



# Preparing for Senior Year

Class of 2027

**Presented by:**  
JCHS Counselors



2025-26



# JCHS COUNSELING STAFF



**Lauren Winemiller**  
Students A - B  
573-632-3434



**Amanda Pax**  
Students C - I  
573-659-3064



**Jamie Kennedy**  
Students J - Q  
573-659-3069



**Erin Gehlert**  
Students R - Z  
573-659-3027



**Carrie Welch**  
Director of Counseling  
573-659-3063



**Kenna Pridgin**  
Registrar  
573-659-3104



**Dulce Stevens**  
Counseling Secretary  
573-659-3070

# What Senior Year is REALLY About



- Meeting graduation requirements
- Finalizing postsecondary plans
- Applying to college/trade programs/military/workforce
- Securing financial aid & scholarships
- Building independence & responsibility

# Graduation Requirements

State of Missouri Graduation Requirements	
Curricular Areas	Credits
English	4
Math	3
Social Studies	3
Science	3
Physical Education	1
Fine Arts	1
Practical Art	0.5
Health	0.5
Personal Finance <sup>1</sup>	0.5
Electives <sup>2</sup>	8.5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>25</b>

<sup>1</sup> Can be 0.5 units of Practical Art  
<sup>2</sup> 2 credits in the same World Language in the elective area is usually required for college admission.

**18 credits needed to be considered a Senior**

- Must pass these tests in Government:
  - US Constitution
  - MO Constitution
  - Citizenship
- Must earn 1.0 credit of US History and a minimum of 0.5 credit of Government
- Must pass CPR instruction (embedded in their health class)
- Must take their required EOC exams
  - Alg. I or Alg II
  - Eng II
  - Bio
  - Government
- CCR Exam
  - ACT, Accuplacer, or ASVAB

# What should I do if I don't know what my kid wants to do?

**Normalize the Uncertainty**

**Reduce Pressure**

It's okay not to have everything figured out at 17 or 18

**Don't Compare to Others**

Many students change majors, careers, or paths multiple times

**Provide Clarity**

The goal right now is a next step, not a lifelong decision

**Show Support**

If your student leaves senior year with a plan and knows they have your support, they are in a great place

# There is a Pathway for Everyone

1

## 4 Year College

- Best for careers requiring degrees (teaching, nursing, engineering, etc.)
- Consider cost, student motivation, and academic readiness
- Community college first can save money

2

## Community College

- Affordable
- Can explore interests before transferring
- Great for certifications and associate degrees

3

## Trade & Technical Programs

- Skilled trades are in high demand (welding, HVAC, electrical, cosmetology, etc.)
- Often shorter programs with strong earning potential
- Less student debt

4

## Workforce

- Immediate income
- Can pursue certifications or college later
- Apprenticeships are excellent earn-while-you-learn options

# 2025 Graduate Information

## Students Attending:

4 Year College/University 51%

2 Year College/University 30%

Workforce 11%

Non-College 5%

Military 3%



- They frequently make visits to our campus in the lunchroom during lunch hours.
- This is a great opportunity to gather information about different programs and schools.

# College, Military Recruiters, and Employers



- Finalize schedule prior to day 1
- Colleges review senior courses
- Avoid “senior slump”
- Take classes that will meet admission requirements for the type of college you want to attend
- Maintain rigor when possible
- Maintain your GPA
- Seniors have flexibility to have two periods off during the day to go to work



# Senior Schedule Matters



# Dual Credit and AP Courses



<u>JCHS Course</u>	<u>AP Exam</u>	<u>Lincoln University</u>	<u>Drury University</u>	<u>Weighted Grade</u>
English 101/102*	No	ENG 101/102		No
AP English Literature	Yes	ENG 200		Yes
College Algebra**	No	MAT 113		No
AP Statistics**	Yes	MAT 117		Yes
AP Pre-Calculus	No	MAT 121		No
AP Calculus AB	Yes	MAT 123		Yes
AP Calculus BC	Yes	MAT 203		Yes
AP Physics A	Yes	PHY 101/101L		Yes
AP Physics B	Yes	PHY 102/102L		Yes
AP Biology	Yes	BIO 103/013L		Yes
AP Environmental Science	Yes	ENV 103		Yes
AP US History	Yes	HIS 205 and HIS 206		Yes
AP US Gov't & Politics	Yes	PSC 203		Yes
AP Psychology	Yes	PSY 101		Yes
Military Leadership*****	No	MSC 101		No
AP Human Geography	Yes		HIST 230	Yes
AP European History	Yes		HIST 111	Yes
Civil Leadership	No		LDST 101	No
AP 2-D Art and Design (NCC)	Yes			No

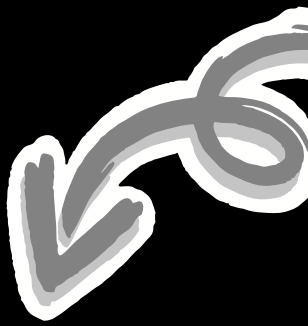
# Core 42 &

# Course Equivalency

- **Core 42 is a standardized set of core college classes that makes transferring between Public Missouri colleges easier**
- **If a student completes CORE 42 at one Missouri public college, those credits transfer and count as general education requirements at any other public college in Missouri**

- **Course equivalence is how a college decides whether a class you took at another school counts at their institution when you transfer**
- **If considered equivalent, your transferred class will replace or fulfill that specific course requirement at the new college**
- **If not equivalent, it may still transfer as general elective credit, but it might not satisfy a required class**

# Senior Year Timeline



## Spring of Junior Year

- Take the ACT
- College Visits-Plan over Spring Break
- Build college list
- State Tech apply now

## Summer Before Senior Year

- Begin applications
- Scholarship search
- Double check your schedule

## Fall of Senior Year

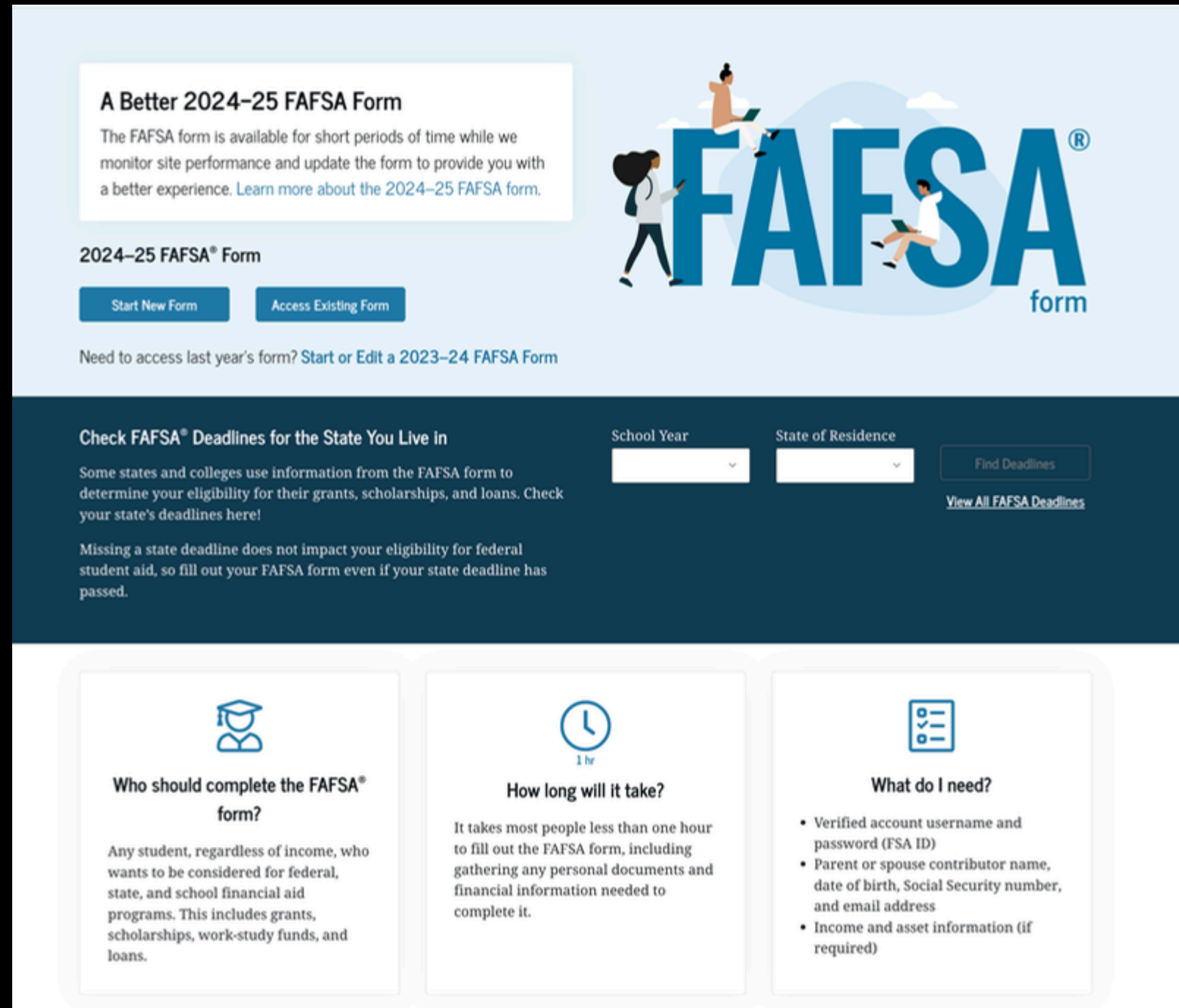
- Senior Visit with your counselor
- Submit applications
- Send Transcripts
- FAFSA opens (October 1)
- Retake the ACT if needed
- Job Fairs/Create a Resume

## Winter/Spring of Senior Year

- Compare financial aid packages carefully
- Commit to a college by May 1 (for most schools)
- Submit housing deposits
- Register for orientation
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Avoid "senioritis" — final transcripts matter!
- Finalize Recruiters

# What is the FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- FAFSA is the main way students apply for money to help pay for college
- When you complete the FAFSA, it evaluates your family's financial information to determine eligibility for aid
- Students should complete it as early as possible, because some aid is first-come, first-served



The screenshot shows the FAFSA website homepage. At the top, there is a banner with the text "A Better 2024-25 FAFSA Form" and a sub-header "2024-25 FAFSA® Form". Below this are two buttons: "Start New Form" and "Access Existing Form". To the right of the banner is a large graphic of the word "FAFSA" in blue, with a registered trademark symbol, and the word "form" in a smaller font below it. The graphic includes illustrations of students: one sitting on top of the 'A', one walking with a backpack, and one sitting on the 'S'. Below the banner, there is a section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In" with a "School Year" dropdown menu, a "State of Residence" dropdown menu, and a "Find Deadlines" button. Below this is a link "View All FAFSA Deadlines". At the bottom, there are three informational cards: "Who should complete the FAFSA® form?", "How long will it take?", and "What do I need?".

**A Better 2024-25 FAFSA Form**  
The FAFSA form is available for short periods of time while we monitor site performance and update the form to provide you with a better experience. [Learn more about the 2024-25 FAFSA form.](#)

**2024-25 FAFSA® Form**

[Start New Form](#) [Access Existing Form](#)

Need to access last year's form? [Start or Edit a 2023-24 FAFSA Form](#)

**Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In**

Some states and colleges use information from the FAFSA form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline does not impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year  State of Residence  [Find Deadlines](#)

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)

**Who should complete the FAFSA® form?**

Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs. This includes grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.

**How long will it take?**

It takes most people less than one hour to fill out the FAFSA form, including gathering any personal documents and financial information needed to complete it.

**What do I need?**

- Verified account username and password (FSA ID)
- Parent or spouse contributor name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address
- Income and asset information (if required)

# JCHS Scholarships

## Mayer Scholarship

- **6** scholarships will be awarded in the amount of **\$2,500** per semester—renewable for 7 additional semesters for an approximate total scholarship award of **\$20,000** over a four-year period.
- Additional scholarships will also be awarded at the Common Scholarship banquet in the amount **\$625** per semester—renewable for 7 additional semesters for an approximate total scholarship award of **\$5,000** over a four-year period.

**Opens in October**

## Common Scholarship

- The common scholarship is a long-standing tradition at JCHS.
- During the 2024-2025 school year **77** local scholarships, some with multiple recipients, were awarded to **105** students totaling approximately **\$678,250** dollars.
- Seniors are only eligible as long as they are a full-time student the second semester of their senior year. Early grad juniors are not eligible.

**Opens in December**

# NCAA / NAIA Eligibility

- If you plan to compete at a Division I or II school, register for an account on the NCAA eligibility center website
- Must take English IV or higher senior year
- Will need to take a math their senior year



# A+ Program

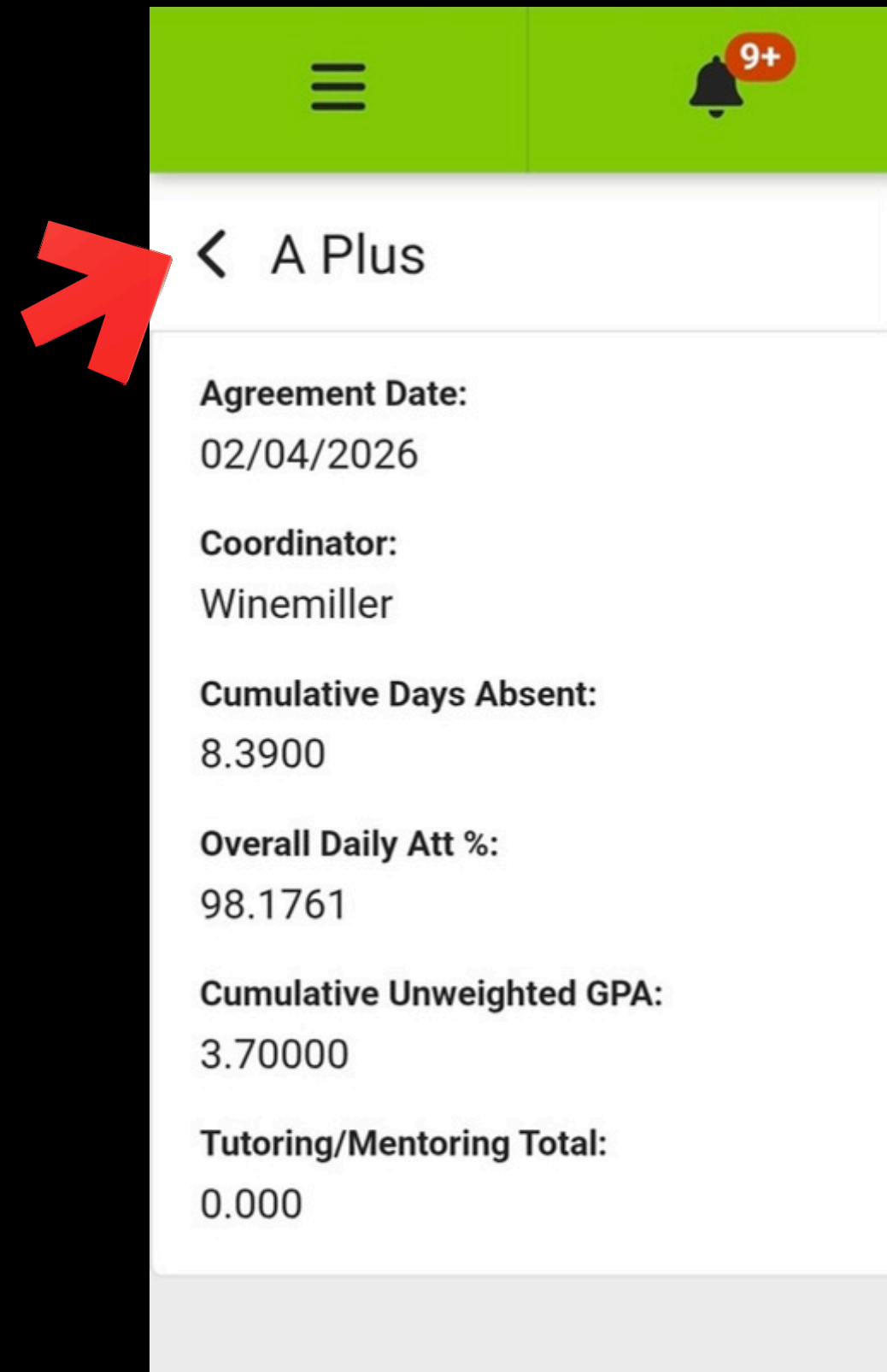
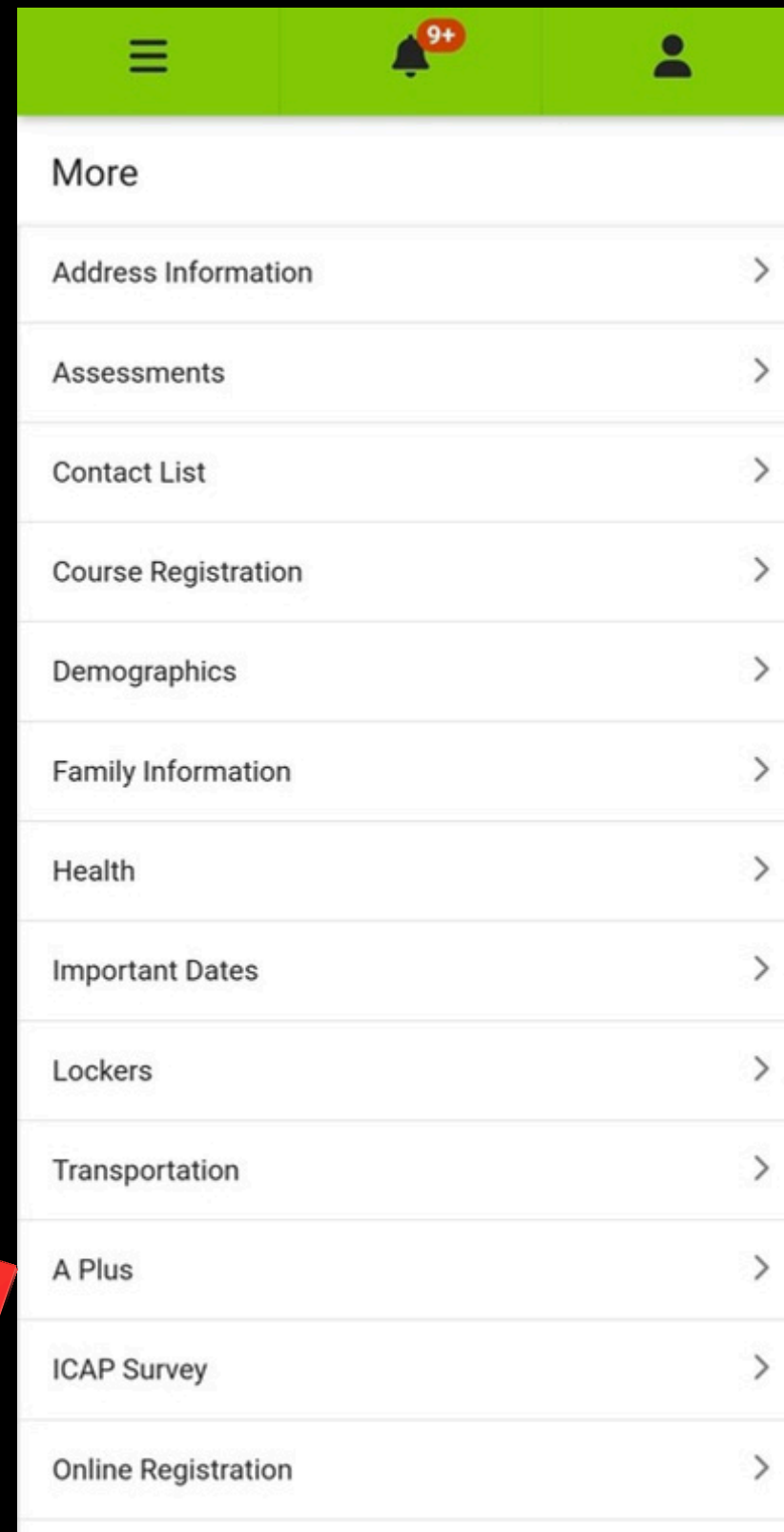
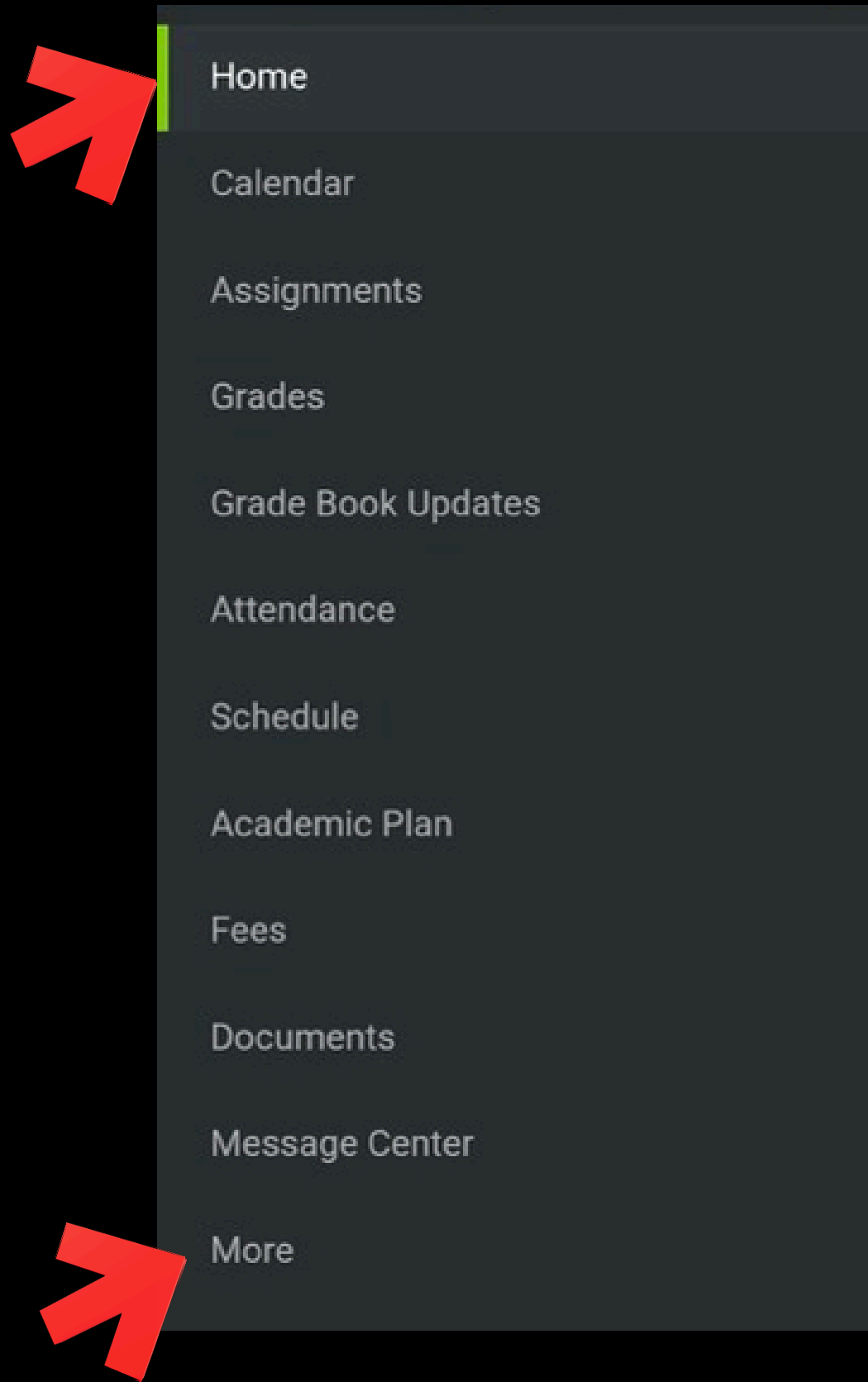
**The Missouri A+ Program offers qualifying high school graduates up to two years of free tuition at Missouri community colleges or technical schools.**

# Requirements

- 2.5 GPA
- 95% attendance
- 50 hours of tutoring
- Good citizenship
- Algebra 1 EOC requirement



# Checking Your A+ Eligibility



- Waiting too long to apply
- Missing FAFSA
- Not checking email
- Decline in GPA
- Not advocating for yourself
- Not researching the prerequisites for the program they plan to study
- Missing out on FREE money

# Common Senior Year Mishaps



- Monthly Jaybird Journal
- Periodically check the counseling website
- Stay on top of your student's grades
- Communicate with your student's teachers
- Coffee with Counselors
- Research options
- Ask an expert
- Encourage good attendance
- Preview Senior Planning Guide

# What Can I do as a Parent?



# Check out our Counseling Website



<https://jchs.jcschools.us/counseling>

The screenshot shows the Jefferson City High School website's counseling page. At the top, the school's logo and name are displayed, along with navigation links for Parent Portal, Registration, and Join Our Team, and a CONTACT US button. A red navigation bar contains links for JCHS Calendar, About Us, Staff Directory, Counseling, Students & Families, Library Media, and Menus. Below this, a grid of links provides access to various counseling resources. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail (HOME > COUNSELING), a red sidebar with expandable menu items, a large 'Counseling' heading, a graphic for the 2025-26 school year, and the text 'JCHS COUNSELING STAFF' above a row of staff member photos.

Jefferson City High School  
We are a District of Champions. Build a Champion. Be a Champion.

Parent Portal Registration \* Join Our Team CONTACT US

JCHS Calendar About Us Staff Directory Counseling Students & Families Library Media Menus

About Your Counselors Summer School 2026 ACT Testing Information AP Registration and Testing Information  
College & Career Information Enrollment 2026-27 JCHS School Profile Scholarship Opportunities Sports Eligibility (NCAA & NAIA)  
Dual Credit / Dual Enrollment Records Request

HOME > COUNSELING

About Your Counselors +  
Summer School 2026  
ACT Testing Information +  
AP Registration and Testing Information +  
College & Career Information +  
Enrollment 2026-27 +  
JCHS School Profile +

Counseling

2025-26

JCHS COUNSELING STAFF



# Connect with your Counselor

- **Coffee with Counselors**
  - April 2, 7:30 AM
  - May 7, 7:30 AM
- **Parent Teacher Conferences**
  - April 16, 5:00-7:00 PM
- **Reach out via email**