

COLLEGE NIGHT

FOR FAMILIES OF SENIORS

OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026



OPRFHS CLASS OF 2027

WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE SO MANY FAMILIES WITH US THIS EVENING

PLEASE TAKE A BRIEF MOMENT TO ENTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

QR CODE IS ALSO LOCATED ON YOUR HANDOUT

PARENT/GUARDIAN
ATTENDANCE



WHAT COLLEGES SAY THEY ARE LOOKING FOR:



**INVOLVEMENT
EXTRA CURRICULAR,
COMMUNITY**

**TRENDS AND
EVIDENCE OF
IMPROVEMENT/
TRANSCRIPTS**

**ACADEMIC
RIGOR/SENIOR
SCHEDULE
TEST SCORES**

**LETTERS OF REC.,
DEMONSTRATED
INTEREST**

**PERSONAL
STRENGTHS
AND YOUR
STORY**



STILL SEARCHING

ACADEMIC INTERESTS

LOCATION & SIZE & CAMPUS CULTURE

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

VALUE & FIT

USING SCHOOLINKS

COLLEGE SEARCH

**SELF
EXPLORATION**

**COLLEGE
APPLICATIONS**

**CAREER
EXPLORATION**

**STATS &
ANALYTICS**

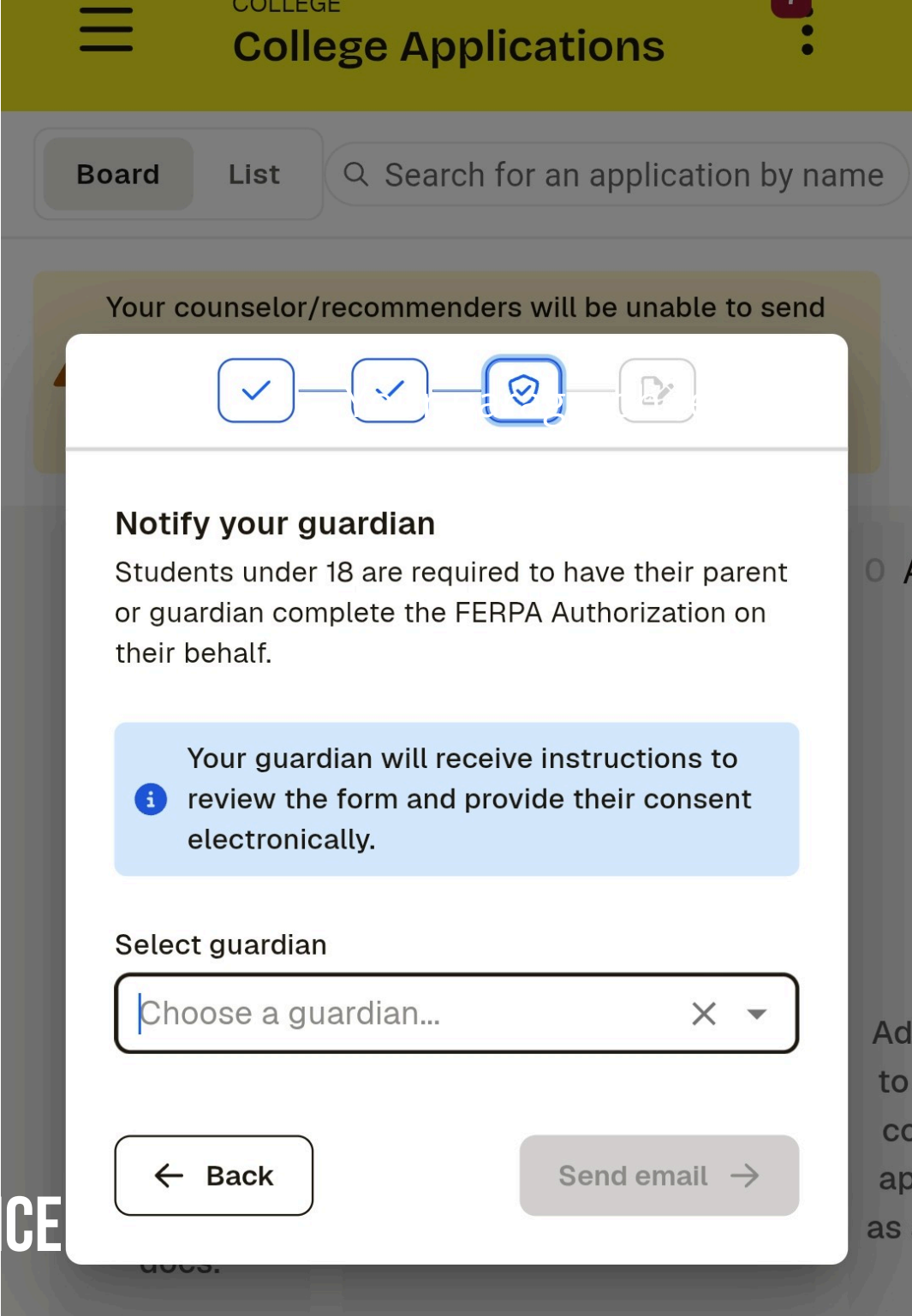
LOGIN FOR SCHOOLINKS

PARENTS/GUARDIANS WITH GMAIL ACCOUNTS, SIGN INTO GOOGLE TO ACCESS SCHOOLINKS

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS WHO DO NOT HAVE GMAIL ACCOUNTS, CHOOSE “OPTION 2” (“FORGOT PASSWORD”) TO ACCESS
YOUR ACCOUNT IN SCHOOLINKS. LINK [HERE](#)**

FAMILIES OF OPRFHS CLASS OF 2027

PLEASE NOTE, YOU WILL NEED TO APPROVE THE GUARDIAN FERPA AUTHORIZATION ON SCHOOLINKS FOR YOUR SENIOR TO BE ABLE TO SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND TRANSCRIPTS



The screenshot shows the 'College Applications' section of the SchoolLinks portal. At the top, there is a header with a menu icon, the text 'COLLEGE College Applications', and a settings icon. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Board' and 'List' tabs, and a search bar labeled 'Search for an application by name'. A message states: 'Your counselor/recommenders will be unable to send'. A modal window is open with a progress bar at the top showing four steps: two with checkmarks, the third (active) with a shield icon, and the fourth with a document icon. The modal title is 'Notify your guardian'. The text inside reads: 'Students under 18 are required to have their parent or guardian complete the FERPA Authorization on their behalf.' Below this is a light blue information box with an 'i' icon: 'Your guardian will receive instructions to review the form and provide their consent electronically.' Underneath is a 'Select guardian' section with a dropdown menu currently showing 'Choose a guardian...'. At the bottom of the modal are two buttons: '← Back' and 'Send email →'.

COLLEGE College Applications

Board List Search for an application by name

Your counselor/recommenders will be unable to send

✓ ✓ [Active Step: Shield Icon] [Document Icon]

Notify your guardian

Students under 18 are required to have their parent or guardian complete the FERPA Authorization on their behalf.

Your guardian will receive instructions to review the form and provide their consent electronically.

Select guardian

Choose a guardian...

← Back Send email →

School search

Favorites & lists

Admission stats

Final list

College applications

Enrollment decision

Search for a location, school, or program...

Filter by

School Type 2 Campus 1 Admissions 2 Acceptance Sports Degree Type Other

Public 4 Year (College/University) Weighted GPA : 3.7 SAT : [object Object] Midwest

University of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, MO | Public

Iowa State University
Ames, IA | Public

Ohio University-Main Campus
Athens, OH | Public

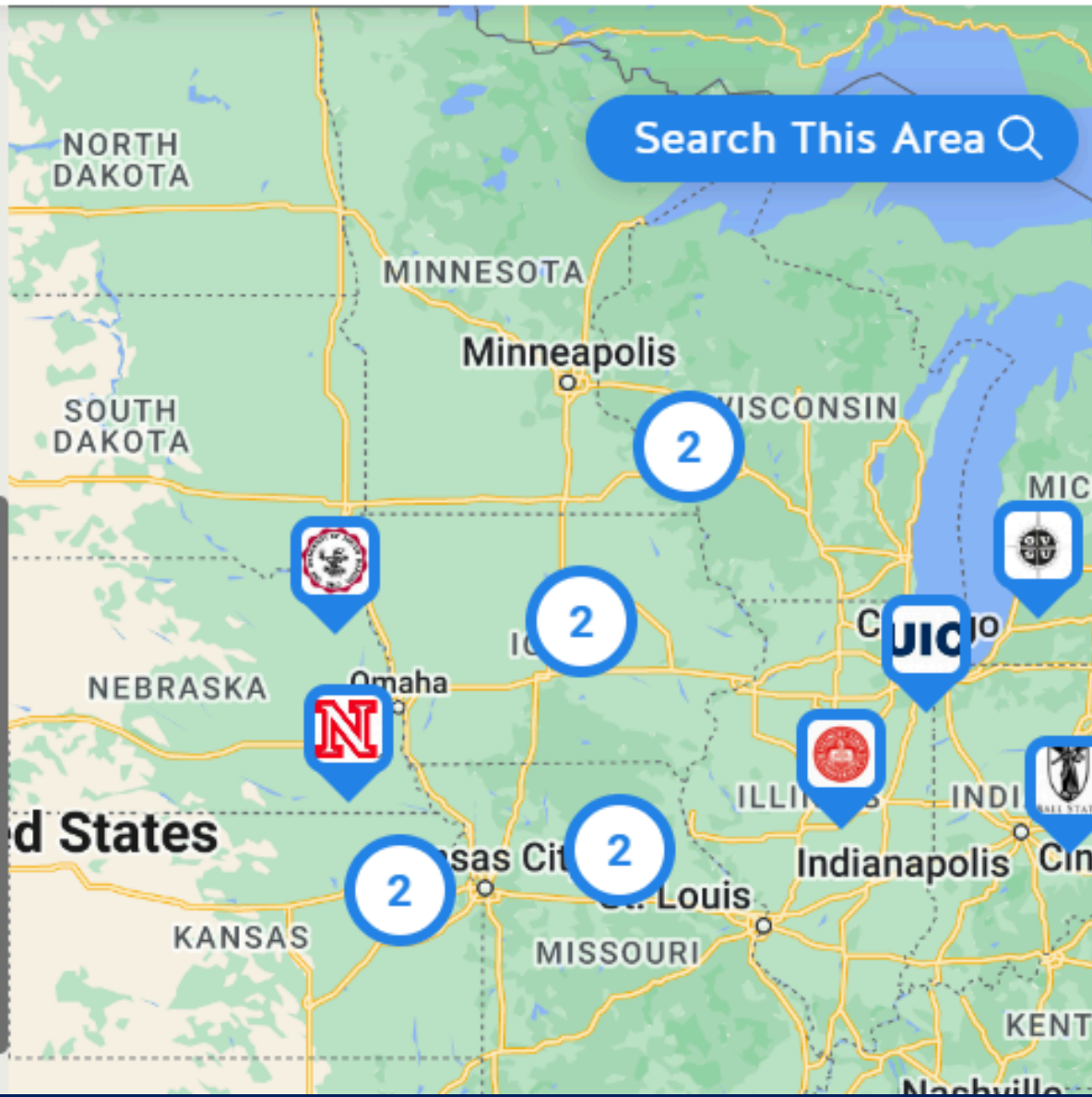
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS | Public

47.8% Grad Rate
Illinois State University
Normal, IL | Public

46.4% Grad Rate
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
La Crosse, WI | Public

45.9% Grad Rate
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE | Public

44.6% Grad Rate
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI | Public





University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



School data



District data

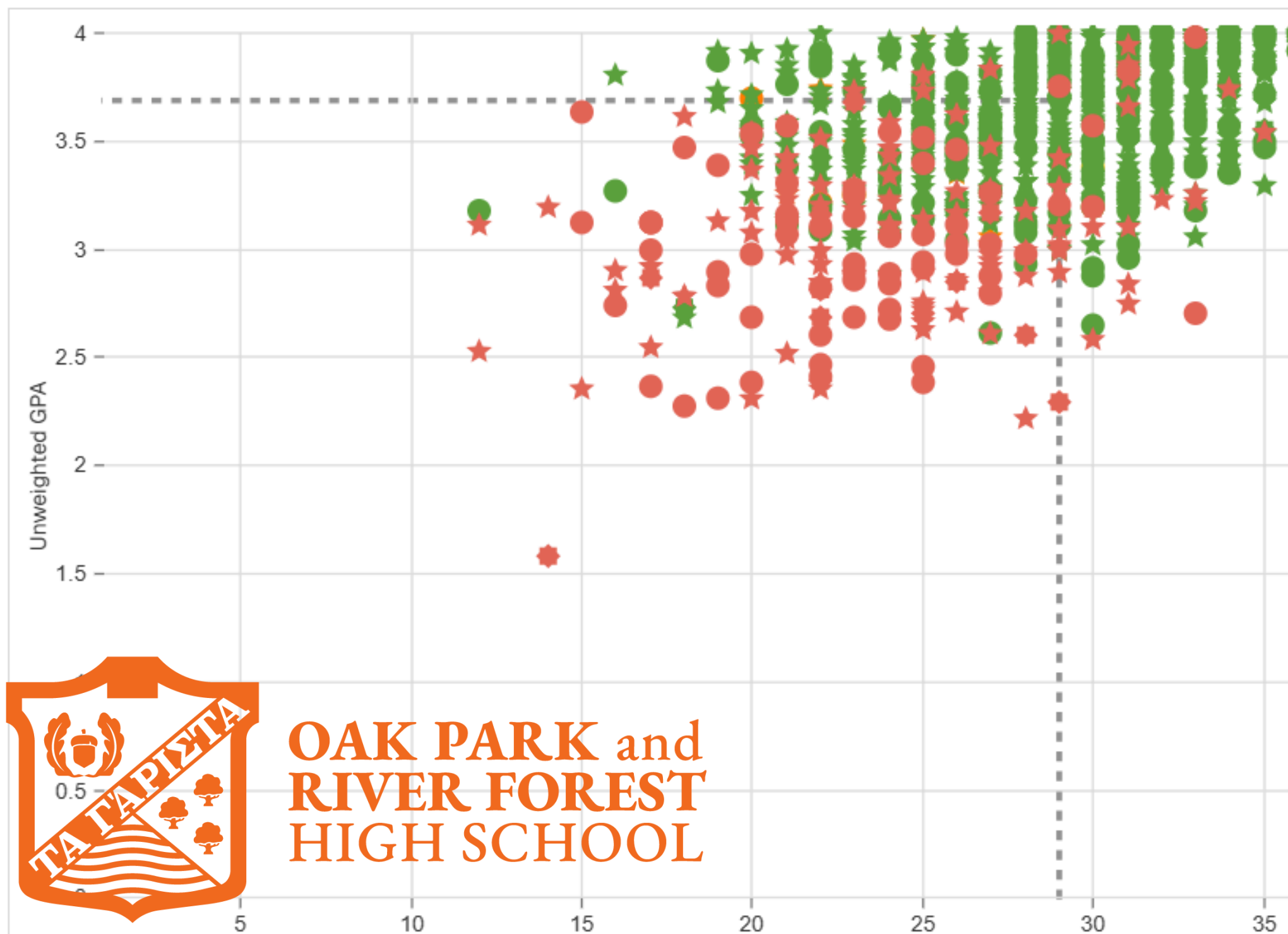


Scattergram

Acceptance by GPA

Application history

Historical records



Identify Student ☐

Score type

SAT

ACT

GPA type

GPA

wGPA

Application Types

- ☒ ★ Early Action
- ☒ ★ Priority
- ☒ ● Regular Decision
- ☒ ■ Rolling
- ☒ ● Unknown

Application Results

- ☒ ● ACCEPTED
- ☒ ● DENIED
- ☒ ● WAITLISTED & ACCEPTED

[Scattergram FAQ](#)

[Admissions Office Website](#)



University of Wisconsin-Madison



School data



District data

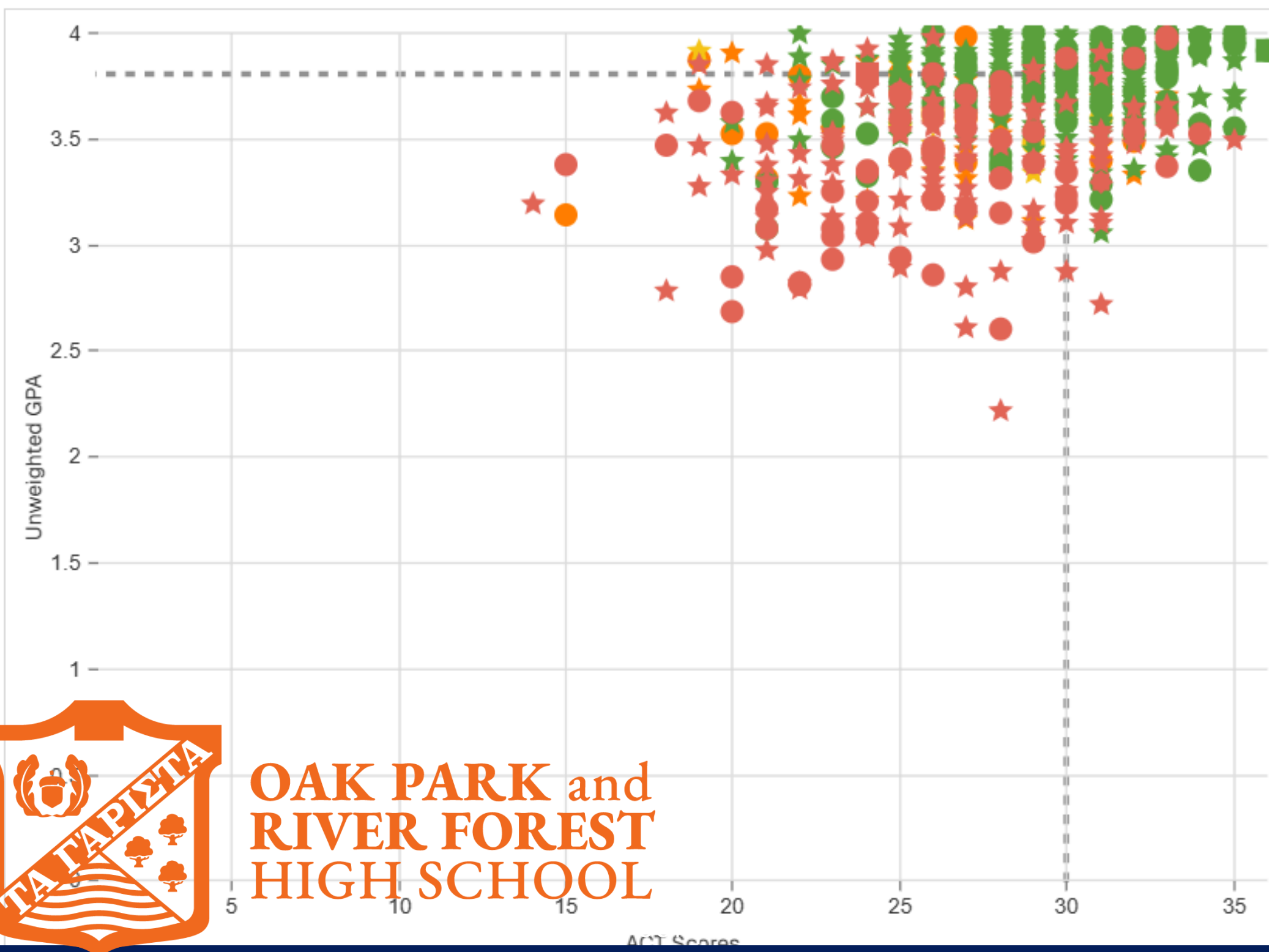


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Scattergram FAQ



OAK PARK and
RIVER FOREST
HIGH SCHOOL

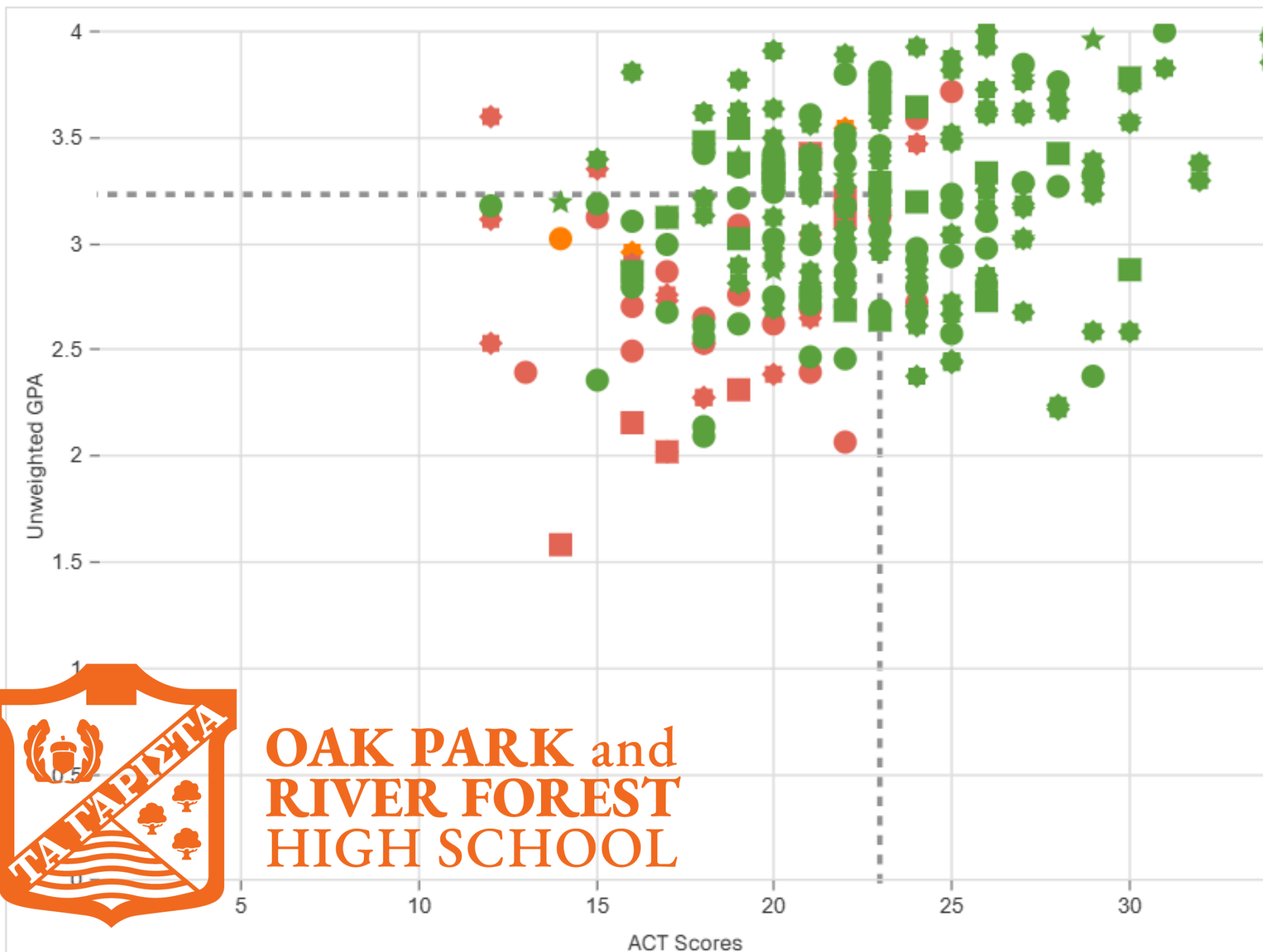


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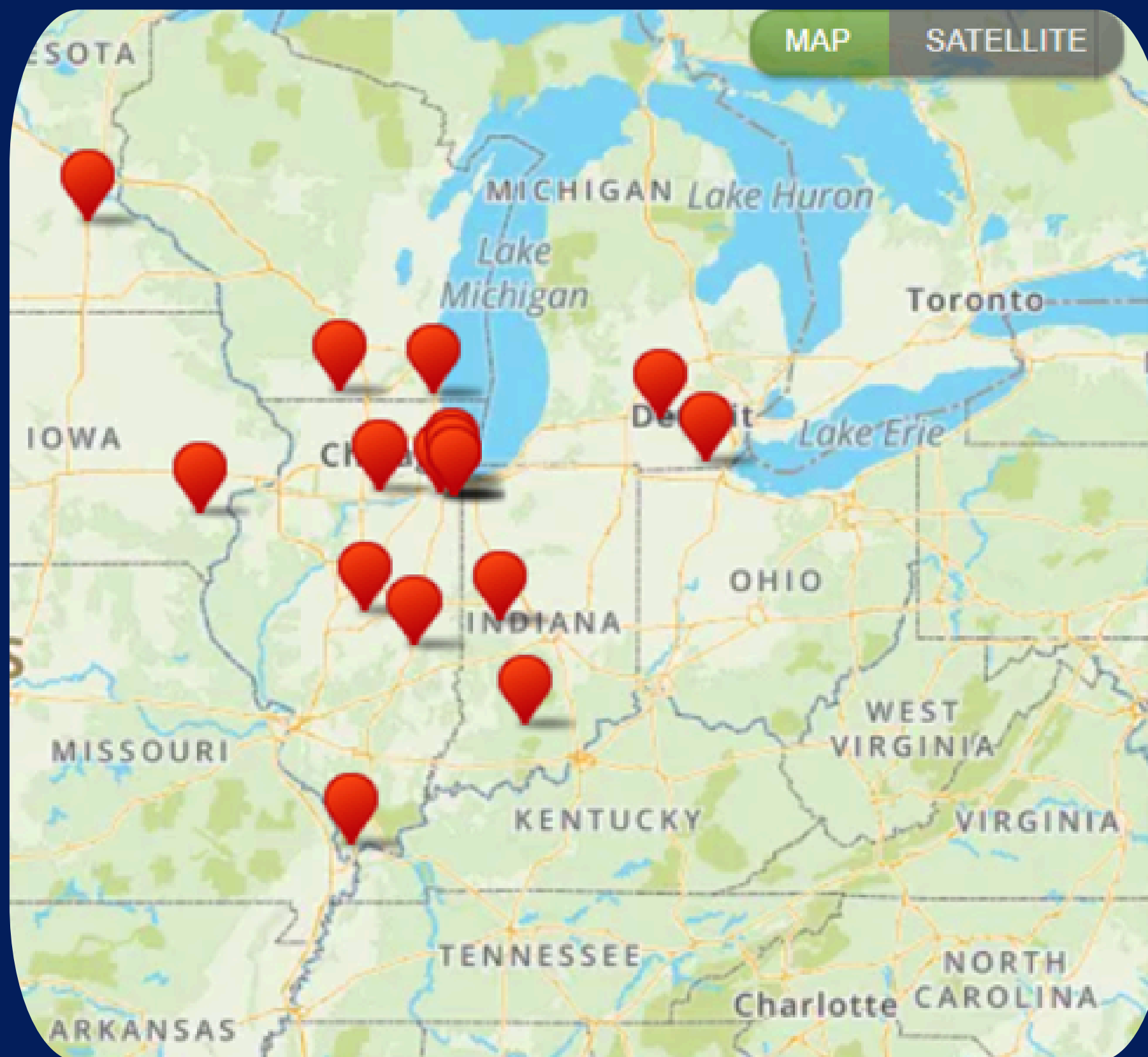
[Scattergram FAQ](#)

Comments



OPRF KIDS GO ALL OVER, 42 % IN STATE, 58 % OUT OF STATE

OUR MOST APPLIED-TO 4 YEAR COLLEGES FROM 2026



SCHOOL	APPLIED	ACCEPTED	ATTENDED
U of Illinois	296	93	49
DEPAUL	137	116	26
ILLINOIS STATE	96	80	21
U of IOWA	169	143	19
MICHIGAN STATE	152	135	18
LOYOLA CHICAGO	129	116	17
INDIANA UNIVERSITY	136	106	16
U of Illinois Chicago	155	123	13
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	112	93	13
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY	109	89	13
MIAMI U OXFORD, OH	67	66	12
U of WISCONSIN	170	58	11
U of MINNESOTA	92	75	9
IOWA STATE	54	51	9
U of MISSOURI	68	60	8



TYPES OF ADMISSION

REGULAR DECISION

EARLY ACTION/PRIORITY

EARLY DECISION I/ EARLY DECISION II

ROLLING

ALTERNATE ADMISSION PROGRAMS

ADMISSION DECISIONS

ACCEPTED / DENIED

DEFERRED / WAITLISTED

MAY 1: YOUR DECISION DEADLINE

OPRFHS COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

CLASS OF 2027

Sept

- FINALIZE YOUR LIST OF COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES IN SCHOOLINKS BASED ON FIT (REACH/MATCH/SAFER)
- IF REQUIRED AND APPLICABLE, SEND TEST SCORES FROM ACT.ORG OR COLLEGEBOARD.COM
- DO YOUR APPLICATIONS REQUIRE LETTERS OF REC? IF SO, REQUEST 4 WEEKS AHEAD

Oct

- COMPLETE THE APPLICATION PROCESS BY THE INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE
- PARENT/GUARDIAN SUBMIT FINANCIAL AID — FAFSA/CSS PROFILE — OCTOBER 1
- FREE FAFSA ASSISTANCE FOR OPRF FAMILIES — ISAC REPRESENTATIVE
- LIST ALL OF THE SCHOOLS YOU ARE APPLYING TO IN SCHOOLINKS — THIS SENDS YOUR TRANSCRIPT WHEN YOU SUBMIT
- FINALIZE APPLICATIONS AND PROOFREAD ESSAYS

Nov

- SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS BY REQUIRED DEADLINES
- CONFIRM SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS SUBMISSION
- CONFIRM PORTALS ARE SET-UP BY COLLEGE
- RESEARCH AND APPLY FOR OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS
- DID YOU COMPLETE THE FAFSA/CSS IF REQ.
- SCHOLARSHIPS — APPLY FOR OPRFHS LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AT WWW.OPRFHS.ORG

Dec

- MONITOR EMAIL, PORTALS AND SNAIL MAIL FOR ADMISSION DECISIONS
- CONTINUE RESEARCH FOR OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS
- FREE FAFSA ASSISTANCE FOR OPRF FAMILIES
- CONTINUE AND SUBMIT LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP APPS ON THE OPRFHS WEBSITE

Jan-May

- IF DEFERRED/WAITLISTED, FOLLOW ALL REQUIREMENTS
- CONTINUE SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID
- BY MAY 1ST, 2027, ACCEPT ADMISSION TO YOUR COLLEGE OF CHOICE
- NOTIFY OTHER SCHOOLS THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ATTENDING
- WORK DIRECTLY WITH YOUR FINANCIAL AID & ADMISSIONS OFFICE TO COMPLETE ALL REMAINING STEPS
- WRITE THANK YOU NOTES FOR REC LETTERS



**SUBMIT THE
APPLICATION—
COMMON APP OR
DIRECT**

NEXT STEPS CLASS OF 2027

**SEND TRANSCRIPT
VIA SCHOOLINKS IF
REQUIRED**

**IF NEEDED
SEND SCORES
4-6 WEEKS
BEFORE COLLEGE
DEADLINE**

**REQUEST
COUNSELOR /
TEACHER REC
LETTERS IF
NEEDED**

INTERNAL DEADLINES

**LETTERS OF REC. FROM TEACHERS OR COUNSELORS
REQUIRED 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO COLLEGE DEADLINE**

NOVEMBER 1 REQUEST DUE OCTOBER 1

NOVEMBER 15 REQUEST DUE OCTOBER 15

DECEMBER 1 REQUEST DUE NOVEMBER 1

JANUARY 1 REQUEST DUE DECEMBER 1

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT -- SEPT. 30 6:30 PM -- VIRTUAL

COMPLETE THE FAFSA AND CSS PROFILE IF REQUIRED

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA). GRANTS, LOANS, WORK-STUDY, AND MORE
CSS PROFILE--ONLINE APPLICATION USED BY COLLEGES AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS TO AWARD NON-FEDERAL AID

NEED BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

MERIT BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

GRANT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND INSTITUTIONAL SOURCES TO HELP COVER THE COST OF
TUITION AND LIVING EXPENSES. THE #1 SOURCE OF FUNDING--THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

TRENDS IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS



COLLEGE APPLICATION NUMBERS--RISE OF PUBLICS, SELECTIVE, SOUTHERN SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY COLLEGES

IT'S A NEW BIG 10-BIG 10 ACCEPTANCE RATES

PROSPECTIVE ENROLLMENT CLIFF

RETURN ON INVESTMENT--GRADUATION STATS AND COLLEGE MAJORS

TEST OPTIONAL TRENDS--SCORES REGAINING PROMINENCE AROUND MERIT AID

THE TOOLBELT GENERATION/START-UPS "DORMROOM DISRUPTORS"

STANDING OUT THROUGH EVIDENCE OF CURIOSITY & IMPACT--STUDENT AGENCY

AI & ESSAY SUPPLEMENTALS

HOUSEHOLD INCOME THRESHOLDS DRIVE COLLEGE ADMISSION CONSIDERATIONS--THE MISSING MIDDLE



(ARTICLES IN APPENDIX)

APPENDIX





Oak Park and River Forest
High School
District 200

[Quick Links](#) [Bell Schedules](#) [Calendar](#) [Skyward](#)

[Academics](#) [Student Activities](#) [Athletics](#) [Families](#) [Students](#) [About](#) [Search](#)

Presentation Library

▼ New Huskie Freshman Parent Night Presentations

▼ Sophomore Parent Night Presentations

▼ Junior Parent Night Presentations

▼ Senior Parent Night Presentations

▶ College Night Appendix/Resources 2026

▶ Post Graduate Employment Trends

- [Why Unemployment is Rising Among Young College Grads](#)
- [For the First Time in 50 Years, College Grads are Losing their Edge](#)
- [Gen Z Men with College Degrees Now have the Same Unemployment Rate as Non-Grads- a Sign that the Higher Education Payoff is Dead](#)

▼ ROI by Major

▼ Campus Culture

▼ Admissions Decision Trends

SCAN HERE FOR THE PRESENTATION
LIBRARY AND RESOURCES

OPRFHS CLASS OF 2027

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING.

PLEASE TAKE A BRIEF MOMENT TO ENTER YOUR ATTENDANCE.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, COMPLETE OUR SHORT SURVEY TO ASSIST US IN FUTURE PLANNING

(ATTENDANCE QR CODE IS ALSO LOCATED ON YOUR HANDOUT.)

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS?

PARENT/GUARDIAN
ATTENDANCE



FEEDBACK SURVEY

