

# ***12th Grade Checklist***

## **Organize Your Senior Year Calendar**

Find a way to stay organized - keep track of admissions, financial aid, and scholarships deadlines. Then note when you submit each form. If not college bound, research other options like technical training, military, apprenticeships through employment, job corp and see what steps are needed to apply.

## **Finalize Your College List or Other Options**

College bound - use information you've gathered from college visits and research to decide which schools to apply to. Not heading to college - narrow down your post secondary plan options.

## **Apply To Your Top Colleges or Training Programs**

- 1) Fill out admission applications - apply to several schools or programs
- 2) Transcripts - ask counselor to send your high school transcript to colleges
- 3) College Essays - write first draft and ask teachers/mentors to edit it and give feedback
- 4) Test Scores - contact College Board to have test scores sent to colleges ([collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org))

## **Ask for Letters of Recommendations**

Think about who knows you best: your accomplishments, challenges you've faced, strengths, and personality traits. Decide whom to ask and give them plenty of time to complete (at least two weeks).

## **Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

The first step in getting grants, scholarships, or loans is to fill out the online FREE application at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Students will first need to create a FSA ID. To do that, go to [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov). Students will need their social security number. Important: keep your FSA ID password in a safe place where you can find it again if forgotten. Parents will also need a separate ID to sign the FAFSA at the end of the application. Students can begin applying **October 1**.

## **Re-take SAT / ACT again if needed.**

Some students decide to take the college entrance exam again to improve their scores and increase their potential for scholarship money. Be sure to register for the exams in advance. SAT: [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org). ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

## **Seek Out Potential Scholarships**

Here are a few helpful websites: Idaho State Board of Education [www.boardofed.idaho.gov](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov), Idaho Community Foundation [www.idcomfdn.org](http://www.idcomfdn.org), Next Steps Idaho [www.nextsteps.idaho.gov](http://www.nextsteps.idaho.gov), The College Board [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org), College Scholarships [www.collegescholarships.org](http://www.collegescholarships.org), Fast Web [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com), Student Scholarships [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org), Individual College Websites

## **Decision Time & Send That Final Transcript**

After you receive letters of acceptance and financial aid awards, decide which school / program fits you and complete any post-acceptance tasks. Don't forget to ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college choice.

## **Graduate & Be a Lifelong Learner!**