

CLASS OF 2026

SENIOR INFORMATION

WHAT'S NEXT?



Senior Packet Online



Interest Quiz

Your interests can help
you find careers and
create a college pathway.

LEWISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026

UNDERSTANDING THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS

- * Check college admissions webpage for guidance ALWAYS.
- * Federal Free and Reduce Meal Plan. FREE - Application fees & SAT/ACT cost.
Must be Free & Reduced at the time of registration.

Common online platforms for college applications

- ApplyTexas.org
- Commonapp.org
- Coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- Check college admissions webpage for guidance and preferred platform

Understanding of the college admissions timeline (application deadlines, testing dates).

- Application deadline- each university is different.
- College entrance exam options, if needed.
 - SAT- <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines>
 - In the school day at LHS October 16, 2025
 - ACT- act.org
 - In the school day at LHS February 24, 2026
 - TSIA2- Free administration for English 3, Algebra 2, CP English, CP Math students
 - In the school day at LHS March 24- 27, 2026

Knowledge of required materials (transcripts, letters of recommendation).

- High school transcript request for college admissions
 - <https://lewisvilletx.scribborder.com>
 - 5 free transcripts. Additional transcripts \$5 each
 - In mid-May, a FINAL Transcript (free) must be requested to complete admissions.
- Letter of recommendation- Who should I ask? Individuals who know you well in a professional or academic context and can speak to your specific skills, experiences, strengths and character.
 - Teacher
 - Supervisor/ Manager
 - Counselor
 - Community Leader
 - Coach/ Sponsor/ Director

Awareness of various college admission processes (regular decision, early decision, rolling admissions).

- Early Decision (October-November)
 - Application seen sooner
 - Commitment to one school only
 - If accepted, must attend

Awareness of various college admission Continued....

- Regular Decision (December-February)
 - More time to complete application
 - No pressure to commitment
 - Allows you to compare financial aid offers
- Early Action (November/December)
 - Application seen sooner
 - Can apply to other colleges simultaneously
 - Do not have to accept until later
 - Allows you to compare financial aid offers
- Rolling Admissions (ongoing)
 - Earlier you submit, the earlier you'll hear back
 - Can apply to other colleges simultaneously
 - No pressure to commitment
 - The longer you wait to apply, the harder it is to get accepted

Importance of researching potential colleges and understanding their specific requirements.

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TRADE SCHOOL

What About Trade Jobs?

Trade jobs include jobs like nurses, electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, welders, machinists, assemblers, carpenters, mechanics, auto body technicians, dental assistants, masons, and many more.

TRADE SCHOOL

- Trade school only takes a few months to two years, depending on the trade and program. This means you enter the workplace much sooner to start earning an income and gaining real-world experience.
- Trade school focuses closely on the skills and knowledge you'll need for your career and doesn't require that you take general courses or extra credits. You only spend your time learning what you really need.
- Applying to and getting into trade school tends to be a straightforward process. Instead of a lengthy application process and prolonged waiting times, applicants can usually simply discuss their program choice with someone from the admissions team, schedule a campus tour, and select a start date. Most trade schools only require a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Trade school involves specialized hands-on training that is highly specific to your field, with much of this training taking place in workshops and other settings that closely resemble your future workplace. Through real-world projects, you'll gain actual work experience that sets you up to start work with little to no additional on-the-job training required. Plus, because trade school programs are much shorter than traditional college, you'll be able to start working and gaining work experience much sooner.

*Local 2-year colleges (Collin College, Dallas College, NCTC, & others) offer trade programs as well. Their programs tend to be less expensive due to the spacing of the courses over a 2-year time. The spacing of the program allows for the cost (payment) to also be spread out over a 2-year time. Students can earn a trade and an associate degree simultaneously.

MILITARY-BOUND STUDENT

WHO ARE MILITARY-BOUND STUDENTS?

Military-bound students are teens considering service in one of the U.S. military branches after high school. Their reasons vary, some feel a strong calling to serve their country, while others are drawn to the structure, benefits, or training that the military provides.

Whether they're set on enlisting or just beginning to explore their options, your insight can help students make informed decisions that align with their interests and long-term goals.

USE THE ASVAB TEST AS A CAREER PLANNING TOOL

The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test is used for enlistment purposes, and it's a powerful tool for career exploration. With access to interest inventories, career matching tools, and the AFQT score (used for enlistment qualification), students can gain a well-rounded understanding of where they excel.

The Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), a subscore generated from the ASVAB, is especially important for those considering enlisting. The AFQT score helps determine eligibility for military service and can guide students toward specific military occupational specialties. Air Force: 31, Army: 31, Coast Guard: 40, Marine Corps: 32, Navy: 35

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) helps uncover strengths students didn't know they had (whether in electronics, mechanics, health care, or logistics), opening doors to a wide range of careers in the military.

UNDERSTANDING ENLISTMENT REQUIREMENTS

To enlist in the military, a student must be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, typically between the ages of 17 and 39. Those under 18 will need parental consent. While a high school diploma is preferred, some branches may consider GED holders under specific conditions.

Enlistees must also meet physical and medical standards, including passing a medical exam and meeting fitness requirements. Certain health conditions, past injuries, or medications may require waivers.

Academically, students must take the ASVAB test and submit their AFQT score, with minimum scores varying by branch. A background check and drug screening are also required, and some legal issues may disqualify applicants or require additional review.

MILITARY VS. COLLEGE? EDUCATION WITHOUT THE DEBT

One of the most well-known advantages of military service is access to higher education without the burden of student loans. For students who want to pursue a degree but face financial barriers, the military offers a structured and supported way to reach that goal.

- Direct Unsubsidized Loans: For undergraduate and graduate students, regardless of financial need. Interest accrues during all periods.
- Direct PLUS Loans: For graduate students, professional students, and parents of undergraduate students. The interest rate is typically higher than for other federal loans.
- Work-Study: A program that allows students to earn money to pay for education expenses through a part-time job related to their studies.

TASFA (TEXAS APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID)

The TASFA is specifically for Texas residents who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA due to their immigration or citizenship status.

- Who is it for? Certain non-citizen Texas residents who qualify under state law, such as those eligible for in-state tuition under House Bill 1403.
- What aid does it provide? State-funded financial aid, such as the Texas Grant
- How to apply: The application is submitted directly to the college or university you plan to attend. The priority deadline for many schools is February 15th.
- Recommendation: A student should fill out either the FAFSA or the TASFA, but not both.

EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Also known as private scholarships, these are gift-aid awards offered by organizations outside of a college or university. They do not need to be repaid.

- Who offers them: External scholarships are funded by a variety of groups, such as local community organizations, private companies, foundations, and non-profits.
- Eligibility criteria: Awards can be based on academic merit, field of study, financial need, ethnicity, athletic ability, or other factors.
- Finding scholarships: Many free online scholarship databases can help you find awards that match your profile. Your high school guidance counselor is also a good resource. Fastweb, Scholarship.com, BigFuture, RaiseMe, Scholarships360
- Impact on aid package: If you win an external scholarship, you must notify your college's financial aid office. They may adjust your financial aid package, a practice known as "scholarship displacement." Some schools reduce loans or work-study first, which is beneficial for the student, while others may reduce grant aid.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Also called institutional or university scholarships, these are funded and administered directly by a college or university. They are a way for a school to attract high-achieving students and reduce tuition costs.

- How they work: When you apply for admission, you are often automatically considered for the school's general merit-based scholarships. Some institutions also require a separate application.
 - Types of awards: Internal scholarships can be based on merit (academics, athletics, arts), a specific major, or financial need.
 - Renewability: Many internal scholarships are renewable for all four years of college, provided you maintain a certain GPA or other requirements.
 - How to apply: Research the financial aid page on a prospective school's website to understand its specific scholarship offerings and application procedures. You can also reach out to the financial aid office directly.
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