

PARENT UNIVERSITY



NCHS Senior Year Overview and College Application Information



September 2026



**Slides will be emailed
home and posted on our
website later this week.**



What We're Covering Tonight

1

College Applications

Timelines and Deadlines

2

NCHS Procedures

Using SchoolLinks & understanding
specific NCHS application procedures

3

How Parents Can Help

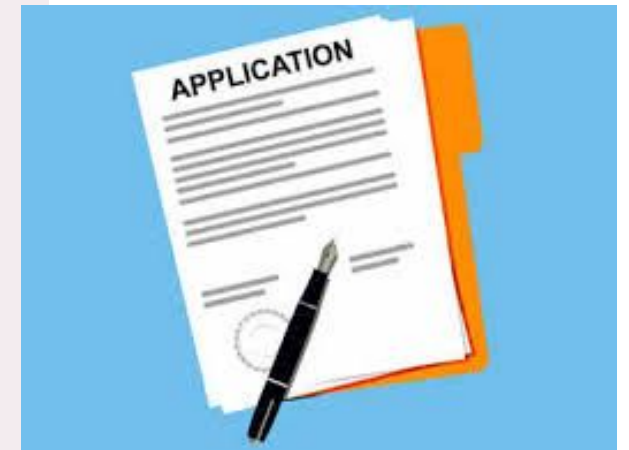
Parent role in the process

1



College Applications

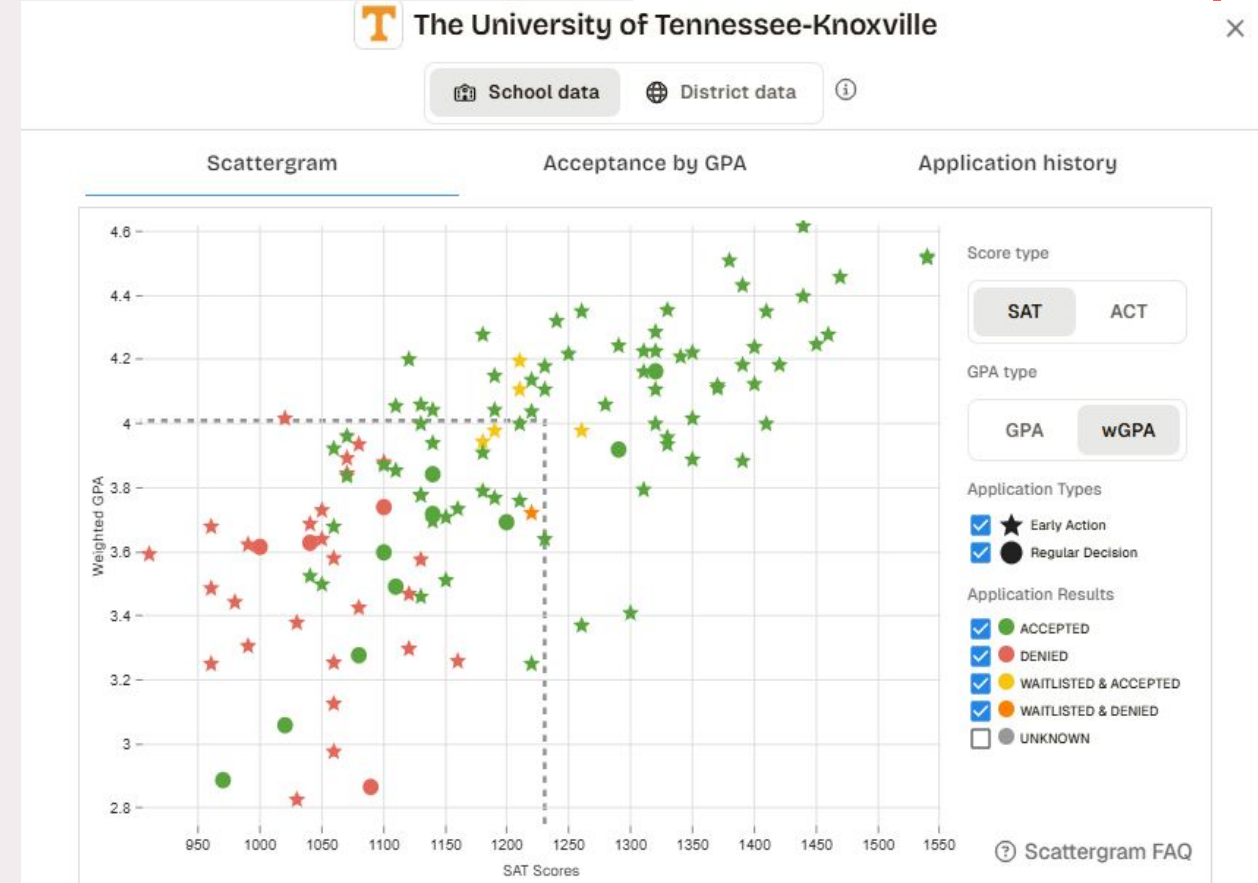
Timelines and Deadlines





Junior Year Recap

- As a reminder, juniors participated in our counseling curriculum, which was a series of 3 videos
- Students were encouraged to
 - Deep dive into research (including using scattergrams in SchoolLinks) and college fit
 - Create a balanced college list (reach, target, likely)
 - Finalize their college list to be ready for application season
 - Get organized and begin some college application components over the summer





Senior Year Timeline

Fall Semester

- SchoolLinks training with school counselors (Aug. 24th and 25th)
- Continue college visits, as needed
- Begin applications
- Request transcripts & letters of recommendation (if required)
- Send test scores (if applicable)
- Write admissions essays
- Finalize & submit applications
- Complete FAFSA (opens October 1)

Spring Semester

- Consider acceptance letters and financial aid awards
- Research scholarships and student loans, if needed
- Formally select a college (by May 1)
- Send in deposit and housing form





Which Admissions Type Best Suits Your Student?

Non-Restrictive App Plans

Early Action

- Priority-Filing Period
- Often used for scholarship or honors program deadlines

Regular Decision

- Latest possible deadline by which one can apply

Rolling Admissions

- Applications are processed as they are received by the university

Best for which students?

EA & rolling are best for students who would like to apply early and receive a decision early

Non-restrictive plans are best for students who want to compare offers and financial packages from multiple colleges





Which Admissions Type Best Suits Your Student?

Restrictive App Plans

Early Decision (binding)

- Can only apply to one college through ED
- Requires a discussion with counselor
- Parent, student, and counselor must sign agreement

Restrictive Early Action (non-binding)

- Restricted from applying to other schools ED or EA.
- Can vary by school.

Best for which students?

Only for those who:

- Have a definite first choice college
- Are confident about how they intend to finance their education



The Application

- Students should visit the college's website
- Students may have the option of using:
 - The college's own application
 - The Common Application
 - If applying to three or more schools that accept Common App, use Common App
 - Other App Types (Coalition, Common Black College App, etc.)

Two Ways to Apply

A yellow rectangular banner with the word "IOWA" in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

University of Iowa Application

The University of Iowa online application

APPLY ONLINE →



Common Application

The University of Iowa is a member of the Common Application

APPLY ONLINE →



NCHS Procedures

Using SchoolLinks &
understanding specific NCHS
application procedures



Information Needed to Complete Applications

IMPORTANT

NCHS CEEB Code: 143105
 Class of 2027 Class Size: 630
 GPA Scale for NCHS: 4.0 scale
 NCHS uses a **weighted** GPA scale.
 NCHS does not rank students. Use "N/A" or "none" if asked for class rank.

Adding Colleges in SchoolLinks

Common Application

Add **ALL** your colleges in SchoolLinks at least **3 weeks** before the deadline.

Use this [Flowchart](#) to help you set up your account accurately.



[Connect your Common App to SchoolLinks](#) (REQUIRED! Documents cannot be sent if not connected.)



Use the [Common App Help Sheet](#), complete your [FERPA waiver](#), and update your [deadlines](#).

Sending Test Scores

Transcripts

NCHS does **NOT** send test scores to colleges. This is a student's responsibility.

[Send SAT](#) scores to colleges
[Send ACT](#) scores to colleges



[Convert](#) your SAT score into an equivalent ACT score, and vice versa

Many colleges are [test-optional](#).

Once you add a college to your "College Application Manager" in SchoolLinks, a transcript request is automatically generated. *No further action is required for a transcript request.*



For Common App schools, your counselor will submit a **School Report**, which includes your transcript.

Access your unofficial transcript in Infinite Campus (under "Documents")

Recommendation Letters

College Rep Visits

Request all teacher recommendations through SchoolLinks.



[Instructions](#) for requesting recommendations.

Complete [counselor recommendation form](#), if needed

Register to meet with visiting college reps in The PARC through [SchoolLinks](#), using the **Events** tab on your dashboard.

Before the visit, get your teacher's signed permission on your [college visit pass](#). Bring the pass with you to the visit.

ONE STOP SHOP
 RESOURCE!



NCHS to College Hyperdoc

bit.ly/NCHStoCollege27



SchooLinks

**Primary communication tool between
student, counselor, and teacher**

- ALL colleges to which the student is applying **MUST** be entered by the student into their SchooLinks account
- ALL college application deadlines must be accurately recorded in SchooLinks (verify deadline on college website)

**SCHOOLINKS IS NOT AN
APPLICATION METHOD**



SchooLinks & Common App

SPECIAL NOTE FOR STUDENTS USING THE COMMON APPLICATION:

- Student must connect their Common Application account to SchooLinks
- Students must enter their application deadlines in Common App which are then transferred to their SchooLinks account

**SCHOOLINKS IS NOT AN
APPLICATION METHOD**



SchooLinks

Counselors and teachers use SchooLinks to transmit confidential, official, and secure documents to colleges.

- Transcript requests are automatically placed when a student enters a college in SchooLinks. ALL colleges must be entered in SchooLinks.
- ALL requests for teacher letters of recommendation must be entered in SchooLinks after having a conversation with the teacher.





Standardized Test Scores

NCHS does NOT send test scores!

It is the student's responsibility to send test scores to colleges.

Students must have test scores sent directly from the testing agency to the college. Allow ample time.

Some colleges may accept self-reported scores; verify on their website.

There is a fee for sending test scores (\$15 for SAT; \$20 for ACT).





Letters of Recommendation (LOR)

Students Should

- Do research on college websites
- Allow adequate time, 3-4 weeks notice
- Ask teachers BEFORE requesting LOR through SchoolLinks
- For counselor LOR, fill out the counselor questionnaire (**only if counselor letter is needed**)

Students Shouldn't

- Ask for an LOR if the college does not require one
- Ask for more than one letter unless a college requires it
- Ask a teacher from freshman year





Do you accept letters of recommendation or other additional materials?

No, we don't accept letter of recommendation or other unsolicited materials. An audition, portfolio, or interview may be required for Fine and Applied Arts applicants. See our application process for more details.



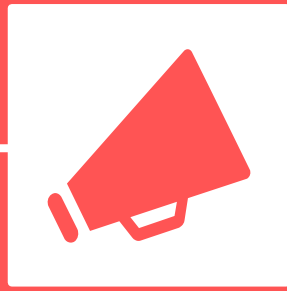
Undergraduate Admissions



BE PATIENT

Application Reminders

- Be patient!
- It is critical for students to honor NCHS deadlines
- Allow 3 weeks to process requests
- Track application status in SchoolLinks
- Requesting a document does not mean it is sent automatically.
- Sending things electronically does not mean they are processed by the college instantaneously.
- Once the application is submitted, students typically receive an automatically generated email about “missing materials”. This doesn’t necessarily mean they are missing!



Students can submit their portions of applications separately (at any time) from supporting documents which include official transcripts and letters of recommendation.



How Parents Can Help

Parent role in the process



Parents Can Help

- Arrange for campus visits and/or manage virtual visits
- Organize & proofread application components
- Order test scores to be sent to colleges
- Research financial aid opportunities
- Complete the FAFSA or Non-Participation Form
- Be supportive & have meaningful conversations
- Review monthly counseling newsletters for important reminders, dates, and information





SchoolLinks Observer

Parents can create an observer account on SchoolLinks. You can use this account to search schools and view your child's progress.

- To create a parent/guardian account, follow these [instructions](#).





Resist the Urge

As tempting as it might be,
please don't:

- Complete or submit your child's application
- Write your child's essay
- Contact college representatives on behalf of your child
- Manage your child's SchooLinks or Common App accounts





2027-28 FAFSA & Form Filing Requirement

FAFSA available beginning October 1, 2026

State of Illinois requires all students to file a financial aid form to earn a high school diploma.

To fulfill this requirement, students must:

- File a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
OR
- File the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
OR
- File a [waiver/opt out form](#)





FAFSA Resources

- Financial Aid Information session – immediately following this presentation
- Financial Aid Form Filing Night
 - October 28th (6:30–8:00pm) in NCHS Learning Commons
 - October 29th (5:30–7:00pm) in NNHS Learning Commons
- ISAC Corps Representative, Payton Major
 - Payton.Major@illinois.gov
 - (309) 756–8175





Thank **you!**

General questions? Raise your hand!



Credits:

Presentation Template: [SlidesMania](https://www.slidesmania.com)

Images: [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com)

Fonts used in this presentation: DM Sans and Lexend Deca



Free themes and templates for
Google Slides or **PowerPoint**

NOT to be sold as is or modified!

Read [FAQ](#) on slidesmania.com

Do not remove the slidesmania.com text on the sides.

Sharing is caring!

