

12th Grade Checklist

Senior year is often an extremely busy time with schoolwork, activities, and special events. Be sure to stay on track with your college admissions process. Get organized, be aware of deadlines, and do not procrastinate.

Fall	<p>Continue to visit schools Fall is a great time to look at the schools on your college lists because classes are in session and you are better able to visit with college students and professors. You may even be able to sit in on a class or two. Seniors can have up to two excused absences for college visits.</p> <p>Finalize your college list When applying to college, use the information you have gathered from college visits, interviews, and your own research. It is okay to apply to colleges that you think will be more difficult to get accepted. It is also important to put a few safety schools (where you are sure you will get in) on your list. Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final choices.</p> <p>Stay on track with your grades and extracurricular activities Colleges will look at what you have done in your senior year, so stay focused on doing well in your classes and maintaining a commitment to extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Submit financial aid forms No matter your family's income level, the FAFSA/TASFA is your main priority for financial aid purposes as it will determine how much you are expected to pay toward your college expenses. The FAFSA/TASFA form is required per House Bill 3 to meet graduation requirements. Students who wish to submit an opt-out form need to see their high school counselor. More information can be found at College for All Texans.</p> <p>Take standardized tests Register for and take the ACT or SAT. Be sure you have requested your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice.</p> <p>Keep track of deadlines You will be filling out many forms this year, so it is important to know which form is due when. Make a calendar showing the application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships. Please refer to the Peaster ISD Local Scholarship deadline criteria.</p> <p>Ask for letters of recommendation Give letter of recommendation forms to the teachers you have chosen, along with stamped, addressed envelopes (if needed) so your teachers can send them directly to the colleges. Be sure to fill out your name and address and the school name on each form. Discuss your goals and ambitions with your teachers so they will be more prepared to write about you. Be sure to write a thank you note to each individual who recommended you.</p> <p>Meet with your counselor Your counselor can help you stay on track with admissions requirements. Make sure your counselor knows to which colleges you want transcripts, score reports, and letters mailed. Give your counselors any necessary forms much earlier than the actual deadlines so they will be able to submit them on time.</p> <p>Complete applications Finish the application forms for your schools of interest. Proofread your applications and make extra copies before you send them. Make sure you and your school's counseling office have sent all necessary materials, including test scores, recommendations, transcripts, and application essays. You should plan to get all this done before winter break so you will not be rushing to make deadlines.</p> <p>Transcripts: Official transcripts must be requested using the Peaster ISD Form.</p>
Winter	<p>Scholarship search Apply for scholarships that have deadlines approaching and keep searching for more scholarship and grant opportunities. Using online scholarship search tools is a great way to find potential aid. Ask colleges about available scholarships. Please refer to the Peaster ISD Local Scholarship deadline criteria.</p> <p>Send mid-year grade reports Ask your counselor to send your mid-year grade reports to your college of interest. Remember that schools will continue to keep track of your grades, so it is important to keep working hard throughout your senior year.</p>

Spring

Watch your mail and email for notifications from colleges

If you applied under the regular application process, you should receive an admissions decision by March or April. Notifications of financial aid awards should arrive by the end of April.

Compare financial aid packages

Make sure to consider each financial aid award carefully. If you have questions, contact the financial aid office of the college to get more information. Financial aid is a key factor in deciding where you will attend.

Make your final college and career decisions

Notify all schools of your intent by May 1. If you are not sure which college offers to accept, make one more campus visit to the schools you are considering. Make sure to send your deposit to your chosen school and ask your school counselor to send your final transcript to the college in June.