

College Knowledge Resources



**Advanced Academic Services
Austin Independent School District**

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Students and Families College Readiness Resources

Texas Workforce Commission's Reality Check <http://www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck/>

This website allows individuals to explore budgeting the level of earnings required to support specific standards of living as well as career interests and salaries.

College for all Texans www.collegeforalltexans.com

By visiting this website, you're just a few clicks from everything you need to select the Texas university, college, junior college or technical school that's best for you. And you'll find tools here that will help you plan everything in detail. You can even fill out an application for the college you choose and apply for financial aid. So relax, take a deep breath, and get started. Good luck!

KnowHow2Go www.KnowHow2Go.org

This site primarily targets middle and high school students, and their parents, with motivational content to encourage them to get ready for college. KnowHow2Go is a multiyear, multimedia effort designed to encourage more Texans to plan, enroll and succeed in college.

Café College <http://www.cafecollege.org/home>

College resource center located in San Antonio provides an informative online clearinghouse of college readiness resources designed for a variety of audiences.

My Future, My Way: First Steps Toward College — A Workbook for Students in Middle and Junior High Schools http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/my_future_my_way/index.html

Available in English and in Spanish. Information for middle and junior high school students about how to go to college and how to pay for education beyond high school. This publication also includes charts, checklists, and other activities to help students answer important questions, such as "Why think about college now?" "What can a college education do for me?" and "How will I pay for college?"

College Grazing www.collegegrazing.com

College Grazing offers free, interactive, self-discovery surveys to help identify college needs and desires. Based on the premise that self-awareness will lead to better college decisions, College Grazing offers immediate feedback about college preferences, readiness, characteristics, and much more.

The College Board: Planning for College <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/>

Sometimes the toughest part of planning something is just figuring out where to start. Get on track to finding an education and career track that matches your skills and preferences. Learn about all your options - and how you can achieve them.

Find a College <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/>

Choosing a college is a big decision. The key is to remember that there's no such thing as a "perfect" school. Explore your interests and take the time to find the college that's right for you.

Adventures in Education (AIE) <http://www.aie.org/>

AIE has college planning resources, financial aid information, career guidance, and money management tips to help families and students achieve their goals.

First in the Family www.firstinthefamily.org

First in the Family is packed with useful resources and heartfelt stories from students who are the first in their families to go to college. First in the Family guides students through the key issues—from cultural conflict to academic challenges—facing first-generation students.

The ACT www.actstudent.org

The ACT student site provides information on many aspects of planning for college, including career planning and financial aid. You can also register for the ACT and find materials to prepare for the test.

The College Board www.collegeboard.com

The College Board offers a variety of tools and resources to help you prepare and plan for college. Use "College MatchMaker" to generate a list of colleges that match your preferences. Create and manage your personal list of colleges with "My Organizer." Get ready for the SAT by taking an official, free practice test.

HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/>

The HEATH Resource Center is a web-based clearinghouse that serves as an information exchange of educational resources, support services and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The HEATH Resource Center gathers, develops and disseminates information in the form of resource papers, fact sheets, website directories, newsletters, and resource materials.

The College Essay <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html>

Planning the college admissions essay

Campus Tours <http://www.campustours.com/>

Virtual college tours, webcams, campus maps, college videos, and more

Index of American Universities <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/au/>

A comprehensive list of American university websites

Educator College Readiness Resources

CollegeEd Creating a College-going Culture Guide

http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/collegeed/collegeEd-create-college-going-culture.pdf

Changing culture is a daunting task, but one that is necessary to prepare students of all backgrounds for success in today's world. Shifting your school's focus to a college-going culture requires changing attitudes at all levels: administrative, faculty, staff, student, and parent. Concrete examples of ideas for implementation to support a college-going culture are included in this resource.

Pathways to College Network, College Readiness for All Toolbox <http://toolbox.pathwaystocollege.net/>

The College Readiness for All Toolbox is a set of researched tools, lessons learned, resources, and documents designed to do the following: create a college-ready culture for students, enhance student expectations, achievement, and access, provide educators and outreach professionals with self-assessment, and evaluation activities, help students and educators collaborate on postsecondary success, provide an understanding of the change process, and create an easy to use roadmap for program implementation.

Financial Resources

FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov

Learn all about the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, usually the first step in seeking financial aid for higher education.

The Department of Education's Federal Student Aid (FSA) www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

The Department of Education's Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs are the largest source of student aid in America. These programs provide more than \$80 billion a year in grants, loans, and work-study assistance. Learn more about and how to apply for this aid.

Financial Aid Resource Publications from the U.S. Department of Education

http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html

Description of federal student aid programs from the U.S. Department of Education. Grants, loans, and work-study are the three major forms of aid available through the Department's Federal Student Aid office. *Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid* tells you about the programs and how to apply for them.

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators www.nasfaa.org

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators offers a range of resources to help students, parents, and counselors navigate the college aid process.

FastWeb <http://www.fastweb.com/>

Scholarship information, check your fastWEB mailbox, focus on scholarship and loan information, and link to the FinAid Page.

CHCI Scholarship www.chci.org/scholarships

CHCI's scholarship opportunities are afforded to Latino students in the United States who have a history of performing public service-oriented activities in their communities and who demonstrate a desire to continue their civic engagement in the future.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund www.hsf.net

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation's leading Hispanic scholarship organization, providing the Hispanic community more college scholarships and educational outreach support than any other organization in the country. In its 34 year history, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund has awarded close to \$280M in scholarships to more than 90,000 students in need. Two-thirds of these students were the first in their families to go to college.

Recursos en Español

Excelencia Educativa www.yosipuedo.gov

Esto es la Iniciativa de la Casa Blanca en la Excelencia Educativa para Americanos hispanos. Encuentre información a sobresalir en la escuela en todos niveles del grado.

Education Planner www.educationplanner.org

Education Planner es el único sitio de planificación de su carrera y la universidad. Tenemos la información que usted necesita para investigar carreras, elegir una escuela postsecundaria, solicitar en línea, y encontrar modos de financiar su educación.

FAFSA <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/spanish/fafsa.jsp>

Aprenda todo acerca del FAFSA, la Aplicación Libre para la Ayuda Federal de Estudiante, generalmente el primer paso a buscar la ayuda financiera para la educación superior.