College/Career Transition Booklet

Class of 2018

This booklet contains suggestions to help prepare you for life after high school. Whether you are planning to attend a two-year/four-year college or trade school, there is information to meet your specific needs.

In today’s world, the better prepared you are academically and emotionally, the greater your chances of reaching your goals of being accepted and succeeding in college.

**Keep this booklet as a reference to assist you in the transition out of high school, into college as you prepare and plan your future.**
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 young adults to reach their maximum potential and become caring, productive, and responsible citizens.

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In accordance with Title VI-Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX-Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504-Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992, the North East Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

Conforme al Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, al Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972, a la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973 y al Título II de la Ley sobre Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1992, el North East Independent School District no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo o discapacidad.

NEISD counselors prepared this booklet for NEISD students and parents.
Options After High School

After graduation, you will choose one of these options: college/technical training, military service, or career.

College/Technical Training:

Going to college allows you the opportunity to be knowledgeable and skilled in a professional field to prepare for success in a career pathway. Use this booklet as a guide, as you plan financially for college, select your colleges/training of choice, and make decisions about your chosen career. Many online resources are provided in the “Helpful Websites” section.

First, determine if you will be in the type of setting that will meet your individual needs.

✓ **A four-year university** offers a variety of programs of study outlined in a *degree plan*, which require four or more years to complete. Once a chosen program of study is completed, the student will earn a Bachelor Degree in that particular field of study. Four-year universities/colleges can be either public or private. The major difference between public and private lies in how they are funded. State governments pay for most of the cost of operating public universities. This influx of public money is the reason tuition is lower at public universities. Private colleges rely heavily on private contributions, which means tuition rates are generally higher. Another difference is in their size and the number of degrees they typically offer. Private colleges tend to be smaller and offer a smaller range of majors.

✓ **Community college** is the most common type of a two-year college. These colleges offer many types of educational programs, including those that lead to associate degrees and certificates. They often have lower tuition costs. Certificates and some associate degrees focus on career readiness. Other types of associate degrees are good preparation for study at a four-year college, where graduates can earn a Bachelor’s Degree.

✓ **Technical school** offers vocational-technical specialized training such as, culinary college. These prepare students for specific skill-based careers and may be known as career colleges. Career college programs generally range from two to four years, depending on the extent of the training required.

Texas Career Check’s *Exploring Education* module -[http://www.texascareercheck.com](http://www.texascareercheck.com)
It allows you to limit your school choices based on whether it’s urban, rural, or in-between; climate; in close proximity to home, and whether or not the college offers *Distance Learning*. Distance Learning (or internet courses) offers a kind of learning environment that allows you to complete courses via the internet, allowing ease of classroom access, but does require a great amount of self-discipline and motivation in order to be successful.
Transition from High School to College Timeline:

✓ Make a personal “Important Deadlines Calendar,” including the following:
  o Financial aid deadlines
  o It is extremely important that you pay attention to deadline dates. Just as you paid attention to deadlines prior to college acceptance, it is even more important to be aware of additional college course deadlines and to make the appropriate arrangements to meet them
  o Are you the first in your family to attend college? CollegeGo guides you through the essential steps: https://lp.collegeboard.org/free-collegego-mobile-app

✓ Acceptance to college
  o Once you receive your acceptance letter, you will receive instructions to access your college account and receive emails
  o It is important to check this site regularly in order to avoid missing deadlines

✓ Continue to apply for financial aid
  o All colleges require that you complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year that you will need this aid. Visit: www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning in October 2017 for aid applications for the 2018-19 award year; students are allowed to file the FAFSA using 2016 tax information.
  o Refer to websites provided in this booklet
  o Keep searching for scholarships that are available to current college students

✓ Transcripts
  o Obtain a Transcript Release Form from the Counseling Office or the Career Center. This form is required so that your official transcript can be sent to colleges, with scholarship applications, and other requests. If you are under 18, your parent/guardian must sign the form.
  o Official transcripts must be mailed to the college of your choice. NOTE: Official transcripts cannot be given directly to the student or parent for mailing. Requests must be made at least 10 school days before mail deadline. Cost: $5.00.

After graduation

✓ Immunizations
  o Ensure that you have received all required immunizations, including meningitis, and sent the records to the college/university that you will be attending.

✓ Orientation
  o Schedule your orientation for college as early as possible in the summer, so that you feel prepared and less stressed

✓ Living arrangements
  o If you were not required to do so as part of the application process, begin making living arrangements either on or off the college campus

✓ Dual Credit
  o Transferring Dual Credit and/or AP courses to the college you will attend
  o Students must examine the following link to ensure that their Dual Credit course fulfills the requirements of their chosen Associate Degree at Alamo Colleges: http://mysaccatalog.alamo.edu/content.php?catoid=122&navoid=6394
  o Students must examine the following link to ensure that their Dual Credit course will transfer to their chosen university and degree plan: http://alamo.edu/mainwide.aspx?id=43348
  o Transcripts For Students Who Took a Dual Credit Course in High School:
Two weeks after graduation, the high school will send final Dual Credit grades to Alamo Colleges. Students must then request that a transcript be sent from the high school to SAC, Palo Alto, or St. Philip’s. Then, students must request that SAC, Palo Alto, or St. Philip’s send a transcript to the college/university of their choice. Students make this request by logging on to your ACES account at www.alamo.edu/sac/

AP
- When students complete their AP exams, they should indicate the university that they will be attending so the scores may be sent to the university in July. If the university is not indicated at the time of the AP exam, the student must log on to their College Board account and request that AP scores be sent to the universities.
- Check your college’s policy on Advanced Placement exam scores and view: https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies
- For more information, visit: https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse

Note to Parents: According to FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), once a child becomes an adult at age 18 parents cannot obtain access to their students’ health and education records, including grades and financial accounts, without the students’ permission.

Military

Recruiters from different branches of the military will help you as you investigate a military career.

R.O.T.C. Scholarships
R.O.T.C. scholarships pay young men and women to go to college before they serve four to six years in the military service. Standards for acceptance are very high, and the process of testing and applying must begin early. To receive information about R.O.T.C. opportunities, call: Army 1-800-U.S.A.-R.O.T.C., Navy: 1-800-U.S.A.-N.A.V.Y., or Air Force: 1-800-552-0033.

Careers

Research job opportunities in the immediate future and for long-range planning. You may discover that you will need some type of technical/college training, prior to achieving your ideal career goal.

Texas Reality Check – http://www.texasrealitycheck.com
To select the right career for your spending needs

Texas Cares – http://www.texascaresonline.com
To explore different occupations, colleges and universities, career path information, etc.

Texas Crews – http://www.txcrews.org
To compare costs and outcomes for two-year and four-year postsecondary institutions in Texas

Career Hotline – 1-800-822-7526
For information on careers, colleges, and educational opportunities
Assistance for Foster Care Students

- Texas Transition Centers are available as a resource to both College Foster Care Student Liaisons and students: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/contacts/transition.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/contacts/transition.asp)
- Texas DFPS Transitional Living Services: [www.TexasYouthConnection.com](http://www.TexasYouthConnection.com)
- Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Services assists youth ages 16 to 21 prepare for a successful transition to adulthood as they exit from Foster Care. Life skills trainings, Aftercare Room and Board assistance, and case management services are available to eligible Foster Care students. PAL staff are located throughout the state and are the contact to connect Foster Care students with these services. A list of the lead PAL staff is located at: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp)
- PAL staff may help Foster Care students access or request their personal documents and school records needed when registering for school. Information on how students can request personal records is at: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/legal/personal_docs.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/legal/personal_docs.asp)
- Healthcare coverage - Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) Program – the student can contact 2-1-1 or 1-800-964-2777 to make changes or ask questions about their healthcare plans, or may visit: [www.YourTexasBenefits.com](http://www.YourTexasBenefits.com)
- C. Ed Davis PAL Scholarship or Freshman Success Fund scholarships - visit the Texas Youth Connection website Education page for more details or inquire with PAL staff about DFPS Scholarships at: [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/Default.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/Default.asp)

Undocumented Students

Yes, You Can! Texas supports its DREAMers through financial aid to ensure their college dreams come true. College is possible for everyone! Through House Bill 1403 and Senate Bill 1528, certain undocumented students are considered Texas residents. This qualifies these students to pay in-state tuition at public colleges/universities and also makes these students eligible for state financial aid. The student must meet the following four requirements:

1. Graduate from a public/private high school or receive a GED in Texas;
2. Live in Texas for at least 3 years leading up to high school graduation or receiving a GED;
3. Live in Texas for the 12 months leading up to the semester the student is enrolling in college;
4. Provide the institution of higher education an affidavit stating the student will file an application to become a U.S. permanent resident as soon as he/she is eligible to do so.

There are several steps you will need to follow to make your college dreams come true. DREAMers and their parents should seek the advice and guidance of their high school counselor during the following steps.

1. Submit your college application via the ApplyTexas website at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
2. Submit a notarized Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident at each of the colleges and universities where you are applying. This document states that you will file an application to become a U.S. permanent resident, as soon as you are eligible to do so.
3. Submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). Submit application to become a U.S. permanent resident, as soon as you are eligible to do so.

5. Submit income and/or tax documentation:
   - If your family filed taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), then you will need to include your IRS tax transcript with your TASFA application. You can request a transcript online [https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript](https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript)
   - If your family did not file taxes, then you will need to report your family income using the **Income Information for Non-Tax Filers Form** available at the college and university Financial Aid Offices. Please note that this form must be notarized.

6. If you are a male student, you must also register for the Selective Service. You are required to submit proof of registration to the Financial Aid Office, along with your TASFA application.

Thanks to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), school personnel do not have the right to disclose personal information (including immigration status). * For this reason, DREAMers should not hesitate to express their desire to attend college. Remember to ask for the help and advice your high school counselor during the college and financial aid application processes.


**Grants and Loans Available to DREAMers:**

**Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)**
- Awards may not exceed the student’s financial need or the amount of tuition the student is paying in excess of what he or she would pay at a public institution. Eligible institutions include private, non-profit colleges or universities in Texas. [http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6653.PDF?CFID=35707310&CFTOKEN=51300628](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6653.PDF?CFID=35707310&CFTOKEN=51300628)

**Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) Program**
- Eligible institutions include community colleges, technical colleges, or state colleges in Texas. [http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6657.PDF?CFID=35707310&CFTOKEN=51300628](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6657.PDF?CFID=35707310&CFTOKEN=51300628)

**College Access Loan (CAL)**
- Provides an alternative type of educational loan to Texas students. May be used to cover all or part of a student’s Expected Family Income (EFC).
Collegiate Terminology for College-Bound Students and Parents

**Advanced Placement (AP)** - While in high school, credit is granted to an advanced course based on evidence that the student has mastered the equivalent of a college introductory course.

**Associate Degree** - A planned and sequential two-year degree or certificate program offered through a community or junior college.

**Bachelor Degree** - A program of study requires 4 or more years to complete; granted by a college or university.

**CEEB** - College Entrance Examination Board produces test instruments for high school students. Each high school is assigned a unique number.

**College Level Examination Program (CLEP)** - A series of general and subject examinations for the evaluation of abilities of college applicants whose education has been achieved in such non-traditional ways as independent reading, on-the-job training, and/or correspondence courses.

**College Work Study** - A federally funded program that enables college students to earn money from non-profit organizations assigned by the college.

**Credit Hours** - A means of counting credits for course work in college. It may also denote the amount of time spent in class per week (a 3-hour class typically denotes a class meeting for 1 hour 3 times a week or 1 ½ hours 2 times a week).

**Grant** - An award of money given to a college student that requires neither repayment nor performance of a service.

**Honors Program** - Any program offering opportunity for students with superior academic ability to enrich their educational experience through independent, advanced, or accelerated study.

**Major** - The sequence of study in which the student chooses to specialize; a series of related courses primarily taken in the junior and senior year.

**Student Aid Report (SAR)** - The information that you receive 2-4 weeks after your FAFSA has been processed. This report includes the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) used by the college financial aid officers.

**Scholarship** - Financial award based on need, scholastic achievement, merit, special interest, competition, or some special affiliation. A college, governmental agency, corporation, or private group may give this money. It is a gift and need not be repaid.
Funded, by the City of San Antonio, and managed by the San Antonio Education Partnership, cafécollege serves as San Antonio’s “one-stop-shop” for college access advice, guidance and workshops. No appointment is necessary and all services are free of charge and available in Spanish to all. Visit in person or online; cafécollege is open all summer.

- Discover your options and your opportunities
- Take surveys to learn more about your strengths
- Receive assistance on completing college applications
- Learn how to complete a FAFSA or TASFA
- Search for financial aid money to attend college or trade school

**Hours of operation:**
Tuesday – Thursday  8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday   8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Walk-ins only. No appointments.
“Soft”/Employability Skills

...for Any College/Career Experience:

“Soft”/Employability Skills – a core of set of foundational skills, basis for all career paths and credentials, and common vocabulary

**Personal Skills** – teamwork and respect; must possess conscientiousness, critical thinking, and problem solving; ability to use logical thought processes to analyze and evaluate and implement solutions; integrity, initiative, dependability/reliability, adaptability, professionalism

**People Skills** – communication and respect; acting honestly and sustaining effort; getting along with others; maintaining composure and handling pressure

**Workplace Skills** - planning and organizing, problem solving, decision making, business fundamentals, working with tools, technology, customer focus; identifying areas of weakness within an organization

**Applied knowledge** – reading, writing, math, scientific, technology, and critical thinking; being able to communicate in short, concise sentences in emails and reports

**Social-Emotional Skills** – build skills for mental health and well-being by: learning to handle academic and on-the-job pressure, smart decision-making, and managing anxiety

...for What Employers Are Looking For in a Student:

**Communication Skills** – the ability to listen, write, and speak effectively

**Confidence** – confident, but never cocky; friendly and engaging

**Likability** – warm, friendly, easygoing, and cooperative with others

**Willingness to Listen and Learn** – listening and being open to learning new things

**Adaptable** – being equally productive behind their desks and in the field

**Flexibility** – goes hand in hand with adaptability
Self-Reliance – self-motivated, students are able to figure out what needs to be done and then does it

Teamwork – must collaborate well with others and not behave like divas

Dependability – be there every day; not someone who is constantly sick, demands vacation during the busy season, or abuses a flexible schedule

Honesty – be true to who you are and honest with employers

Financial Aid Terms to Know

✓ Cost of attendance – The combined expenses of attending college, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and living expenses. These expenses vary because no two colleges have the same costs. The cost of attendance is compared with the student’s expected family contribution to determine the student’s need for financial aid.

✓ Educational loans - Low interest, federally backed loans from banks or other lending institutions that must be repaid. No repayment is due until you leave school. Loans are available for both vocational and professional degrees/certifications. It is best to shop around for the lowest interest rate.

✓ Grant - Free money usually based on need.

✓ Perkins Loans - Awarded by colleges to low income students at low interest rates.

✓ Plus SLS - Given by commercial lenders to students or parents who pass a credit check. Interest rate is variable and set each June. Contact your bank or savings and loan.

✓ Scholarship - Free money based on academic merit, talent, ability, religion, and/or ethnicity.
✓ Stafford Loans - Formerly called the Guaranteed Student Loans. These are given through banks and commercial lenders to students who pass a standard of financial need. Loans may be subsidized or unsubsidized and interest rates will vary.

✓ Work Study - Jobs on campus for students who qualify for financial assistance.

Sources of Financial Aid Information

✓ College Financial Aid Office - 90% of all financial aid available is controlled by this office. Always check with the financial aid office of your college for additional information.

✓ Institutional Departmental Scholarships - These are scholarships awarded by departments for specific majors.

✓ Community Organizations - In Bexar County, most of these scholarships are handled through the Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House and the high school scholarship committee. Deadline is in October.

✓ Foundations, Businesses, Unions, Religious Groups, Community and Military organizations - Check all organizations with which your family is involved.

✓ ROTC scholarships - Contact the recruiters.
College/Career Planning

- www.collegefortexans.com
- www.comparecollegetx.com
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.texasrealitycheck.com
- http://tx.kuder.com/ (go to www.neisd.net then Launchpad, then Kuder in CTE folder)
- www.cafecollege.org
- www.careeronestop.org
- http://www.txcrews.org
- www.gentx.org
- www.AIE.org
- http://www.texascaresonline.com
- www.collegeboard.org

Career Hotline: 1-800-822-7526

https://lp.collegeboard.org/free-collegego-mobile-app
www.petersons.com
www.nacac.com
www.campustours.com
www.alamo.edu
www.usnews.com/education
www.myfuture.com

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.collegenet.com
- www.tgslc.org
- www.finaid.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.gocollege.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.collegeview.com
- www.salliemae.com
- www.collegescholarships.com
- www.afrotc.com
- www.armyrotc.com
- www.supercollege.com
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.utsa.edu/armyrotc

Online Application Sites

- www.applytexas.org
- www.commonapp.org
- www.alamo.edu/district/apply-now/

Test Prep Websites (ACT, SAT, ASVAB)

- www.collegeboard.org
- https://college readiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice
- www.act.org
- www.powerprep.com
- www.number2.com
- www.shmoop.com
- www.revolutionprep.com
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.kaplan.com
- www.sylvanlearning.com/
- www.4tests.com
- www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab

Employment Opportunities / Job Searches

- www.careeronestop.org
- www.bls.gov/ooh
- www.careers.org
- www.careerbuilder.com
- www.monster.com
- www.mapping-your-future.org

Local Colleges and Universities

Public Universities
- Texas State University (San Marcos) - www.txstate.edu
- Texas A&M University San Antonio - www.tamuusa.edu
- University of Texas at San Antonio - www.utsa.edu

Alamo Colleges
- Northwest Vista College - www.alamo.edu/nvc
- Palo Alto College - www.alamo.edu/pac
- St. Philip's College - www.alamo.edu/spc
- San Antonio College - www.alamo.edu/sac
- Northeast Lakeview College - www.alamo.edu/nlc

Private Universities
- Our Lady of the Lake University - www.ollusa.edu
- Schreiner University (Kerrville) - www.schreiner.edu
- St. Mary's University - www.stmarytx.edu
- Texas Lutheran University (Seguin) - www.tlu.edu
- Trinity University - www.trinity.edu
- University of the Incarnate Word - www.uiw.edu
- Wayland Baptist University (San Antonio) - www.sa.wbu.edu

Associate Degree/Certification Programs - Alamo Colleges

- http://mysaccatalog.alamo.edu/