CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR PARENT COLLEGE APPLICATION NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

ROWAN COLLEGE OF BURLINGTON COUNTY

Spring Ahead Program

- Information Session in October (at Cherokee during school day)
- Campus Visit in the Spring (trip to RCBC during school day)
- Students will have to sign up for each. Will be advertised to students in daily announcements and through email

Rowan College at BURLINGTON COUNTY

Timeline

PHASE ONE: Applying to College *(September – February)*

- Develop a list of colleges that meet your student's needs
- Submit all applications and support materials by the chosen deadline
- Complete FAFSA and possibly CSS Profile (select colleges)

PHASE TWO: Admissions Decisions Received *(December – May)*

- Consider all options
- Look for requests for additional information (mid-term transcript sometimes required)

PHASE THREE: How Much Will This Cost? *(February – May)*

- Financial Aid packages/reward letters received

PHASE FOUR: College Choice! *(by May 1st)*

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Encourage your student to take the lead
- Discuss the application deadlines that your student plans to meet in advance
- Help your student prioritize time and stay organized
  - Weekly check-ins
  - Calendar and/or spreadsheets
- Parents are an important part of the financial aid process

Counselors are currently meeting with your students

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

NACAC National Association for College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU?*

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

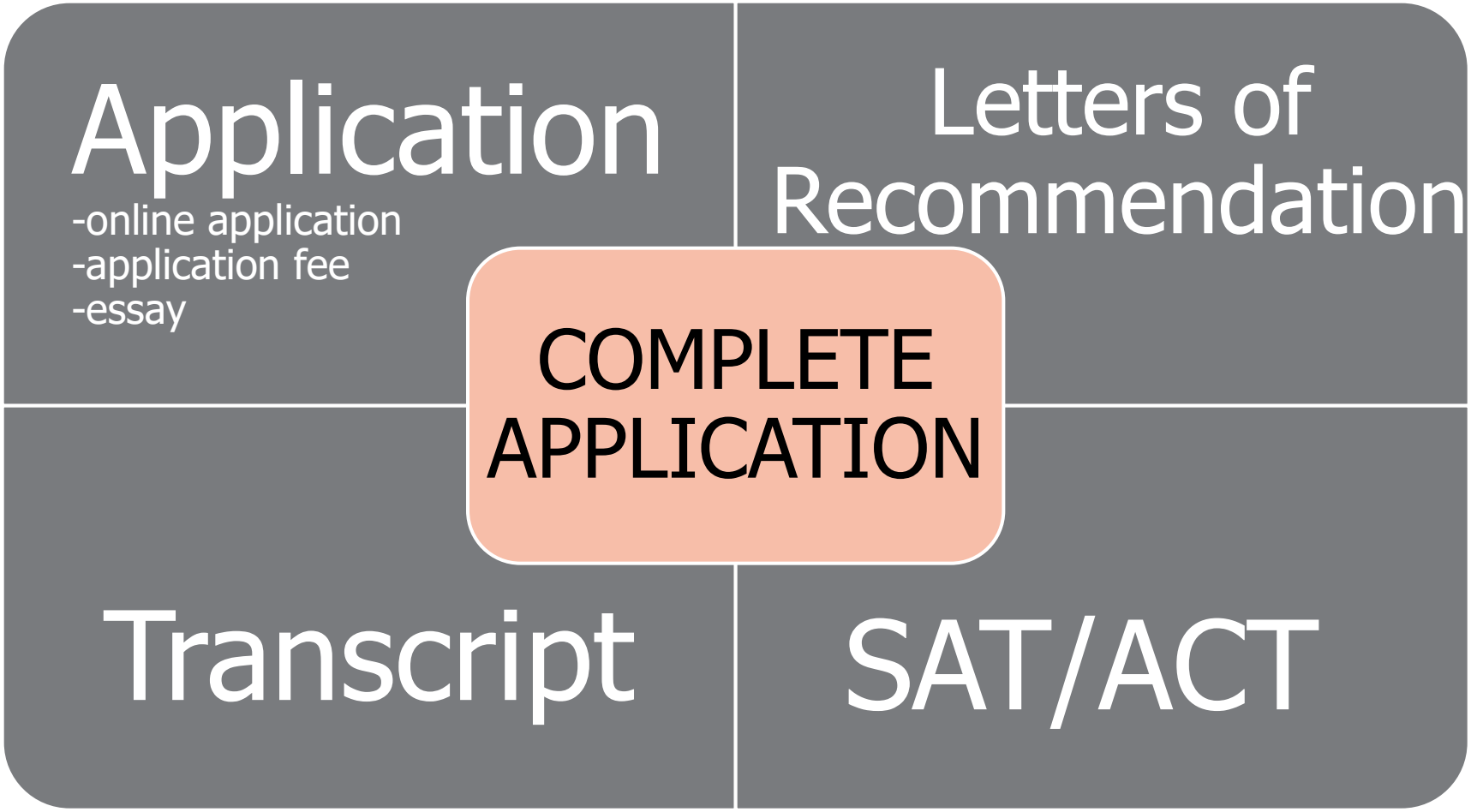
COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org

Applying to 4-Year College



****Fine and Performing Art students will likely be required to audition or provide a portfolio****

SAT/ ACT TEST SCORES

- Most schools are "test optional"
  - *Scores are not required, but will be used if sent*
  - *Not submitting them does not count against the student*
  - *Must indicate on application if applying test optional*

- Some colleges require SAT or ACT scores to be considered for admission

- Some colleges will require scores for specific majors or if a student falls under a specific GPA

- **Students must send their scores directly to their colleges through the testing company**

TESTING WEBSITES

www.collegeboard.org

SAT®

www.actstudent.org

ACT®

REMAINING DATES

- **SAT**
  - **November 8** – Register by October 24
  - **December 6** – Register by November 21

- **ACT**
  - **December 13** – Register by November 7
  - **February 14** – Register by January 9

TESTING WEBSITES

www.collegeboard.org

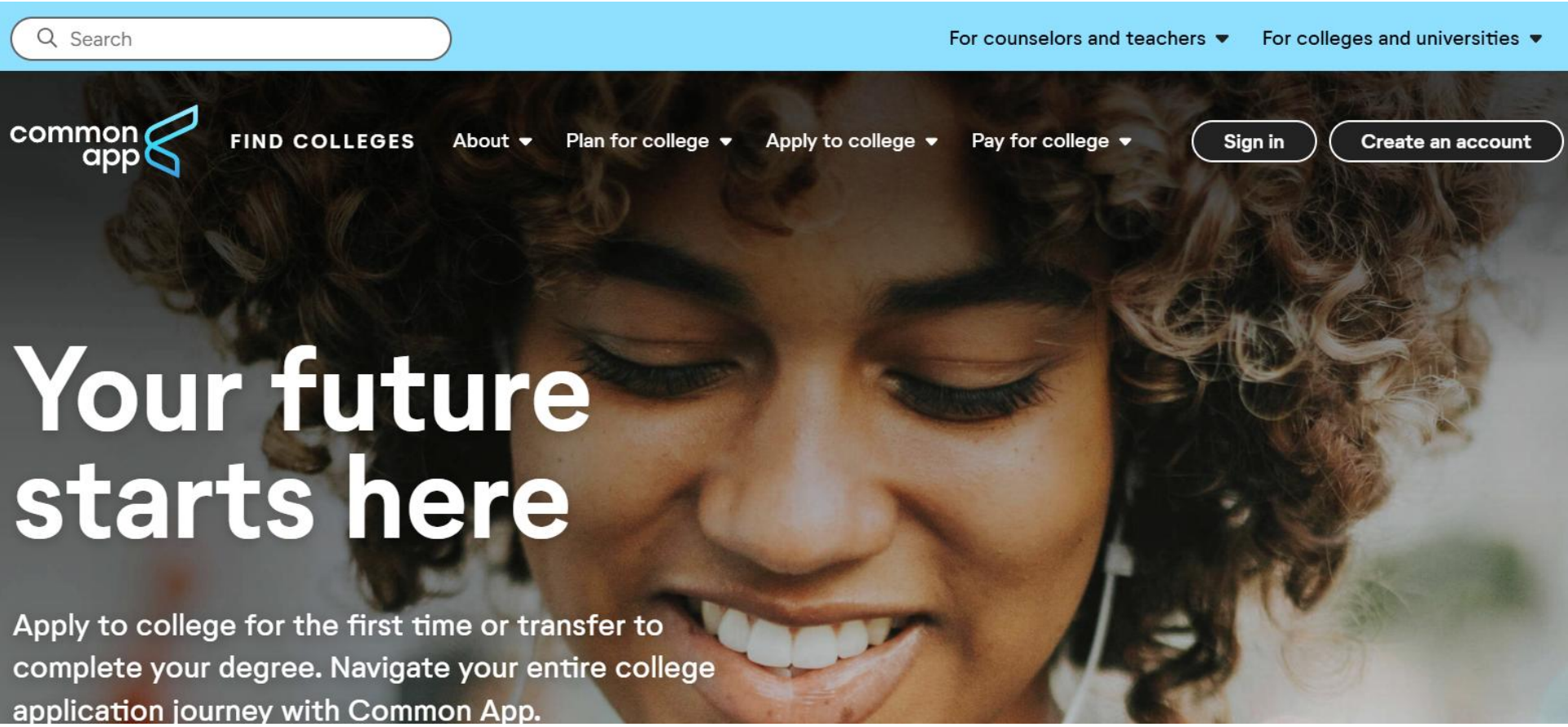
www.actstudent.org

APPLYING ONLINE

- Start by visiting colleges' websites and checking application deadlines/ requirements
- Begin applications with earliest deadline first
- Apply either through the college website or Common Application website **(commonapp.org)**
  - Use the Common App every time it is available

THE COMMON APPLICATION

The Common Application is a college admission application that may be used to apply to more than 1,000 colleges and universities



HELPFUL INFORMATION

School:

Cherokee High School
120 Tomlinson Mill Road
Marlton, NJ 08053

Counselors Title: School Counselor
Phone: 856-983-5140 Fax: 856-596-6495

Number of Credits for your Classes:

Full Year Courses- 5 credits
Full Year AP Lab Sciences- 6 Credits
PE-2.5 Credits/ Health- 2.5 Credits
Semester Courses- 2.5 Credits

GPA:

Unweighted is out of 4.00
Weighted is out of 6.00
Your can report either unless it is specified

Rank: None

Number of Students in Senior Class:
537

CEEB:
310-761

THE COMMON APPLICATION & SCOIR

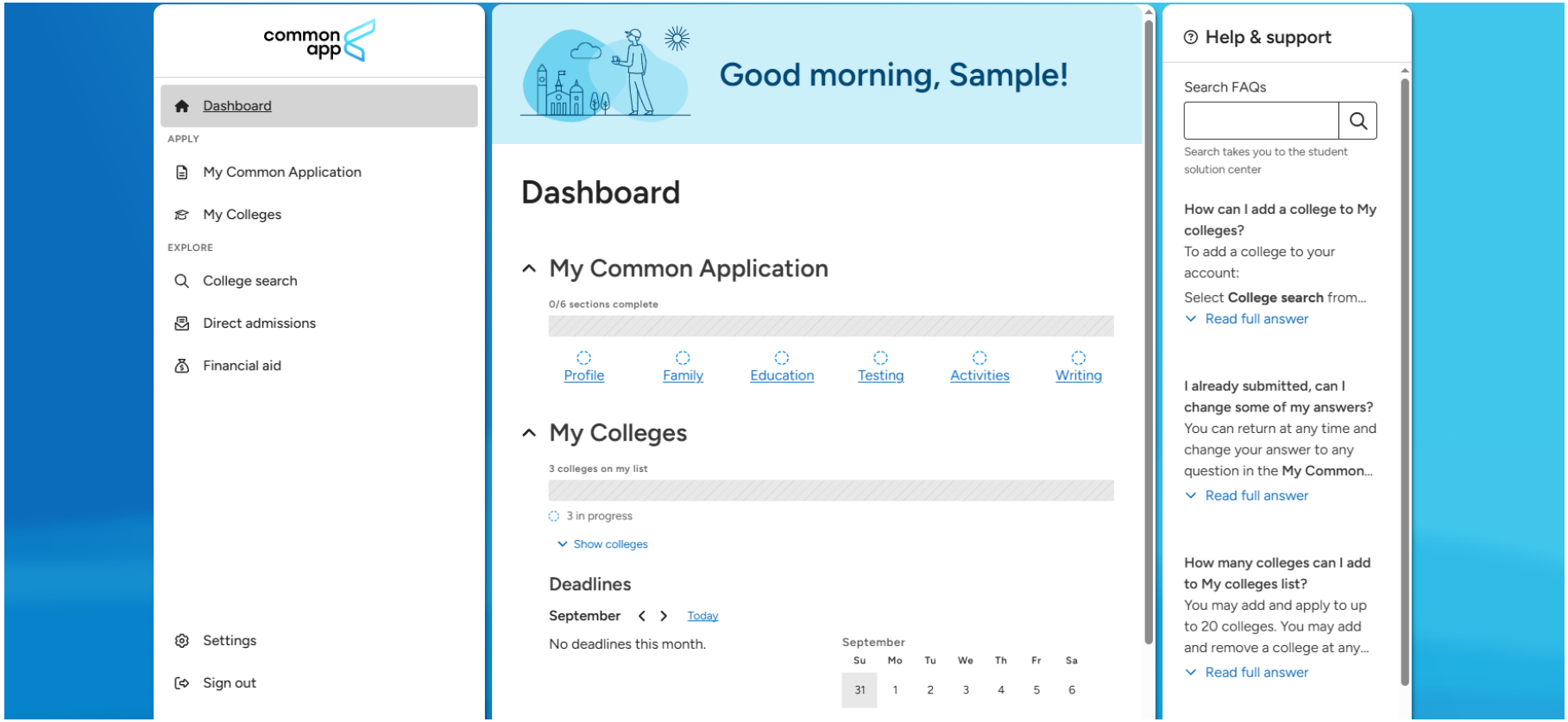
- Students typically use the Common Application to apply to college
- School related materials will be sent via SCOIR
  - Transcripts, letters of recommendation, school reports
- Students must connect their SCOIR and Common Application accounts

SCOIR

common app

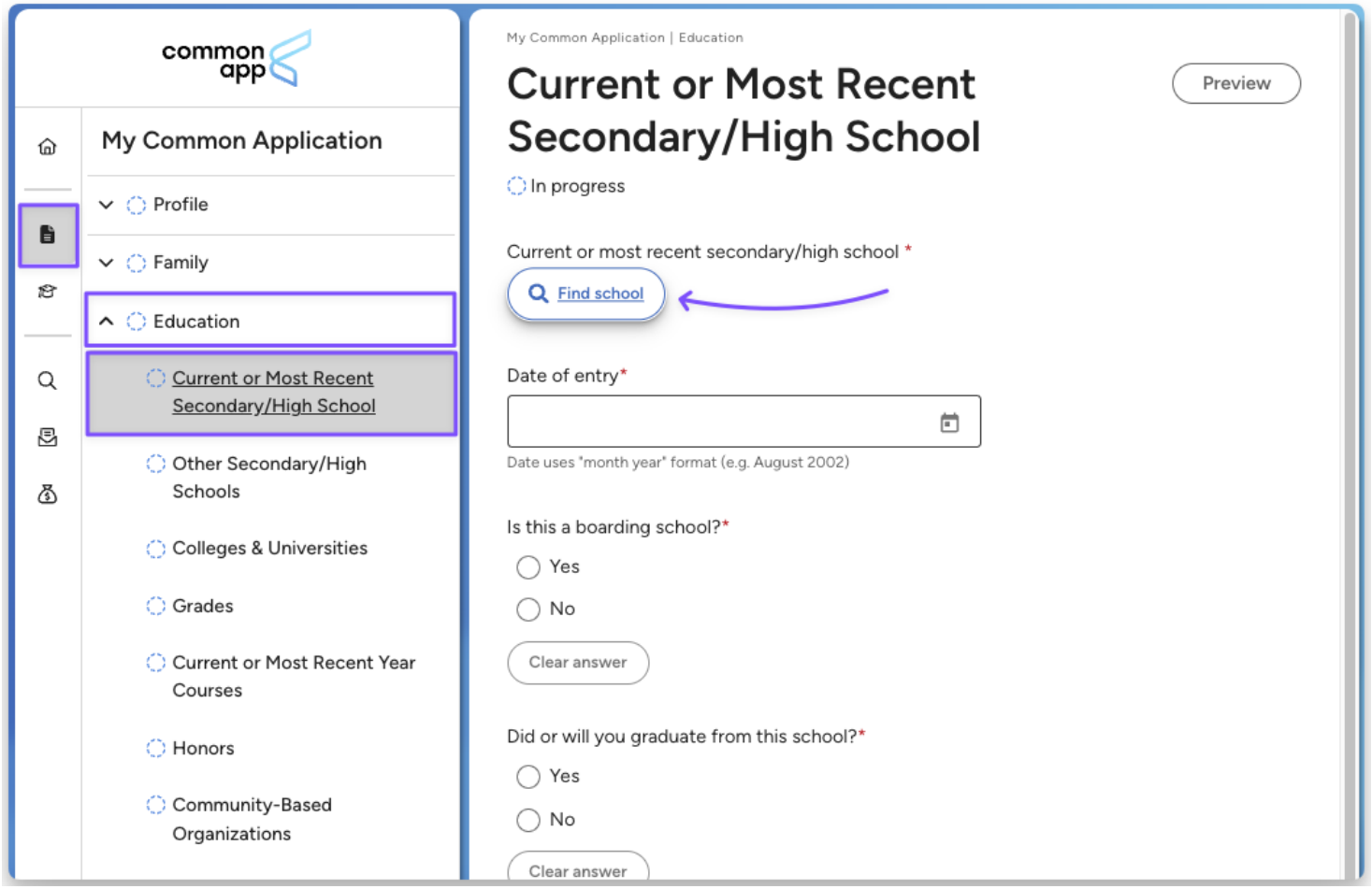
THE COMMON APPLICATION

Navigating the Common App



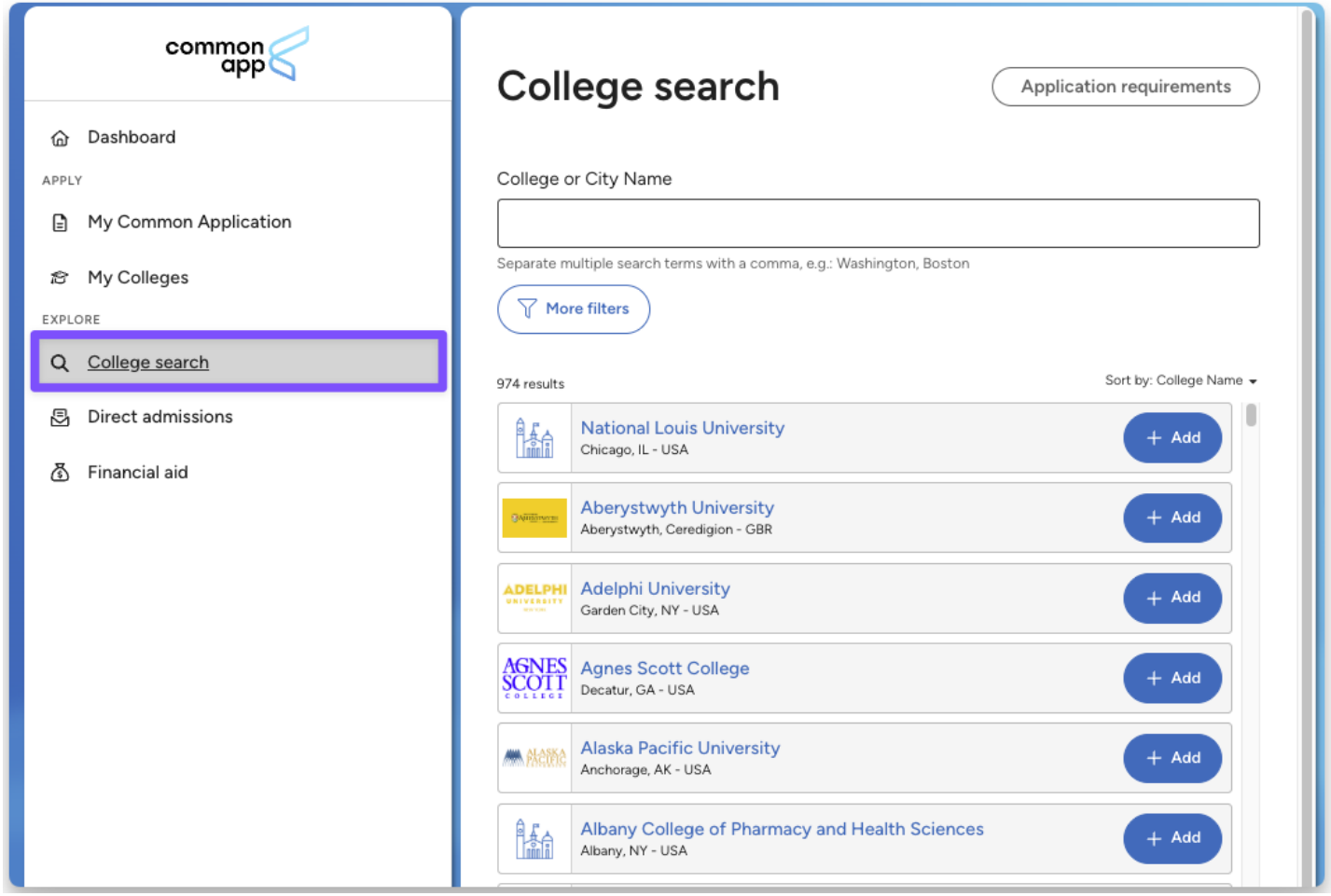
THE COMMON APPLICATION

On the “Common App” tab, under “Education”, add Cherokee High School



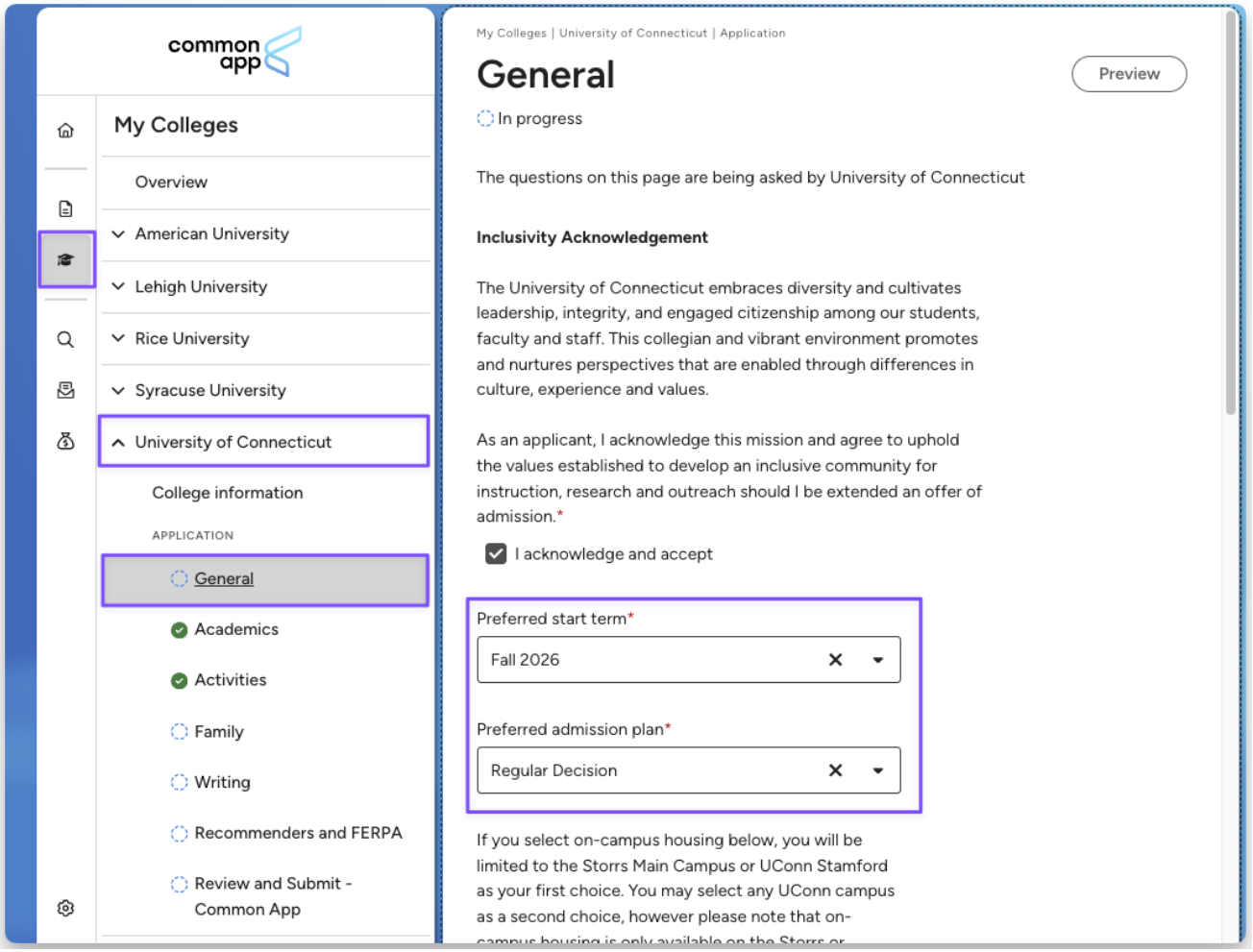
THE COMMON APPLICATION

Adding colleges to your Common App list



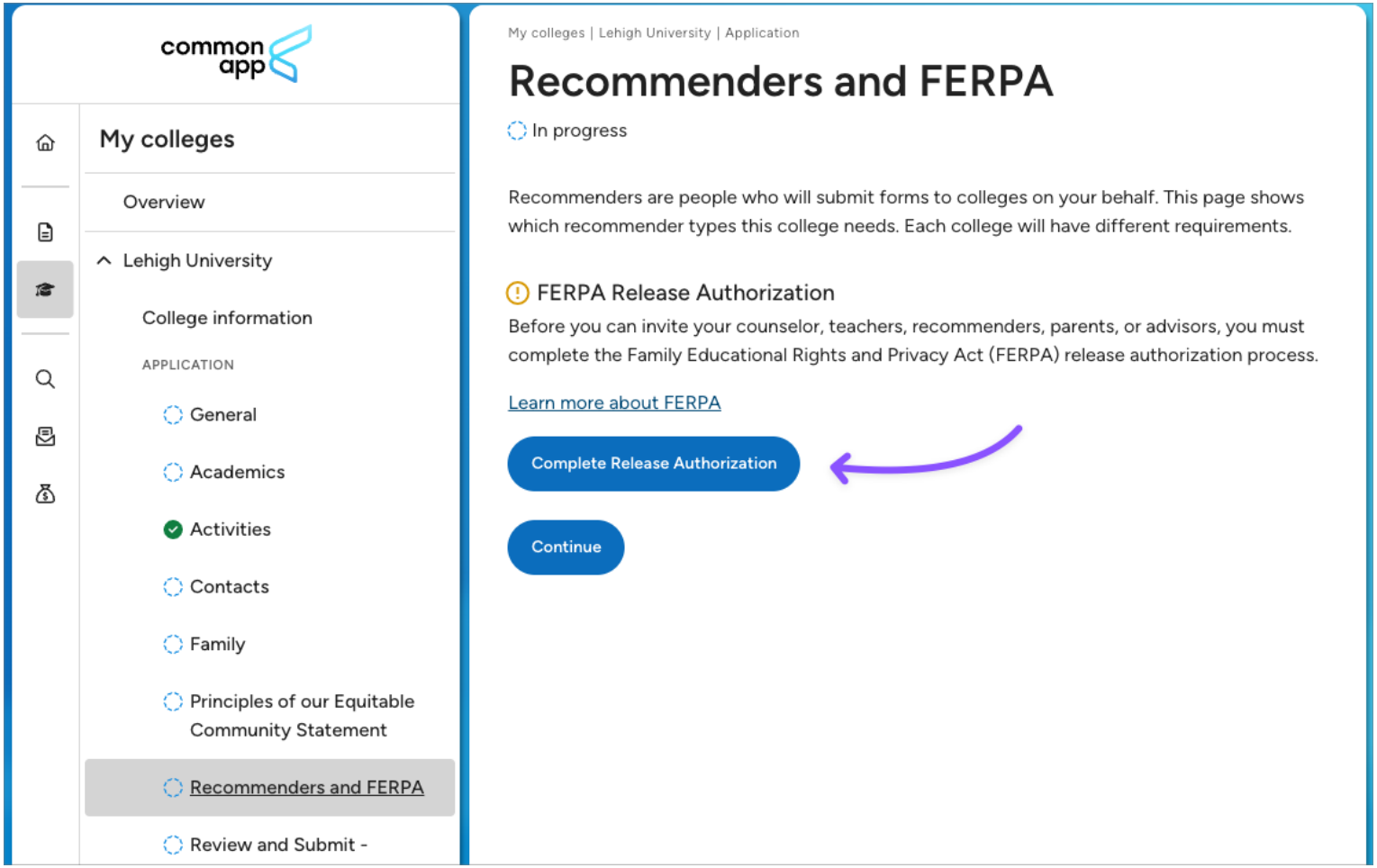
THE COMMON APPLICATION

Select a start term and admission plan



THE COMMON APPLICATION

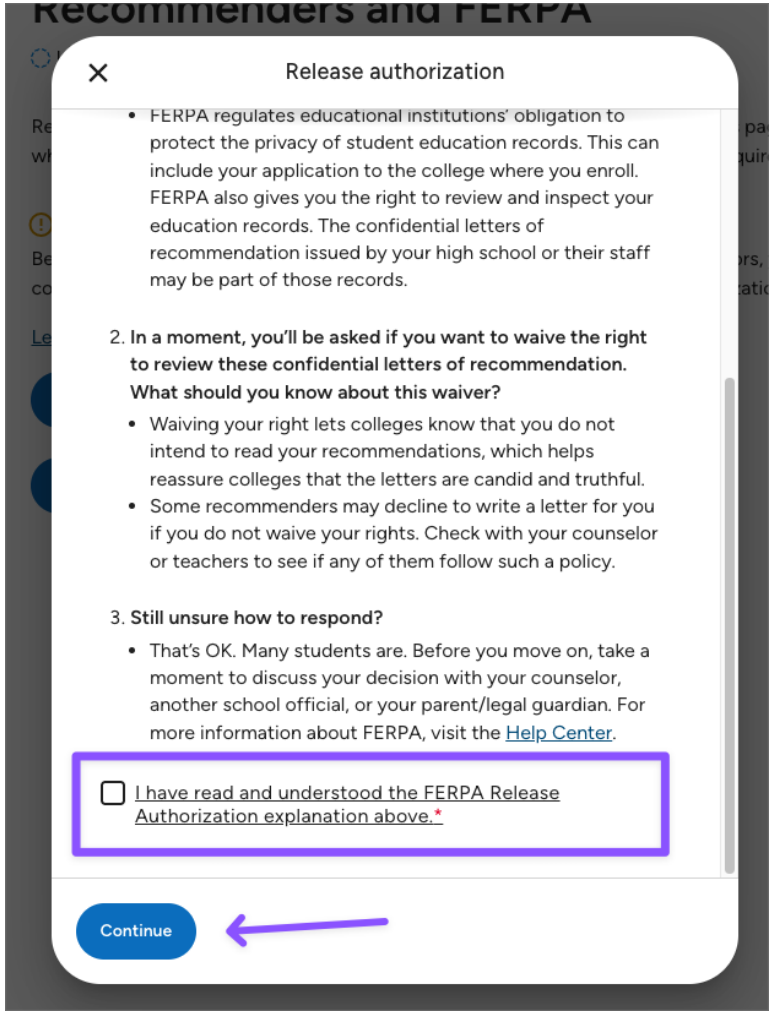
Recommenders and FERPA – Only Completed Once!



THE COMMON APPLICATION
FERPA RELEASE

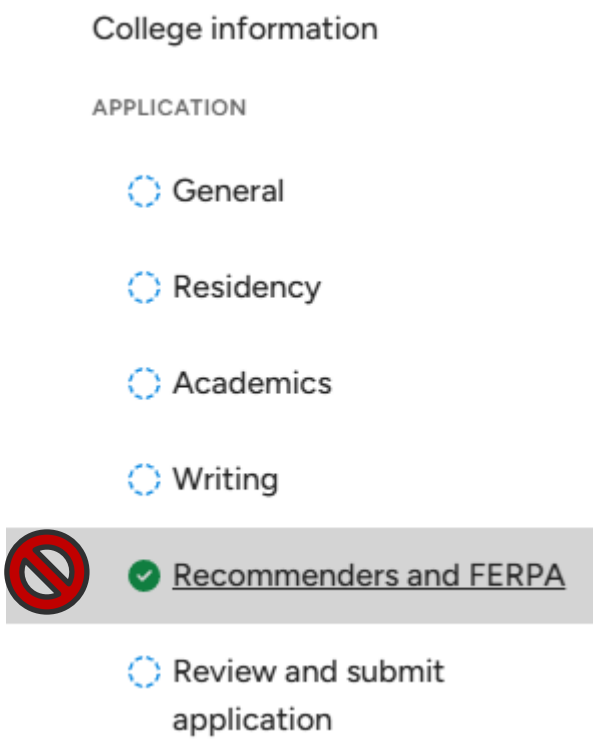
FERPA stands for Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

- Students have a right to their educational record. Colleges prefer that students not view their letters of recommendation and are requesting students waive their FERPA rights for application materials.

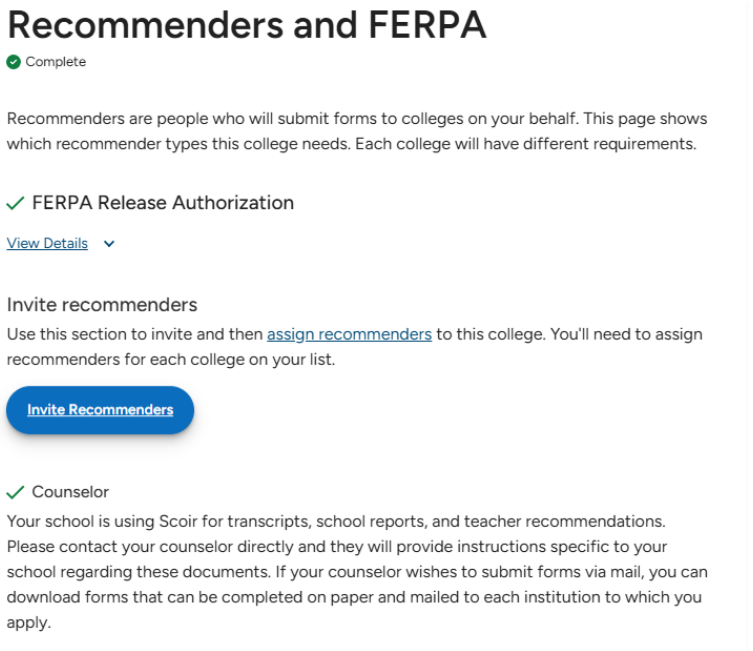


THE COMMON APPLICATION RECOMMENDERS

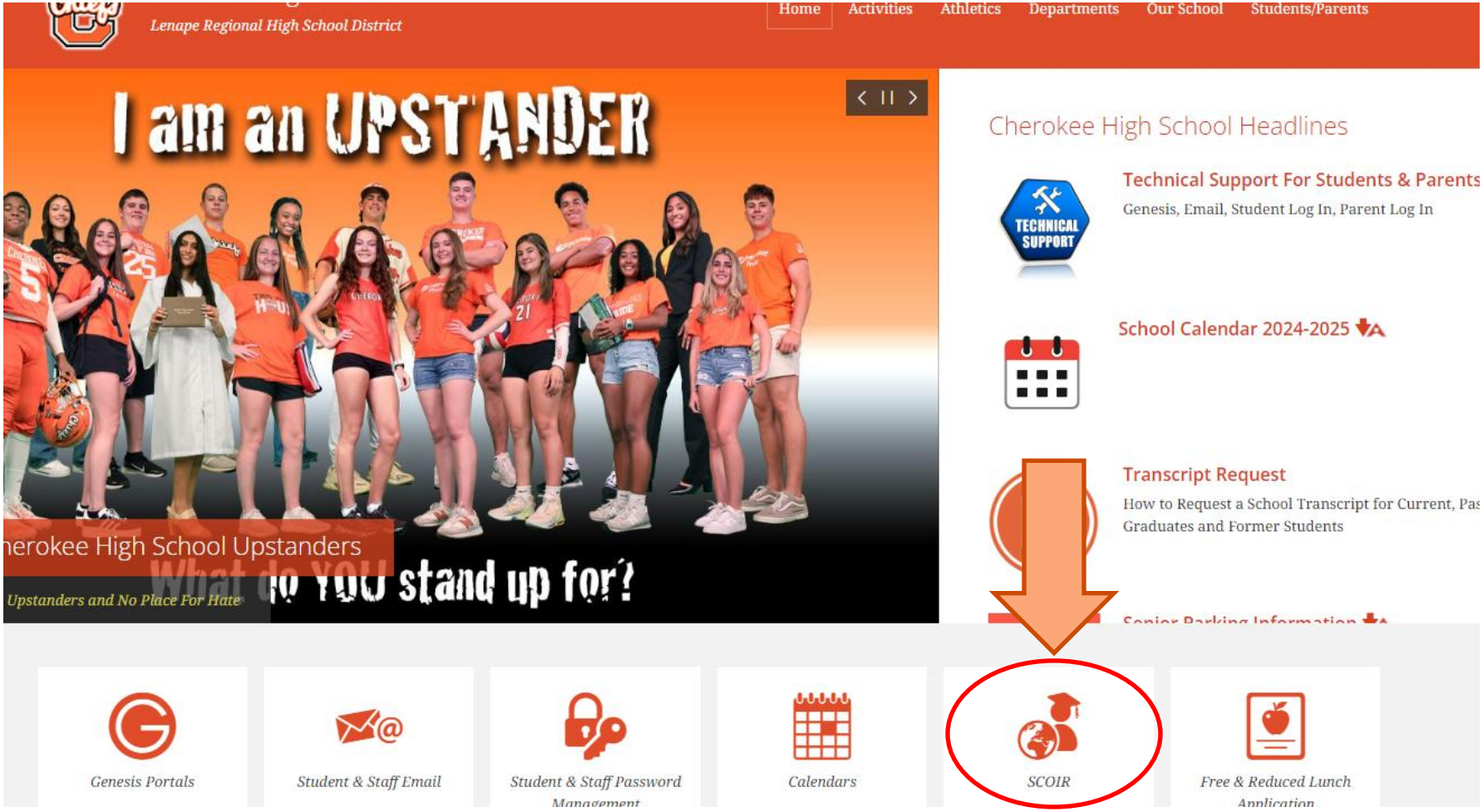
Recommendations for all Cherokee staff is sent via SCOIR



Only return to this section if getting a recommendation from someone outside of Cherokee!

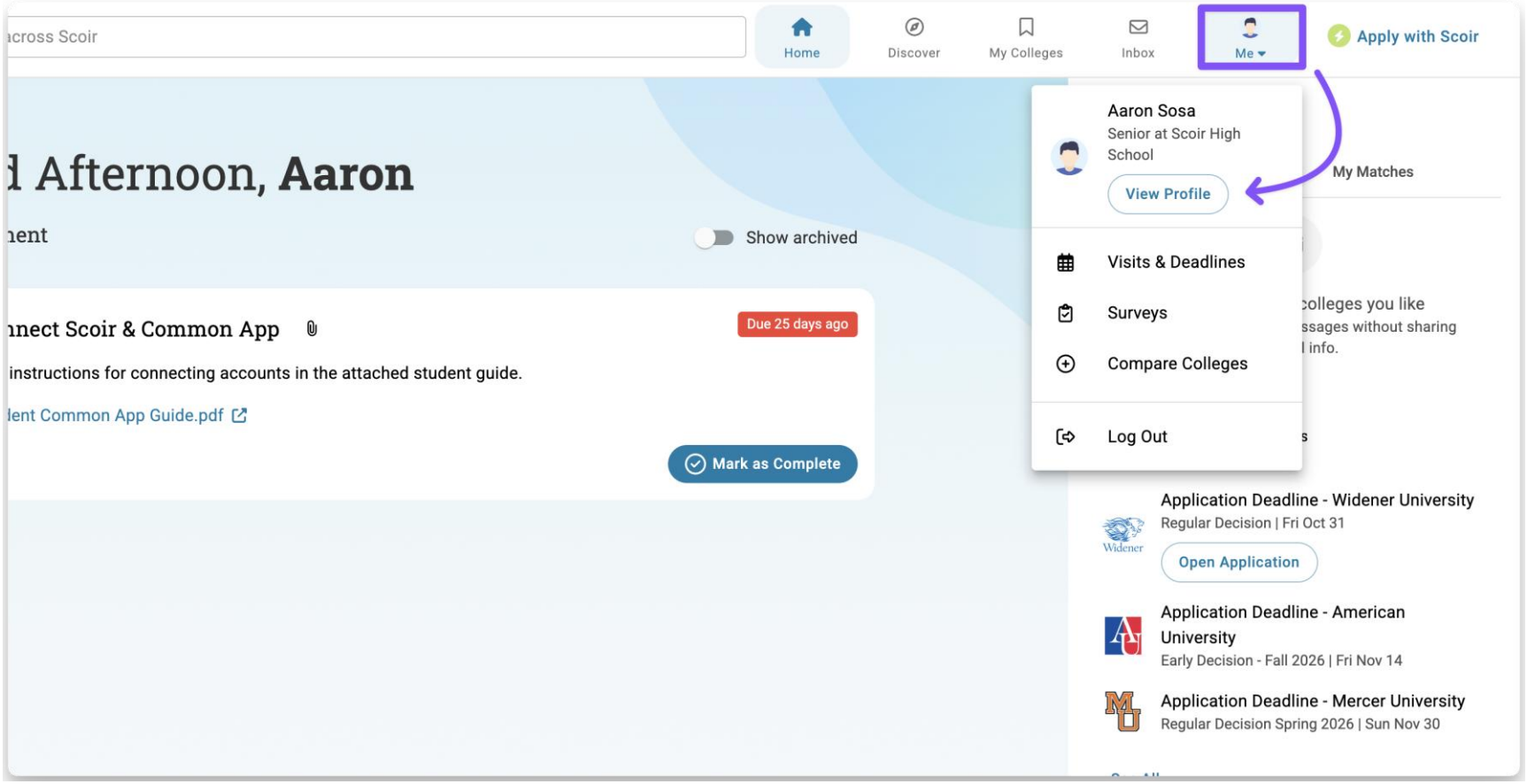


SCOIR


Lenape Regional High School District
Home
Activities
Athletics
Departments
Our School
Students/Parents
I am an UPSTANDER
herokee High School Upstanders
Upstanders and No Place For Hate
Cherokee High School Headlines
Technical Support For Students & Parents
Genesis, Email, Student Log In, Parent Log In
School Calendar 2024-2025
Transcript Request
How to Request a School Transcript for Current, Pas
Graduates and Former Students
Genesis Portals
Student & Staff Email
Student & Staff Password
Calendars
SCOIR
Free & Reduced Lunch

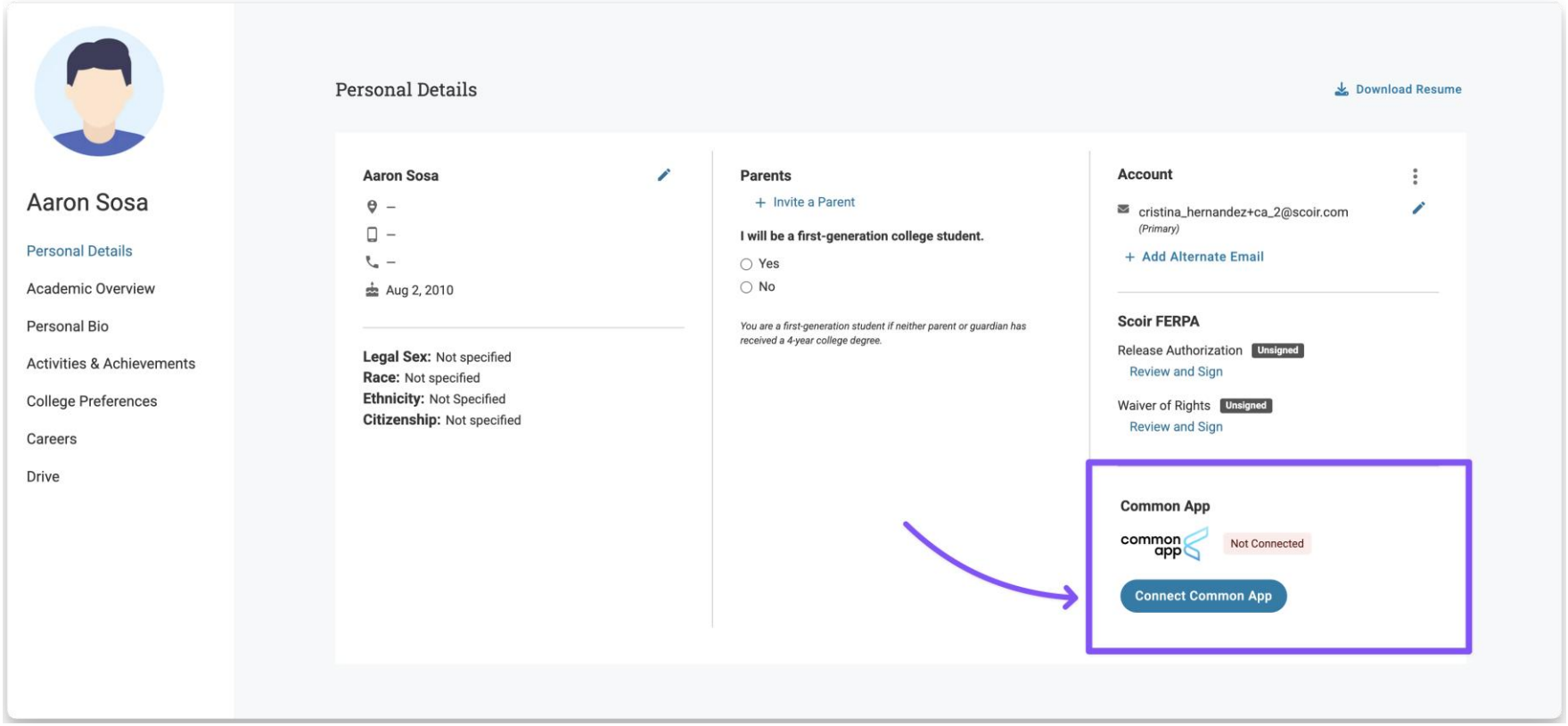
CONNECTING COMMON APP AND SCOIR

Go to “View Profile”



CONNECTING COMMON APP AND SCOIR

Select “Connect Common App” and use your Common App login credentials to link the accounts



TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

If Required:

- Ask two teachers in person (if possible)
- Give at least **2 weeks** notice
- Teachers may request you complete a form to collect more information
  - *Generic teacher recommendation form is on the Counseling Center website*
- Enter teacher recommendation requests in SCOIR
- Teachers will upload their letters through SCOIR once they are complete
- After the letter has been uploaded, students must assign the letter to colleges

TEACHERS AND COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS IN SCOIR

To submit teacher and/or counselor recommendation request in SCOIR:

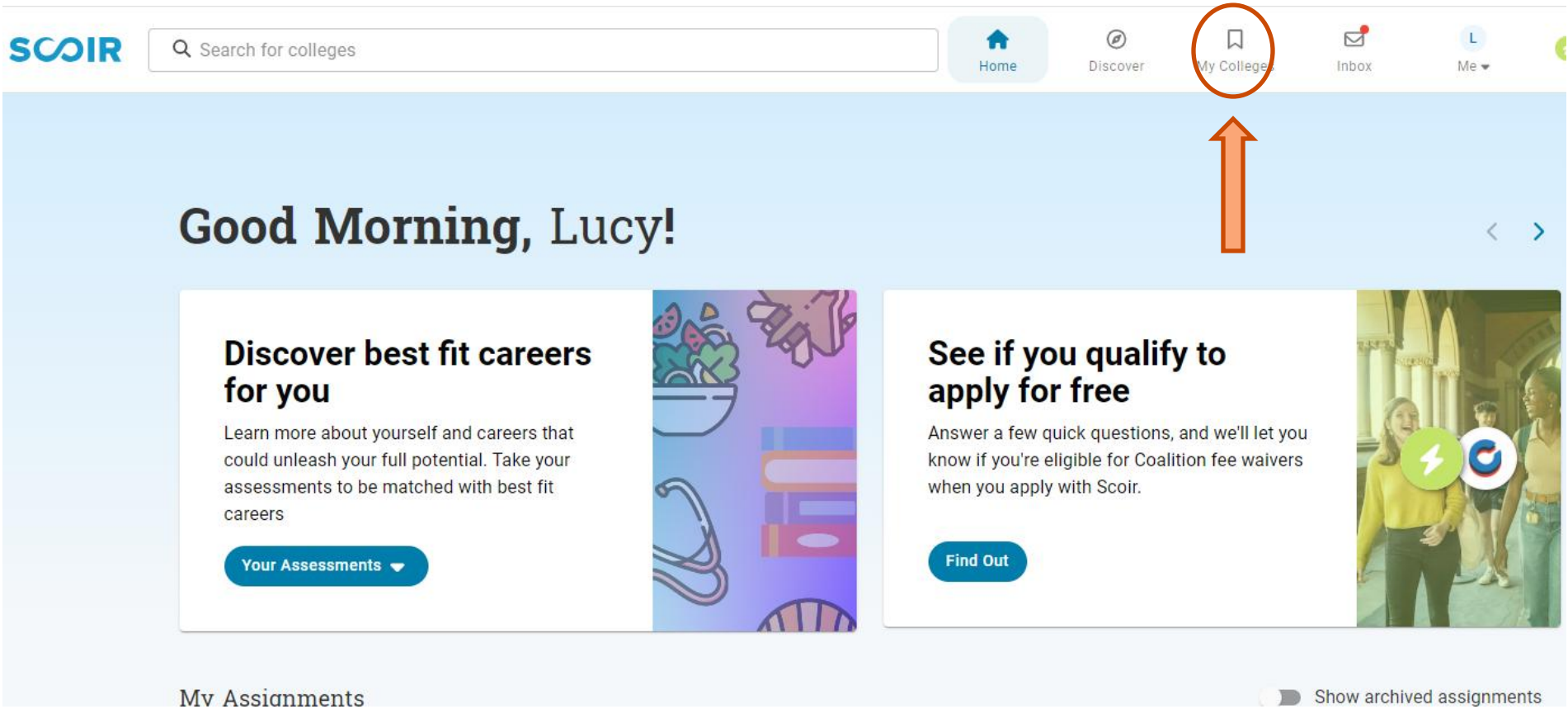
1. On the "My Colleges" page, select "Docs"
2. Click "New Request"

3. Type the staff member's name in drop down box
4. Type a message (Thank you!) in the "Message" box
5. Click "Submit"

SCOIR

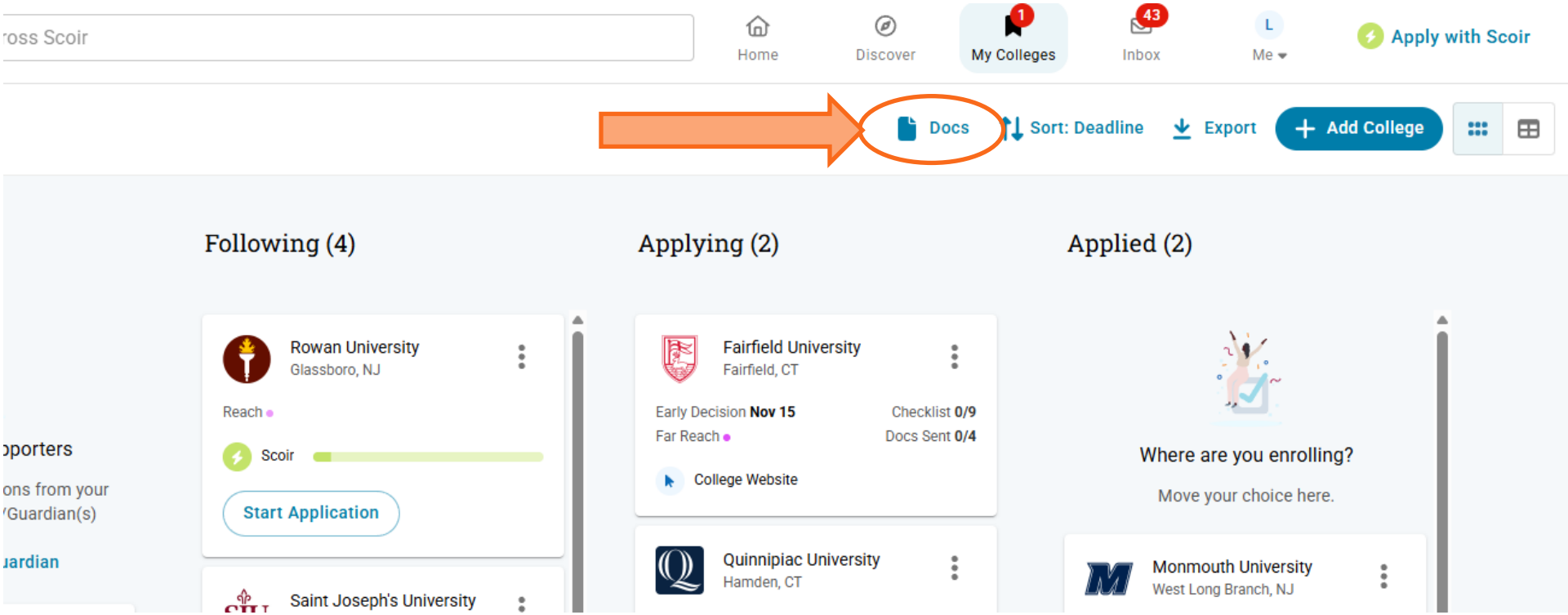
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION IN SCOIR

Click “My Colleges” in the top banner of the SCOIR home page



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION IN SCOIR

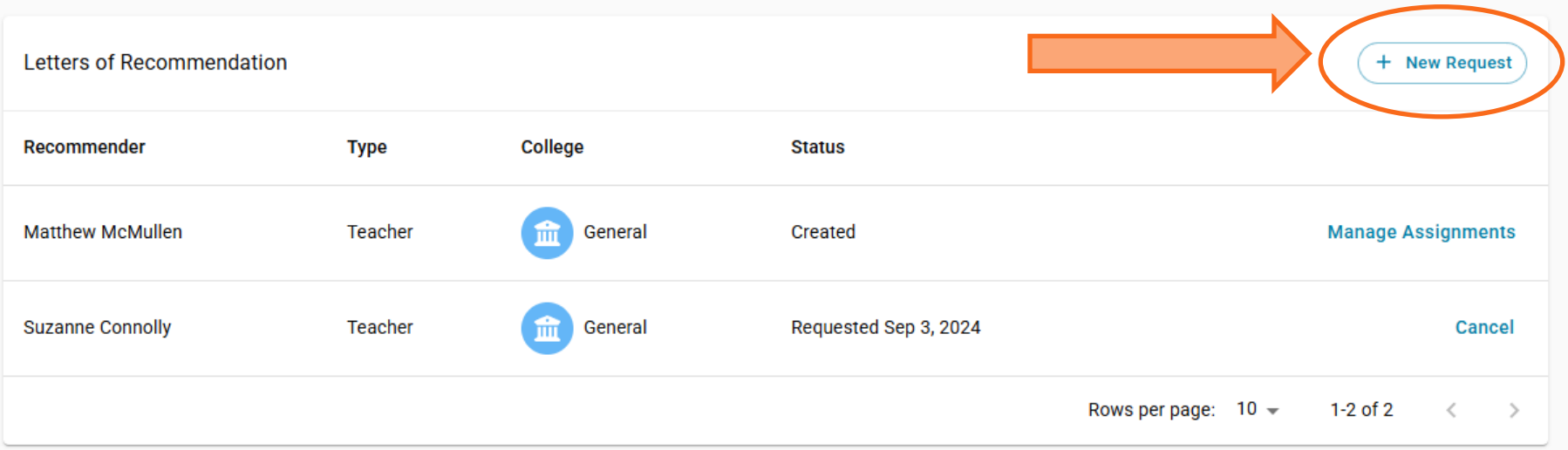
Under "My Colleges" in SCOIR, click on "Docs"



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION IN SCOIR

SCOIR

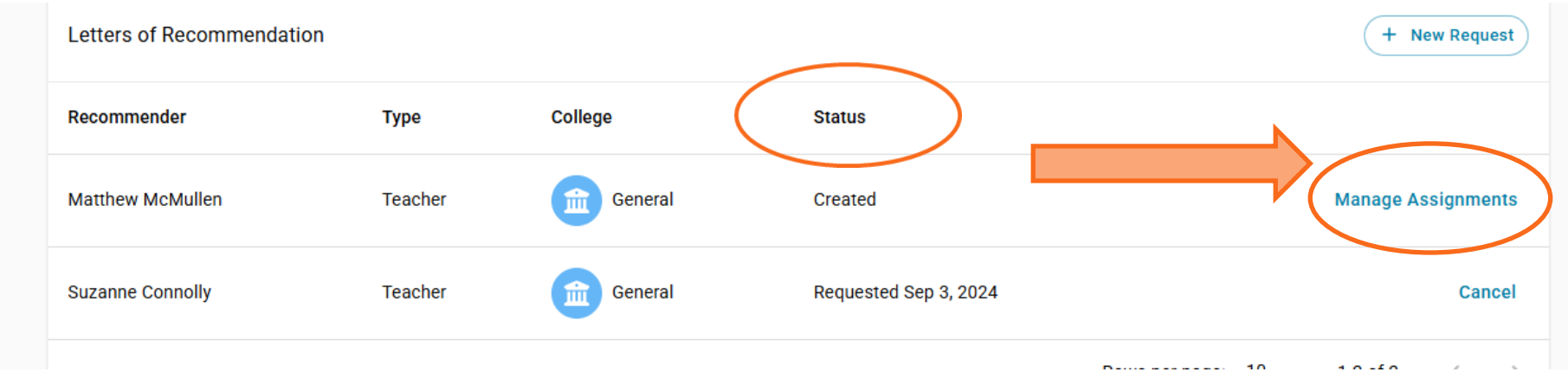
TEACHER RECOMMENDATION REQUEST: *Click "+ New Request"*



ASSIGNING RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOUR COLLEGES

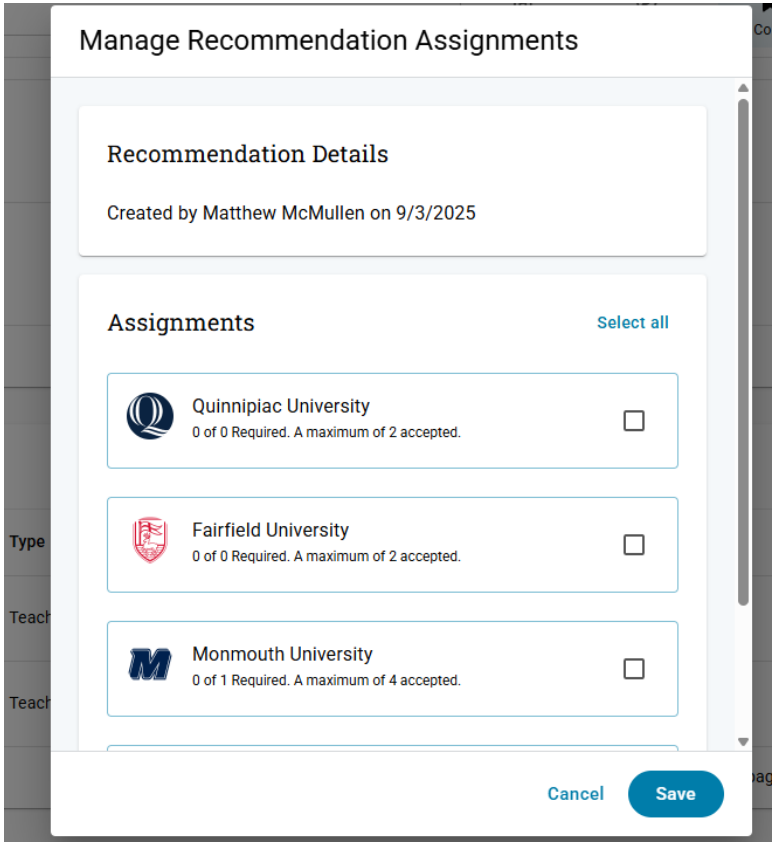
SCOIR

After teachers upload their letter, the student must assign it to colleges



ASSIGNING RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOUR COLLEGES

SCOIR



All colleges set their own recommendation criteria

USING SCOIR TO MANAGE COLLEGE APPS (SENDING TRANSCRIPTS)

Use and function of each option:

Suggested: Your counselor or parents can add colleges for you to consider

Following: Colleges that you are considering

Applying: Colleges that you decided to apply to (automatically added with Common APP)

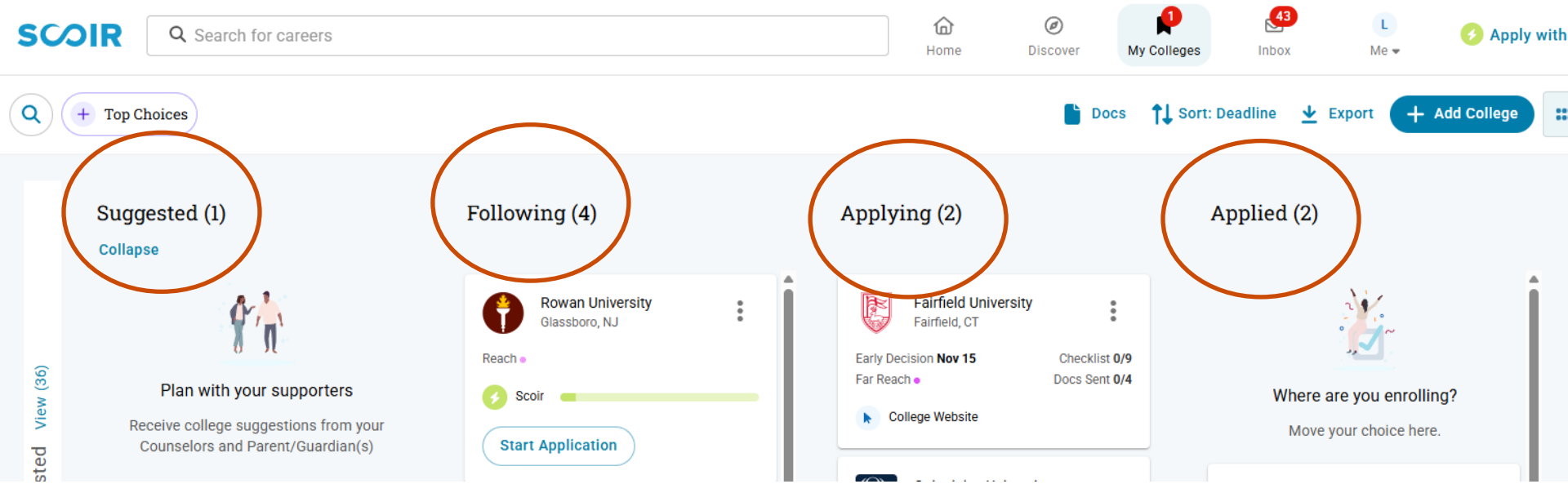
Applied: Informing your counselor that you need a transcript sent to this college (automatically added with Common APP)

SCOIR

USING SCOIR TO MANAGE COLLEGE APPS

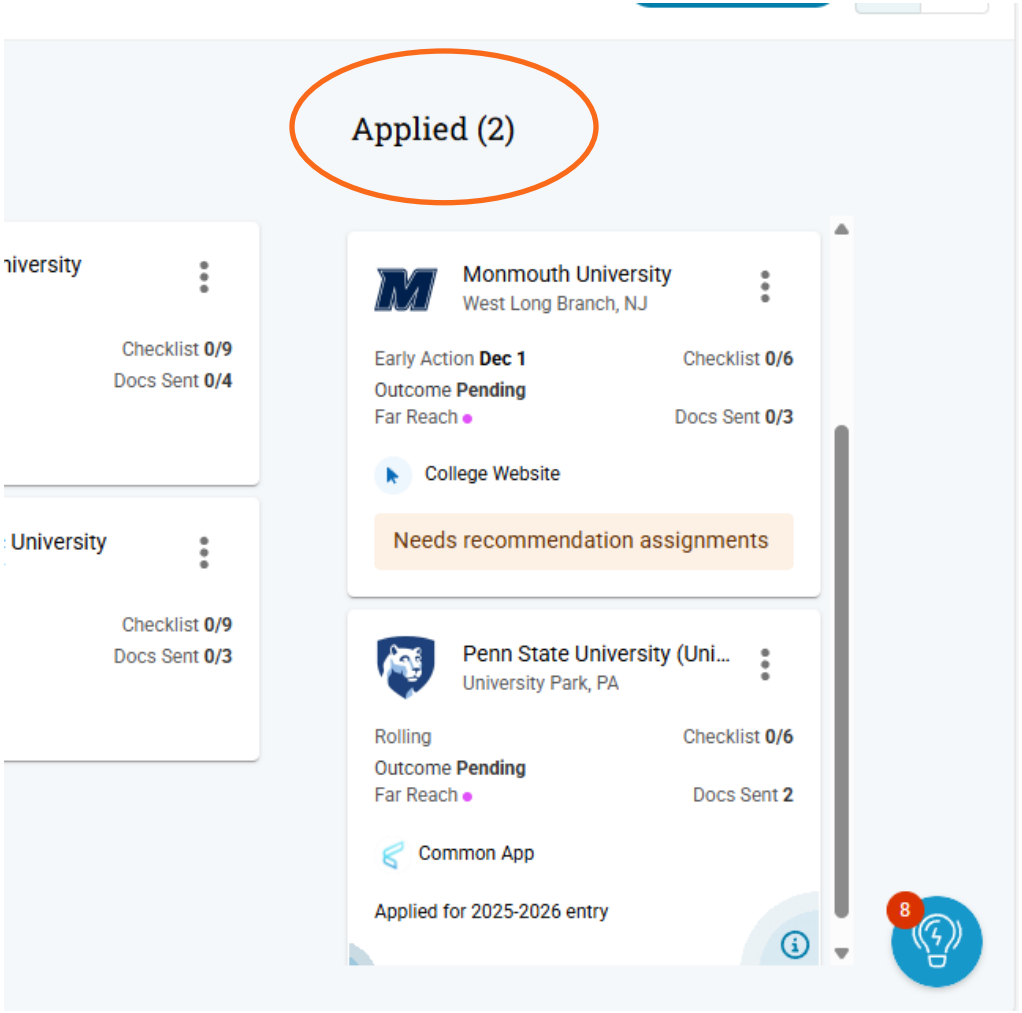
The "My Colleges" screen contains multiple columns:

Suggested · Following · Applying · Applied



USING SCOIR TO REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT

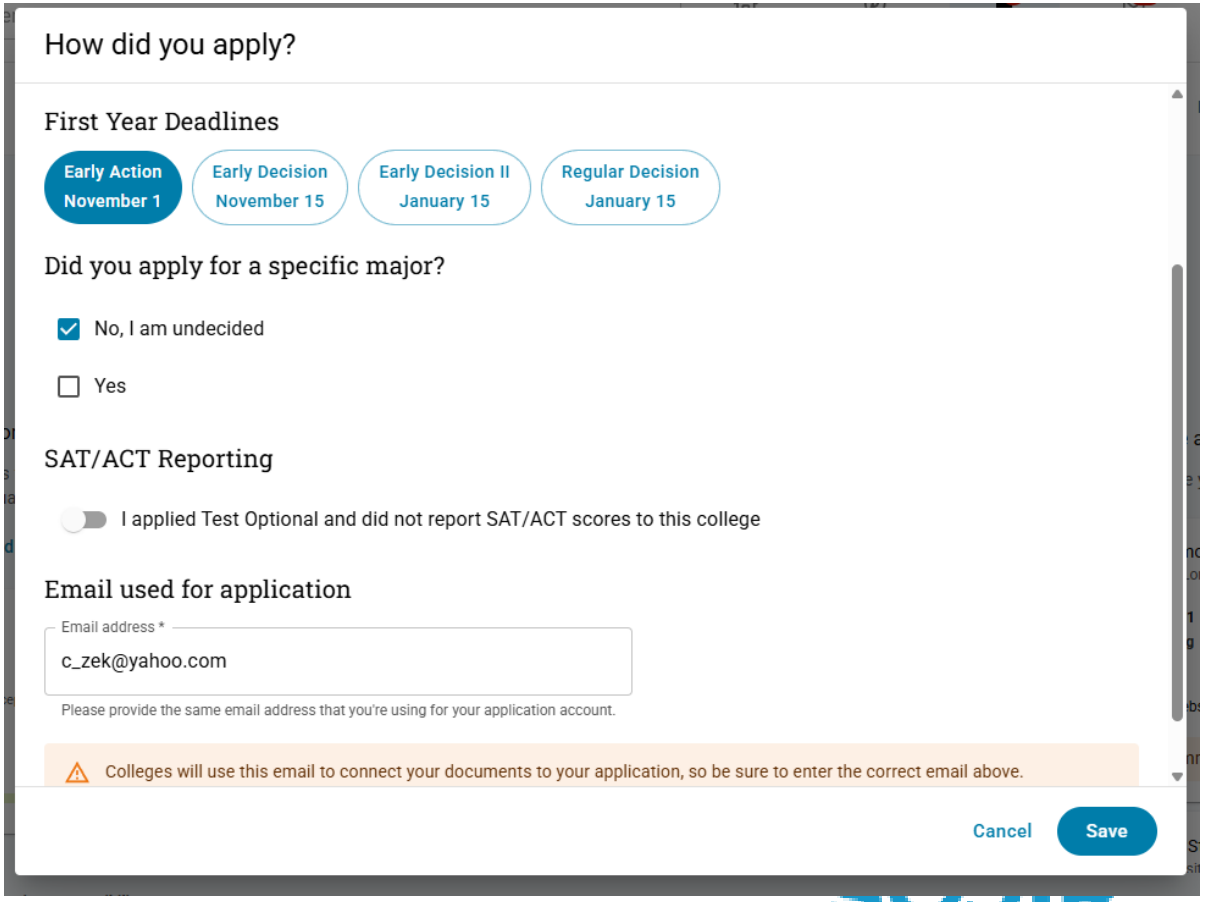
- When a college moves to the "Applied" column, counselors will send your transcript
- For Common App schools, the transcript will become available to all schools once it is sent to one college



SENDING TO NON-COMMON APP SCHOOLS

Manually put the college in the Applied column

1. Enter your application ID (Check for accuracy)
2. Choose the deadline you want to meet
3. Select your major, if known
4. Select SAT/ACT option
5. Enter the email address you used to create the application (Check for accuracy)
6. Click “Save”



USING SCOIR TO REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The only actionable column that will cue your counselor to process a transcript request is "Applied"

Each college that requires an official transcript from Cherokee must have a request entered in SCOIR

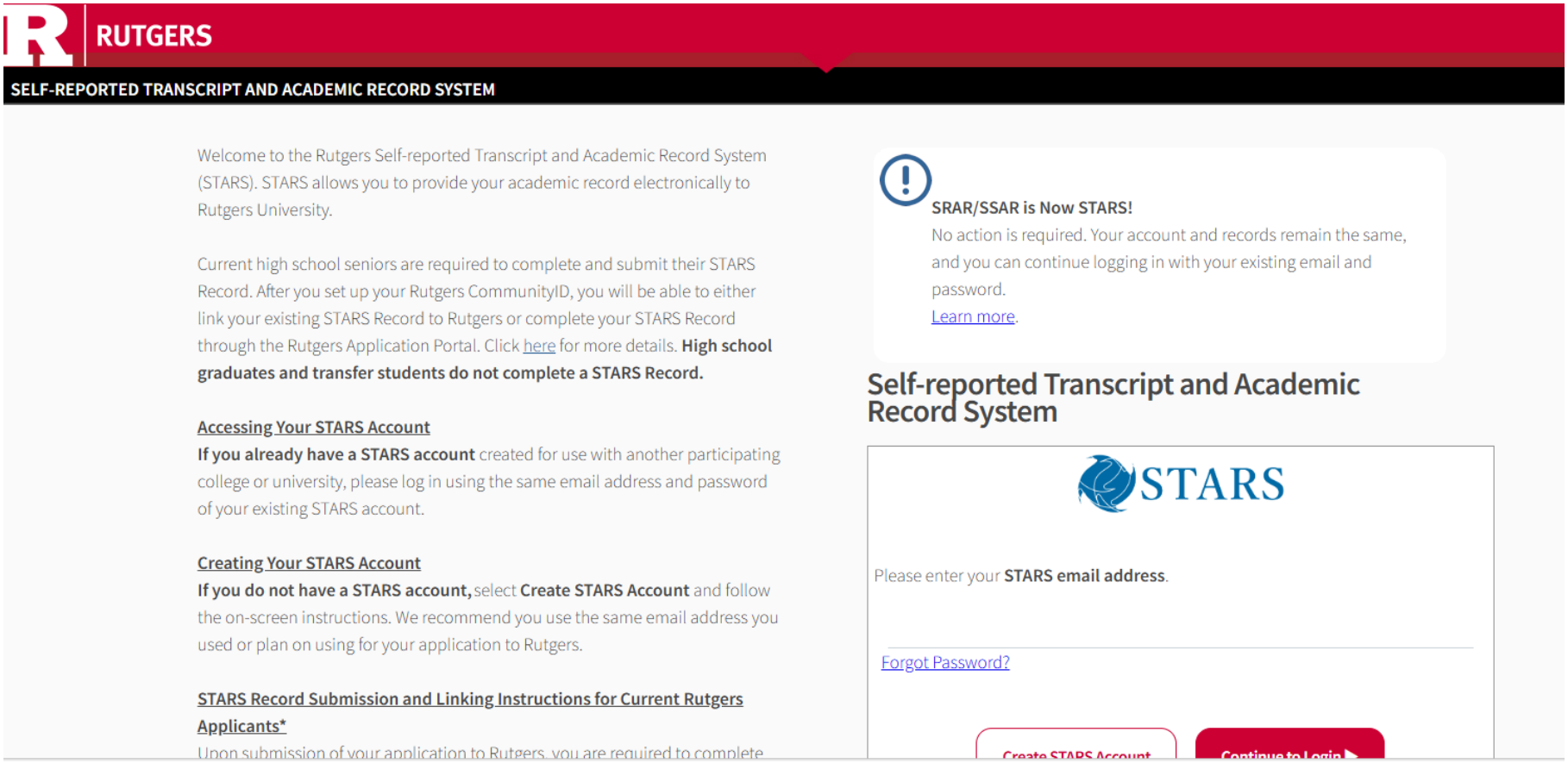
Students should strive to add a college to "Applied" no later than TWO WEEKS before their first deadline (email your counselor if not applying until deadline)

(example: a college with a November 15th deadline should be added to "Applied" by November 1st)

RUTGERS APPLICATION PROCESS

Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record System

Students must connect their STARS to their "Rutgers CommunityID"



STARS- Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record

Colleges that require the STARS in lieu of sending an initial transcript include:

MID-YEAR REPORTS AND FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

1. Mid-year transcript requests will start in January 2026

Transcripts will be sent once the first semester is finalized in February of 2026 – ***Students should update their STARS account at that time***

2. Final transcripts will be requested in May

Students will be emailed in May and asked to complete the **Senior Survey.** This survey will ask where they would like their final transcript sent

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

OCTOBER 23, 2025

6:00 PM

F.A.Q.

How do I apply for scholarships?

- Merit vs. Need based aid
- FAFSA
- Search tools
  - *fastweb.com*
  - *Big Future Scholarship Search (College Board)*
- Local Awards - Mr. Petragnani *(scholarship coordinator)*
  - The first part is available in December
  - The second part is available in the second semester

FINANCIAL AID: FAFSA

Complete the FAFSA at: www.fafsa.gov

The 2026-26 FAFSA will open to all students on October 1, 2025.

What is the FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an online form that must be submitted annually by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for federal student financial aid.

Why do I need to file a FAFSA?

The U.S. Department of Education uses the information provided on your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for aid from federal student financial assistance programs. New Jersey uses the FAFSA to determine your state grant and scholarship eligibility. Colleges and Universities may also use the FAFSA data to award their own aid.

What you will need to start your FAFSA:

- FSA ID (fsaid.ed.gov) for Parent and Student
- 2024 Tax Returns, W2s, and other records of money earned for Parent and Student
- Social Security Numbers for Parent and Student
- Other Income Information
- State Issued Driver's License
- Documentation as U.S. Permanent Residents or Eligible Citizens

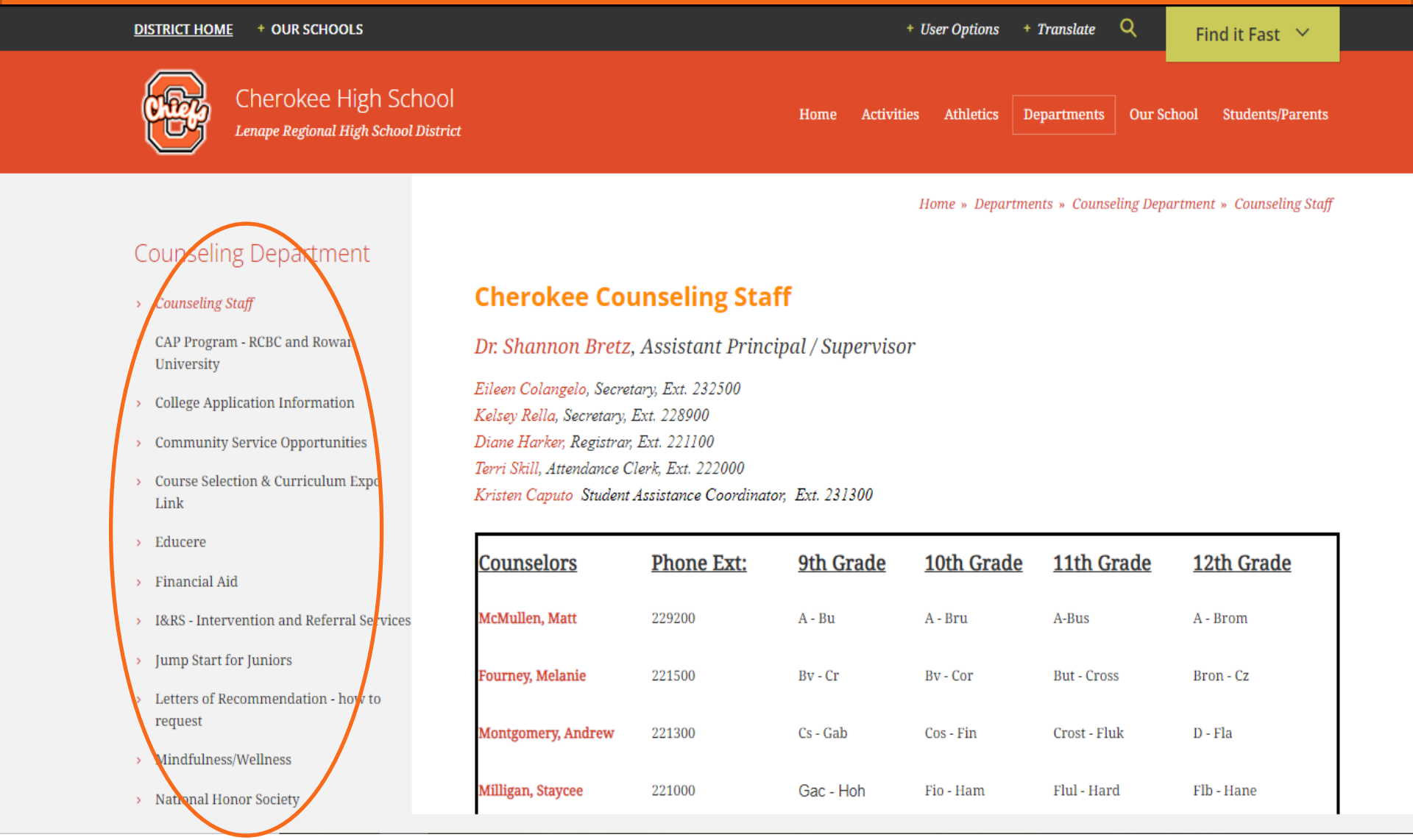
CSS PROFILE

CSS Profile MAY be required: cssprofile.collegeboard.org

What is the CSS Profile?

The **CSS Profile** is required by **many private colleges and universities**, and a few public ones, to award institutional financial aid (aid that comes directly from the school). **It is separate from the FAFSA**, which is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid.

CHEROKEE COUNSELING WEBSITE



WHAT NOW?

- Don’t procrastinate! Begin by making a list of deadlines
- Create a Common App account and connect it to SCOIR
- Students should request letters of recommendation
- **Email or call counselors with questions**