



PRESS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, PARENTS SHOULD BE AWARE THE COUNT DOWN TO COLLEGE HAS BEGUN

Now is a perfect time for high school seniors, and their parents, to explore career paths and investigate colleges they would like to attend next fall.

Because the transition from high school to college can be intimidating and sometimes confusing, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is offering advice and a helpful calendar to follow.

"Now is the time for families to sit down and discuss which colleges they are considering, research the schools and financial aid options, and schedule college visits," said Chief Executive Officer Dr. John E. Deasy. "There is no more important decision for a family than how their child will gain access to higher education and the employment opportunities that are afforded to college graduates."

To make the college application process easier, PGCPS has posted on its web site (www.pgcps.org) the **CEO's Count Down to College Calendar**, which provides a monthly schedule of key milestones, and the **CEO's Top Ten Tips for College Enrollment**. The following list is an abbreviated version of the tips, which students should find helpful when planning their college search:

1. Select five colleges you would like to attend;
2. Submit applications to your top five college choices (often available online);
3. Pick up Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms from guidance counselors or local libraries;
4. Research and apply for scholarships, work on essays, and visit the PGCPS Scholarship and Financial Aid Center at Largo HS for assistance with FAFSA forms;
5. Take SAT at least twice, since colleges consider the highest SAT score;
6. Submit FAFSA forms (after January 1) and apply for scholarships and financial aid;
7. Send transcripts to colleges;
8. Consider acceptance letters and make college selection (April);
9. Prepare a budget plan for all college-related expenses; and
10. Follow up with college financial aid office and finalize college plans.