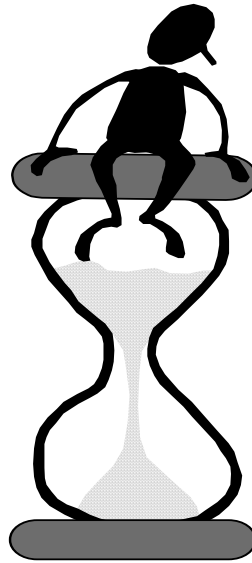


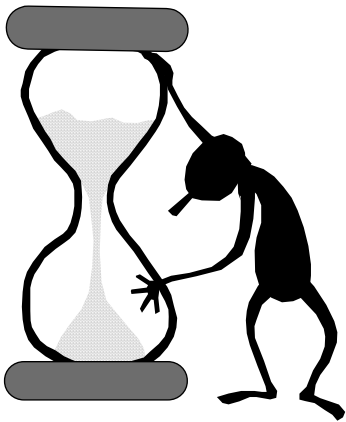
SOPHOMORE TRANSITION BOOKLET

NORTH EAST ISD

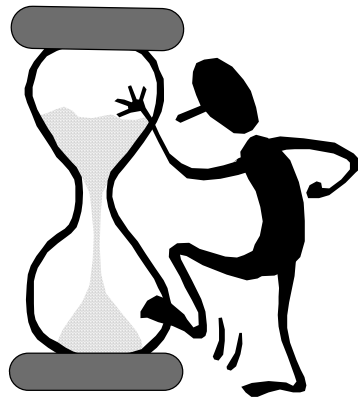
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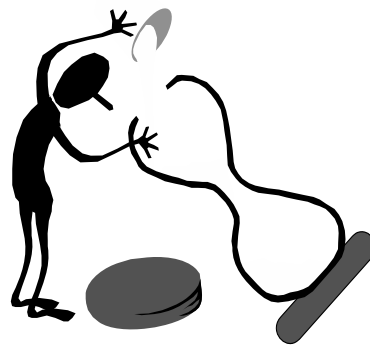
“I HAVE TIME.”



“OR DO I?”



“WHERE’S MY TIME GOING?” “I NEED MORE TIME!”



NEISD GUIDANCE SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the North East Independent School District Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program, in partnership with parents, school and community, is to provide a system of services which fosters the academic, career, and social development of all students.

Our goal is to empower children to reach their maximum potential and become caring, productive, and responsible citizens.

HELP WITH CAREER AND COLLEGE PLANNING

You do not have to look far to find the help you need to plan for a career and/or college. Much of the information can be found online and close to home. Whether you need information regarding career and/or college counseling, financial aid, or job placement, there are organizations that can help. Find places outside of the school setting where you can get assistance. Locate a college access program in our area by visiting www.collegeaccess.org/accessprogramdirectory (National College Access Program Directory).

Another resource is www.pathwaystocollege.net/collegeplanningresources (College Planning Resources), an online library used to help with preparing for college. The library lists websites and publications for students and parents to use independently while it provides helpful materials.

Career Planning

With all the career possibilities that exist, making a decision on a career path can be exciting, yet stressful. It is quite common for students to be uncertain about the kind of job they want after graduation.

Take some time and head in a general direction that fits your interests. You may adjust your route later. Studies have proven that the average job seeker will change careers (not just jobs) at least five times over his/her lifetime.

Suggestions

- Explore your skills and interests.
- Research occupations that best fit you.
- List the steps you need to take.
- Spend some time mapping out a plan.
- Take challenging courses while in high school.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

www.aie.org/highschool/careers

www.careerinfonet.org/acinet/default.asp

www.jobprofiles.org

www.mapping-your-future.org/features/careership

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

www.aie.org/highschool/careers/links

College Planning

The effort you put into school work, the courses you take, and the activities in which you participate can impact your life. The earlier you plan, the better prepared you will be for your future.

Suggestions

- Investigate/research college entrance requirements.

- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Maintain good grades.
- Be familiar with class rank.
- Take necessary exams (e.g., PSAT, SAT, ACT, ACCUPLACER, or THEA).
- Take college level courses (AP) if possible.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

www.aie.org/highschool/planning/index.cfm

www.texasscholars.org

www.collegeaccess.org/accessprogramdirectory

www.aie.org/highschool/planning/links

YOUR SOPHOMORE ROAD MAP

Prepare for Standardized Testing

- Take the PSAT in October. The scores are not considered for National Merit Scholar recognition until the junior year. This practice test will also better prepare you for the SAT Reasoning Test, which you should be taking in the spring of your junior year. You will receive your PSAT results in January.
- Start preparing for the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT

Update Your File of Important Documents and Notes

- Copies of report cards
- Lists of awards and honors
- Lists of school and community activities in which you are involved, including both paid and volunteer work, and descriptions of what you do

Continue Your College Search and Visits

- Think about selecting a school, and find out about the different types. Decide which characteristics are most important to you, such as the size of the school, distance from home, cost, and extracurricular activities.
- Visit colleges and talk with college students.
- Be ready with a list of questions to ask on your campus visit. A sample list is provided in this booklet.
- Use this list of college characteristics to decide how to evaluate different colleges.
- Review high school courses you need to take to meet the requirements of the colleges in which you are interested.

Find Out About Pre-AP, AP, and Dual Credit Courses at Your School

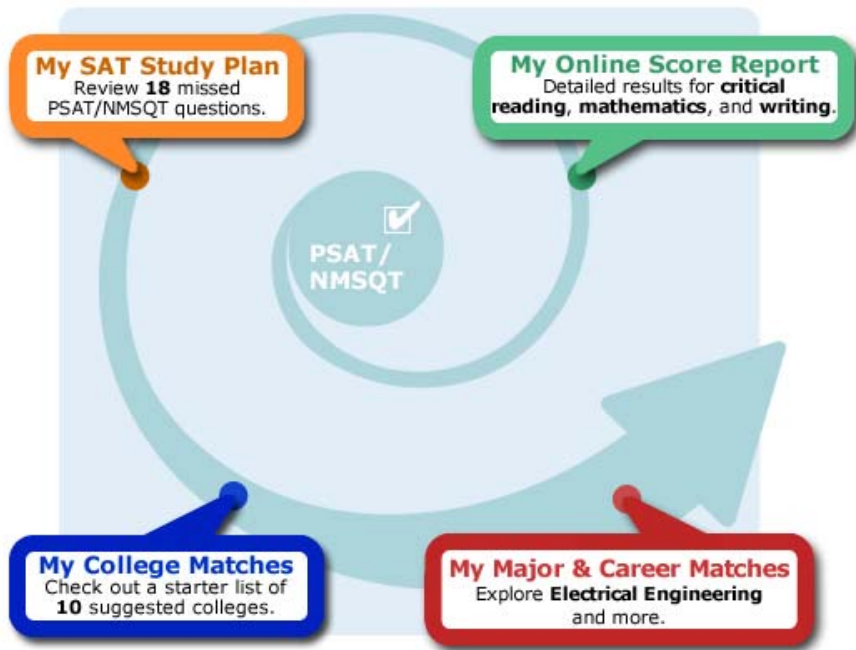
- Ask which Pre-AP, AP, or Dual Credit courses are available.
- See if you are eligible for the classes you want to take.
- Find out how to enroll in them for your junior year.
- Pre-register for those in which you are interested.

Other Tips

- Continue extracurricular activities, as admissions officers will look at these when considering you for admission.
- Continue participation in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.
- Continue to meet with your college/career counselor at least once a year.

When you receive your PSAT Score Report in January, an access code number (Example code number: E24730700T) will be listed in three places. Use this access code number to find a personalized list of colleges, majors, and careers using My College QuickStart at: www.collegeboard.com/quick.

My College QuickStart™



A Guided Tour

Next >



NORTH EAST ISD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN FALL 2010 -2011*

All students enroll in the Recommended High School or the Distinguished Achievement Programs

| RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| SUBJECT AREA | CREDITS |
| English | 4.0 |
| Communication Applications | .5 |
| Math | 4.0 |
| Science | 4.0 |
| Social Studies | 3.5 |
| Economics | .5 |
| Healthy Lifestyles | .5 |
| Physical Education (Healthy Lifestyles = .5 of the 1.0 P.E. requirement) | 1.0 |
| Other Languages | 2.0 |
| Fine Arts | 1.0 |
| Technology Applications (Recommended but not required) | 0 |
| Electives | 3.5 |
| TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED | 26.0 |

| DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| SUBJECT AREA | CREDITS |
| English | 4.0 |
| Communication Applications | .5 |
| Math | 4.0 |
| Science | 4.0 |
| Social Studies | 3.5 |
| Economics | .5 |
| Health Lifestyles | .5 |
| Physical Education (Healthy Lifestyles = .5 of the 1.0 P.E. requirement) | 1.0 |
| Other Languages | 3.0 |
| Fine Arts | 1.0 |
| Technology Applications (Recommended but not required) | 0 |
| Electives | 2.5 |
| TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED | 26.0 |

TEXAS MINIMUM GRADUATION PLAN

Any student considering graduating on the Minimum Plan must see a counselor. Only students meeting strict criteria during the spring semester of their senior year will be able to select the minimum graduation plan. A waiver acknowledging understanding of the Texas Minimum Graduation Plan must be signed.

PLUS FOUR (4) ADVANCED MEASURES

- One measure maximum: national recognition on PSAT
- Two measures maximum: original research/project
- Four measures maximum:
Performance on AP exams (Scoring 3, 4, or 5);
Grades in college credit courses (Grades of "A" or "B")

| SUBJECT AREA | RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENGLISH | English I, II, III, and IV required. Immigrant students with limited English proficiency may substitute English I SOL and English II SOL for English I and II ONLY. |
| COMMUNICATION APPLICATIONS | One-half credit Communication Applications required. (5809 may substitute as speech credit) |
| MATHEMATICS | Four credits required. The four credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Computer Science AP counts as a math credit. |
| SCIENCE | Four credits required. The four credits must include Biology and 2 credits from either IPC, Chemistry, Physics or Principles of Technology |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | Three and one-half credits required and must consist of World Geography, World History, US History, and US Government. |
| ECONOMICS | One-half credit required; transfer Economics courses must have an emphasis on the free enterprise system. |
| HEALTH LIFESTYLES | One-half credit required. |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION | On and off campus substitutions/waivers allowed. Students may earn a total of four credits of PE for graduation. Waivers: drill team, marching band, flags, ROTC, cheerleading, dance, and approved private programs. See your counselor for specific waiver information. |
| OTHER LANGUAGES | Two credits of the <u>same</u> language. Exploratory Language and culture courses do not meet the Other Languages requirement. |
| FINE ARTS | One credit required, selected from courses in the areas of art, music, theatre arts, dance or floral design. |
| TECHNOLOGY | Although a computer credit is not required, it is |

| DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| English I, II, III, and IV required. Immigrant students with limited English proficiency may substitute English I SOL and English II SOL for English I and II ONLY. | |
| One-half credit Communication Applications required. (5809 may substitute as speech credit) | |
| Four credits required. The four credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. The fourth math credit must have an Algebra II prerequisite. Computer Science AP will not count for the DAP. | |
| Four credits required. The four credits must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics. GMO, IPC, and Principles of Technology will not count for the DAP. | |
| Three and one-half credits required and must consist of World Geography, World History, US History, and US Government. | |
| One-half credit required; transfer Economics courses must have an emphasis on the free enterprise system. | |
| One-half credit required. | |
| On-and off campus substitutions/waivers allowed. Students may earn a total of four credits PE for graduation. Waivers: drill team, marching band, flags, ROTC, cheerleading, dance, and approved private programs. See your counselor for specific waiver information. | |
| Three credits of the <u>same</u> language beginning with level I. Exploratory Language and culture courses do not meet the Other Languages requirement. | |
| One credit required, selected from courses in the areas of art, music, theatre arts, dance, or floral design. | |
| Although a computer credit is not required, it is recommended that students | |

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| APPLICATIONS | recommended that students maintain technology competency. | maintain technology competency. |
| ELECTIVES | Three and one-half credits required | Two and one-half credits required |

NEISD RANK IN CLASS POLICY
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN FALL 2007 AND BEYOND

RANK IN CLASS

- All courses taken in grades 9-12 during the regular school day or in summer school and required for graduation will be included in the class ranking. This will include 3 and one-half elective courses for the Recommended Program and two and one-half elective courses for the Distinguished Achievement Program. Elective courses that produce the highest weighted grade will be counted for class rank. Class rank will be based upon a weighted grade point average.
- Grade point averages are determined by multiplying each semester grade of a ranked course by a rank factor and computing an average. The rank factor recognizes differences in level of difficulty between Advanced Placement, Pre-Advanced Placement, Regular, and Content Modified coursework. Courses modified as to methodology shall utilize the same rank factor assigned to regular courses.

| Course Level | Rank Factor |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit AP | 1.29 |
| Pre-Advanced Placement, Honors, GT non-AP, and dual credit non-AP | 1.15 |
| Regular | 1.00 |
| Content Modified | .90 |

- The weighted grade point average determines the rank in class. The student earning the highest weighted GPA is ranked number one and all others take the following positions in increasing numeric order. Ties in rank will be broken using the most courses taken given a weight of 1.15 and/or 1.29.
- Preliminary unofficial class standing reports will be issued to students following the second and fourth semesters of high school. Official class standing will be issued to students following the sixth and seventh semesters of high school. Class rank is determined using a weighted system that supports academic achievement and rigor. All courses taken in grades 9-12 and required for graduation will be counted. Class rank is based upon a weighted grade point average.
- Students are designated within a range of their high school class, as follows: top five percent, top ten percent, top quarter, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter. The position of each student is reported as “number (___) out of (___) students in graduating class.”

GRADE POINT AVERAGE / HONOR GRADUATES

- Students achieving high standards of academic excellence shall be recognized at the graduation ceremony as honor graduates based on the following criteria:
 - Completion of the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Graduation Program.
 - Accumulation of a minimum of 48 semester classes of coursework.
 - Overall weighted average greater than or equal to 90. (The rank factor listed above is used to determine the overall weighted average.)
- Honor graduates meeting the criteria specified above shall be designated as follows:

| Honor Graduate Designations | Cumulative Grade Average |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Summa Cum Laude | 100+ |
| Magna Cum Laude | 95-99 |
| Cum Laude | 90-94 |

PROMOTION POLICY

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN 2007 AND BEYOND

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 th grade | promotion from 8 th grade, pass 8 th grade TAKS 0-5.5 credits |
| 10 th grade | 6.0 credits |
| 11 th grade | 12.0 credits |
| 12 th grade | 19.0 credits The student is able to enroll in all courses needed to graduate on the Recommended High School Plan at the end of the current school year |

GRADE POLICY FOR AVERAGING OUT

NEISD has a grade policy called “averaging out” for full year courses.

If a student fails the first semester, passes the second semester, and has an average of 70 or higher, the student will receive full credit (1.0 credit) in the course. This is called averaging out.

Examples:

| | Semester One | Semester Two | Average | Credit |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| a) English I | 65 | 75 | 70 | 1.0 |
| b) English I | 65 | 70 | | 0.5 |
| <i>(This example will not be averaged out since the average is below a 70.)</i> | | | | |
| c) English I | 75 | 65 | | 0.5 |
| <i>(This example will not be averaged out since the student did not pass the second semester. If there are extenuating circumstances, a teacher may opt to average out.)</i> | | | | |

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A COLLEGE VISIT

A college visit is highly recommended. Before you visit the campus, consider some of the options below. It is also important to develop a list of questions and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals.

- Schedule an interview in the Admission Office.
- Inquire about admission requirements (test, high school grades, etc.).
- Discuss your chances for success.
- Learn about the college environment.
- Talk with students.
- Meet the faculty.
- Investigate your academic program.
- Consider attending a class—witness class size, teaching style, and academic atmosphere.
- Check the student residence halls and dining facilities.
- Ask about financial aid opportunities (deadlines, forms required, etc.)
- Obtain a school calendar and fee schedule.
- Take a campus tour.
- Identify career-planning services for undergraduates.
- Visit the library.
- Ask about the amount and kind of study necessary for success.
- Investigate transportation options.
- Find out how students use their out-of-classroom time.
- Become aware of student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.).
- Inquire about campus life in terms of dating and social activities.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR A COLLEGE VISIT

- How many students in the freshmen class?
- How many students in the largest lecture class?
- Do professors teach freshmen classes?
- How accessible are faculty members to students?
- What percentage of freshmen will get their first-choice classes?
- What extracurricular activities and athletics are available?
- What interesting outlets for students does the surrounding community offer?
- What ethnic and/or religious groups are available for student participation?
- How do fraternities and sororities influence campus life?
- Are freshmen required to live on campus? Is housing guaranteed?
- What is the general atmosphere of the campus?
- Is there a career planning and placement center?
- What counseling services are available for students?
- What kind of medical facilities are available for students?
- What are the library hours?
- What about computer labs—equipment, hours, availability?
- What types of intramural sports are available?

REMEMBER, when creating your own questionnaire choose questions important to you!

SAMPLE RÉSUMÉ

JOHN SMART
123 School Road
San Antonio, TX 78258
(210) 123-4567

Birthdate:
Social Security#: 111-22-3333
Email Address:

EDUCATION:

Class Rank:
Grade Average:

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Varsity Baseball
1st Baseman
All Star Team
National Honor Society
Student Government Representative
Key Club

Grade

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Church Youth Group
Led Children's Choir
Vacation Bible School Teacher
Baptist Hospital Volunteer

Grade

PRE-AP/AP COURSES:

World History AP

Grade

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Junior Class President
NHS Treasurer

Grade

WORK EXPERIENCE:

GAP, North Star Mall--
Assist customers, answer phones

Grade

HOBBIES & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Piano lessons
Blue Sharks Swim Team

Grade

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACT: College admission test that measures English, math, reading, and science reasoning. Scores range from 1-36, along with a composite score and 11 sub-scores broken down by subject areas. An optional writing test is offered. Calculators are permitted on the math test but not on the science test. Pick up registration forms at school or register online at www.act.org.

Advanced Placement Tests: Designed for students who have completed college level work in high school, AP tests are given in specific subject areas and are used to determine if a student may gain advanced standing in college.

Admission: The decision to allow a student to enter a college or university.

Admission Test: A standardized test used in the admission process to predict the likelihood of a student's success in college.

Application: A formal request for admission to a college or university; requires the submission of forms and other materials.

Aptitude: A natural ability or talent.

Associate's Degree (A.A., A.S.): A two-year degree that generally prepares a student for further study. Some associate's degree programs provide sufficient training for specific careers, but many students in two-year colleges plan to complete their studies at a four-year college.

Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S., B.F.A., B.A.A.): A four-year degree in a specified subject.

Certificate: Recognition provided to a student for completion of a short-term vocational or career-training program.

Class Rank: A measure of each student's academic performance in high school.

Common Application: A standardized application form used by a consortium of colleges for admission.

Degree: The rank or title given by a college or university to a student who has met certain academic requirements.

Diploma: Certificate issued by a school, college, or university to a student who has met coursework and graduation requirements.

Doctorate Degree (Ph.D.): Master's Degree plus advanced graduate courses in specialized area. Normally requires three to five years of additional full-time studies after completion of a Master's Degree.

Early Action: Early action is used primarily in highly selective colleges. Early action follows the same timetable as early decision (see below), but allows the accepted candidate until May 1 to accept or decline the offer of admission. Under an early action program, it is possible for an applicant to be denied admission outright and not automatically deferred for later consideration.

Early Decision: Not to be confused with early action, early decision is a plan under which a student applies to the first-choice college early in the fall (usually by November 1 of the senior year) and agrees by contract to enter that college if offered admission. Early decision applicants are judged on the basis of their junior year test scores, class rank, and grades.

Important Note: Early decision and early action programs vary from college to college. Read the literature of each college carefully, and ask questions if you do not understand some aspect of the program.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): An amount the student and student's family are expected to contribute toward his/her education. It is used in determining eligibility for federal student aid.

Extracurricular Activities: Any school activity, such as athletics, drama, or music, that offers the student an opportunity to complement his or her classroom experiences.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov: A form required by the government for application to any federal education aid program. A FAFSA is used to determine the specific Federal Student Aid programs that can contribute to a student's total college financial aid package and in what proportions. High school seniors should submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. The FAFSA is processed free of charge and must be submitted each year a student applies for financial aid.

Financial Aid or Assistance: Any financial award to a student (grant, scholarship, or loan).

Grade point average (GPA): An indicator of the student's overall scholastic performance.

Grants: Awards based on financial need that do not require repayment. Grants are available through the federal government, state agencies, and educational institutions.

Honors program: Any program offering the opportunity for superior students to enrich their educational experience through independent, advanced, or accelerated study.

Letter of Recommendation: An assessment of the student's aptitudes, abilities, and interests, written by a teacher or counselor and used by colleges and universities in the admission process.

Major: The subject of study in which the student chooses to specialize; a series of related courses, taken primarily in the junior and senior years of college.

Master's Degree (M.S., M. A.): Bachelor's Degree plus graduate courses in specialized area. A Master's Degree usually requires two additional years of full-time studies after completion of a Bachelor's Degree.

Open Admissions: The policy of some colleges of admitting virtually all high school graduates, regardless of academic qualifications such as high school grades and admission scores.

PLAN: a pre-ACT test and examination of interests and skills for 10th graders.

PSAT/NMSQT: Preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Enables students to practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and serves as the qualifying test for scholarship competitions conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Regular Decision: The application process in which a student submits an application to an institution by a specified date and receives a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time.

Résumé: a brief written account of personal, educational, and professional qualifications and experience,

Rolling Admission: The application process whereby a college reviews an application when the individual folder (application form and all supporting data) is completed and communicates the admission decision within a few weeks of reviewing the folder.

SAT (Reasoning Test): College admission test designed to measure critical reading, math, and writing skills needed for academic success in college. SAT scores range from 200 to 800 in each of the three sections (writing, math, and critical reading). Bring a calculator to use for the SAT math section. Pick up registration forms at school or register online at www.collegeboard.com.

Scholarship: Financial aid based on merit and paid directly to the student in the form of an outright gift. Some scholarships are given to students who exhibit a particular ability or skill, such as in music or athletics.

Standardized Tests: Tests such as ACT and SAT that provide college admission officers with a comparative standard for evaluating a student's academic aptitude and likelihood of success in college.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The information received after the FAFSA has been processed. The SAR reports the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Transcript: The official record of high school or college courses and grades, generally required as part of the college application.

Work/Study: Money earned in a job obtained through the help of the college's financial aid office. Hours and location of the job are compatible with academic life and school schedule.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

www.act.org = Provides information on all tests and products produced by ACT, as well as great college info.

www.CampusTours.com = Virtual tours to hundreds of colleges and universities.

www.collegeboard.com = The College Board Web site provides information on all tests and products produced by the College Board, as well as great college info.

www.collegefortexans.com = Project by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board which provides information regarding preparing, applying, paying, and getting through college.

www.collegenet.com = Identifies schools based on criteria such as location, size, degree programs, etc.; provides links to individual college Web sites.

www.ed.gov/thinkcollege = U.S. Department of Education regarding college and career planning at all age levels.

www.hacu.net = HACU (Hispanic Association of colleges and Universities) represents more than 300 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, and Spain.

www.hbcuconnect.com = The Web site for historically Black colleges and universities.

www.infoplease.com/homework = This site includes homework help, study advice, writing tips, resources (atlas, almanacs, encyclopedias, dictionaries) and historical facts.

www.KnowHow2Go.org = American Council on Education and Lumina Foundation for Education

IMPORTANT RESOURCE

If you still need help with planning, we have the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Student Aid Center in San Antonio. Students may visit the center to find FREE information on careers, colleges, and scholarships. Below is the location and contact information:

Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
Student Aid Center
North Frost Center
1250 N.E. Loop 410, Suite 810
San Antonio, TX 78209-1539
(210) 525-8494

Additionally, the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation publishes a Compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar that may be viewed on the Internet at

<http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/about/scholars>.

References

American Council on Education and Lumina Foundation www.KnowHow2Go.org

College Board www.collegeboard.com

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board www.collegefortexans.com