MORRIS KNOLLS
HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SENIOR COLLEGE APPLICATION NIGHT

September 10th, 2026
6:30 pm



Tonight's Discussion

01 Upcoming Events

02 Steps to Applying to College

03 Senior Year College Planning Timeline

04 Applications & Transcripts

05 Standardized Testing

06 Naviance for MK/Naviance for APA

07 Common Application

08 Financial Aid/Scholarships

Upcoming Events

9/20- Regional College Fair **at CCM:** 12:00-3:00pm

9/30 & 12/03- Military Visitations

10/13- Parent Financial Aid Seminar: 6:00pm

10/13- College Fair: 6:30pm

11/20- Instant Decision Day- (Students only)

12/16- CCM Information Session

Attend In-Person Fall College Open Houses





Steps for Applying to College



01 Update Naviance

Move colleges from"Colleges I'm Thinking About" to "Colleges I am Applying To"

02 Supplemental Materials

Work on your Activity Resume, College Essay, Senior/Parent Brag Sheet and Essays (if applicable)

03 Letters of Reccommendation

*Check in with teachers regarding LORs. You **MUST** enter teachers in Naviance. Counselor's LOR is automatically included.*

04 Submit College Applications

Submit application, required app fee, and essay (if req.) to the college on Common App or directly to the college.

05 Transcripts

Use Naviance to request transcripts.
MK Request Instructions

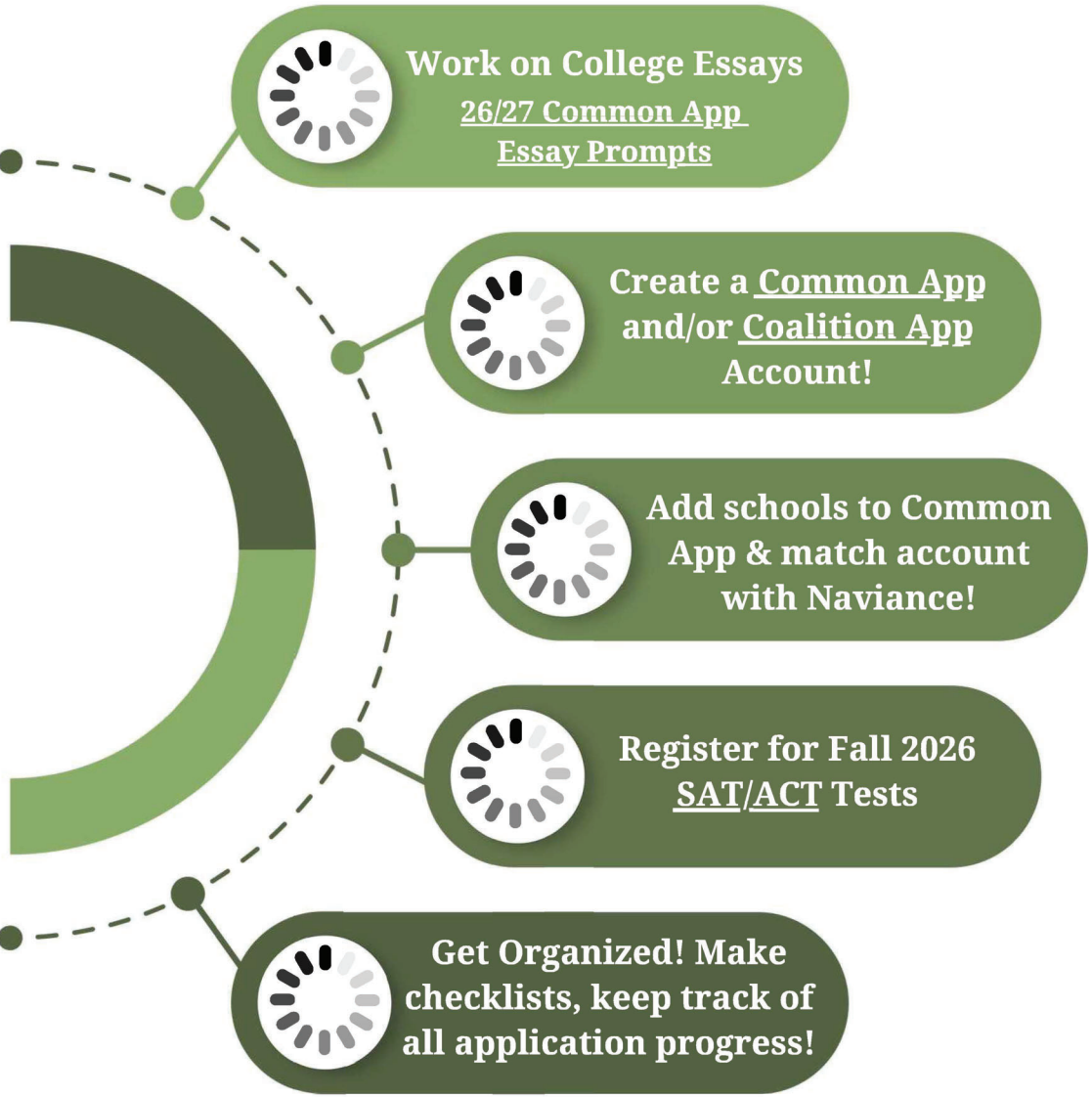
06 Test Scores

*Visit CollegeBoard and/or your ACT account to send your scores to colleges applied to. You must do this directly from the testing website. Counselors **DO NOT** have access!*



- Begin/Continue College Search on Naviance *Visit Open Houses*
- Complete Senior/Parent Brag Sheets on Naviance
- Create email strictly for college use
- Start Activity Resume for College & Scholarship Applications Sample & Tips
- Register for NCAA if planning on playing Division I, II, III Sports
- Ask two teachers for Letters of Recommendation. Request Form

COMPLETED BY THE END OF JUNIOR YEAR



Currently in Progress

FALL 2026 OF SENIOR YEAR

NAVIANCE TASKS

Finalize your college list

Add teacher recommendations

Request transcript

APPLICATIONS

Watch all deadlines (ED, EA, Rolling, Regular, etc.)

ED/EA applicants-finalize and prepare materials for October submission!

Finalize and submit all essays/applications.

TESTING & RECORDS

Submit all SAT/ACT scores directly from testing agencies.

If applicable, submit STARS report (formerly SRAR) for colleges

FINANCIAL AID & NEXT STEPS

Begin gathering documents for FAFSA and create FSA IDs.

Research scholarship opportunities!

Winter 2027 of Senior Year





Spring 2027 of Senior Year

Respond to college acceptances and submit required fees

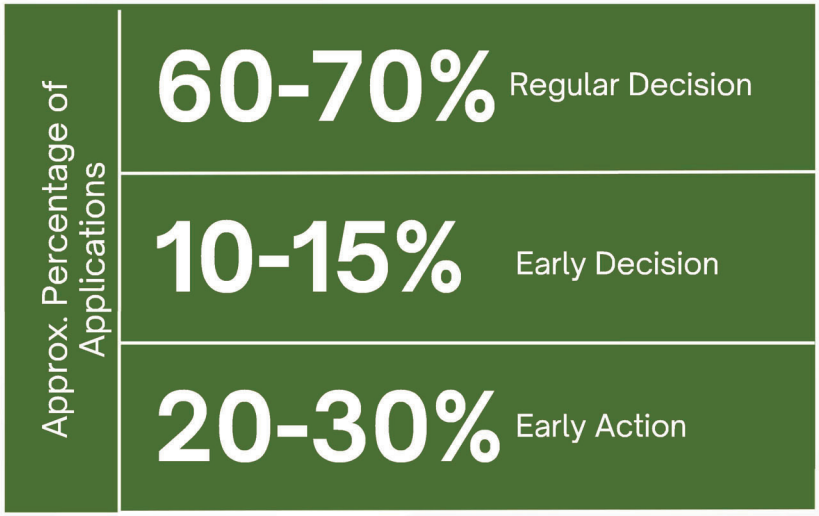
Follow up on applications (if not heard back)

Complete the Senior Survey on Naviance.

Keep your counselor informed!

Types of Applications

- **Regular Decision**
  - Non-binding
- **Early Decision** (ED)- usually 11/1 or 11/15
  - Binding: if accepted, you **MUST** attend. Can only apply to one!
- **Early Action** (EA)- usually 11/1 or 11/15 (Southern colleges have a 10/15 deadline)
  - Non-binding
  - Can apply to more than one
  - NEW **Restrictive EA**: non-binding, cannot apply early to any other *private* colleges (public is permitted.)
- **Rolling Admission**- first come, first serve



Common Data Set

Overview:

The Common Data Set is published annually for every college/university and is comprised of standards and definitions of data, including freshman admission, financial aid, graduation rate, transfer admission, student demographics, academic offerings, instructional faculty/class size, and degrees conferred.

Please review every college your student is applying to with this resource!

Example Data Sets:

Penn State

Rowan University

Villanova University



NCAA
Eligibility Center



It is mandatory that prospective student athletes who plan to participate in intercollegiate athletics at a NCAA Division I, II or III institution register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

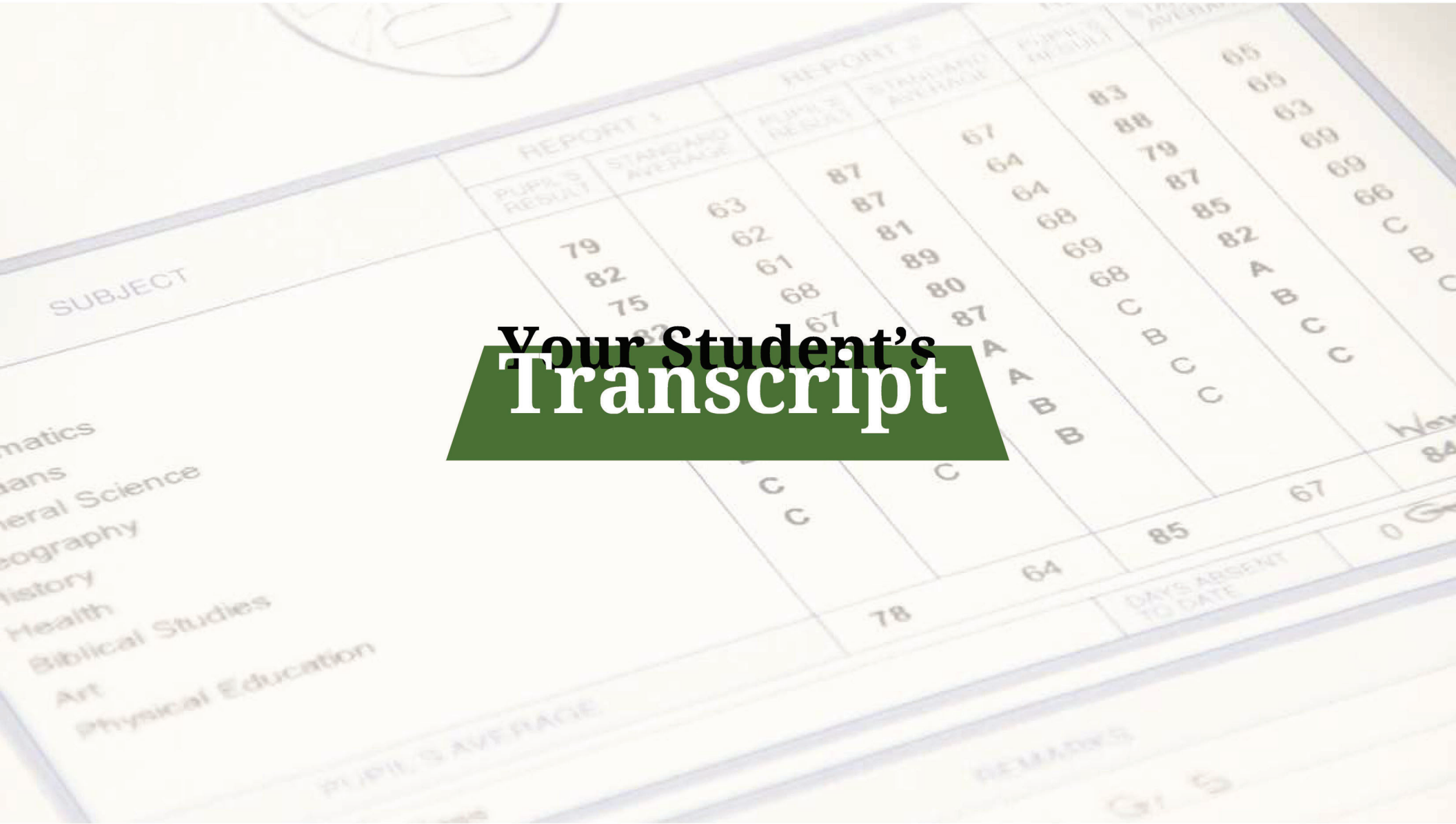
Steps to Register:

01 Go to **NCAA**-Create an account. (Have your credit card ready!)

02 After completing all forms, an email with an NCAA ID will be sent to you. Request transcripts in your NCAA account.

03 Add the NCAA to list of "***Colleges I Am Applying To***" on Naviance.

04 Send SAT/ACT scores to NCAA using code ***9999*** for the "*NCAA Eligibility Center*".



Your Student's Transcript

Transcript Request
Timelines

College Deadline:	Needs to be Completed By:
October 15th	September 29th
November 1st	October 20th
November 15th	October 31st
December 1st	November 17th
December 15th	December 1st
After Dec. 16th deadlines, including Rolling Admission	Speak with your counselor!

Minimum of 10 School Days are required to process documents

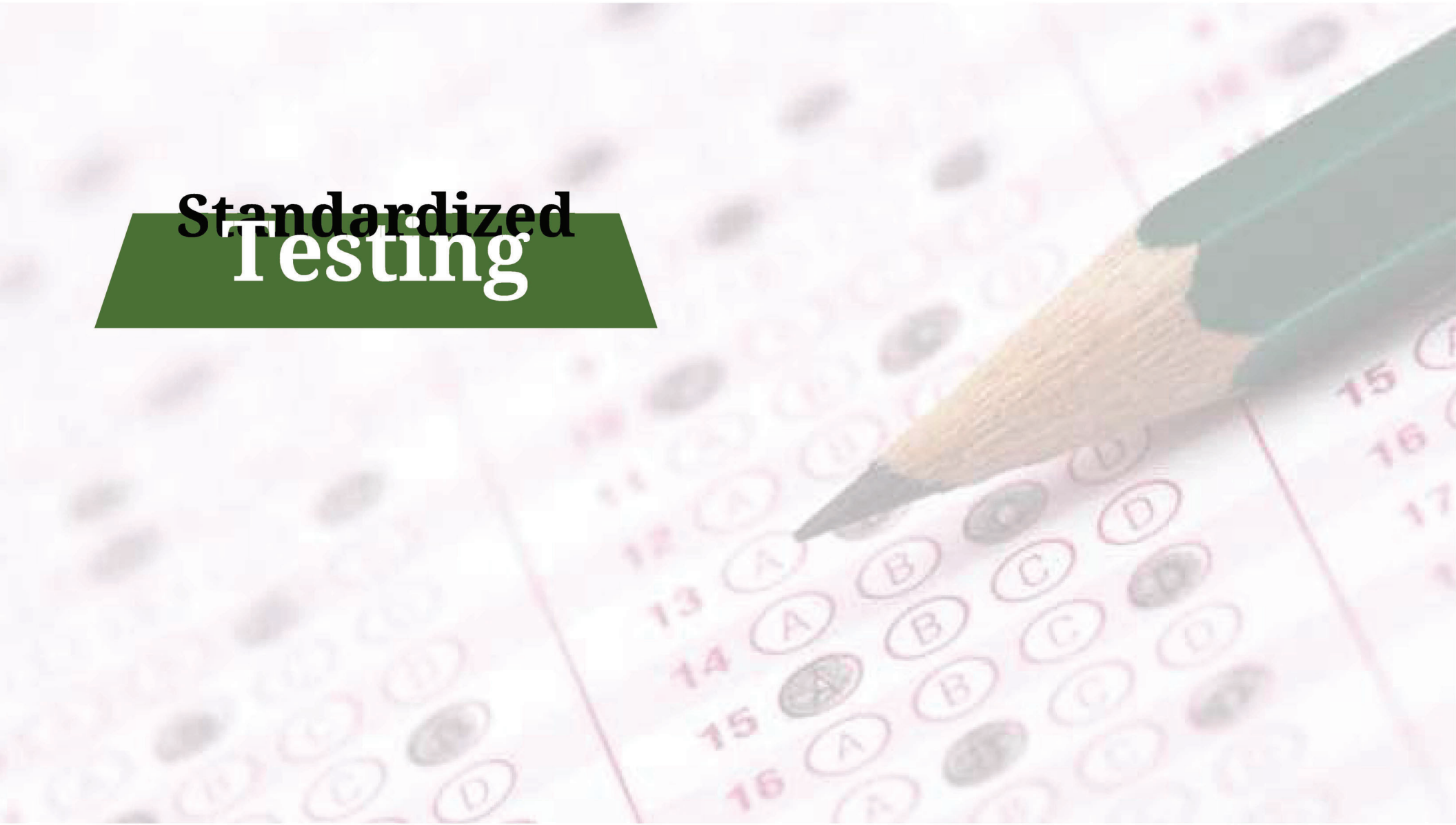
STARS RECORD

Formerly known as SRAR/SSAR

SELF-REPORTED TRANSCRIPT AND ACADEMIC RECORD SYSTEM (STARS)

- ***STARS*** allows students to self-report courses and grades to participating colleges and universities.
- **Accuracy is important**, so please refer to an unofficial transcript or grade report while completing your STARS Record.
- ***STARS EasyImport Tool***-designed to help you complete your academic record even faster by uploading your unofficial transcript and AI decodes it!

Standardized Testing



SAT/ACT
Testing Dates

Required Photo on Admissions Ticket

Morris Knolls CEEB Code: 311321 // APA CEEB Code: 310271

SAT TESTING

REGISTER NOW >

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
August 22	August 7	August 11
September 12	August 28	September 1
October 3	September 18	September 22
November 7	October 23	October 27
December 5	November 20	November 24

ACT TESTING

REGISTER NOW >

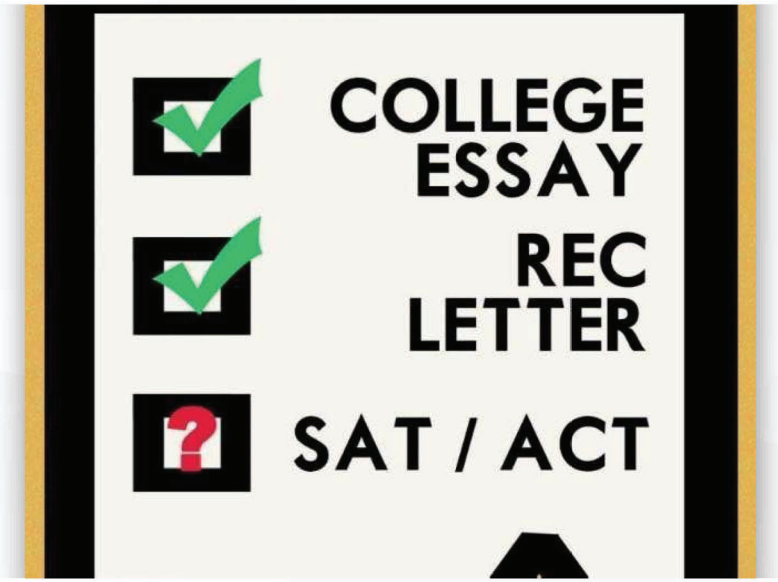
ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
September 19, 2026	August 14, 2026	September 1, 2026
October 17, 2026	September 11, 2026	September 29, 2026
December 14, 2026	November 6, 2026	November 29, 2026

Test Optional

- Test optional policies allow students to decide if they want to submit their SAT or ACT scores or not.
- **Our Recommendation**: if a student is at or *above* the average SAT or ACT score for a college, send the scores.

  If they are *below* the average SAT or ACT score, **do not send them!**
- Nearly 90% of colleges are currently test optional *(future-ed.org, 2024)*

Use this to your advantage!



All Things
Naviance



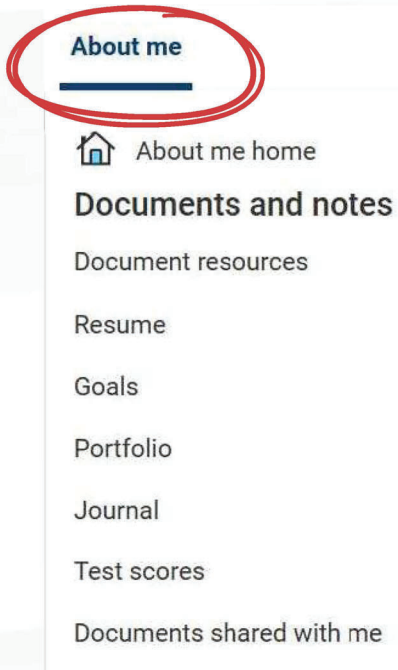
How Is Information Submitted?

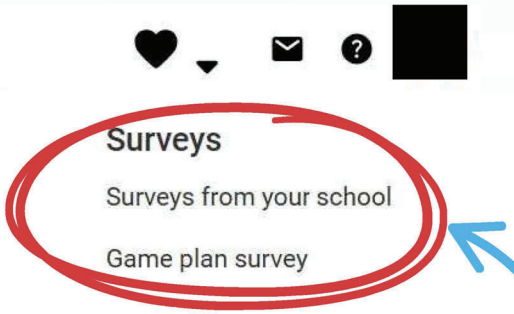
- Most schools receive all documents from MKHS via **Naviance.**
- Students sign **FERPA-** "Release of Information"
  - Waiving Right to see records- Colleges want a candid look!
- **Recommendations**- asking for **2** academic based letters is standard
  - You *can* ask for more, but it's not necessary!
  - Be mindful that some colleges only accept *1 or 2 letters of recommendation*; some do not accept any letters!

Student & Parent

Brag Sheets

1 Click “About me”

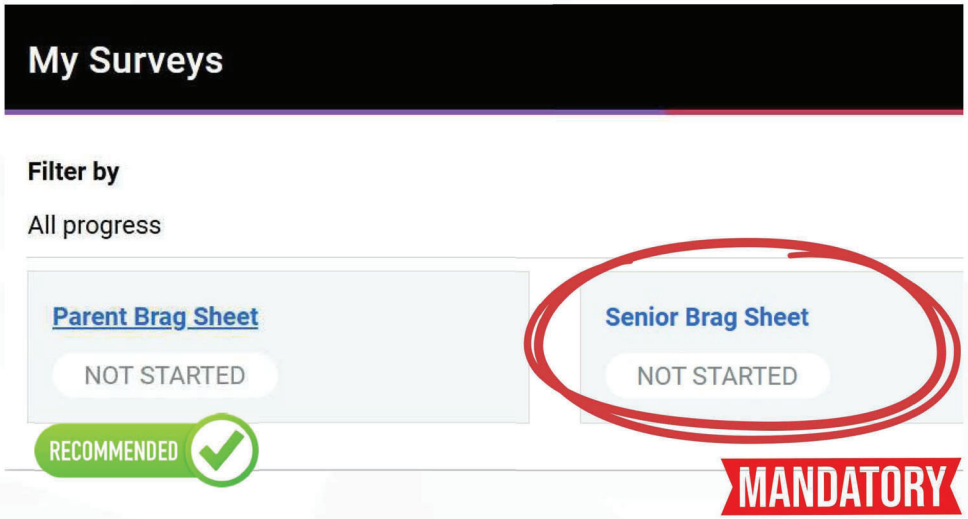




2 Click “Surveys from your school”

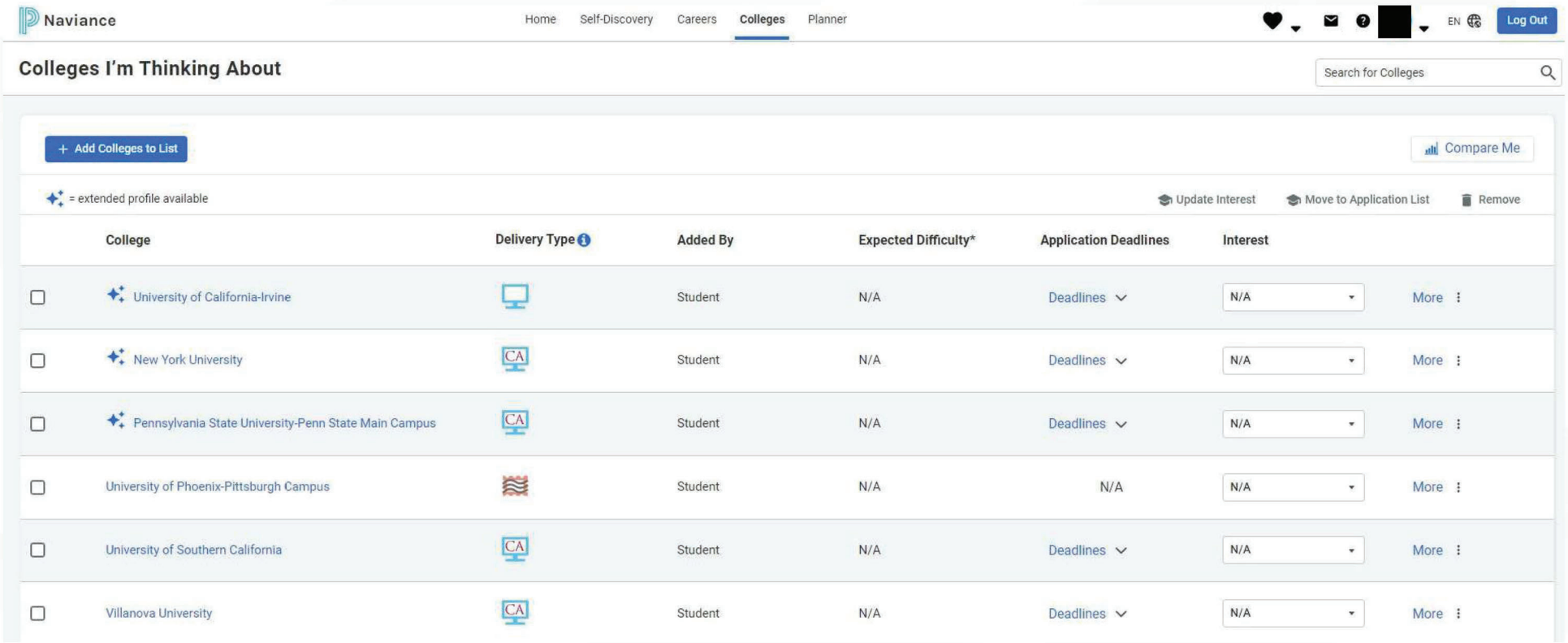
Senior Brag Sheet MANDATORY

Parent Brag Sheet RECOMMENDED



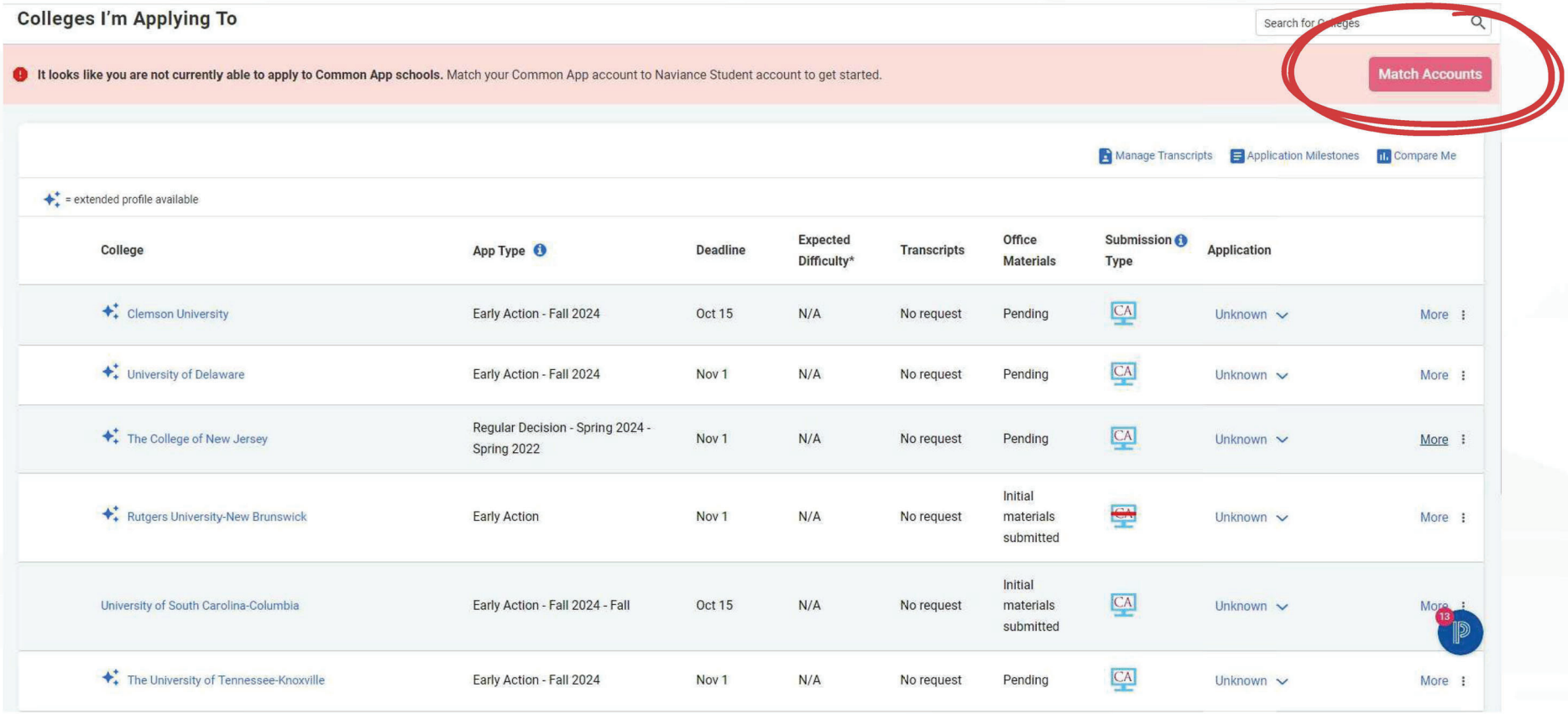
Naviance

Colleges I'm Thinking About



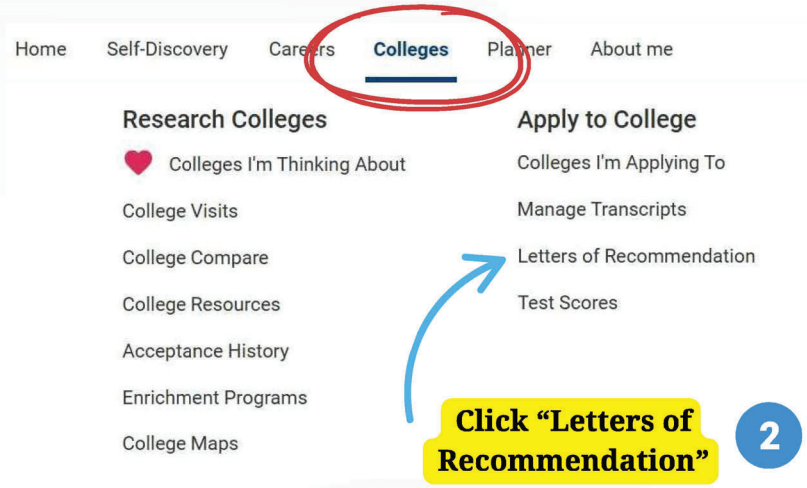
Naviance

Colleges I'm Applying To



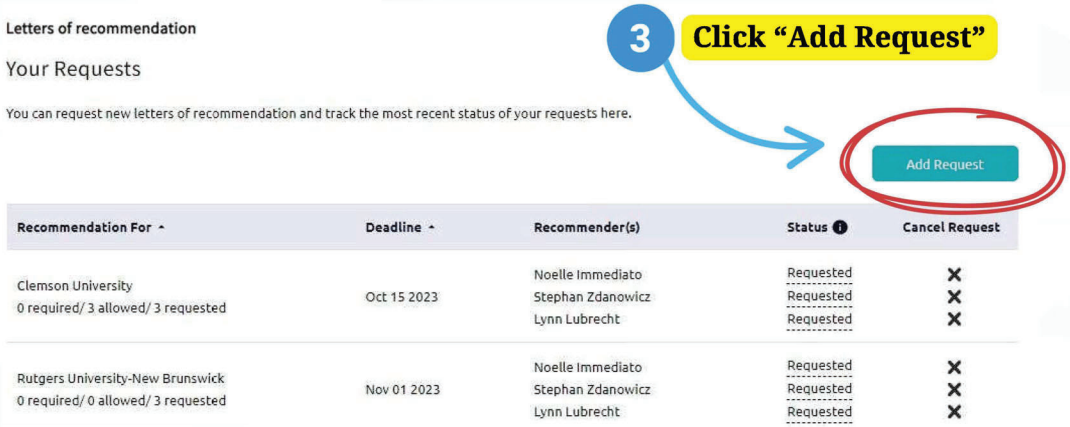
Letters of Recommendation

1 **Click “Colleges”**



Click “Letters of Recommendation” 2

3 **Click “Add Request”**



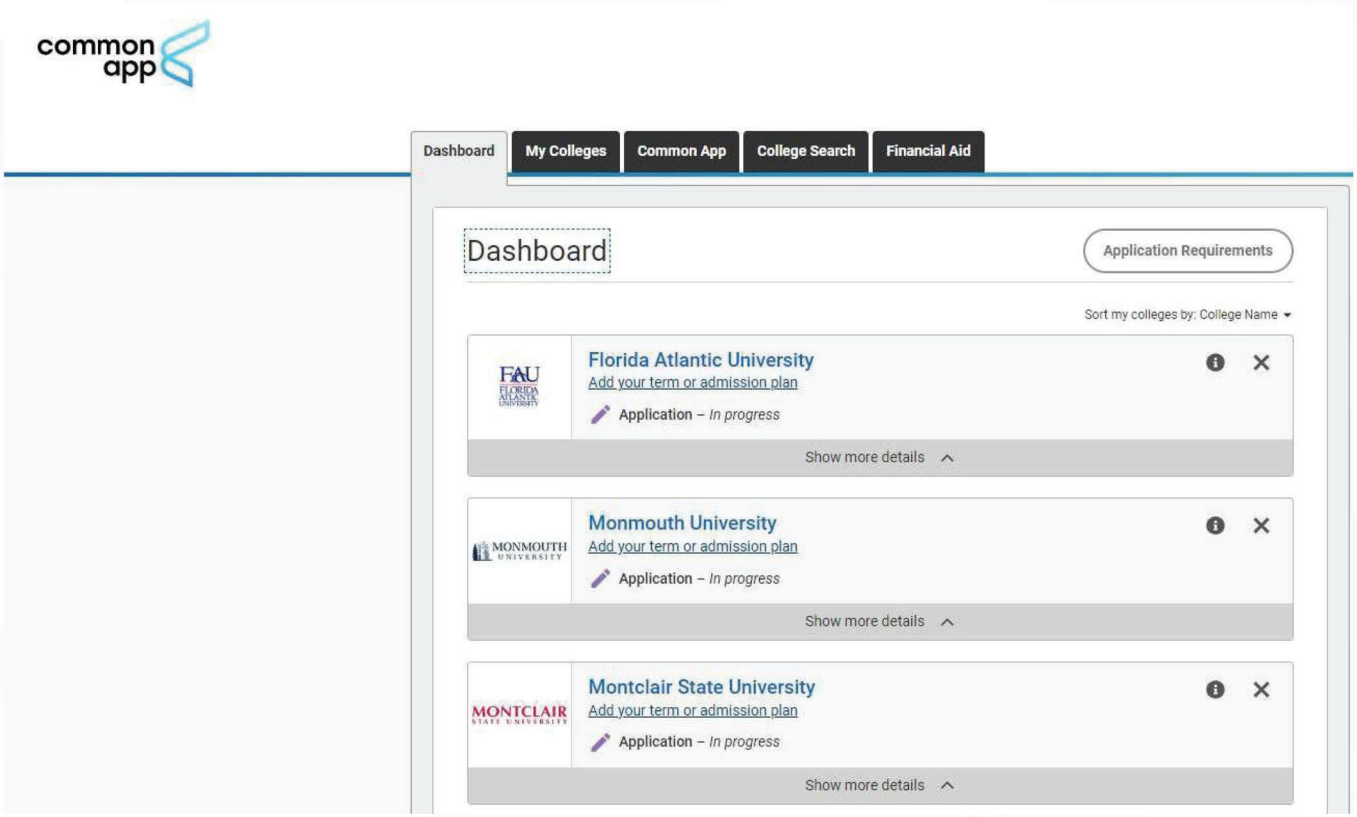
Note:
You will have to select colleges you want their letter to go to. You **MUST** have your accounts matched before adding requests.



COMMON APP

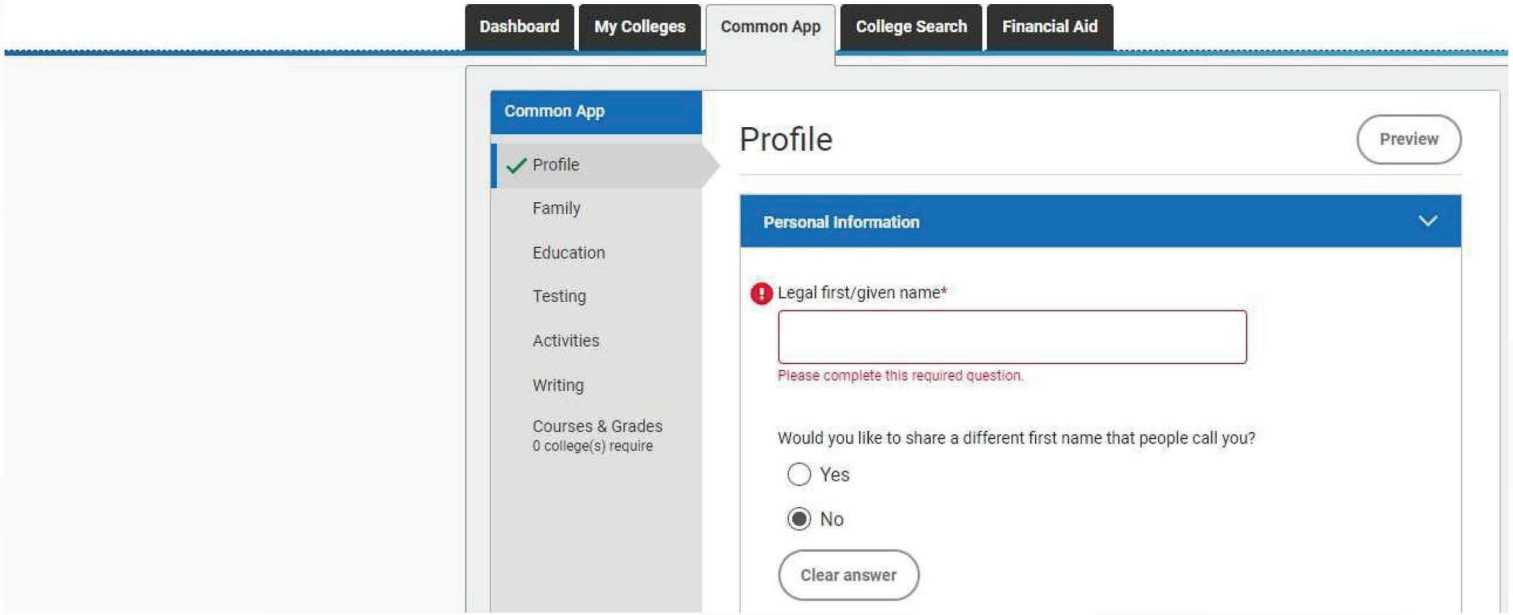
Common App

Dashboard



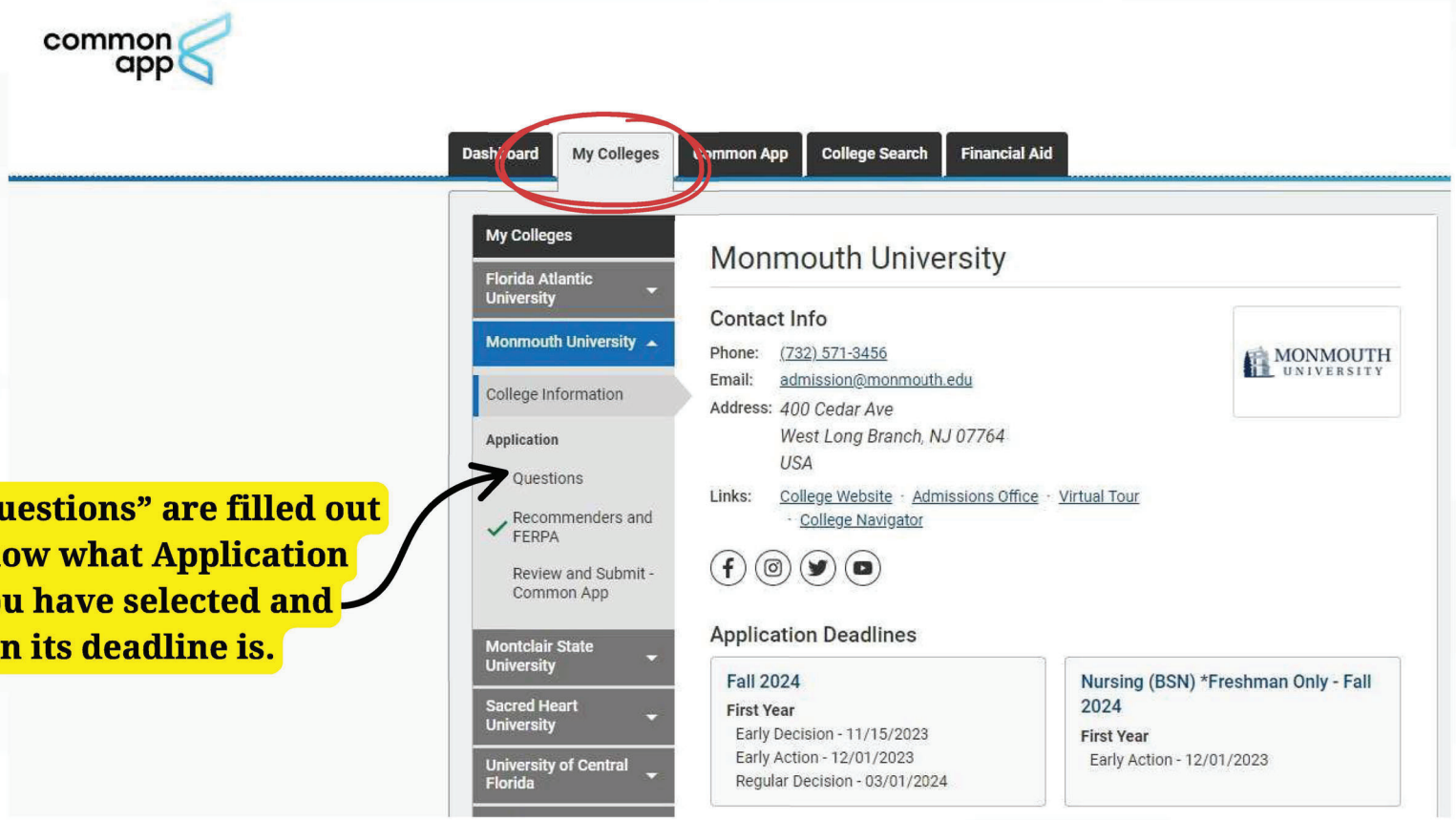
Common App

Application



Common App

Colleges



Ensure "Questions" are filled out so we know what Application Type you have selected and when its deadline is.



Scholarships

Scholarships

MK

In This Section

Quick Links
Overview
College and Career Information
Course Selection and Schedules
Graduation Requirements
Forms And Information
Tutoring
Wellness
School Counseling Calendar

COLLEGE AND CAREER INFORMATION

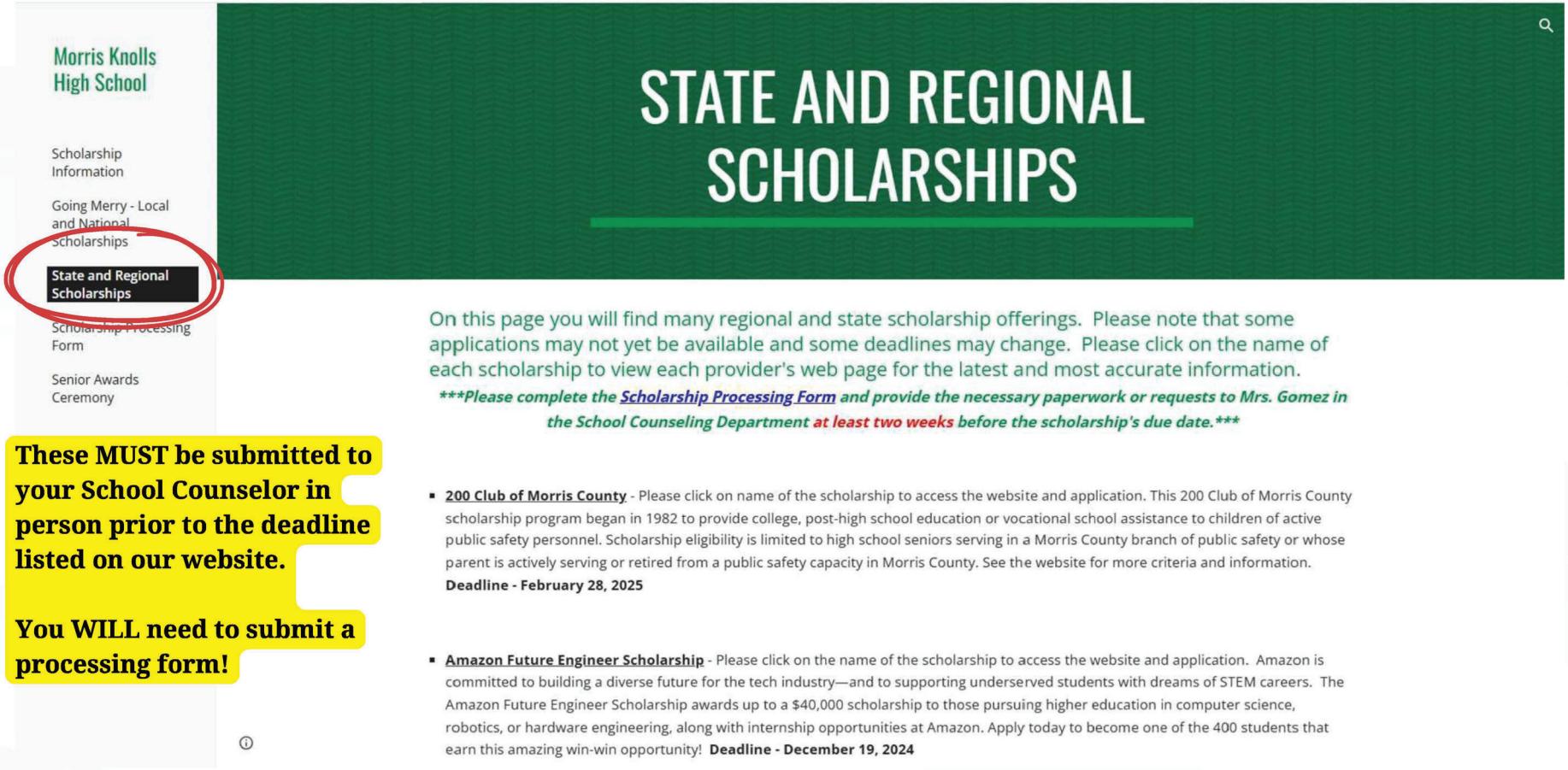


Our school counseling department is committed to helping students navigate the scholarship process and access financial support for their post-secondary goals. Scholarships are available through a variety of sources, including colleges and universities, local community organizations, and national programs, each with its own criteria and deadlines. Students are encouraged to begin exploring opportunities early, stay organized, and apply to as many relevant scholarships as possible. The counseling office will share scholarship announcements throughout the year and provide guidance on applications, essays, and required materials. Families are also encouraged to explore community resources and external agencies that offer additional scholarship opportunities and support.

- The New Jersey Student Assistance Rewards Scholarship - (NJ STARS) is the first state sponsored scholarship program in the nation that is specifically designed for community college students. NJ STARS covers the cost of tuition and approved fees at New Jersey's 19 community colleges.
- Scholarships for Women and Girls in STEM
- College Scholarships for LGBTQ Students
- NJHESAA - Grants & Scholarships
- UNCF Scholarships - for Minority Students
- Fastweb! - Scholarship, college, and financial aid searches

Scholarships

Database

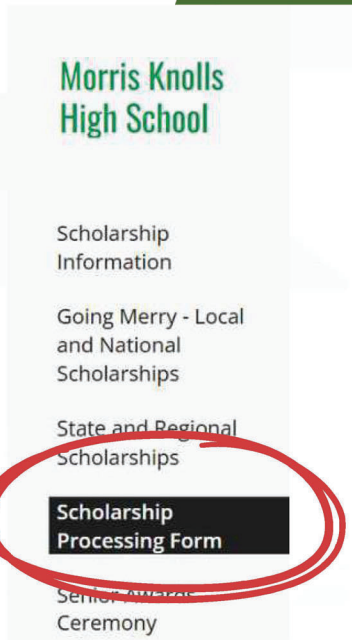


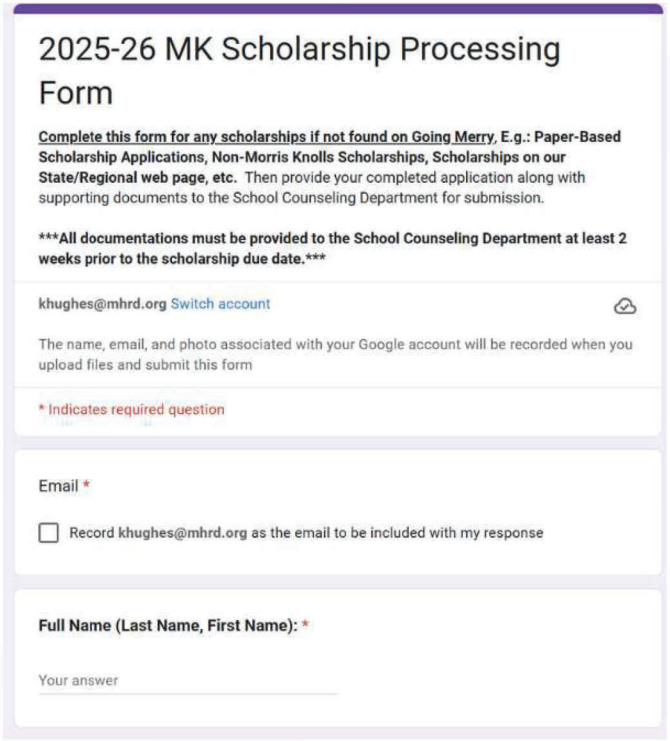
These MUST be submitted to your School Counselor in person prior to the deadline listed on our website.

You WILL need to submit a processing form!

Scholarships

Processing Form







Complete the *2026-27 MK Scholarship Processing Form* for each State and Regional scholarship that you are applying to!

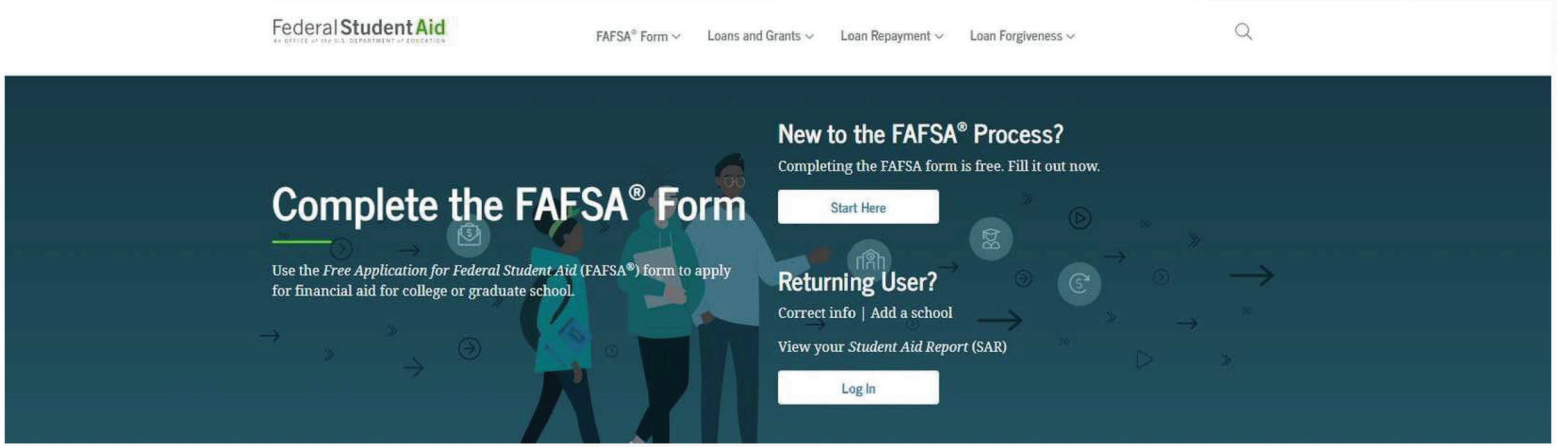
*****All documentation is due to the School Counseling office two weeks prior to the scholarship due date*****



Financial Aid

Financial Aid

FAFSA Form



1. You must register for a FSA ID Number. This will be your secure access to your FAFSA online (*Available in December*).
2. Once you have secured a FSA ID, fill out the Pre-Application Worksheet – using previous year taxes.
3. Follow the directions as provided on the website.

BE AWARE OF DEADLINES!
Each individual college has its own filing deadline!

Financial Aid

CSS Profile



CSS PROFILE is used by colleges to determine eligibility for institutional funding.

You will need to check with your college/university if they require the CSS PROFILE

OR

You can also check here for a complete list of 26/27 schools that are participating.



October

1st

Counselor Contacts

Alyssa Radigan	Supervisor of School Counseling	2211	aradigan@mhrd.org
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Ryan Shaffer	School Counselor	2219	rshaffer@mhrd.org



Thank You for Coming!

MK SCHOOL COUNSELING