



# Hays Consolidated ISD

Committed to Preparing All Students to Graduate College, Career and Life Ready!

## SOPHOMORE CHECKLIST for College & Career Readiness

CLASS OF 2028

### FALL

#### COMPLETE COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES (through **SchoolLinks**)

- Complete college & career exploration tasks for your grade level on the comprehensive college & career readiness dashboard-**SchoolLinks** (which is accessible to you through your classlink single sign-on), to explore your strengths and interests to begin building a foundation for college & career readiness.

#### PLAN FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- Meet with your counselor to **discuss your college plans, course schedule and endorsements**. Review your schedule to make sure you are enrolled in challenging and rigorous classes. A wide variety of advanced courses are available to you including AP, Dual Credit and OnRamps/Dual Enrollment. Also, keep in mind that colleges prefer at least three years of a foreign language and four years of core classes.
- Start a calendar of important dates and deadlines.
- Get more involved in extracurricular activities and begin to make a resume of your activities. This will be of great use for you when starting to apply for college admissions, as well as jobs.
- **Attend college fairs**. Ask lots of questions about majors, financial aid, supports /resources available, etc.
- Prepare for your semester exams.

#### TAKE THE PSAT (NMSQT)

- Take the PSAT and do your best. **The PSAT will be administered in OCTOBER**. Hays CISD will pay for you to take it and there is no need to pre-register. *Be ready to do your best as the PSAT scores are not only a predictor of how well you will do on the actual SAT but also it is used as a measure of College Readiness!* (You will retake the PSAT one more time in the fall of your Junior year).
- When you take the PSAT/NMSQT, check "yes" for Student Search Services so that you can get information about colleges and scholarships.

### SPRING

#### PREPARE FOR TESTS

- Use the access code from your PSAT/NMSQT score report to customize an SAT study plan. This helps you explore interests and colleges, majors and careers. Based on your performance on the PSAT you are able to customize an SAT study plan; getting practice in the areas that you may need to improve on. [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org)
- Do your very best on your STAAR tests. Talk to your counselor if you have questions.
- Prepare for your semester exams and FINISH STRONG!

#### SIGNING UP FOR COURSES FOR NEXT FALL

- Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking AP, Dual Credit, OnRamps/Dual Enrollment, or Articulated courses next fall so that you can earn college credits while in high school.
- Check your progress in passing classes to earn the needed credits & maintaining a strong GRADE POINT AVERAGE.
- Revise/update your 4 YEAR PLAN (in **SchoolLinks**) and make sure you are completing at least one CTE class each year to earn your endorsement.

#### LEARN ABOUT COLLEGES

- Visit colleges online and compare programs, cost of attendance and even take a virtual tour through: [www.mytexasfuture.org](http://www.mytexasfuture.org), <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>,
- Complete CC readiness tasks in **SCHOOLINKS**, our comprehensive College & Career Readiness platform: <https://app.schoolinks.com/login/k12>  
*\*(You can now access this NEW College & career readiness platform through your Classlink single sign-on)*  
**A great resource for college & career exploration.**
- Tour colleges during Spring break or in the summer (colleges have special events for high school students).

#### STAY FOCUSED

- Sign up for rigorous courses; AP, articulated, Dual Credit and/or Dual Enrollment courses for your junior year.
- Make sure to DO YOUR BEST in all classes. Keep in mind that the GPA (which drives your rank) that you will use to apply for college admissions during the Summer/Fall of your senior year, is calculated from **ALL coursework taken from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade** (even including HS credits earned in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade).

## EXPLORE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- Look for summer opportunities to put on your resume: internships, jobs or classes taken in the summer
- Talk to your counselor about taking advanced courses, like Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment in the spring of your sophomore year or be ready to take additional advanced courses in the new school year.
- Visit/tour college campuses and take advantage of special events that they offer for HS students.



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## TEST PRACTICE & PREPARATION RESOURCES

SAT CUSTOMIZED TEST PREP: [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

ACT PERSONALIZED PRACTICE: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

TSIA2 TEST PREP through ACCUPLACER & Download the APP as well:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice>

and through the ACC Website: <http://instruction.austincc.edu/tsiprep/>

## COLLEGE RESOURCES

EXPLORE AND COMPARE COLLEGE OPTIONS:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

**SCHOOLINKS** our NEW COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING PLATFORM:

<https://app.schoolinks.com/login/k12>

*\*(you can now access our College & career readiness platform through your ClassLink single sign-on)*

COMPARE COLLEGES: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

GET FINANCIAL AID GUIDANCE: <https://StudentAid.gov>

COMPLETE the FAFSA (the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid): <https://studentaid.gov>

## CAREER RESOURCES

WHERE TO LEARN ABOUT CAREERS? <https://roadtripnation.com>

OTHER CAREER EXPLORATION TOOLS: <https://texascareercheck.com/>

My Big Future/College Board: <https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder>

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) - <https://twc.texas.gov/programs>

CAREERS IN THE MILITARY: <https://www.careersinthemilitary.com/>

ASVAB Test: Contact a Recruiter <http://www.todaymilitary.com/>

## COLLEGE FAIRS

TACRAO COLLEGE FAIR - Wednesday, October 22nd

National Hispanic College Fair      Early/Late March      Date & Location TBA

NACAC Austin National College Fair      Late March      Format & Location TBA