

Navigating the Future

Junior Presentation Post Secondary Planning



Seven Lake High School Contacts

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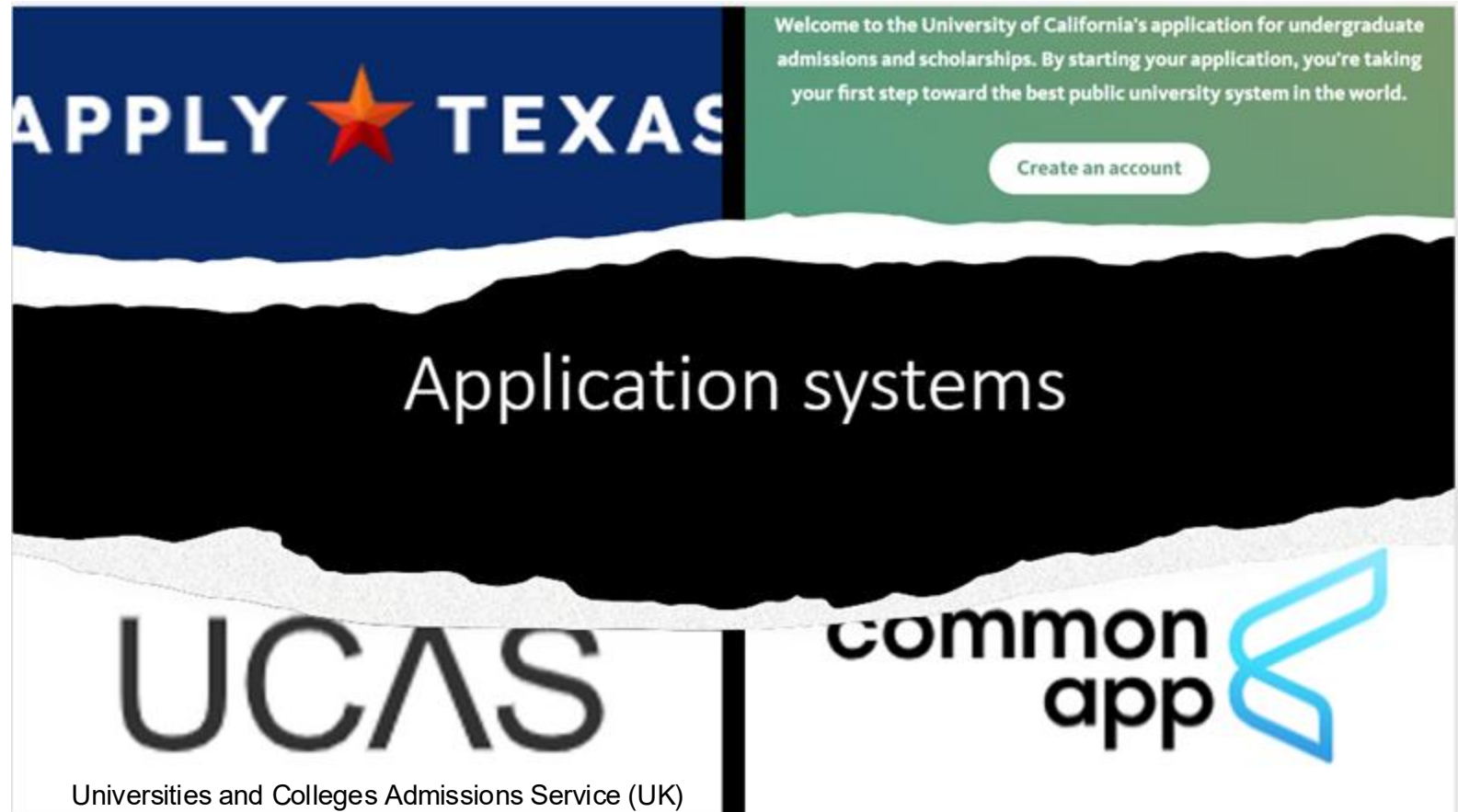
SHR-Z

Mrs. Bergeron - AshleyBergeron@katyisd.org

Applying

Applying

Applying



Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UK)

3 Application Platforms

- **Applytexas.org**

Students that are applying to In-State public or private universities and community colleges in Texas.

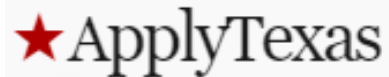
- **CommonApp.org**

Students that are applying Out-of-State and/or Texas universities; accepted by more than 900 colleges.

- **Institutional**

Some universities use their own applications.

Most applications will open
August 1st for FALL 2026



Which College Admission Process Best Suits You?

NON-RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS			RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS	
REGULAR DECISION	ROLLING ADMISSION	EARLY ACTION (EA)	EARLY DECISION (ED)	RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION (REA)
Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time. COMMITMENT NON-BINDING	Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. COMMITMENT NON-BINDING	Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. COMMITMENT NON-BINDING	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	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 NOT RESTRICTED FROM APPLYING TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND HAVE UNTIL MAY 1 TO CONSIDER THEIR OPTIONS AND CONFIRM ENROLLMENT.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING AND FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS.



STUDENT Home

Here's what's happening

- Check out this Opportunity!
Stanley Annual Carnival
Katy, TX | 0-5 mi.
Katy ISD
- Check out this Scholarship!
Taylor Austin Broussard Memorial Scholarship
Deadline: June 15, 2026
Cybr. Sec. Careers
- Check out this Scholarship!
Trinity Merit Scholarships \$15,000
Deadline: May 15, 2026
Trinity Washington University
- Check out this Opportunity!
Pool Opening Parties
Katy, TX | 0-5 mi.
Cinco Residential Property Association

To Do List 16 Events Reminders My Team Survey/Forms Shared Notes

Overdue 16

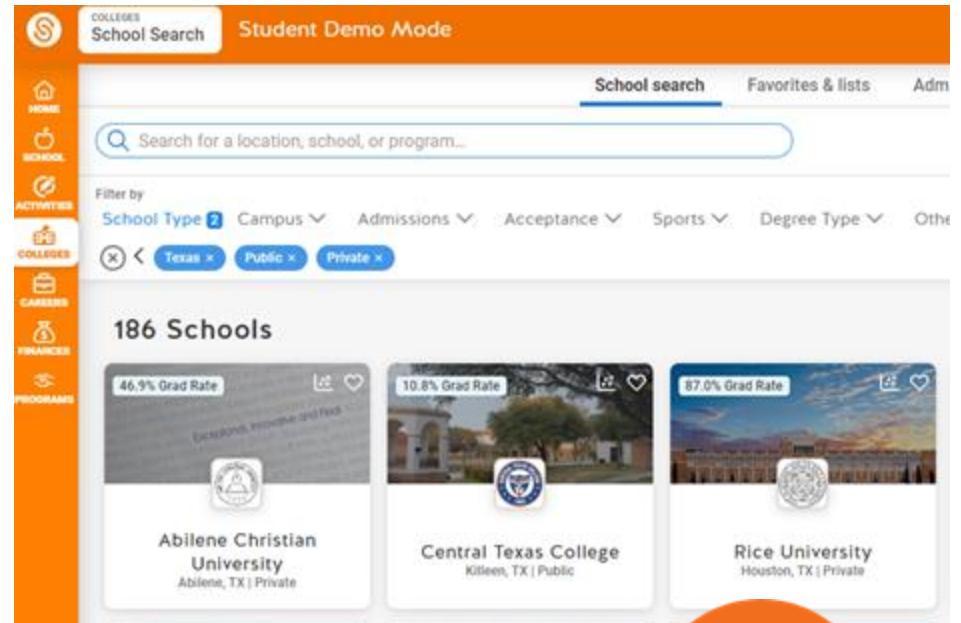
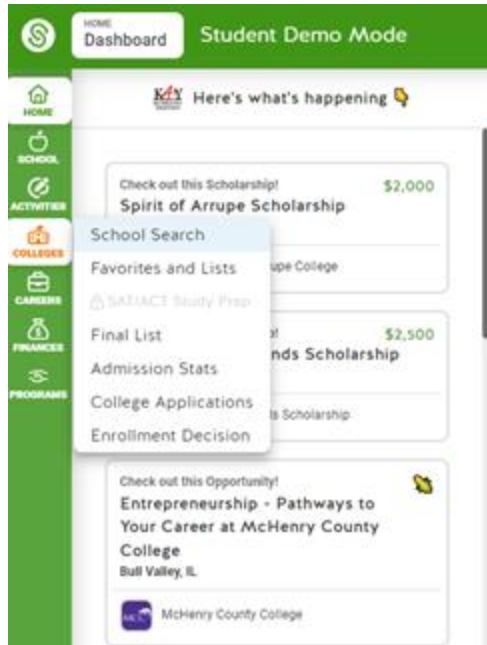
- > Have at least one guardian join SchoolLinks
- > Interested in Raines Academy? APPLY HERE!
- > Subscribe to Events in your External Calendar
- > "The College Application Process" Learning Unit
- > Setup Phone Number for Text Message Alerts
- > Create SMART Goals

☐ Due within 4 weeks 1

☒ Due later this year 4

WHICH UNIVERSITY SHOULD I APPLY TO?

- Recommend applying to 3-8 schools
- SchoolLinks
 - *College Search and Admission Stats



Scattergrams in SchoolLinks

- Admissions statistics
- Can help see likelihood of acceptance
- National/District Data

The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas | Public

Overview
Current Student Videos
Campus Setting
Student Body
Academics & Programs
Athletics
Student Life
Cost & Financial Aid
Admissions
Application
Suggestions

Admissions

☒ National data ☐ District data

Acceptance Rate



Average High School
Weighted GPA

4.44

Average High School
Unweighted GPA

3.79

Test Scores

Students who were accepted typically had scores in these ranges.

SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing: 640-750

0

SAT Math: 640-780

0

ACT Science, Tech, Engineering & Math: 28-33

0

ACT English Language Arts: 28-31

0

My Chances

Want to see your chances at this school?
[Add test scores](#) to see how you match up.

[See scattergram](#)

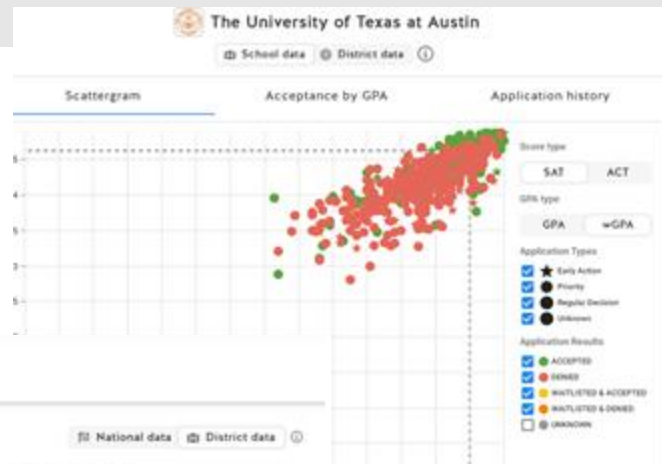
Your Score of 690 falls within this range!

Your Score of 690 falls within this range!

36

36

[Admissions Office Website](#)



SchoolLinks

The screenshot displays the 'College Applications' section of the SchoolLinks platform. A yellow sidebar on the left contains navigation icons for Home, Student, Explore, Plan, Engage, Career, and College. The main header area includes the 'COLLEGE College Applications' title, a navigation bar with tabs like 'School search', 'Favorites & lists', 'Admission stats', 'Final list', 'College applications' (which is selected), and 'Enrollment decision'. A yellow top bar features an 'Exit Student Demo' button and various utility icons. Below the navigation, there are filters for 'Board' and 'List', a search bar for applications by name, and buttons for 'Comments' and 'Add application'. The central part of the interface is a Kanban-style board with three columns: 'Incomplete', 'Completed & pending', and 'Accepted'. Each column has a description of the required actions. On the left, there are sections for 'Recommendation tracker' and 'FAFSA/TASFA' status. A 'common app' connection status is shown as 'CONNECTED' with a 'Log in' button and an 'Unlink account' option. A red arrow points from the 'Admission stats' tab to the 'Incomplete' column, another from the 'College applications' tab to the 'Completed & pending' column, and a third from the 'Enrollment decision' tab to the 'Accepted' column.

COLLEGE College Applications

Exit Student Demo ×

School search Favorites & lists Admission stats Final list **College applications** Enrollment decision

Board List

Search for an application by name

Comments 0 + Add application

Incomplete → **Completed & pending** → **Accepted**

Recommendation tracker
Fulfilled Pending Declined
View all requests

FAFSA/TASFA Not Filed
Update Status

common app CONNECTED
Log in →
Unlink account

Add an application to request transcripts and counselor docs.

Complete the student checklist to mark an application completed.

Add a result to a mark a completed application as accepted.

SchoolLinks

*If you are applying via CommonApp, you will need to go into SchoolLinks to add the school to your account and sign your FERPA Waiver.

This is the only way counselors can send documents including letters of recommendation and transcripts.

To utilize SchoolLinks, you must be logged
into your MyKatyCloud Account

HOW LINK COMMON APP
AND SCHOOLINKS--->



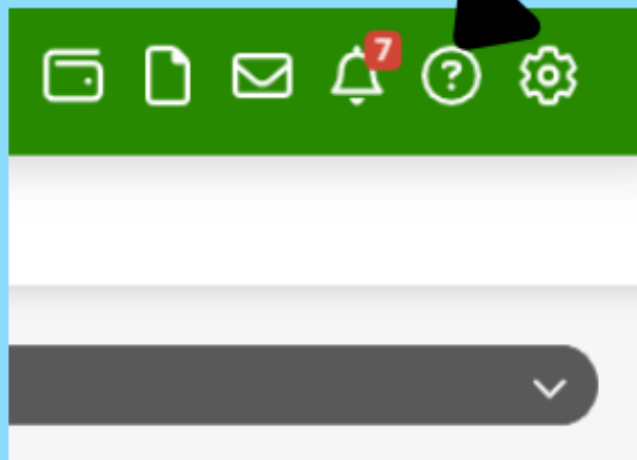
SCHOOLINKS -

HOW TO ADD AN APPLICATION



This information is found in the
Help Center of SchoolLinks

**HELP
CENTER**



Where are our SPARTANS going?

University of
Houston

Texas A & M
University—
College Station

The University of
Texas at Dallas

The University of
Texas at San
Antonio

Texas Tech
University

Texas State
University

University of
Oklahoma—
Norman Campus

The University of
Texas at Austin

Baylor University

Louisiana State
University

University of
North Texas

Arizona State
University—
Tempe

University of
Mississippi

Sam Houston
State University

University of
Arkansas

Pennsylvania
State University—
Main Campus

The University of
Alabama

Purdue
University—Main
Campus

The University of
Texas at
Arlington

Stephen F.
Austin State
University

University of
Illinois at
Urbana—
Champaign

University of
Minnesota—Twin
Cities

Oklahoma State
University—Main
Campus

Houston
Christian
University

College Applications

What's needed?

(varies by institution)

- **Application**
May include Essay/s
May request Resume
- **Transcript - Unofficial/Official**
Initial
Midyear, if required
Final
- **Colleges may require**
SAT/ACT scores
TSIA2 scores (Texas)
TOEFL
Letters of Recommendation/s
Portfolio (art/design programs)



Most applications will open
August 1st for FALL 2026



College Admissions - Holistic Review vs Automatic

Holistic Review

The following items are considered for Holistic Review:

- *Class Rank
- *Academic Background
- *Extracurricular Involvement
- *Achievements, accomplishments, honors, and awards that your student has received.
- *ESSAY Prompts
- *Letters of Recommendation (if required)
- *How competitive the MAJOR is that the student applied to

Automatic Admission

*If you are within the TOP 10% of your class beginning your senior year, then you are automatically accepted into all state-funded universities within Texas.

*Does not include private universities

*The ONLY university in Texas that does NOT fall within the Top 10% rule is the University of Texas at Austin. Students need to be in the Top 5% of their class.

*Students can also meet assured admissions via standardized test scores such as SAT/ACT.

College Admissions

University of Houston

Requirements With Test Score

Requirements Through July 31, 2026

Class Rank	SAT or	ACT	Admission Type
Top 10%	No Minimum	No Minimum	Assured Admission
11-25%	1080	21	Assured Admission
26-50%	1170	24	Assured Admission
51% and Lower, No Rank	-	-	Individual Review*

Requirements Without a Test Score

Class Rank	Calculated Unweighted GPA**	Admission Type
Top 10%	No Minimum	Assured Admission
11 - 25%	3.40 or higher	Assured Admission
	lower than 3.40	Individual Review*
26 - 50%	3.45 or higher	Assured Admission
	lower than 3.45	Individual Review*
51% and Lower, No Rank	—	Individual Review*

New Requirements Starting Aug. 1, 2026

Receive automatic admission by meeting one of the following academic requirements.

Assured Pathway 1	Top 10%
Assured Pathway 2	3.5+ GPA
Assured Pathway 3	1250+ on SAT or 26+ ACT

Stephen F. Austin University

Standardized test requirements

High school class rank	SAT	ACT
Top 25%	No minimum required	No minimum required
2nd Quarter	1030	20
3rd Quarter	1170	24
4th Quarter	File Review	File Review

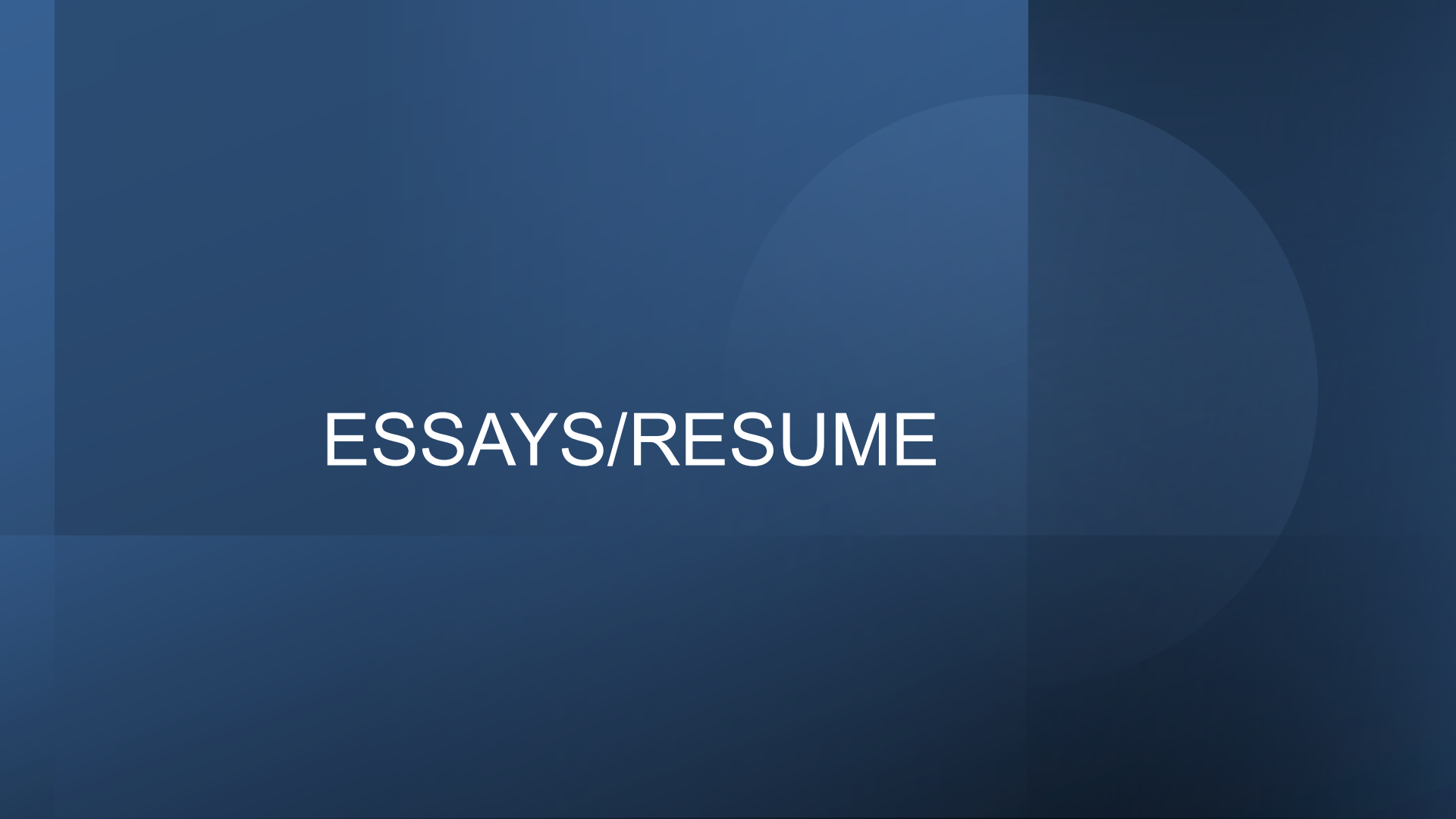
Test-optional for 2025-26 and 2026-27 terms

SFA will admit students in the top 25% automatically. Applicants not in the top 25% will be reviewed for admission based on available information. Test scores are not required, but students are encouraged to submit new or existing scores as they are required for some scholarships. Test scores will never disadvantage a student for admission.

Check Automatic Admission in Texas



2025/2026

The background is a solid dark blue. A large, lighter blue circle is positioned on the right side, partially cut off by the edge. A vertical line of a slightly different shade of blue runs through the center of the image, intersecting the circle.

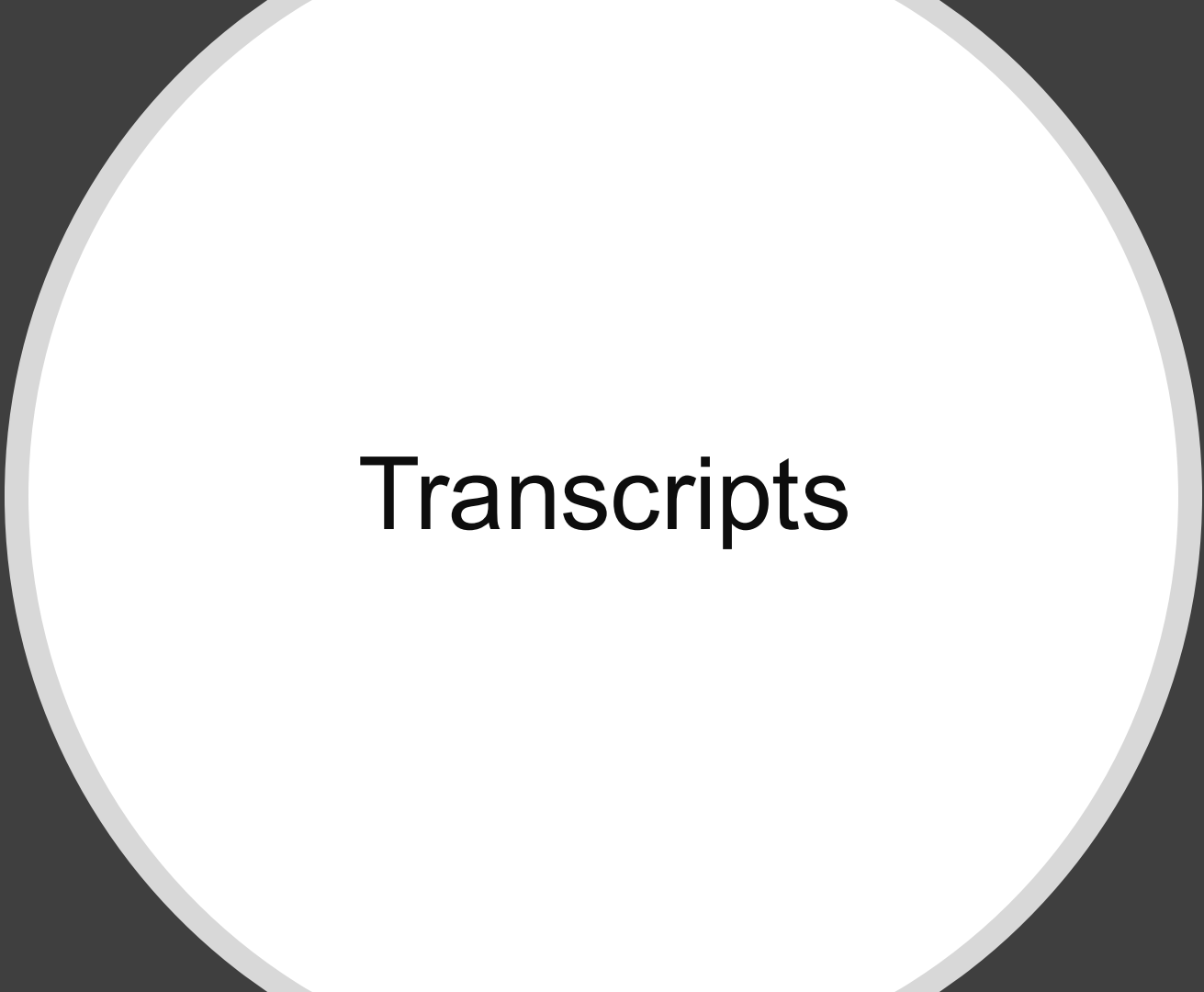
ESSAYS/RESUME

Resume

- Keep it to One page
- Use Strong Action Verbs
- Highlight Impact, Not Just Participation
- Be Honest and Specific
- Include the Right Sections
- Tailor It When Possible

Essays

- Be Personal/Authentic
- Show, Don't Tell
- Focus on Reflection
- Answer the Prompt – Fully
- Research the Institution – Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals
- Revise Carefully



Transcripts

Here's what's happening 🗨️

Profile and Resume

Credential Wallet

Scores and Performance

Record Requests

Check out this Opportunity!
Westheimer Lakes Fall Festival
Richmond, TX | 5-10 mi.

STUDENT
Record Center

Transcript Immunization Records

To Do List 17 Events Reminders My Team Survey/Forms Shared Notes

Overdue 17 Expand All

- > Have at least one guardian join SchoolLinks 9/29/25
- > Interested in Raines Academy? APPLY HERE! 10/9/25
- > Subscribe to Events in your External Calendar 10/12/25

Last updated 11/17/25 by the District | Final Transcript

Download unofficial transcript

OR

Send official transcript

View your grades or download to send to a college or program that accepts **unofficial** transcripts.

Send an official transcript for scholarships, NCAA eligibility, and other non-college app purposes.

💡 Send transcripts for college apps in the [College Applications Manager](#), not here!

Transcript destination	Note	Delivery method	Date requested	Status
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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

What does a counselor need in order to write a letter of recommendation?

Counselors Need:

*At least 21 business days advanced notice of the institution's deadline. This does NOT include weekends.

Counselors start writing letters of recommendation on September 1st.

*Filled out Personal Data Sheet and Letter of Rec Request Form.

*Invitation from Common App, email invite from the University, OR information on how to get the letter to the specific university (email addresses, forms, etc.)

*Please check with your Texas schools to see if they really need a Counselor letter of rec.



COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

College Admissions - SAT VS ACT

SAT

NEW** Digital ONLY

*2 hours and 14 minutes

2 sections : Reading & Writing / Math

*Reading & Writing - 54 questions (64 min.)

*Math - 44 questions (70 min.)

*No essay

*scaled scored 400 - 1600



SAT VS ACT
QUIZ

ACT

*2 hours and 45 minutes

*English (40/50 questions scored) 35 min

*Mathematics (41/45 questions scored) 50 min

*Reading (27/36 questions scored) 40 min

*Science (optional - 34/40 questions scored) 40 min

*Writing (optional - 1 essay 40 min

*scaled scored 1 - 36

SAT/ACT Dates

2026 Remaining SAT/ACT Dates

SAT

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026 Register	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	Apr. 17, 2026 Register	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026 Register	May 26, 2026

ACT

2026 National Test Dates Schedule

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline (Late fee applies after this date.)	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload/ Standby Deadline	Initial Score Release Date
December 13, 2025	November 7	November 24	December 5	December 30
February 14, 2026	January 9	January 27	February 9	March 3
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 6	April 21
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29	June 8	June 23
July 11, 2026*	June 5	June 24	July 6	July 21

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

What is the TSIA2 and why would a student have to take it?

TSIA2 is a computer-adaptive placement test for students entering Texas public colleges to determine college-level readiness in Mathematics and English Language Arts Reading (ELAR). In order to take college level/credit bearing classes, you have show that you are “college ready.”

College readiness standards can be met in several ways - through SAT and ACT or TSI

TSI – ELAR 945+ and Essay 5+ and Math 950+

SAT – Reading+Writing 480+ and Math 530+

ACT – ENG+RDG Combined Score ≥ 40 and Math Score ≥ 22

When will it be offered? Dates listed in SchoolLinks

Alternative Options to 4-year University

- Junior College/Community College

- Can move to 4-year university as a transfer student.

- Usually the university has a credit hour requirement (24 credits+) to apply as a transfer student.

- Important to check on transferability to future university

- Trade School

- Workforce Training Programs

- Military

- ASVAB

- Gap Year or enter workforce



Financial Aid

FASFA/TASFA

House Bill 3

Overview

- Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3), passed in 2019, requires Texas public high school seniors to complete a financial aid application—either the **FAFSA** or **TASFA**—as a graduation requirement starting in the 2021-2022 school year.
Students may submit a signed **opt-out form** if they are 18 or older, emancipated, or if a parent/guardian authorizes the exemption.



FAFSA vs TASFA

- Financial aid application that colleges, universities, trades or technical schools request in order to award financial aid to eligible students to help pay for their college expenses.
- FAFSA vs TASFA**

FAFSA - U.S. Citizens, permanent residents, or hold a visa on asylee status or refugee status. More information available in www.studentaid.gov

TASFA - non-citizen students **AND** Texas residents; meaning the student has lived in TX for the last 36 months or 3 years.
- Financial Aid Opt-Out Form

SchoolLinks

COLLEGE College Applications

Exit Student Demo

School search Favorites & lists Admission stats Final list **College applications** Enrollment decision

Board List

Search for an application by name

Comments 0 + Add application

Recommendation tracker

Fulfilled Pending Declined

View all requests

FAFSA/TASFA Not Filed

Update Status

common app CONNECTED

Log in →

Unlink account

Incomplete →

Add an application to request transcripts and counselor docs.

Completed & pending →

Complete the student checklist to mark an application completed.

Accepted

Add a result to a mark a completed application as accepted.

Scholarships

Scholarships on SchoolLinks

The screenshot displays the SchoolLinks College Applications interface. On the left is a yellow sidebar with navigation icons and labels: Home, Student, Explore, Plan, Engage, Career, and College. The main header area shows 'COLLEGE College Applications' and a 'School search' bar. Below this are tabs for 'Board' and 'List'. The 'Scholarship Matching' section is highlighted with a red arrow. It features a list of 978 scholarships, with the first one, 'TGA Scholarship Program', highlighted by a blue box and a red arrow. The list includes details like the posting district, deadline, and a match score. A detailed view of the 'TGA Scholarship Program' is shown on the right, including its description, deadline (February 27, 2026), and eligibility (12th Grade). A red arrow points from the 'Scholarship Matching' section to the detailed view.

COLLEGE College Applications

School search

Board List

School Search

Favorites and Lists

Admission Stats

Final List

College Applications

Enrollment Decision

College Financing

Scholarship Matching

COLLEGE Scholarship Matching

978 Scholarships

Posted by your district
TGA Scholarship Program
The Texas Gas Association (TGA)

Feb 27

100

Posted by your district
The Cirkled in "No Sweat" Scholarship
Cirkled in

Mar 31

100

Posted by your district
Hagan Scholarship
Hagan Scholarship Foundation

Mar 15

100

Posted by your district
Houston Hispanic Architects &

Mar 31

100

TGA Scholarship Program
The Texas Gas Association (TGA)

FAVORITE MARK AS APPLIED Apply

Deadline
February 27, 2026

Amount
Not specified

Annual Winners
—

Eligibility
12th Grade

Description
The Texas Gas Association Scholarship Fund (TGASF) offers multiple scholarship opportunities to support both emerging talent and industry professionals. Since the early 1990s, they have been investing in education to shape the future of the natural gas

This scholarship was added by your district and has not been verified by SchoolLinks. SchoolLinks does not guarantee the accuracy of the information provided.

Scholarships on Canvas

The screenshot displays the Canvas LMS interface. On the left is a dark blue navigation sidebar with icons and labels for Home, Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox (with a 28-item badge), History, and Commons. To the right of the sidebar is a vertical menu with links to Home, Announcements (which is highlighted), Modules, Quizzes, Course Analytics, IgniteAI Search, Assignments, Grades, Discussions, People, Pages, Files, Outcomes, and Syllabus. The main content area at the top features a search bar containing the text 'scholarship', a blue '+ Add Announcement' button, and a grey 'Mark All as Read' button with an envelope icon. Below these is a link for 'External Feeds'. The announcements list contains four items, each with a checkbox, a blue circle containing 'EA', a title, a description, and a 'Posted on' timestamp. The announcements are: 1. '2026 Houston Hispanic Architects & Engineers Scholarship' posted Feb 10, 2026, 8:19 AM. 2. '2026 Indian Doctor's Association (IDA) Scholarship' posted Feb 3, 2026, 7:43 AM. 3. 'Smilin' Rylen Scholarship' posted Jan 29, 2026, 4:37 PM. 4. 'Ricky Searce Memorial Scholarship'.

Home

Announcements

Modules

Quizzes

Course Analytics

IgniteAI Search

Assignments

Grades

Discussions

People

Pages

Files

Outcomes

Syllabus

All

scholarship

+ Add Announcement

Mark All as Read

External Feeds

☐ EA 2026 Houston Hispanic Architects & Engineers Scholarship

All Sections

Hello Spartans, HHAE invites graduating high school seniors from the ...

Posted on: Feb 10, 2026, 8:19 AM

☐ EA 2026 Indian Doctor's Association (IDA) Scholarship

All Sections

Hello Spartans! The IDA is awarding three to five \$2,500 scholarships ...

Posted on: Feb 3, 2026, 7:43 AM

☐ EA Smilin' Rylen Scholarship

All Sections

Hello Spartans!The Smilin' Rylen Scholarship was created and sponsor...

Posted on: Jan 29, 2026, 4:37 PM

☐ EA Ricky Searce Memorial Scholarship

All Sections

Posted on:

Timeline

When should Juniors start their college journey?

Junior/Senior Timeline

Summer 2026

- *Begin Essay
- *Update Resume
- *Take or Retake SAT/ACT
- *Explore SchoolLinks (college search)

FALL 2026

- *Apply to colleges
- *Send official transcripts
- *Apply for Scholarships
- *Start FAFSA (Opens October, hopefully)

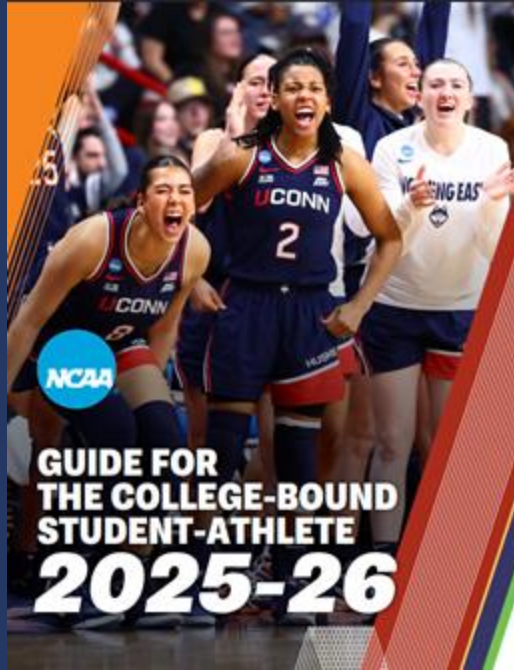
SPRING 2027

- *Scholarships - Apply, apply, apply
- *Mid-Year reports (if required - automatically)
- *Financial Summary
- *Make college decision
- *Final transcript (**Senior Survey**)

Future College Athletes

Future College Athletes

Important Considerations for Future College Athletes



- For a future college athlete, there are even more important considerations for coursework to ensure student is meeting criteria for NCAA/NAIA eligibility.
- Core courses and core GPA requirements
- NCAA Division I and Division II (athletic scholarships)
vs. Division III (non-athletic financial aid)

Calculate core



Junior Conferences:

- Students will receive a REMIND announcement
- CCF and Counselors will walk students through the application process and answer questions.

College, Career and Military REMIND

@slhs-ccmr

Thank You!



Counselors' Website

