

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

The best thing to remember is to **Beat Deadlines, not Meet Them**. There is not any forgiveness in the college application process for those that don't meet deadlines. If you are not an organized person, become one! Using the "My Colleges" form or something similar is a must in helping you stay organized throughout the year.

Strategy

Apply to schools of varying selectivity. The chart "Admission Rates for Unhooked Regular Applicants" earlier in this handbook illustrates the fact that the chance of being accepted by different levels of school varies. Don't put all your energy and efforts in to one level of school. Give yourself some options when it comes time to decide where you will attend.

Consider applying early if applying to selective schools. Some studies have come to the conclusion that applying early is the same as adding 100 points to your SAT score. Add 100 points to your score and go back and look at the admission rate chart on page 9 and see the difference this strategy might make. By applying early, you will have you a decision on that school or schools in December. This strategy is the norm, not the exception for most private secondary schools in the northeast.

Apply early to rolling admissions schools. You may apply at most any time to this category of school, but they will still have financial aid and/or housing deadlines. They may also have priority deadlines; this means that you will receive first consideration for housing and/or money.

Applications

Where possible use the common application. You can fill out one application and send it to any school that uses the common application. This will save you, parents, teachers and counselors a lot time. Go to www.commonapp.org, **fill out the on-line version (not the downloadable one)**. You will be able to type in the information you'll need as well as the information needed by teachers and counselors. Schools that accept the common application do not give preference to this form or their own, both are evaluated equally.

Applications for a particular school may be done or ordered on-line. Many schools have their applications on-line where you may fill them out and submit them on-line. At a minimum you will be able to order a hard copy on-line. Colleges prefer that you do an on-line version but will accept a hard copy instead – don't do both- don't fill it out on-line and also send one in, it will slow the process. Give schools at least three weeks to process your information before checking to see if they have received it. The guidance office will have hard copies of some in-state schools in our college filing cabinet.

Check your e-mail. Many schools will use this to inform you if parts to your application are missing and will also communicate other needed information. Use the same e-mail for all applications and check it regularly.

Tips

Develop a resume. If you haven't already, create one. This will come in handy time and time again as you fill out college and scholarship applications.

Keep a copy of everything. On occasion, a school may lose part of what you have submitted. Also, you may be able to duplicate portions of one application to another.