#)

[FINAID](#)

[College Connections](#)

[Military Officers' Association of America – Scholarship Search](#)

[Engine Federal Government Educational Grants and Scholarships](#)

[Gateway to Scholarship Searches](#)

[Guaranteed Scholarships](#)

[City of College Dreams](#)

[College Net's Scholarship Database](#)

[Scholarships.com](#)

[Scholarship Opportunities for Veterans and Their Families](#)

[College Monk](#)

FIND THE MONEY

Air Force & Space Force

[General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program](#)
[Lt. Col Romeo and Josephine Bass Ferretti Scholarship](#)
[John C. and Blanche Lee Lindsay Memorial Scholarship](#)
[Air Force Sergeants Association](#)
[Trident University Full Scholarship](#)
[Pentagon Federal Credit Union Pilot Training Scholarship](#)
[Destin Flight Works Pilot Training Scholarship](#)
[The George and Vicki Muellner Foundation Scholarship](#)
[John C. and Blanche Lee Lindsay Memorial Scholarship](#)
[Dr. Sydell Perlmutter Gold Memorial Scholarship](#)



Navy

[Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund](#)
[Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation](#)
[Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#)
[Navy League of the United States Scholarship Program](#)
[Navy Supply Corps Scholarship](#)
[Seabee Memorial Scholarship Foundation](#)
[Dolphin Scholarship Foundation](#)
[Tailhook Educational Foundation Scholarship Awards](#)



Marine Corps

[Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation](#)
[John Cornelius/Max English Memorial Scholarship](#)
[Marines' Memorial Association Scholarship Program](#)



Coast Guard

[Coast Guard Exchange System Scholarship Program](#)
[Keller Scholarship](#)
[Colona Scholarship](#)



Where to find more scholarships...

Search in your community and online for scholarships by fraternities or sororities, local spouse groups, businesses, houses of worship, clubs, etc., and don't forget to see what is available from your school!

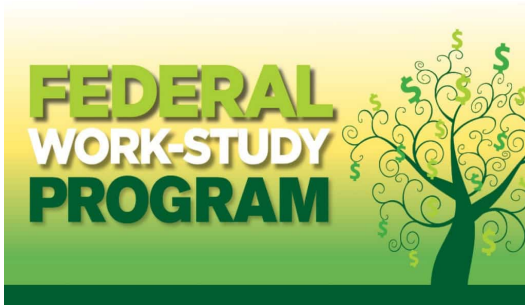
Federal Student Aid

The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides more than \$120 billion in financial aid to help pay for college or career school each year.

It takes a bit of time to set up a log in account, but well worth your time. Even if you don't think you will need this, set up an account to be prepared for changes in circumstances.



[Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#)



[Federal Work-Study](#) provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study.

Check with your school's [financial aid office](#) to find out if your school participates.



In addition to the nearly \$3.5 BILLION in athletic scholarships schools award athletes, the [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) gives \$10 MILLION in scholarships and grants each year to student athletics.

Check out the link to find out more and plan ahead if hope to snag some of this money for school!

COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS

[Internship Do's and Don't s](#)
[8 Ways to find an Internship](#)

[International Internships](#)

[How to get an Internship](#)

[Search for an Internship](#)

[Importance of Internships](#)



College graduates who hold an internship for a job related to their future career are twice as likely to find a stable job immediately after college.
(Source Gallup)

GI College Success Academy

GI provides the most comprehensive career and college counseling, test prep, and financial aid counseling program available today. The program is delivered online to serve a family anywhere around the globe and is backed up by a team of live, degreed experts that work with the student and their parents via email, phone or chat. Through partnerships with other organizations, GI is able to provide the College Success Academy free of charge to the families we serve.



The A+ Scholarship Program provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools who attend a participating public community college or vocational/technical school, or certain private two-year vocational/technical schools.

WARTIME VETERAN'S SURVIVORS GRANT



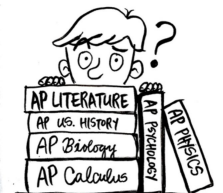
The Wartime Veteran's Survivor Grants are available annually to children and spouses of Veterans whose deaths or injuries were a result of combat action or were attributed to an illness that was contracted while serving in combat action, or who became 80 percent disabled as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat action since Sept. 11, 2001. The children and spouses of Missouri resident combat veterans deployed for active duty service on or after September 11, 2001 may also be eligible if the veteran received a DD214 indicating a combat pay tax exclusion exemption, or pay for hazardous duty, imminent danger, or hostile fire.



Missouri's Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development offers a Advanced Placement Incentive Grant of \$500. This is a nonrenewable grant designed to encourage high school students to take and score well on Advanced Placement tests in mathematics and science.



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT





Now What?



"We're sorry, but we won't be able to offer you a place in our first-year class. We had many qualified applicants this year...."

This is not how you wanted your college letter to read, but there it is. After all of the work you put into your application and the months of anticipation, it's understandable if you're upset about the outcome. However, it's important to keep rejection letters in perspective and to understand that you have options.

Rejection Is Not Always About You Some students read rejection from a college as an indication that they don't have what it takes to succeed. However, admissions decisions are not a judgment from society. Colleges have many reasons for rejecting students, and there is always an aspect of randomness in the process. Student merit is not the only factor in a school's decision. Schools also must address their own needs for a diverse population or for strength on sports teams or in specific degree programs. Neither you or your parents should treat rejection as a personal failure.

What to Do if You Aren't Accepted Anywhere What if you haven't gotten into any of the schools to which you applied? This can occur when students apply only to very selective schools or too few schools, or if senior grades falter. This requires some reevaluation of your situation, but it's certainly not the end of the world. You still have some options. Here are some steps you can take:

1. Talk to your counselor. He/She has been through this before with other students and knows what to do
2. Apply to schools whose deadlines haven't yet passed. Many colleges have late admissions policies or rolling admissions. Find schools that are still accepting applications.
3. Apply to the same schools again. Some schools will reconsider your application if you take the SAT® again and improve your scores or if your grades shot up dramatically at the end of your senior year.
4. Contact the admissions office. Ask for an explanation. Was it your high school transcript? Your essay?

Consider transferring to the college later. If you spend a year at another school, you can prove to college admissions officers that you're motivated and ready for college level work. Consider community colleges, too.

Appealing Admissions Decisions You can try to appeal your rejection, but most students don't win. Contact the admissions office for details on its appeal process. Some colleges will allow you to provide new academic information that could improve your chances of getting in, such as updated grades. You may also be able to request a spot on its waiting list.

The Upside There's an upside? Yes. Sometimes it actually helps to have a decision made for you. Maybe you had several colleges on your wish list, and wouldn't have had an easy time choosing just one. Plus, if you hadn't been turned down by at least one college, maybe you would always wonder if you should have set your sights higher.

Rejection is not the end; just a step on the path in your journey.

