

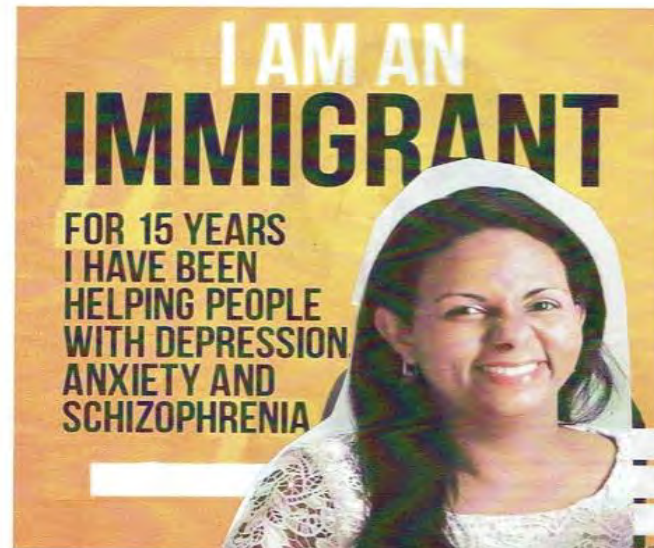
“It Takes a Village: Implementation of Positive High School Strategies for Career and College Readiness”

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AGENDA

- **Introduction**
- **Being involved in your child's career planning.**
- **Developmental age career milestones**
- **Career bound or College bound?**
- **Embracing your high school child's community by developing relationships.**
- **How to ensure the "Village" is being supported and cared.**

INTRODUCTION



NAME: *Danielle Thompson-Ochoa*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OCCUPATION: *University Professor*

Trinidad is located near Venezuela



At its closest point, Trinidad is just under 7 miles from Venezuela

Trinidad Tobago

Facts about Trinidad and Tobago

- ❖ English is our first and only language.
- ❖ Among ourselves, people speak broken French and Dutch.
- ❖ Trinidad is part of the Caribbean Commonwealth.
- ❖ Trinidad was once colonized by the French, Dutch, Spanish (Spain) and lastly by the British.
- ❖ Trinidad became independent in 1980.
- ❖ Trinidad does not have any relationship with Venezuela or South America. We are complete “cut off” from the South American border.



My Upbringing

I grew up in a Upper Middle Class, Well known family. I have never experienced poverty.



My birth

- I was born Deaf. Reason is unknown. My mother was taking morning sickness meds and it is suspected that is the cause of my deafness.
- I am the only Deaf person in my family.
- I have one sister, older than me. No brothers.



Schools

- I attended private schools, never went to public school.
- I grew up Oral, AG Bell had a strong prominence in Trinidad.
- I never met a Deaf person when growing up.

Which Path Did I Take? College or Career



School Counselor



The Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind welcomed families to its Earth Day Celebration.

Why should you be involved in your child's education and career planning?



Parent Involvement = Future Success



It is known that when parents see their deaf children,

Why Parent Involvement?

- **Research shows that you have the greatest influence on your child's career choices.**
- **As a parent, you have the best knowledge of your child's interests and abilities.**
- **You have more interest than anyone else in your child's well-being and success.**
- **Your child's future is too important to be left to luck or chance!**

From my experience, parent involvement leads to....

- Your child is more likely to graduate from high school.**
- Your child show positive attitudes and behaviors.**
- Your child will show higher grades.**
- Your child will have better attendance at school and complete homework with motivation and determination.**
- Your Child will be more likely to enroll in postsecondary education.**

The Number 1 outcome I've seen:

- **Self confidence and Self Esteem hits the roof!! (and sometimes I see the sassy attitudes 😊)**



“I can walk to the zoo by myself! It’s not that far”

Before I jump to the High School level, let's briefly touch on

- The different age groups and career exploration.

If you have elementary kids

- **START NOW** with Career Exploration!



At the Elementary Level, your child can develop the following skills:

- 1. Identify their interests, likes, and dislikes in regards to careers. They begin to show interest in one type of job (e.g. working outdoors vs working indoors)**
- 2. Describe their strengths and talents: can say “I am strong, I can do the monkey bars without help!”**
- 3. Demonstrate positive behaviors and personal characteristics, such as honesty, dependability, responsibility, integrity, and loyalty.**

4. Recognize that one should accept responsibility for one's behavior.

5. Interact with others in a fair, helpful, and respectful way.

6. If your child has a younger sibling, they can help the sibling with various tasks, e.g. my 6 year old daughter likes to read to our 4 year old son. She realizes she can help mommy and daddy.

- 7. Recognize that people have many life roles and that these need to be balanced.**
- 8. Demonstrate study skills and good learning habits.**
- 9. Be able to set goals and work toward achieving them.**
- 10. Describe different ways to make decisions.**
- 11. Recognize a variety of skills that are important for success in school and work, such as communicating, critical thinking, problem solving, and interpersonal skills.**

If you have a Middle Schooler

- Your child can develop the following skills



1. Identify and demonstrate their abilities, strengths, skills, and talents.
2. Identify sources of outside pressure and demonstrate the ability to handle it. E.g. boss yelling at an employee and how the employee is handling it.
3. Demonstrate the ability to resolve conflicts and negotiate acceptable solutions.
4. Recognize that they are growing and changing and that growth and change will affect their careers throughout their lives.
5. Recognize that they will have many life roles and that these will be connected to their lifestyle.

- 6. Recognize that their educational performance is important for reaching their goals and, if necessary, use strategies to improve it.**
- 7. Identify short-term and long-term goals, including those related to their education, career options, and lifestyle.**
- 8. Make decisions in a systematic way, including identifying options and potential consequences.**
- 9. Recognize the need to compromise in making some decisions.**
- 10. Use career information resources to evaluate their goals and help with their plans.**

Now to the FUN part!

- If you have a High Schooler, what can they do and what they should be able to do.



- 1. Demonstrate behaviors and decisions that reflect their interests, abilities, strengths, skills, talents, work values and needs.**

At this level, they should know the basic rules of “how not to get fired from your job”

- 2. Demonstrate positive social skills and the ability to get along with others.**

- 3. Demonstrate acceptance of responsibility for their own behavior.**
- 4. Reflect on how their personal aspirations are changing with time and circumstances.**
- 5. Demonstrate adaptability and flexibility in responding to change.**

If your child has an ITP (Individual Transition Plan)

**They should be doing the
following in addition to the
above**

- ❖ **Identify personal, career, and educational goals, and demonstrate educational performance levels needed to attain their goals.**
- ❖ **Develop a career and education plan, with short-term and long-term objectives, to meet their goals.**

- ❖ **Use career information resources to evaluate their goals and support their plans.**
- ❖ **Demonstrate job search and general employability skills.**
- ❖ **Identify the types of economic conditions and employment trends that may affect their career plans**

How can Parents/ Guardians discuss their child's career interest?

Ask your teenager these common questions:

- “What are your favorite school subjects”?
- “What activities outside of school do you enjoy most”?
- “What hobbies do you have or would you like to have”?
- “What do you like to do with your friends”?
- “What special skills or abilities do you think you possess?”
- “What have you done that you are most proud of?”
- “What do you like to do with your free time?”
- “What types of books interest you the most?”

AND.....

- **ASK THE
“UNCOMFORTABLE
QUESTIONS”!**

The “uncomfortable questions”

- Will help you and your child prepare for the real world.
- What your child don't know could harm them. E.g. Many Deaf students are naïve about the real world. They have unrealistic expectations at times, such as, “my boss must take ASL classes to communicate with me” OR “they can't fire me because I'm Deaf”.

- **“What makes you nervous about the non-Deaf world?”**
- **“ What do you know about the #MeToo movement?”**
- **“do you know what to do if you feel you are being victimized for being a woman, man, trans, etc.?”**
- **”(We arePOC/White), privilege/ discrimination/ racism/ sexism, etc. is real. What do you know?”**

How to nurture your teenager's interest..

- If they like working with animals for example, encourage them to volunteer at the local veterinary clinic, animal shelter or zoo.

Encourage them to volunteer for at least a month. Hearing parents, do **NOT** interpret for your Deaf teenager. Ask the zoo, vet, shelter to provide the interpreters or your child's school.

- You (yes you parents) can be a camp counselor! Your teenager may not be in your group, however, you will be able to see how they are interacting with others. You will be able to make “mental notes” of where your teenager appears to need more support, e.g. your daughter is always the last to leave the cabin because she is always oversleeping.

- Volunteer with your child (in a different role or room). E.g. your teenager is working at a day care. Volunteer to read books to the babies or chaperone for field trips at the day care, etc. You will get to see your teenagers skills, e.g. your son creates these cool science projects with the preschoolers.

- If you like to build things, find a project to do with your teenager. E.g. build a “cross over bridge” for the local Girls Scouts Troop.
- Avoid taking on the “teacher role” – instead be the advocate. E.g. “you need to hit the nail into the wood harder – there you go! That does it!”

- Coach or Referee games in which your teenager is playing. E.g. your son is in baseball league, volunteer to be the coach at his league.

Questions I frequently get

- “My daughter told me she is not interested in volunteering at the day care, now what do I do?”

Jump for joy and be happy she recognized that job is not for her! This is a huge milestone for teenagers- to be able to recognize their interest and skills.

Help your teenager by

- Encouraging them to seek out interest. The daughter who does not like babysitting, encourage her to find something else to volunteer/work.

My mother signed me up for a cooking class once, after the first day I told her I don't want to take anymore cooking classes. I hated the class.

- **Give allowance (if you are already doing this, keep doing it and make sure you are tailoring it with household chores)**

E.g. Emily, you will get \$20 if you make up your bed, put the trash away and not answer me back.

Interest has been identified

- Your teenager has finally identified their interest.
- Now What?



Cross Roads



You need your “village”



Your Village will

- **Provide you with support on how your teenager can accomplish their college or career goals.**

Who should be in the Village (at school)

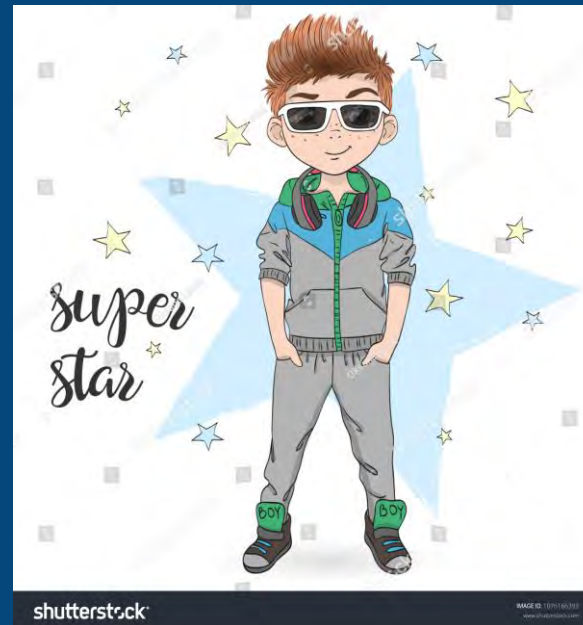
- **School Counselor**
- **Classroom teacher (or Teacher of the Deaf)**
- **Transition Teacher**
- **ITP Coordinator**
- **IEP Coordinator**
- **Principal or Assistant Principal**
- **If you lucky -Resource or Community Liaison Teacher)**

Who should be in the Village (at home)

- **YOU as the parent or guardian**
- **Your support network: friends you trust, family you trust**
- **Community advocate (e.g. Elder of the Tribe, etc.)**

Of Course, don't forget the SUPERSTAR

- Your teenager



First Step

- **Decide which path: Career (meaning special training to seek employment) or College (meaning must have a college degree to seek employment).**

Look at the requirements of the job



<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) is on the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

It gives details of the requirements of the job, job duties, pay and projected growth of the job.

It is the “career counselor’s bible”

Sheet Metal Workers

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/sheet-metal-workers.htm>

Jobs requiring a college degree

- Look at:
- <https://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx>
- (the best non-biased site that isn't asking for \$\$ to get college info)

The beauty of being Deaf

- The Deaf community is SMALL! You will always get honest (sometimes very blunt) information.
- Reach out the Deaf community in your hometown OR contact us at Gallaudet/ASDC, NAD, etc.
- Caution: do not depend on the teacher of the Deaf who is rarely in contact with the Deaf community.

Pause for a moment

- When I was 15 years old (before the internet days), my parents were trying to figure out what I wanted to do after high school.

If you grew up in the 80's



My Mother's Reaction



My Father's Reaction



I insisted I want to be a dancer

- My parents did not argue, they sent me to different places to volunteer





CAREER

TOP 20 HIGHEST-PAYING JOBS THAT DON'T REQUIRE A COLLEGE DEGREE

RANK	OCCUPATION	MED. HOURLY EARNINGS	2010-14 GROWTH	ON THE JOB TRAINING
1.	 Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$39.27	7%	None
2.	 First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives	\$39.16	-2%	Moderate-term
3.	 Elevator Installers and Repairers	\$36.51	4%	Apprenticeship
4.	 Detectives and Criminal Investigators	\$36.33	-3%	Moderate-term
5.	 Nuclear Power Reactor Operators	\$36.18	4%	Long-term
6.	 Commercial Pilots	\$35.73	-1%	Moderate-term
7.	 Power Distributors and Dispatchers	\$34.57	1%	Long-term
8.	 First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers	\$34.27	6%	None
9.	 Power Plant Operators	\$32.13	-3%	Long-term
10.	 Gaming Managers	\$31.99	1%	None
11.	 Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	\$30.92	6%	Long-term
12.	 Transportation Inspectors	\$30.21	6%	Moderate-term
13.	 Postmasters and Mail Superintendents	\$30.17	-9%	Moderate-term
14.	 Real Estate Brokers	\$29.48	6%	None
15.	 First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	\$29.20	9%	None
16.	 First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	\$29.13	6%	None
17.	 Legal Support Workers, All Other*	\$26.97	-1%	Short-term
18.	 Postal Service Mail Carriers	\$26.75	-10%	Short-term
19.	 Transit and Railroad Police	\$26.71	1%	Short-term
20.	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	\$26.00	7%	None

Source: CareerBuilder

BUSINESS INSIDER

If you don't intend to permanently live in USA

10 highest-paying jobs that don't require a degree



TEACHERS/PARENTS: What you need to know

- O*NET is the best source of information for career information.
- ACT now has a career code section. It's called "Holland's Codes"- RIASEC.

RIASEC?





Holland Hexagon

With countless career opportunities, John Holland's Model of Occupational Themes organizes interest areas to help you find compatible work environments. Are you realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising or conventional? Read below to identify which 2 or 3 themes best describe you and explore majors and career areas that match those themes.

If your school uses ACT Explore, Discover, Plan

- **ACT Aspire has recently been used in states to measure student growth and progress towards college and career readiness.**

ACT ASPIRE

- **“includes a vertically scaled battery of achievement tests designed to measure student growth in a longitudinal assessment system for Grades 3–10 in English, reading, writing, mathematics, and science”. (ACT, 2016).**

ACT ASPIRE SCORE

- **400- 460 for each subject area is the max scores.**
- **Scores between 200-400 illustrates the school or the student is in need of more support.**
- **Schools can apply for funding if 80% of students are scoring below 200.**

ACT ASPIRE

PROS	CONS
Practical Solution (multiple choice)	Questions are ridiculous! Does not reflect real world.
Results are quantifiable (can see where the student needs assistance)	Does not align with classroom norms and behaviors – questions are too general for Deaf students.
Traces student progress	Encourages “teaching to the test”
Allows schools to compare and request support/ services.	Fatigue influences the real score (imagine school counselors are given instructions on what to do if a student vomits on the test booklet?!)

As a former school counselor

- This test gave me a “start” on where to support students.
- It allowed Parents/Guardians to look into their child’s skills and begin.
- It allowed Teachers to determine the needs and support required.

ACT Student Report – Student Version

Rank: Approximate percent of ACT-tested students at or below your score

	In Your State	In the U.S.	1%	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%	99%
Composite Score 21	59%	55%							
ENGLISH 24*		74%							
Usage/Mechanics	12	71%							
Rhetorical Skills	12	71%							
MATHEMATICS 19		47%							
Pre-Algebra/Elem. Algebra	11	58%							
Algebra/Coord. Geometry	10	52%							
Plane Geometry/Trig.	09	38%							
READING 23*		66%							
Social Studies/Sciences	12	69%							
Arts/Literature	11	56%							
SCIENCE 18		30%							
COMBINED ENGLISH/Writing 25		79%							
Writing (score range 2 to 12)	10	99%							

The Combined English/Writing score ranges from 1 to 36 and is a combined measure of the Writing and English tests. The Writing score ranges from 2 to 12. Your ranks for these two scores are based on recent ACT-tested students who took the Writing test.

COMMENTS ON YOUR ESSAY: YOUR ESSAY SHOWED RECOGNITION OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUE BY PARTIALLY EVALUATING ITS IMPLICATIONS. GENERAL STATEMENTS IN YOUR ESSAY WERE WELL SUPPORTED WITH SPECIFIC REASONS, EXAMPLES, AND DETAILS. SOME VARIED SENTENCE STRUCTURES AND PRECISE WORD CHOICE ADDED CLARITY AND INTEREST TO YOUR WRITING.

- ACT® test scores and the Composite score range from 1 to 36; subscores range from 1 to 18.
- Your Composite score is the average of your scores on the four subject area tests. Subscores do not necessarily add up to your score for a subject area test.
- Your ranks tell you the approximate percentages of recent high school graduates in the U.S. and your state who took the ACT and received scores that are the same as or lower than yours. A rank of 70, for example, means that 70% of students received scores that are the same as or lower than your score.
- Your test scores are only estimates, not precise measures, of your educational development. You will find more information about interpreting your scores in the booklet provided with this report and at www.actstudent.org.



Looking for more information about your individual strengths and test preparation? Go to www.actstudent.org.

ACT, Inc.—Confidential Restricted when data present.



EXPLORE



PLAN



Profile for Success

Admission Standards

Colleges differ in their admission standards. For example, most students in “selective” colleges have ACT Composite scores in the range of 21 to 26. Some admitted students may have scores outside the range.

<u>Admission Standard</u>	<u>Typical Scores</u>
Open	16–21
Traditional	18–24
Selective	21–26
Highly Selective	25–30

**this block is not on the EXPLORE Student Report*

Profile for Success

Your Career Area Preference

Management

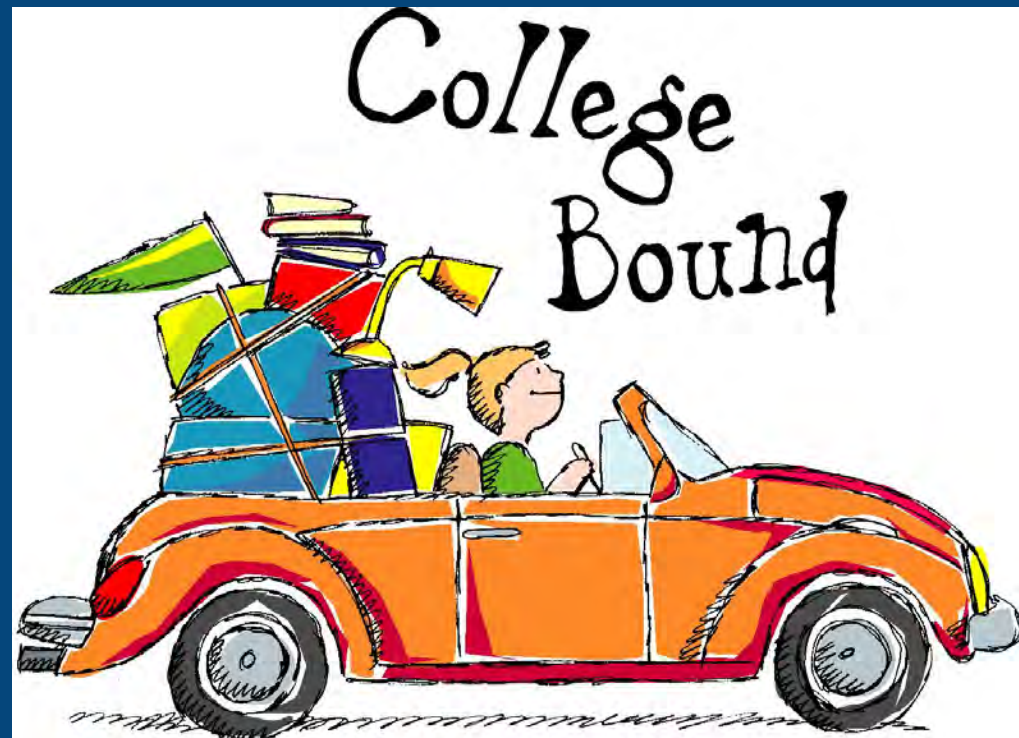
Successful college sophomores in majors related to your preferred Career Area typically have ACT Composite scores of:

21-25

See *Using Your PLAN Results*.

College Bound

- Where do I start?



Let's begin with the bad and the ugly

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/12/us/felicity-huffman-lori-loughlin-massimo-giannulli.html>



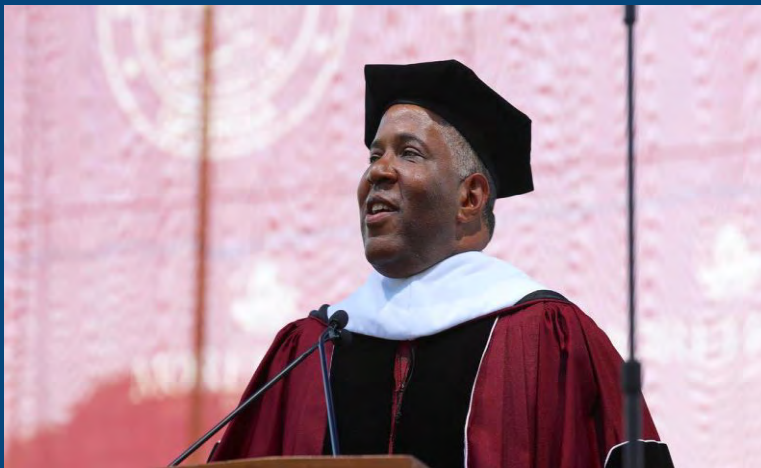
Colleges are getting strict!

- Unfortunately the college scandal has left a stain, colleges are getting strict – they are going to start requiring finger printing on site and the more \$\$\$ states/districts want face recognition before taking the test.

"DON'T DO IT!"

- Mom: "let's not judge them, maybe they had a reason"
- Me & 2 friends: "NO YOU JUST DON'T BRIBE YOUR WAY! I didn't and I worked bloody hard for it!"

Now onto the GOOD 😊



**Billionaire Robert Smith
Paid
Off Morehouse College
student debt.**



\$\$ for college

- Every parent's worry



VR – Vocational Rehabilitation

- **It's not automatic.**
- **Some states do not allow students to attend college outside of the state. E.g. Arkansas does not allow Deaf students to attend Gallaudet/ RIT/ CSUN/ NYU, etc. They will pay for University of Arkansas-Little Rock, for example.**

College Advice for Parents & Teachers

Sign up with College Board to receive information:

- **Colleges (state, private, size, disability services, etc.)**
- **Scholarships**
- **Understanding financial aid**
- **Parent Action Plans (a cool checklist!)**
- **And lots more information!**

College Application Fee Waivers

- Currently on the College Board site they provide college application fee waivers for income eligible families (varies by parent/guardian salaries and state cost of living)
- If qualified, will get 4 college application fees waived.

What type of schools should my child apply to?

- **Talk to the school counselor!**
- **School Counselors are trained to do this type of work and often we get access to information that teachers/ social workers and psychologist do not receive!**
- **Note: licensed school counselors often receive info from college admissions counselors that other team members at the school do not get.**

Early Admission Plans

Early Action

- Fall deadline with a notification prior to April 1. Notification often by mid-December, but sometimes as late as January
- If admitted via *any kind* of early action there is no obligation to enroll prior to May 1

Single Choice Early Action

- The only early program offered by Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Yale
- Can only pick one of these four – and can only cross-apply “early” to non-ED publics, international colleges, and privates with fall scholarship deadlines

Early Decision

- Obligation to enroll if admitted
- Often a big advantage compared to regular decision
- ED versus ED 1 & ED 2
- Families must investigate need-based aid prior to signing ED contract

Restrictive Early Action

- Cannot cross-apply to an Early Decision school, only to other eligible EA’s
- Offered at Boston College, Georgetown University, University of Notre Dame

The Common Application

- It is a non-profit, member application tool for parents. It is NOT required for students.
- Students can complete ONE application and have it sent up to 15 different colleges.
- The application dashboard will highlight the requirements (if unique) and send you email reminders. E.g. must provide an ASL video of why you want to attend Gallaudet.

Website

- <https://www.commonapp.org/about-us/fact-sheets>

FAQ: Common Application

1. Do I have to pay to log in and create an account?

- **Answer: It is free to use this application tool. However, you have to pay the college application fee directly to the colleges applied.**

2. Question: “If I apply to 4 different colleges, can all 4 colleges see where else I applied?”

- Answer: NO. Each application goes directly to that college and the college counselor does not have access to which other colleges you applied to (it’s illegal for them to get that access)**

3. “I want to apply to a college in Ireland, can I use the Common Application?”

- Answer: Yes. Some international universities accept the common application. University of Limerick in Ireland is one example. If you are a US citizen (do not have Irish citizenship), you will be considered an international student.**

The Village

- **Before we conclude, communicate with the village regularly on the career or college path your Superstar (aka teenager) is taking.**

Thank you for your attention and time!

Contact:

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