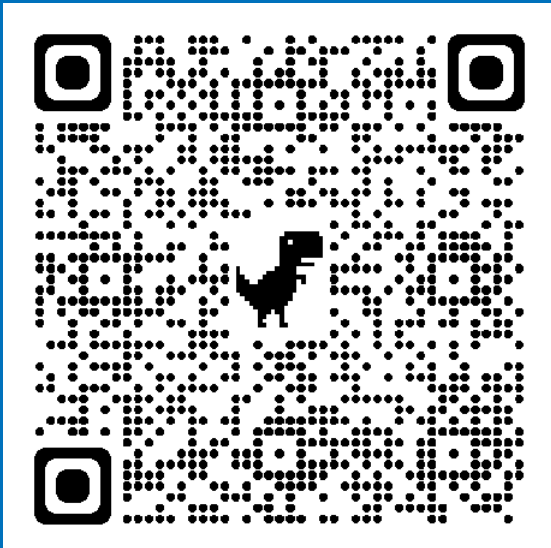


The Nuts And Bolts of the College Application Process

Senior College Planning Night
Thursday, September 29th, 2022

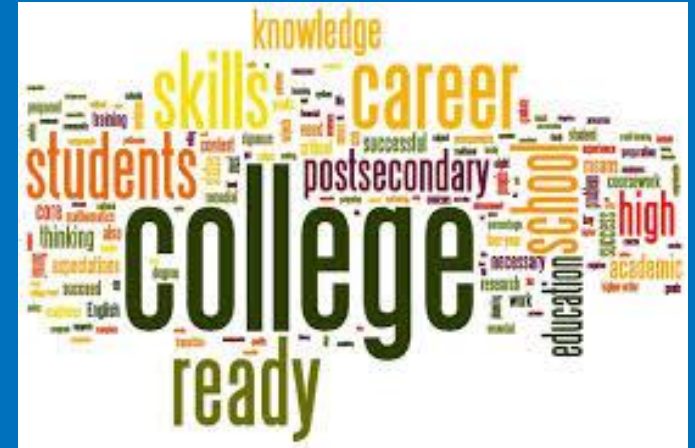


Jen He, School Counselor (A – K)
Chris Christy, School Counselor (L – Z)
Nancy Benullo, Administrative Assistant



Agenda

- Developing a college list
- Considering the Options
- Massachusetts College and University Standards
- Testing
- Types of Admission
- Student, Parent, Counselor responsibilities
- Financial Aid



What students should be working on



- Developing a list of colleges
- Signing up for rep visits (Naviance) and visiting campuses (or virtual tours)
- Completing a draft of their college essay
- Completing student and parent response forms and student activity sheet.
- Completing teacher recommendation requests (form and on Naviance)
- If Applicable: Signing up on NCAA Eligibility Center to register to play Division I or Division II College Athletics



College Selection Factors to Consider



- Academic Programs (Major, Internships, Honors, etc.)
- Geography (Commute, Distance, Urban, Suburban, International, etc.)
- Cost
- Size (Small < 3,000, Medium 3,000-7000, Large > 7,000)
- Campus Life (Dorms, Activities, Religion, Sports, Diversity, etc.)
- Special Programs (Study Abroad, Co-Op, Learning Disability Services etc.)



Develop the College List

- **Reach:** This group includes highly selective schools that the student aspires to. These will be your “reach” schools.
- **Target:** This group includes schools at which the probability of admission is likely. These are categorized as “target” schools.
- **Safety:** This group includes schools at which the probability of admission is “highly likely” to “certain.”



College Comparison

University of Massachusetts Amherst	Northeastern University	Brown University
Average SAT range 1190 – 1390 ACT 28 – 32 GPA – 3.0	Average SAT range 1390 – 1540 ACT 33 – 35	Average SAT range 1440 – 1570 ACT 35 GPA – 4.00
33% from top 10% of class	79% from top 10% of class	92% from top 10% of class
64% of applicants admitted	18% of applicants admitted	7% of applicants admitted



Student Responsibilities

- Attend senior seminars and meet with school counselor
- Finalize college application list and college essay.
- Submit applications by the specified deadlines.
- Input all colleges into Naviance as “Colleges Applying To”.
- Request official test scores (SAT, ACT) from testing companies (if not applying test optional).
- Complete and submit all forms to your school counselor (record release form, student response form, student activity sheet).
- Check status of applications regularly on the college portals.



College Fairs

NEACAC College Fair

- Sunday, October 2, 2022 11am – 1pm
- Worcester State University

Merrimack Valley College Fair

- Thursday, October 6, 2022 6 – 8pm
- Lowell High School Riddick Field House

MA State College Fair

- Tuesday, October 18, 2022 6 – 8pm
- Nashoba Regional High School (Upper Gym)



School Counseling Webpage



Littleton Public Schools
Town of Littleton, MA

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[Helpful Articles](#)

[Scholarship Information](#)

LHS School Counseling Department

Jennifer He

School Counselor (for student last names A-K)
email: jhe@littletonps.org

Chris Christy

School Counselor (for student last names L-Z)
email: cchristy@littletonps.org

Tracy Turner

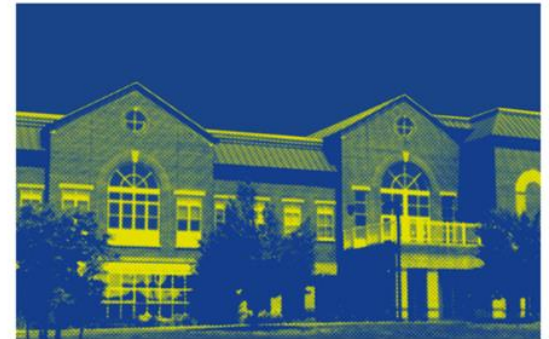
School Adjustment Counselor
email: tturner@littletonps.org

Melissa Benson

School Psychologist
email: mbenson@littletonps.org

Nancy Benullo

Administrative Assistant
email: nbenullo@littletonps.org



Parent Responsibilities



- Provide support and encouragement during the college process.
- Complete parent brag sheet and submit to school counselor.
- Review and sign records release form.
- Attend MEFA College Financial Planning Virtual Webinar.
- Assist with FAFSA and CSS Profile (if applicable).



Naviance

A career/college planning tool.



Use it to:

- Develop a list of colleges.
- Register for college visits.
- Add colleges to Naviance.
- Upload transcripts, recommendations and LHS profile sheet, send all electronically to colleges.



Testing

- Most colleges are test optional.
- Check college website to verify test optional status.
- Students with test scores may decide to submit if score is higher than or equal to the average score for that college.
- College uniformly intend to provide a holistic application review for admission and merit scholarship eligibility.
- Self report testing policy.



Types of Admission

EARLY ACTION (EA):

- Apply November/December
- Decision December/January

EARLY DECISION (ED):

- Apply November/December
- Decision December/January

REGULAR DECISION (RD):

- Apply Jan–March
- Decision March/April

ROLLING

- Apply when ready – decision usually within 4 weeks



Types of Admissions

Early Decision

- Binding – You are obligated to attend if you are accepted.
- Submit applications early fall, usually Nov 1 or Nov 15, check with college.
- You will be notified in Dec. or Jan., well before the usual notification if you've been accepted.

Early Action

- Non-binding/allows for other regular decision applications and review of financial aid packages.
- Decision by Dec. or Jan. for EA.
- You may wait until 5/1/23 to accept.



Universities of Massachusetts Admission Requirements

- Minimum GPA – 3.0
- SAT/ACT on sliding scale if GPA is below minimum

Example: **University of Massachusetts**

<u>GPA</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
2.51 – 2.99	1030	20
2.41 – 2.50	1070	21
2.31 – 2.40	1110	22
2.21 – 2.30	1140	23
2.11 – 2.20	1180	24
2.00 – 2.10	1220	25



MA State Colleges/Universities Admission Requirements

- Minimum GPA 3.0
- SAT/ACT on sliding scale if GPA is below min.

Example: **Worcester State University**

<u>GPA</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
2.51 – 2.99	990	19
2.41 – 2.50	1030	20
2.31 – 2.40	1070	21
2.21 – 2.30	1110	22
2.11 – 2.20	1140	23
2.00 – 2.10	1180	24



Commonwealth Commitment



STUDENTS COMMIT TO:

- Begin at one of Massachusetts' Community Colleges
- Complete associate degree within 2.5 years
- Transfer to one of the MA State Universities or UMASS campuses
- Complete bachelor's degree within 2 more years
- Maintain full time, continuous enrollment and a cumulative GPA of 3.0

COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS:

- A freeze on tuition and fees for all four years
- A reduction in tuition and mandatory fees by an average of \$5,090 over four years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GOT TO

www.mass.edu/MAComCom



New England Regional Tuition Break Program



NRSP offers New England residents reduced tuition rates when they enroll in approved degree programs at out of state public colleges and universities (in New England).

Approved programs must not be offered at MA state colleges and universities.

Visit www.nebhe.org for more information.



College Applications

- Apply online through The Common Application
www.commonapp.org
- Apply direct to the college on their own website
- Apply online through the Coalition Application
www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org



College Essay

- Be reflective.
- Offer insight.
- Draw the reader in through personal experience.
- Demonstrate your intellectual interests.
- Be yourself – write in your own voice.
- Sign up with English teachers for final review.
- This is your chance to show admission officers the personal side of you.

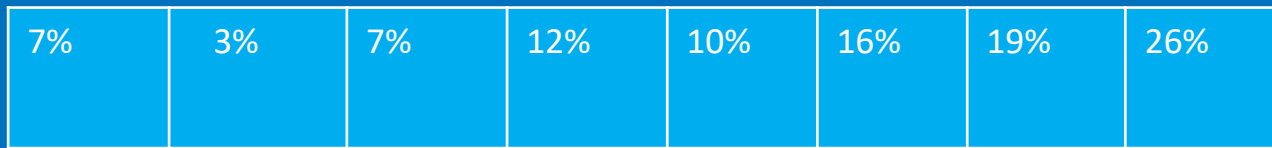
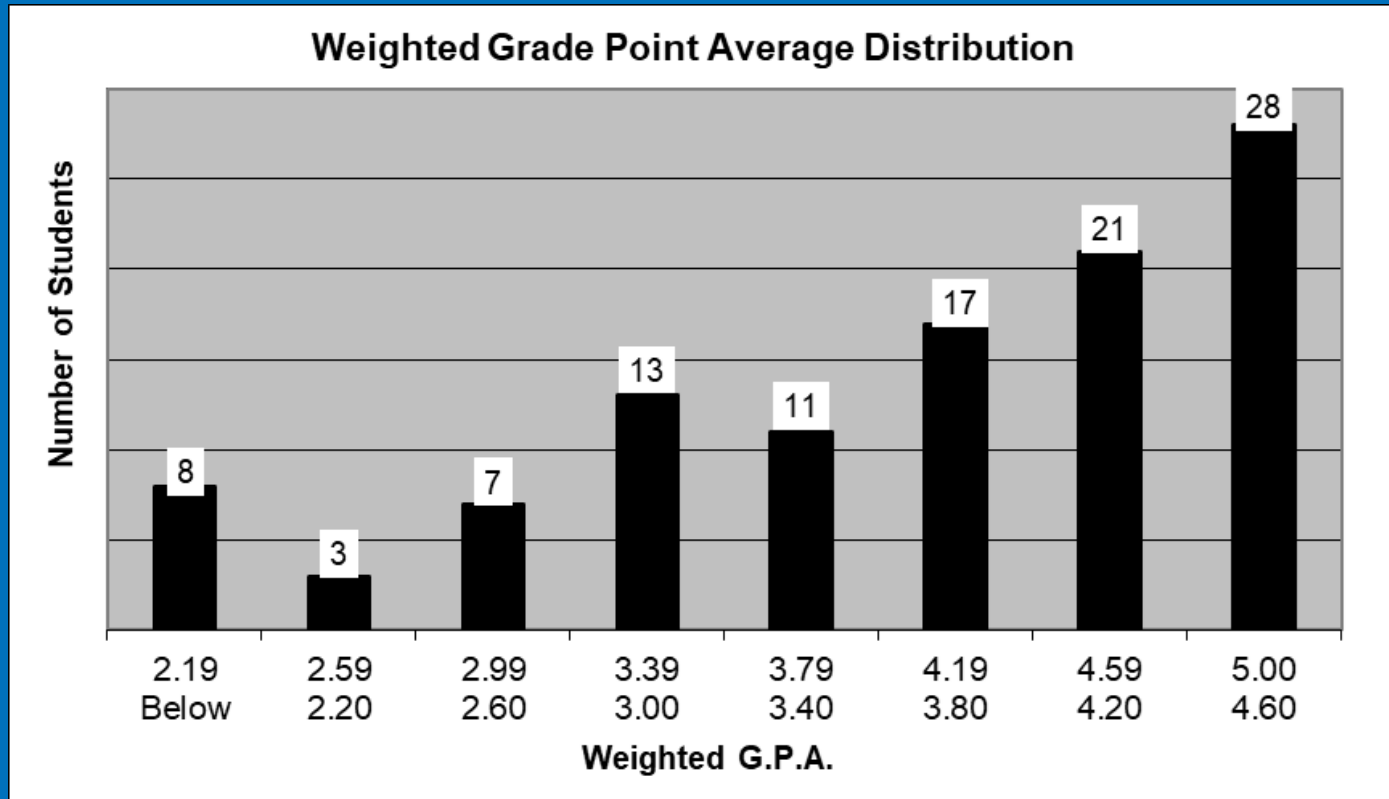


LHS PROFILE

- HS requirements
- College placement rate
- Levels of instruction
- Mean National, State and LHS SAT scores
- NHS requirements
- Extracurricular Activities
- College Matriculation



LHS PROFILE – Class of 2022



GPA DISTRIBUTION %



Key Dates

- Student must submit college applications by the set deadlines.
- Submit records release form, student activity form, student response form, and parent response forms to the school counseling office by **October 17, 2022**.
 - *Students may need to submit forms earlier, especially if they have deadlines before November 1.
- Counselors will submit transcripts and letters of recommendations to colleges.



Financial Aid



- FAFSA can be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov>
- FAFSA forms can be filed starting October 1, 2022.
- Information from 2021 Taxes will be used.
- MEFA College Financial Planning Virtual Webinars.



MEFA



- Obtain FAFSA ID
- Federal School Codes List
- Learn about Federal Financial Aid
- Learn about Massachusetts Financial Aid
- File FAFSA Online
- File Online CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®
- Free National Scholarship Search Calculate your EFC
- Attend High School Financial Aid Seminar
- Understanding Financial Aid Terms.



College Financing Webinars

- List of Webinars Offered:
 - “Understanding the FAFSA”
 - “What to Know about the CSS Profile”
 - “Financial Aid 101”
 - “Six Keys to Finding a Good College Fit”
 - “Athletics in College Admissions”
 - And more!

For the full list, visit: mefa.org/events



CSS/PROFILE

- Colleges use CSS Profile to award non-federal student aid funds. Some colleges require non-custodial parent to complete a non-custodial profile form.
- Register at www.cssprofile.collegeboard.org
- Available on October 1, 2022.
- 2 step process Registration and Application.
- A \$25.00 registration fee that includes submission to one college plus \$16.00 per each additional college requiring profile (free if family income < \$100,000).



CSS Profile™



Scholarships



- National, State, Local organizations
- College Scholarships
- Fastweb.com
- Applying for scholarships takes a great deal of research and time – start early.
- Littleton Scholarships
- * Beware of scams



John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

- Tuition waiver at MA state colleges and universities. (Range \$910 - \$1714)
- Awarded to students who score in the top 25% of 10th grade MCAS in their district.
- Notification in November 2022.



MCAS Certificate of Mastery

This scholarship also offers tuition waiver at MA State Colleges and Universities. Awarded to students who meet the following requirements.

1. Score of advanced in at least one 10th grade MCAS subject and proficient or advanced on the remaining sections of the 10th grade MCAS tests.
2. Two additional academic accomplishments in addition to their qualifying MCAS scores.



MCAS Certificate of Mastery

2 AP exams with a score of 3 or higher.

2 SAT Subject Test exams (with qualifying scores).

1 AP exam and 1 SAT Subject Test exam.

1 SAT Subject Test exam and 1 other accomplishment.

Qualifying students must complete an application (available in the school counseling office).



“College is a match to be made not a prize to be won.”

There is no clear cut formula for college admissions.

Perspective is very important.

Which colleges will help you continue your academic, personal, athletic, social and philosophical development?

Treat every college as though it is your first choice.

