

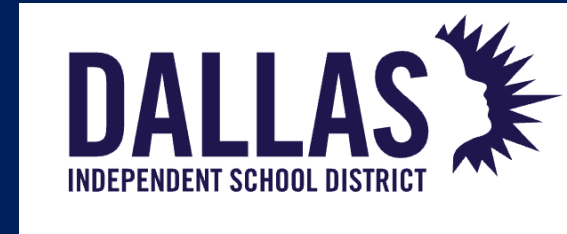
A group of 14 students and one adult male are posed on a stone wall. The students are wearing maroon and blue polo shirts, some with school logos. The adult male is wearing a blue polo shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The stone wall they are sitting on has a plaque that reads "WESTLAKE ACADEMY", "IBO WORLD SCHOOL", and "2600 JT OTTINGER ROAD". The background shows a grassy area, trees, and a clear sky.

Class of 2027 College Counseling Kickoff

Carl Tippen
January 15, 2026

Agenda

- Introduction
- Westlake Academy Diploma
- Westlake Academy Transcript
- Standardized Testing
- College Admissions Process
- Financial Aid
- SCOIR
- College Counseling Timeline



COLLEGE COUNSELOR ROLE

- Develop/maintain relationships w/admission representatives
- Assist students and families on developing an appropriate list of schools
- Write letters of recommendation for all students
- Provide essay writing guidance – development through review
- College Board Test Administrator
- Services for Students with Disabilities/Testing Accommodations Coordinator
- Standardized test preparation & submission guidance
- Guidance on financial aid and scholarships
- Represent Westlake Academy at various college events and conferences



KEEP
CALM
AND
relax



Westlake Academy HS Diploma

- Foundations High School Program
 - Endorsements
 - Arts & Humanities
 - Multidisciplinary Studies
 - STEM
 - Distinguished Level of Achievement
 - A total of four credits in math, including Algebra II;
 - A total of four credits in science; and
 - Successful completion of an endorsement in your area of interest
- Westlake Academy Diploma requirements
 - Complete a minimum of 26 credit hours
 - Satisfactory performance on required state end of course assessments
 - Completion of requirements to sit for IB Diploma





Westlake Academy Transcript

Grades

Course Type	Grade Level	Quality Points
MYP Courses	9 – 10	+5
AP Courses	9 – 12	+10
SL DP Courses	11 – 12	+10
HL DP Courses	11 – 12	+12

- Official – Semester Grades & Year End
- 9th – 12th grade grades are calculated in the cumulative GPA
- 100-point scale – we do not use a 4.0 scale
- Non-Weighted
 - PE, Art, Career & Technology Courses

Class Ranking

Westlake Academy is a non-ranking school

Rank in class is determined by Cumulative GPA and will be provided for the following:

Obtaining automatic admission to Texas public universities based upon uniform admissions policy & in accordance with Texas Education Code

Reported directly to institutions by Westlake Academy staff

Determining Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Outside of the above circumstances, Westlake Academy will not provide class rank

Automatic Admission Notification

- ❑ In accordance with TEC, §28.026, and Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §61.1201, school districts are required to provide written notification of eligibility for automatic college admission under the Uniform Admission Policy (TEC §51.803) to students before the 14th day after the last day of the fall semester. Districts are required to notify:
 - ❑ Each eligible senior
 - ❑ Each junior with GPA in top 10%
 - ❑ Student's parent or guardian
- ❑ For more information – Texas Education Agency – www.tea.texas.gov



Standardized Testing

Standardized Testing

PSAT/NMSQT

Practice SAT

9th & 10th Grades

National Merit Scholarship Program

11th Grade

ACT

4 Parts

English, Reading,
Math, (Science)

Optional
Writing

Max Score - 36

SAT

2 Parts

EBRW & Math

Max Score - 1600



WESTLAKE ACADEMY

Admissions Testing Calendar

ACT Test Dates

- February 14
- April 11
- June 13
- July 11

SAT Test Dates

- March 14
- April 8
 - SAT School Day
 - Juniors Only
- May 2
- June 6

Additional Standardized Test Dates

AP Test Dates

- May 4 – 8
- May 11 – 15

EOC

- April 21, 2026

IB Exams (Senior Year)

- April & May 2027

Standardized Test Prep Options

- Boost My ACT
- C2 Education
- Kaplan
- KD College Prep
- Khan Academy
- Princeton Review
- Revolution Prep

Current News Regarding Standardized Testing



More than 2,000+
accredited four-year
institutions schools are:

Test Optional
Test Flexible
Test Blind/Free admissions



Check with me prior to sending scores to any
college or university



Fairtest - <https://www.fairtest.org/>

A photograph of two male students sitting on a wooden bench outdoors, leaning against a large tree. The student on the left is wearing a maroon polo shirt and is reading an open book. The student on the right is wearing a blue polo shirt and is also reading an open book. The bench has the text "Westlake Academy" and "Risk-Takers" on its side. The background shows a park-like setting with trees and a blue car parked in the distance. A large, stylized red diamond shape is overlaid on the left side of the image.

College Admissions Process

Types of Admission Programs

Early Action

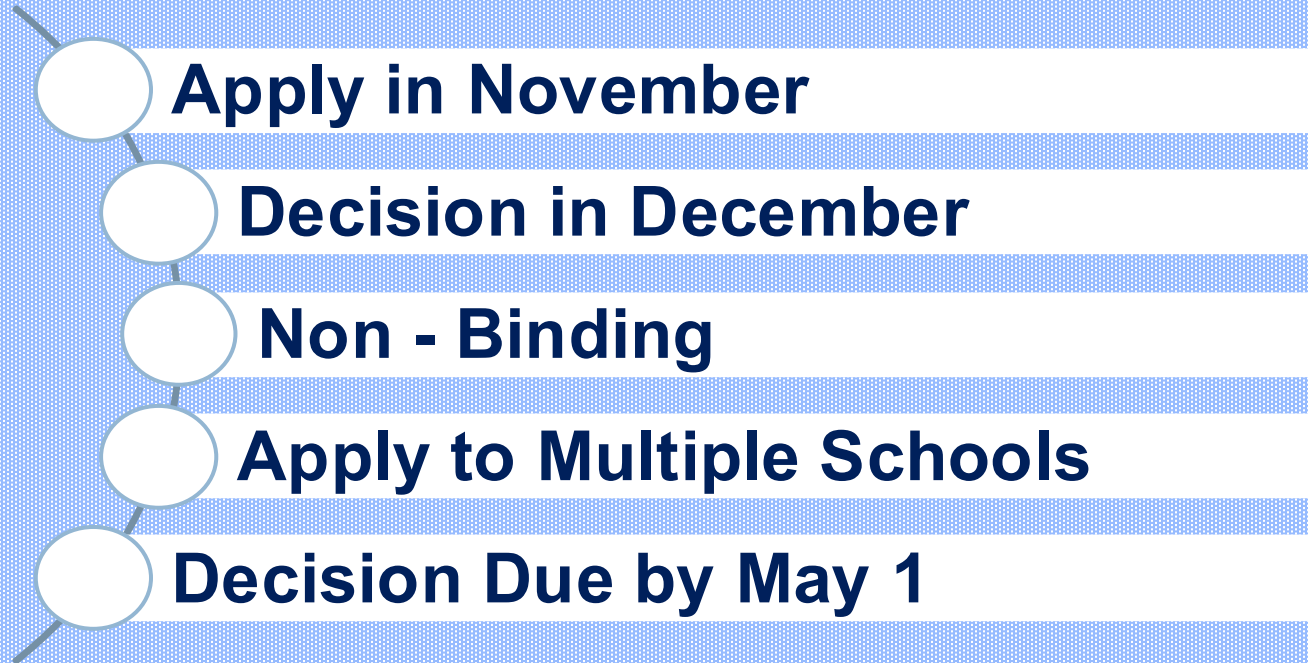
Early Decision

Restrictive Early Action

Regular Decision

Rolling Admission

Early Action



Early Decision

**Apply
in
November**

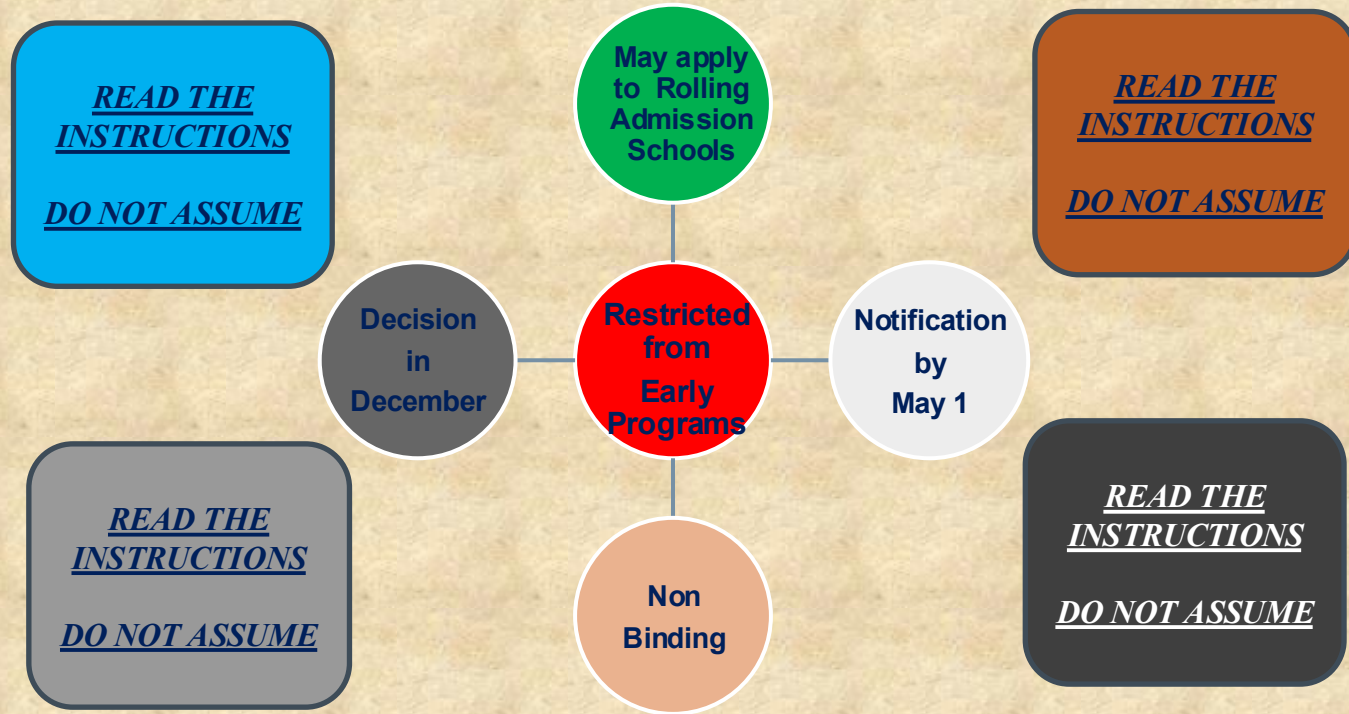
**Decision
in
December**

FIRST CHOICE

**Decision
Is
Binding**

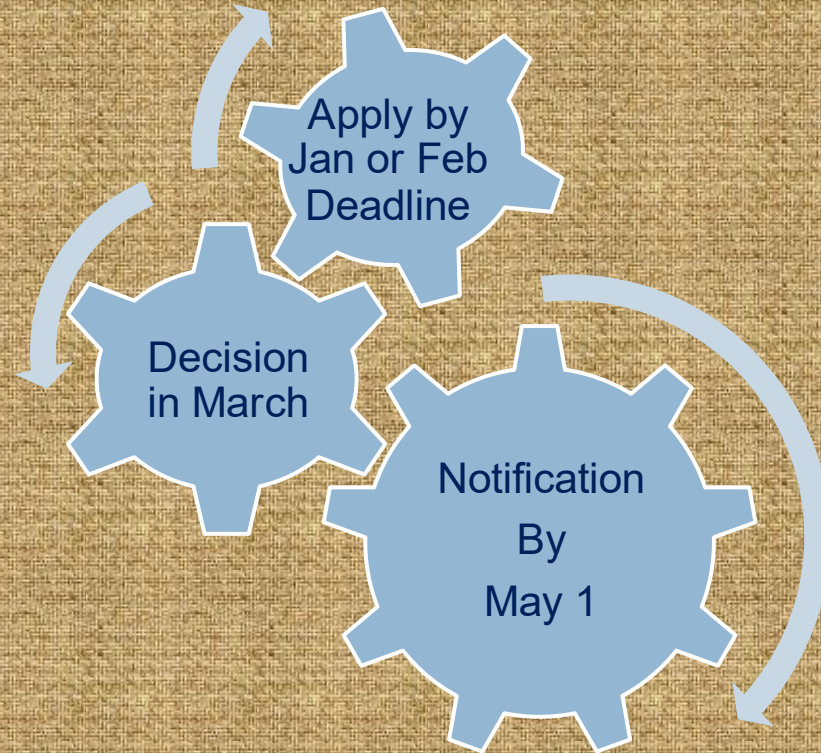
**Withdraw
All
Applications**

Restrictive Early Action

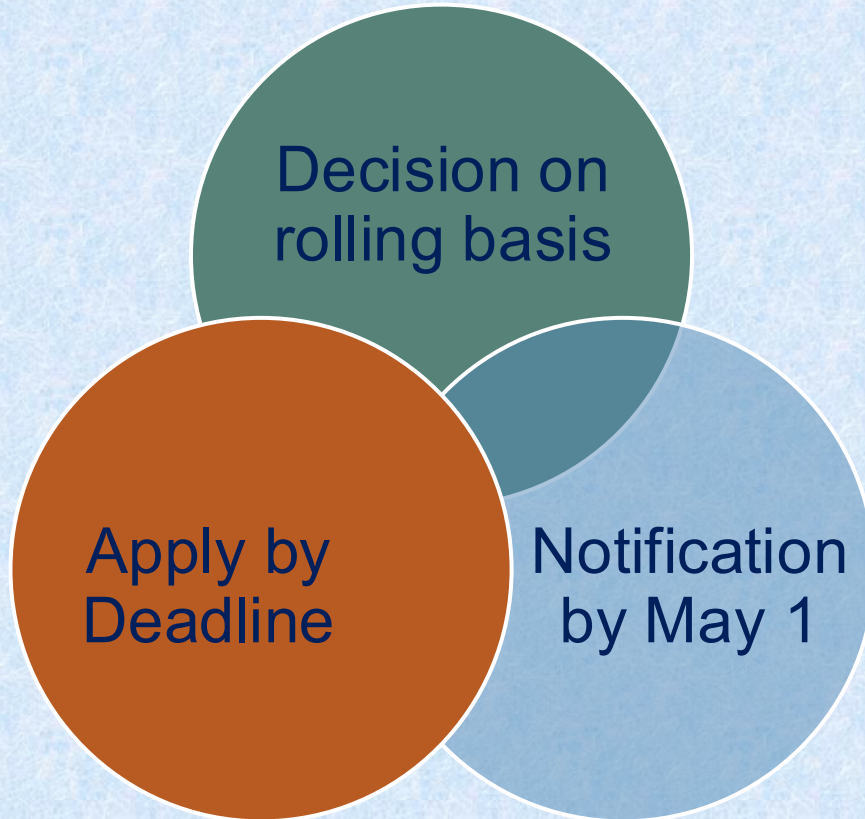


*Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Notre Dame**

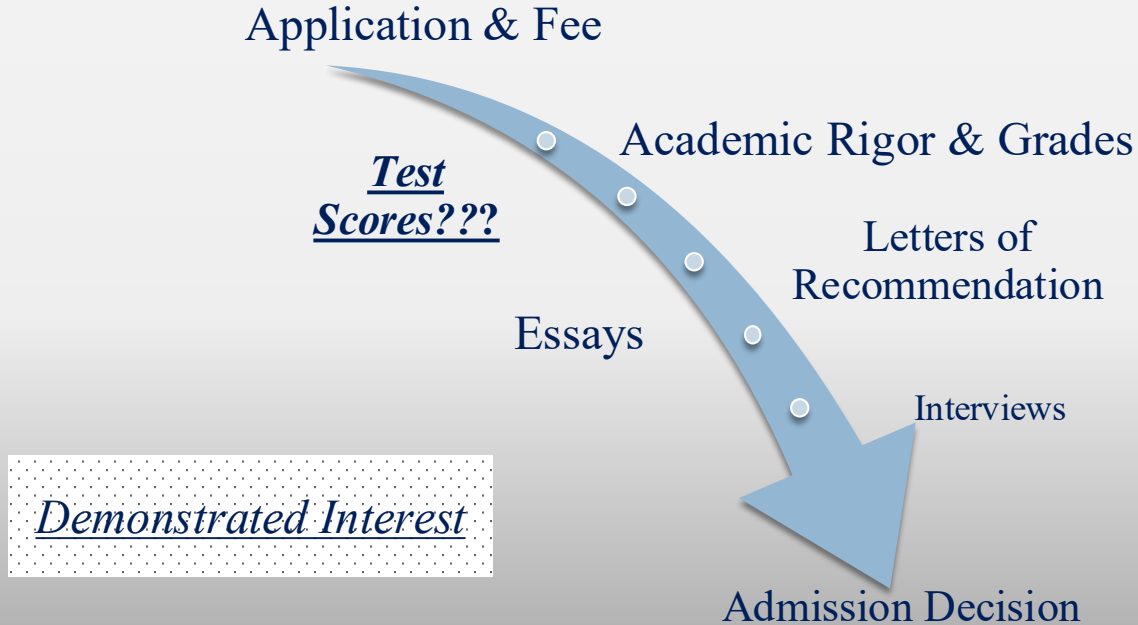
Regular Decision



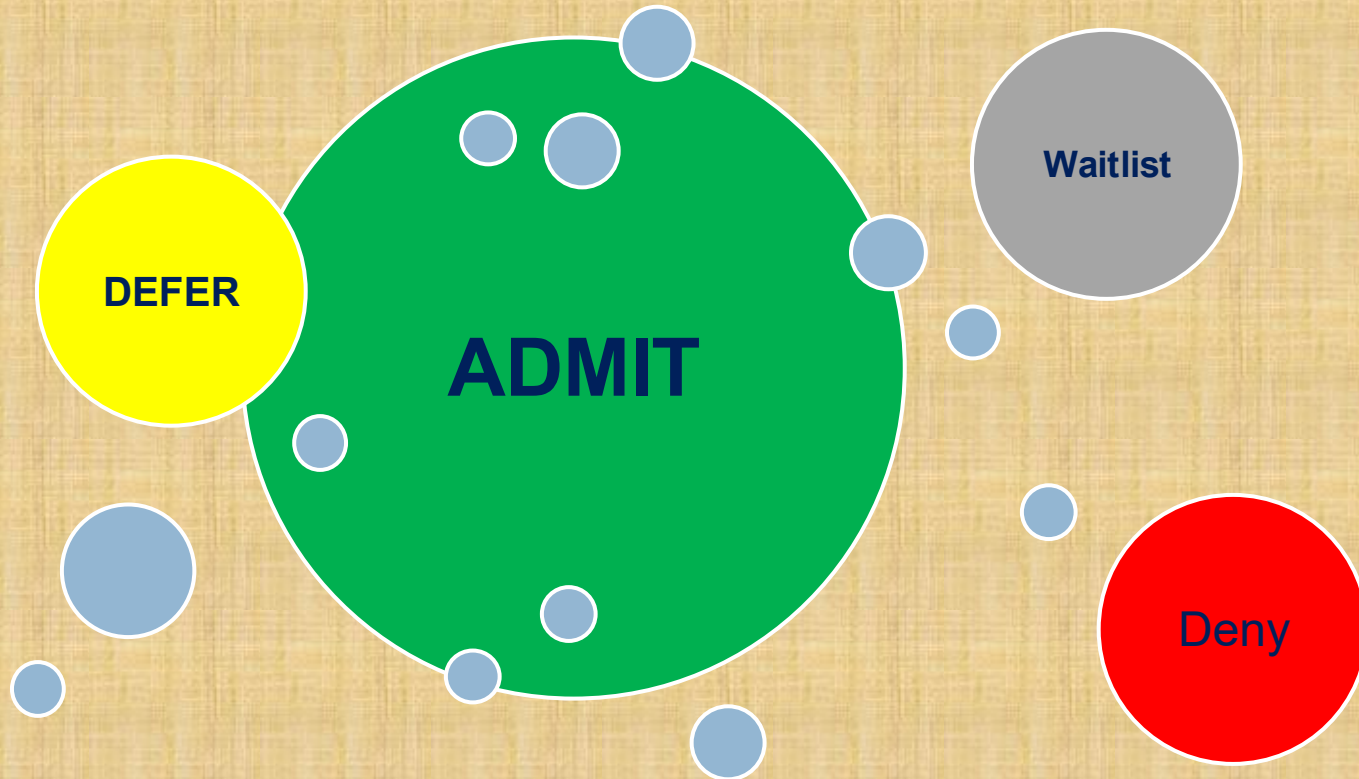
Rolling Admission



Linkage to College Admission



Types of Admission Decisions



Student Athletes

- ❑ Application timeline differences
- ❑ Academic preparation requirements that include:
 - ❑ National athletic association requirements
 - ❑ High School graduation requirements
- ❑ Three largest athletic conferences
 - ❑ National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
 - ❑ National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
 - ❑ National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)
- ❑ For more information – NCAA Eligibility Center
 - ❑ http://web3.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp

IB Benefits for College

A blurred background image of a graduation ceremony. In the foreground, several black graduation caps (mortarboards) are visible, some with red tassels. The background shows a crowd of graduates and spectators, all out of focus, creating a sense of a large-scale event.

IB Education for College

- Global Recognition
 - Universally recognized and accepted
 - Education is the same across the world
- College Credit & Placement
 - Grant college credit
 - Saves money and time in some majors
 - Provides flexibility to do more in college
- Scholarship Opportunities
 - Rigorous curriculum with strong outcomes increases \$\$\$\$
 - IB Friendly Schools - SMU, Nebraska, Mississippi State, Univ. of Tulsa, Univ. of Rochester
- High Academic Rigor
 - Application is stronger
 - Internationally minded



WESTLAKE ACADEMY



Senate Bill 111

“...an institution of higher education shall grant at least 24 semester credit hours or equivalent course credit in appropriate subject areas to an entering freshman student for successful completion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.”

*Source: SB 111, 79th Legislative Session, 2005.



Financial Aid & Scholarships

How Do I Apply

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Federal aid
- <https://fafsa.ed.gov>

College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile

- Non-federal aid
- <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>

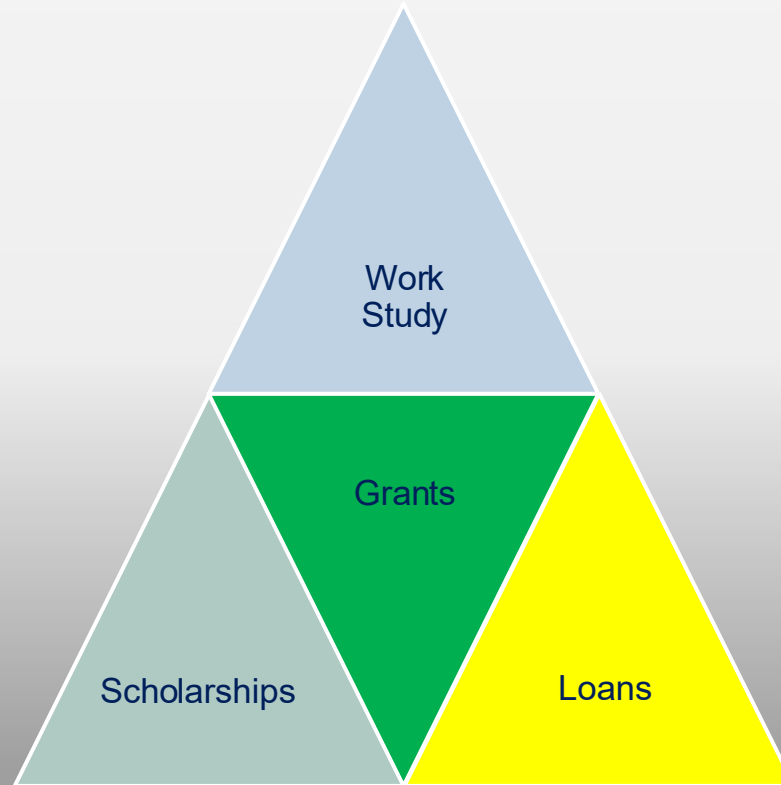
Applying for Financial Aid

- ❑ **The 2027 - 2028 FAFSA will be available**
 - ❑ Apply on or after Oct. 1, 2026
 - ❑ Use 2025 income tax information
 - ❑ Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to transfer Tax Return Info
 - ❑ Take advantage of the following:
 - ❑ Net Price Calculator
 - ❑ Myin Tuition
 - ❑ Can show how colleges/universities award need-based financial aid
 - ❑ Assists in determining annual out-of-pocket costs your family may incur
 - ❑ Graduation requirement in State of Texas



WESTLAKE ACADEMY

Components of Financial Aid



Applying for Scholarships

- Based on academic merit and/or financial need
- Apply early and often
- Various types of scholarships
 - Individual College/University
 - Local, Regional, National
- Scholarship Links
 - Appily.com
 - Fastweb.com
 - Goingmerry.com
 - Scholarships.com



College Search

FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

Size of Campus/Student Body

Location

Majors/Concentration of Study

Extracurricular Activities

Distance from home

Type of Student Body

Housing Options

Campus Atmosphere



SCOIR (score)

- ☐ Web-based college exploration tool
- ☐ Career and Personality Interest Inventory
- ☐ Career Exploration
- ☐ College & Major Search
- ☐ Submit Application Related Documents



Class of 2027

College Counseling Timeline



WESTLAKE ACADEMY

WA College Counseling Timeline (Junior Year)

JANUARY 2026

- ❑ Junior Parent College Night
- ❑ Set Up SCOIR

FEBRUARY 2026

- ❑ Complete Homework
 - ❑ Parents – 2/20/2026
 - ❑ Students – 2/20/2026
- ❑ Begin Testing (ACT)
- ❑ Begin family conferences
 - ❑ Plan for 1.5 hour meeting
 - ❑ Students and Parents in attendance
- ❑ College Counseling Presentations – TOK
- ❑ Plan College Visits
 - ❑ In Person
 - ❑ Virtual

WA College Counseling Timeline (Junior Year)

MARCH 2026

- ☐ Begin Testing (SAT)
- ☐ Continue working with SCOIR
- ☐ Spring Break – 16th – 20th
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Schedule family conference
 - ☐ Plan for 1.5 hour meeting
 - ☐ Students & Parents in attendance
 - ☐ College Counseling Presentations – TOK

APRIL 2026

- ☐ Testing (SAT/ACT)
- ☐ Schedule family conference
 - ☐ Plan for 1.5 hour meeting
 - ☐ Students and Parents in attendance
- ☐ Continue working with SCOIR
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Attend College Fairs
- ☐ College Counseling Presentations – TOK
- ☐ Ask teachers to write letter of recommendations

WA College Counseling Timeline (Junior Year)

MAY 2026

- ❑ Testing
 - ❑ SAT/ACT
 - ❑ AP Exams
- ❑ Continue updating SCOIR
- ❑ Visit Colleges
- ❑ Ask teachers to write letters of recommendations

JUNE 2026

- ❑ Testing
 - ❑ SAT/ACT
- ❑ Continue updating SCOIR
- ❑ Visit Colleges
- ❑ Summer Activity(s)
 - ❑ Job, Summer Camps, Travel
 - ❑ **Summer Reading**, Volunteer



WA College Counseling Timeline (Junior Year)

JULY 2026

- ☐ Continue updating Scoir
- ☐ Testing
 - ☐ ACT
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Draft of Common App and/or Apply Texas essay
- ☐ Summer Activity(s)
 - ☐ Job, Summer Camps, Travel
 - ☐ **Summer Reading**, Community Service

AUGUST 2026

- ☐ Schedule family conference
- ☐ Testing
 - ☐ SAT
- ☐ Revise Common App and/or Apply Texas essay(s)
- ☐ Continue working with SCOIR
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Summer Activity(s)
 - ☐ Job, Summer Camps, Travel
 - ☐ **Summer Reading**, Community Service
- ☐ **School Begins**

WA College Counseling Timeline (Senior Year)

SEPTEMBER 2026

- ❑ Schedule family conference
- ❑ Testing
 - ❑ SAT /ACT
- ❑ Begin Application Process
- ❑ Westlake Academy College Fair
- ❑ Revise Common App and/or Apply Texas essay(s)
- ❑ Continue updating SCOIR
- ❑ Visit Colleges
- ❑ Meet with College Reps
- ❑ Attend Information Sessions
- ❑ Apply for scholarships

OCTOBER 2026

- ❑ Schedule family conference
 - ❑ Discuss EA/ED/REA
- ❑ Testing
 - ❑ SAT/ACT
- ❑ Continue Applying
- ❑ **Apply for Financial Aid**
- ❑ Continue updating SCOIR
- ❑ Visit Colleges
- ❑ Meet with College Reps
- ❑ Attend Information Sessions
- ❑ Apply for scholarships

WA College Counseling Timeline (Senior Year)

NOVEMBER 2026

- ☐ Testing
 - ☐ SAT/ACT
- ☐ **Early Action/Early Decision/Restrictive Early Action Deadline**
- ☐ Continue updating SCOIR
- ☐ Meet with College Reps
- ☐ Attend Information Sessions
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Apply for scholarships

DECEMBER 2026

- ☐ Testing
 - ☐ SAT/ACT
- ☐ **UT & TAMU Deadlines**
- ☐ EA/ED/REA Decisions
- ☐ Continue updating SCOIR
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Apply for scholarships
- ☐ **End of 1st Semester**

WA College Counseling Timeline (Senior Year)

JANUARY 2027

- ❑ Regular Admission Deadline
- ❑ Submit Mid-Year Report
 - ❑ Transcripts
 - ❑ Additional Info
- ❑ Apply for scholarships
- ❑ Continue updating SCOIR
- ❑ Visit Colleges

FEBRUARY 2027

- ❑ Apply for scholarships
- ❑ Continue updating Scoir
- ❑ Visit Colleges

WA College Counseling Timeline (Senior Year)

MARCH 2027

- ☐ Spring Break
- ☐ Admission Decisions Announced
- ☐ Review Financial Aid Award Letter
- ☐ Continue updating Scoir
- ☐ Visit Colleges

APRIL 2027

- ☐ Admission Decisions Announced
- ☐ Attend Admitted Student Weekend(s)
- ☐ Continue updating Scoir
- ☐ Visit Colleges

WA College Counseling Timeline (Senior Year)

MAY 2027

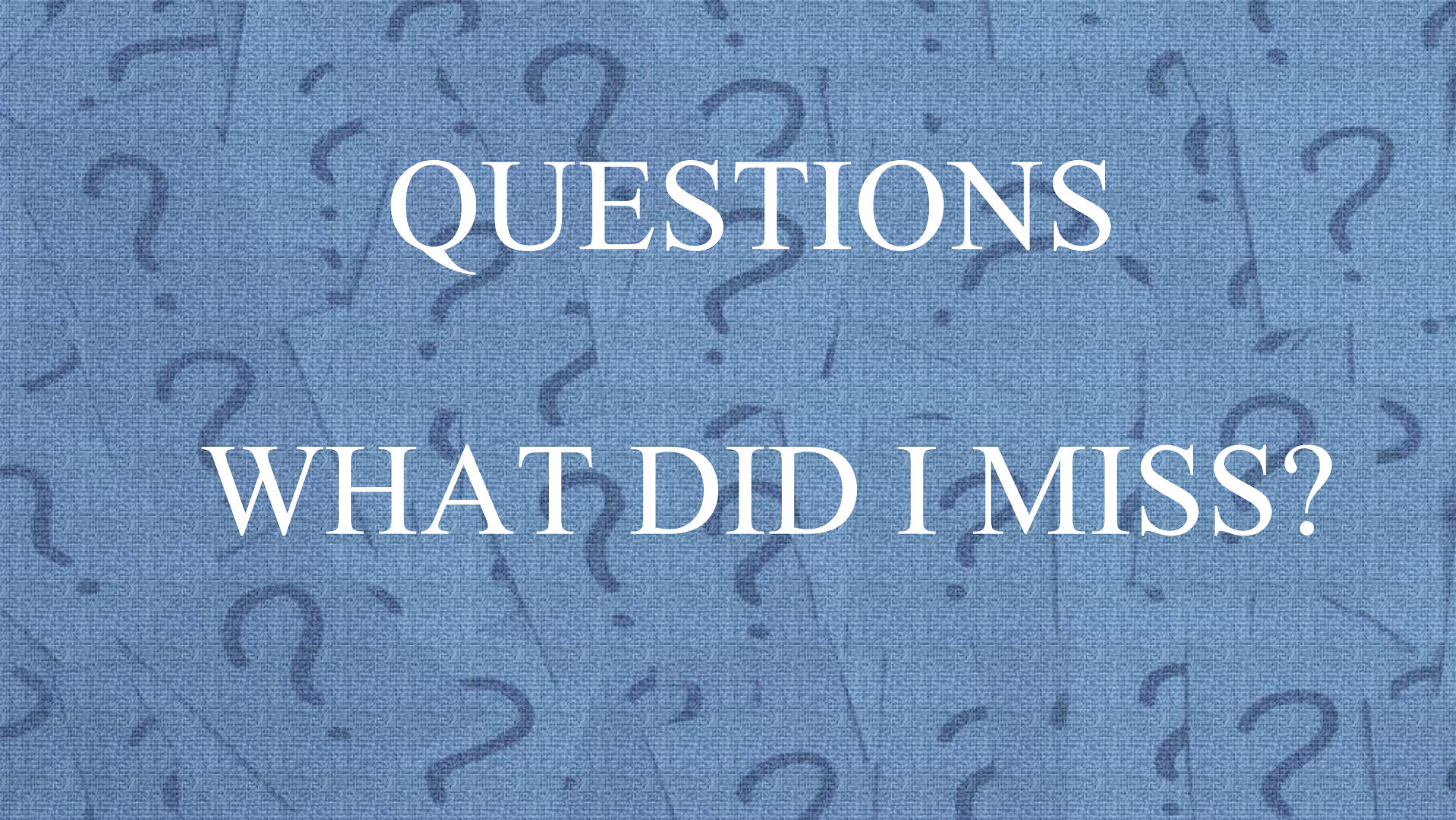
- ❑ Candidate Reply Date – May 1
- ❑ AP Exams
- ❑ IB Exams

JUNE 2027

- ❑ Graduation
- ❑ Send Final HS Transcript

WA College Counseling Communication Vehicles

- ❑ WA College Counseling Website
 - ❑ Click on Academics
 - ❑ Click on Counseling
 - ❑ Click on College Counseling
- ❑ Counselor Carl's Corner
- ❑ SCOIR (Pronounced like SCORE)
- ❑ Remind – Students and Parents
- ❑ School Announcements

The background of the image is a solid blue color with a fine, woven texture. Overlaid on this background is a pattern of numerous question marks. These question marks are drawn in a dark blue or black ink, giving them a hand-drawn or chalk-like appearance. They are scattered across the entire frame in various sizes and orientations, some appearing more clearly than others.

QUESTIONS

WHAT DID I MISS?