

PROFILE SCHOOL COLLEGE HANDBOOK



2015-2016

Hello Profile Students and Parents~

The School Counselors put together this comprehensive College Handbook to assist 11th and 12th grade students and their parents in the college admissions process. For seniors this information should be a review from the Transition class taken in the junior year. For the rising juniors, this handbook will be used as a source in the quarter long Transition class led by the Profile School Counseling staff. While the handbook has been written for students, it should prove useful to parents who are new to the process as well as those who need a quick refresher. Along with this handbook, the School Counseling page on the Profile School website has a college links page that will take you to a number of useful sites in the college admissions process.

The school counseling staff will meet individually with 11th and 12th grade students to assist with post-secondary planning. In order to best serve our students in this critical period of transition, students will be assigned to a counselor by alphabetic distribution. Students with last names beginning with the letters A-H will be assigned to Ms. Lanham and Mrs. Frank will have students whose last names begin with the letters I-Z. This distribution allows each counselor to have the opportunity to very work closely with her students throughout their high school career at Profile.

We welcome and encourage parents and students to come in together to discuss the college admissions process. Please pay particular attention to the *Important Dates* section of the handbook. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us via phone or e-mail at your convenience. Your participation and support throughout this process is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jessie Lanham – jlanh@profile.k12.nh.us

Paula Frank – pfran@profile.k12.nh.us

"The Profile School Community will provide diverse educational opportunities to inspire, engage, and challenge all students"

2015-2016 Important Dates

- September** ***All seniors should make an appointment with their school counselor***
9/03 – Registration deadline for October SAT
9/10 – College Information Night @ 6:00pm in the Profile Media Center
9/12 – ACT testing @ Profile
9/16 – Mini college fair at Profile @ 1:30-2:30pm
9/18 – Registration deadline for October ACT
9/21 – NEACAC College Fair at SNHU @ 6:00-8:00pm
9/22 – NEACAC College Fair at SNHU @ 9:00-11:00am
- October** 10/03 – SAT testing @ Profile
10/05 – NEACAC College Fair at UNH @ 6:30-8:30pm
10/06 – NEACAC College Fair at UNH @ 9:00-11:00am
10/09 – Registration deadline for November SAT
10/14 – PSAT (required of all 11th graders)
10/24 – ACT testing @ Plymouth
Seniors can begin submitting applications to colleges
- November** 11/05 – Registration deadline for December SAT
11/07 – SAT testing @ Littleton High School
11/15 – Early Action deadline for UNH
Many early decision and early action deadlines are November 1st
- December** 12/01 – If your college has a January 1st deadline, you need to have all information to your school counselor by this date, to ensure that it will be processed before the holiday recess
12/03 – Financial Aid Night @ 6:00pm in the Profile Media Center
12/05 – SAT testing @ St. Johnsbury Academy
12/28 – Registration deadline for January SAT
- January** 01/01 – Suggested date to begin filing the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
If your school requires mid-term grades, you must officially request them from your school counselor
01/23 – SAT testing @ St. Johnsbury Academy
Be aware of colleges with January deadlines
- February** 02/01 – Regular decision application deadline for UNH
- March** 03/04 – Registration deadline for April ACT
- April** Application deadlines for Keene State College and Plymouth State University
04/02 – NHHEAF's Destination College @ Southern New Hampshire University
04/08 – Registration deadline for May SAT
04/09 – ACT testing @ Profile
04/12 – Financial Aid Award Letter Night @ 6:00pm in the Profile Media Center
- May** 05/02 – Common Scholarship Application due to the Guidance Department
05/02-05/13 – AP testing
05/05 – Registration deadline for June SAT
 – NH Scholars Day @ Northeast Delta Dental Stadium
05/07 – SAT testing @ Littleton High School

June

06/03 – Last day of school for seniors

06/04 – SAT testing @ Profile

06/10 – Graduation @ 6:00pm

College Admissions Criteria

1. **Transcript.** Your transcript is a record of all classes taken in your high school career and it is the most important factor in college admissions. Colleges want to see that you have taken the courses required for admission and that you have gone beyond the minimum. Schools look for both rigor and breadth. A college would rather have you take a difficult course with a B than to take an easier course and earn an A. Colleges focus on the college preparatory courses you have taken and often refigure your grade point average using only these classes.
2. **Grade Point Average.** After colleges look at what you have taken for courses, they want to see how you have done. Obviously, the better the grades, the better you will look as a candidate for admission. At Profile School, GPA is not weighted. All classes have equal standing when GPA is computed. For this reason, colleges may choose to reconfigure your GPA using only core classes. The school profile has a conversion chart that shows how your numerical average on a 100-point scale is converted to a 4.0 scale for college admission.
3. **Admissions Tests.** Most colleges use at least one college admissions test in the admissions process. You may submit scores from the SAT or the ACT. All colleges that accept the SAT will also accept the ACT. Some highly competitive schools require students to take SAT Subject Tests. It is your responsibility to find out if you need to take any Subject Tests. The website www.compassprep.com has a list of schools that require Subject Tests. As requirements often change from year to year, the college admissions office is the best source of information. If you take the ACT, many schools will waive the Subject Test requirement. Each year more schools are dropping the admissions test requirement. However, at this point in time, the vast majority of colleges still require that you submit scores from at least one admissions test. For a list of schools that do not require admissions tests visit the following website www.fairtest.org. The more competitive the college, the more weight it usually puts on admissions test scores.
4. **Class Rank.** Most colleges request class rank when applications are submitted. At Profile School, class rank is weighted and is figured on a quality point system. Courses are leveled with the more rigorous courses awarding higher points. Three factors determine your class rank: the difficulty of your curriculum, the grades received, and the number of credits taken.
5. **Recommendations.** Most schools require that you submit a recommendation from the Guidance Department. Many schools require one or two additional recommendations from teachers. You should request recommendations from academic teachers who can speak to your academic strengths.
6. **Essay.** The essay is your chance to both show your writing skills and to show the college something about you beyond the basic application questions. You need to be sure that you address the essay topic and that it is in proper essay form. Before you submit your essay make sure that another person has proofread it. The Guidance Department has experience reading

many students' essays and can offer assistance. Your English teacher will be happy to read it for you as well.

7. **Extra-Curricular Activities.** Nonacademic activities such as sports, drama, music, student government, community service or special skills /talents can make you a stronger candidate. While these will not take the place of academic achievement they will show you as a well-rounded student and address your ability to balance your life, a quality that adds to success at the college level.

8. **Interview.** Some schools will give students personal interviews that may or may not be considered a part of the admissions process. Interviews are rarely a deciding factor in admissions but a good interview may help to make your application stand out and also will allow you to gather information about the school. The more competitive the college, the more impact a positive interview may have in your admissions decision.

Below are the results of a College Board survey of 1,800 college and university admissions offices. The College Board asked the admissions offices to rate six factors as either "very important or important".

1.	School Achievement	93%
2.	Test Scores	87%
3.	Recommendations	50%
4.	Essay	44%
5.	Interview	33%
6.	Activities	30%

As the results show, there is no way to escape your high school transcript. The rigor of your courses and your grade point average have been the most important factor in college admissions since the College Board began this survey in the early 1980's. The other criteria are important, particularly at highly selective colleges where every applicant presents a similar transcript, but they will not overcome a weak high school record.

College Admissions Exams

College admissions testing probably provokes more anxiety among high school students than any other aspect of the admissions process. The dreaded SAT can invoke fear in the heart of even the most capable of junior or senior honor students. This should not be the case. Most colleges and universities use the admissions test as a guide and test results are not going to be the deciding factor for the majority of students. Colleges post either average admissions scores or a range of scores. These can help you determine if a school is a good fit for you but should not discourage you from applying if all other factors look good. The only real exception to this is at highly competitive colleges. The second baby boom and the advent of the Common Application have brought a dramatic increase in applications to top tier colleges. As a result, acceptance rates have dropped as low as 8% at some of these schools. In an effort to sort out the best candidates from a highly qualified pool, these schools look at admissions testing much more closely than others when making admissions decisions.

The purpose of college admissions exams is to provide the college admissions staff with a common measure of ability in order to understand and compare applicants from different educational backgrounds. High schools have different grading scales, different curriculums, and may vary greatly in the rigor of the courses that are offered. In theory, college admissions tests provide a common measure of ability. The SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT along with your high school transcript are used as two major predictors of academic success.

SAT Reasoning Test – Often referred to as the SAT or the “college boards”, this is the most familiar test for students in New England. There are four parts to the test: Critical Reading, Math, Writing, and the essay. The test begins with writing prompt and students have a half hour to write an essay in response. The essays are graded on a scale of 2-12. The three major sections of the test are multiple choice and each section is scored between 200 and 800. The Writing section was added a few years ago. Most colleges and universities are now using the writing section for college admissions. The Guidance Department advises all students who are considering attending a four-year college to take the SAT in the spring of the junior year and again in the fall of the senior year. Registration is done online at the website, www.collegeboard.com. It is the student’s responsibility to register for the appropriate test. When registering for the SAT, be sure to use Profile School’s CEEB code – 300056. The cost for the SAT is \$54.50. If the cost of the SAT is a financial hardship, please see your school counselor for a fee waiver.

SAT Subject Test – The SAT Subject Tests are one hour subject matter examinations offered by the College Board. A number of highly selective colleges and universities require applicants to take these

tests. Typically you are required to take two tests. Schools may dictate which tests are required or you may allow you to choose. It is your responsibility to find out the exam requirements for your schools of choice. The subject tests are used for either admissions or placement or both. Subject tests are offered in Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, United States History, World History, Mathematics I and II, and in a variety of foreign languages. If you are taking a test in a subject such as Chemistry or World History, you should take the test as close to the end of the course as possible. If you are taking Literature or a Mathematics test, you should take it in November or December of your senior year. You can register at www.collegeboard.com. The cost is \$26 for the basic registration fee and \$18 for each subject test. Eligible students may waivers may be obtained from the guidance office.

ACT – The ACT is the other major college admission test. For many years schools in the western part of the country used the ACT. Over the last ten years it has become an increasingly popular choice by students everywhere. All schools that accept the SAT will also accept the ACT although some schools such as Middlebury College require the ACT. The ACT is a multiple choice test that assesses students in the areas of English, Math, Reading, and Science. The writing (essay) is optional. Students who opt for the writing section stay after the multiple choice portions of the test and have a half hour to respond to a writing prompt. Each section is scored from 10 to 36 and a composite score of 10 to 36 is given as well. The basic difference between the tests is that the SAT purports to measure your potential while the ACT measures what you have learned in school. For this reason some students who do well in school but do not seem to test well prefer the ACT.

Some competitive schools that require the SAT Subject Test will waive this requirement if you have taken the ACT. The Guidance Department recommends that students take both the SAT and the ACT. The ACT is offered at Profile School in September and in April.

You can register online at www.actstudent.org. The costs for the test are \$39.50 for the no writing option and \$56.50 for the writing option. As with the SAT, please be sure to include the Profile School code – 300056 when registering. Waivers are available from the guidance office to students for whom it would be a financial hardship to pay for the test.

PSAT – The PSAT is a preliminary or practice SAT. The test is designed to give 10th and 11th grade students experience with this type of assessment before taking the actual SAT. It is shorter than the actual SAT and does not contain an essay. Students take multiple-choice tests in critical reading, mathematics, and writing. Each section is scored from 20 to 80 and corresponds with SAT scores of 200 to 800. Besides giving you an estimate of your future SAT score, the PSAT also gives you feedback on areas that may need improvement along with study strategies. 11th grade students also compete in the National Merit Scholarship competition. National Merit status is based on your index score that is comprised from subscores on the three sections of the test. Profile School requires all 11th grade students to take the PSAT as a part of our school-wide testing program. Students will not have to preregister as the Guidance Department will register students. There will be no cost to the student for this test.

Types of Schools

Technical School – Technical schools offer a variety of programs from computers and culinary arts to motorcycle repair or cosmetology that provide training in a specific area. Many are private proprietary schools that focus on one or two careers while others may offer a range of programs. Most technical schools offer certificates or diplomas but do not offer associate degrees. The advantage of these schools is that you immerse yourself in one subject without having to take any general education courses and often the course of study can be completed in six, nine, or twelve months. You need to be focused, as you will study a particular field.

Two Year College - There are private and public two-year colleges. The vast majority of these schools are public community colleges. Approximately half of all college students in the U.S. attend a community college. Two-year colleges offer two basic programs that lead to the associate degree. Liberal arts or general education programs are designed for students who want to transfer to a four-year college or university. Students in good academic standing can transfer without loss of credit. Community college transfer programs can offer a significant tuition savings in the first two years of study and can allow students to live at home, saving on room and board costs. Most community colleges have open admissions policies and can offer a student with a less than stellar high school record a chance to take college level work and make up any deficits before transferring to a four-year program. The other program at two year colleges leads to an associate degree in a specific skills or technical area. Examples would include areas of study such as Nursing, Early Childhood Education, Landscape Design, Fire Science, Automotive Technology, Interior Design or Criminal Justice to name a few. The New Hampshire Community College system has seven colleges that offer over 100 associate degree or certificate programs.

Liberal Arts College – A liberal arts college is a school that focuses on giving you a broad general education as well as having you focus on a major area of study. The college will be divided into departments, i.e. – English, Political Science, Psychology, etc. and usually will offer one or two degrees (Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science). The main focus is on undergraduate education and these schools tend to be smaller than universities. Many liberal arts colleges will offer career-focused majors such as Business or Engineering and some will offer graduate programs as well. In New Hampshire liberal arts college enrollments go from the smallest Thomas Moore College of Liberal Arts with 100 students to Dartmouth College and Keene State College with about 4,000 undergraduate students. While a smaller liberal arts college may not offer you the diversity of student body or range of majors of a university, many students are able to develop a more personal relationship with professors and enjoy the smaller class size. The faculty emphasis in a liberal arts college is on teaching rather than research.

Specialty College – Some four-year colleges specialize in a particular area of study such as Business, Engineering, or Art. While students still study for a Bachelor’s degree, most of the majors are within the broad general field of the college’s focus. The following are examples of schools in this niche. Babson College, Bentley College, and Bryant University are well known New England business colleges, Massachusetts College of Art and Rhode Island School of Design are “art schools” and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is perhaps the most famous engineering school in the world. There are also schools that focus on the environment; Unity College and the College of the Atlantic are examples of small four year colleges in Maine that share this focus. The advantage of a school of this type is that you will be surrounded by students who share your career interest and most likely will be similar to you in other respects. Disadvantages may be a lack of diversity in the student body and, if you decide to change your major, you may have to transfer to another school.

University – Universities tend to be larger and they offer many degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Universities are divided into colleges such as the college of liberal arts, college of business, college of education, etc. At some universities you apply to a specific college while others have a general application process. There are advantages and disadvantages to large universities. On the plus side, universities have comprehensive curriculums with a wide range of majors and opportunity for research. The larger population offers a more diverse student body and there is usually something to meet all interests. The size may work as a negative. Classes may be much larger, contact with professors may be more limited, and the overall atmosphere may not be as user- friendly as at a smaller college.

College Search Strategies

Students and parents are always asking “what is the best college?” There is no single answer to this question; it is different for every student. While we all know that Harvard and Dartmouth are excellent colleges, they are not the best choice for every student that is admitted. The question to be asked should be “What is the best college for me?” With over 3,000 colleges and universities from which to choose, the task can seem overwhelming.

When you are planning a vacation you do not start with whether you are going to fly, take a train, or drive your car, you start with where do you want to go and then decide the best method to get there. The same process holds true for a college search. Before you start surfing the Internet or flipping through the pages of one of the big college guides, you should know what you are looking for in a school. There are some basic questions you need to answer before the search. The first of these is “Why am I going to college?” Are you looking to pick up specific skills, do you want to study a particular subject, do you have a career goal in mind, or do you just want to get out of the house and away from the North Country? Your basic goal for attending college should be your first guide in the search. Do I want to be close enough to come home on a regular basis or do I want to live in a different part of the country? Do I want a small school or a large one? Do I want to be in the city, the suburbs or in a rural area? After the student has answered these questions on some level, the search can begin.

Finances are of great concern to most families and the cost of a school needs to be a part of the search process. Do not assume that it is always cheaper to attend a public school over a private school, as the level of aid may be far greater at the private school. At the same time do not assume that you will get a large financial aid package. Families need to be proactive and get a basic estimate of what they will have to contribute. FAFSA 4caster and the collegeboard.com sites can both give a very good estimate of the expected family contribution.

The big question on most students’ minds is “Can I get in?” College admissions have never been more competitive and students need to be realistic in the search process. When a family looks at their child, they see a great kid who has worked hard and really deserves to go to the school of his or her choice. Families are rarely objective when it comes to looking at their child’s chances. On the other side of the coin, a college admissions representative at a competitive college is looking at hundreds or thousands of applications from straight A students with outstanding achievements but can only admit a small percentage of the applicants. A student should not sell himself or herself short but should also know if he or she has a reasonable chance of admission. Guidebooks, websites, and college admissions bulletins give information about students admitted in the previous year. Students should pay attention to this information.

A rule of thumb that has helped to guide many students through the process is the Reach, Fit, Safety approach.

Reach School – A reach school is a school that will be competitive or a “reach” for the student. Any school with an admissions rate of 10% to 25% is a reach school for all students. It is very hard to predict who will be admitted to a competitive program. The Director of admissions at Princeton University advises school counselors to “assume no one is getting in”. A reach school is different for all students. For one student it is Yale University and for another it is the University of New Hampshire. Students should include one or two reach schools in their search. Each year the Guidance Department sees some students who only include reach schools in their search. This makes for a disappointed student at admissions time and severely limits a student’s choice.

Fit School – A fit school is a college where the applicant looks like the majority of other applicants. At a true fit school, your test scores and transcript will fit somewhere in the middle of the bell curve. A student should put most of his or her energy into finding a fit school as this is most likely where he or she will attend college. In a typical search with a goal of applying to five schools, it should be one reach, three fit, and one safety.

Safety School – A safety school is a school where the student is confident he or she will be admitted. When choosing a safety school it is important for the student to make sure that he or she would be happy at this school. There is no safety in applying to a school that you would not want to attend. Students must also have a financial safety school. You may get into your three or four top choices but not get a financial aid package that will allow you to attend any of these schools. A financial safety school is one that you can afford to attend even if you get shut out from most financial aid.

College Application Deadlines

Regular Admission: Students must submit a completed application by the school's deadline. Colleges have different deadlines and it is the student's responsibility to meet these. Common deadlines run from 2/1 to 3/31. Applications may be sent in as soon as first quarter grades are available.

Rolling Admission: Students are able to apply for admission throughout the year. Applications are viewed on a first-come, first-served basis, and are accepted until the class is filled.

Early Action: Early Action allows prospective students to apply early. You will be notified of your admissions status before the college deadline. This process **does not** commit you to attending this college.

Early Decision: Early Decision allows students to apply early and also to be notified of their admissions status at an early date. The difference between Early Decision and Early Action is that if a student is accepted under Early Decision, he/she is **obligated** to attend that college. As a part of the Early Decision application, a student signs off that he/she will withdraw his/her applications to other colleges if admitted. The guidance counselor processing the application also has to sign an acknowledgement that the student's other applications will be withdrawn.

Students and parents always want to know the advantages and disadvantages to early college applications. There are many opinions in the professional community as to the merits of such action. The Profile School Guidance Department encourages any student to apply Early Action, as there is no negative consequence for such an action. The worse scenario is that a student will be deferred to the regular admissions deadline with no penalty for the early application. It is not the same for an Early Decision application. In both cases you are asking the college to accept you before it has seen the entire application pool. You are in effect saying, "I am so good, you need not look any further." If you are applying to a competitive school, your application should match the top half of the profile of admitted students the year before. If you are accepted Early Decision, you will be attending that college. You have to make this decision before you have a full financial aid offer. You need to be confident that you can afford to attend this college without much financial aid.

If you are sure that this is the school for you and that you can live with the uncertain financial aid, you should probably apply Early Decision. If you are not 100% sure of either of these two factors, you should wait and apply at the regular deadline. Most competitive colleges inform students of admissions decisions on 4/1. It would be great to know that the college of your dreams is going to admit you months ahead of that deadline. This is the real advantage to Early Decision. While it is true that a higher percentage of Early Decision applicants are accepted over regular applicants, the Early Decision pool is far stronger and this accounts for the higher acceptance rate, not the early application.

Common Application

The Common Application is a program that allows you to apply to a number of colleges by filling out one application. The Common Application now has over 500 members for 2015-2016 with 60 new schools joining this year. Not all colleges and universities accept the Common Application and you will need to determine if the schools you are looking at are members. The University of New Hampshire, Keene State College, and Plymouth State University are all using the Common Application exclusively. If you go to the website www.commonapp.org you can find a list of current member schools. Most applications are filed online and you can go to the Common Application site and fill out the basic application. Your schools may require you to also fill out some supplementary forms, if so, this site will tell you this. School counselors and teachers are able to upload school recommendation forms and teacher recommendation forms directly to the Common Application portal.

The major advantage of this form is less paper work. The essay will be the same for each school (with a few exceptions) and this really seems to appeal to students. There really is no downside if you can use this application form. Be sure to download copies of all forms and your essay for your records.

Note: Some schools such as Plymouth State University (PSU) subscribe to the Common Application, but also offer their own application. For instance, if you apply to PSU using the Common Application, you will have to pay a \$50 application fee. If you visit their website and apply through the Panther Application, there is no fee to apply.

New England Regional Student Program

The New England Board of Higher Education sponsors the Tuition Break program. Under this program residents of New England states may be eligible for reduced tuition at out-of-state colleges and universities. If your state does not offer the major you are looking to study at a public school, you can apply for the New England Regional Tuition at another New England public school that offers the program. You pay in-state tuition plus 50%, which is typically far less than the out-of-state tuition. For example, a student wishing to study Landscape Architecture could receive a discount at the University of Connecticut, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, or the University of Rhode Island as New Hampshire does not offer any public programs in this discipline. The respective savings per academic year are \$11,784 at the University of Connecticut, \$10,211 at the University of Massachusetts, and \$10,318 at the University of Rhode Island. Programs are offered from the associate level up to the doctoral level. It is worth checking out. Go to www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak and click on New Hampshire Tuition Break to get a list of eligible programs.

Retention and Graduation Rates

When checking out colleges a good figure to look at is the retention and graduation rates. Retention is the number of students who return after their freshman year. The graduation rate is the percentage of entering students who graduate. Both of these figures are good indicators that academic, social, and financial support systems exist for most students.

Financial Aid/College Costs

Paying for college is a major concern of all students and families. The cost of an education keeps escalating and financial aid has not kept pace with tuition increases. You should not panic but you do need to plan. Two facts should be kept in mind. The first is that while you are constantly hearing “sticker prices” of \$40,000 plus, the average cost of college tuition and room and board is far below this figure. The second is that college is perhaps the best financial investment that you will ever make. The U.S. Census Bureau data shows college graduates earning on the average, \$25,000 per year more than high school graduates. This comes out to over \$1,000,000 in a student’s lifetime. Even the most expensive schools are paying off at 5 to 1.

The financial aid process can seem daunting but in reality, it is pretty straightforward. Most financial aid will come from the filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. This form cannot be filed until January 1st of any given year. The financial information gathered by this document will be sent to the colleges selected by the student. The college will then build a financial aid package based on this information. A financial aid meeting held in December covers this process in depth. The main point to remember is that you need to file as early as you can and do your best to meet all financial aid deadlines. Some private schools use the CSS Profile from the College Board. You need to check with the schools to which you have applied, to see if you need to file this form as well. You can start a CSS file before January but it will not be finalized until after January 1. The FAFSA is free; there is a cost with the CSS Profile. The vast majority of applicants will only need to file the FAFSA. Some colleges still have their own financial aid forms but this is much less common than it used to be. The FAFSA or the CSS Profile will determine an EFC (Expected Family Contribution). This figure is what the family will be expected to pay and financial aid is based on this figure. To get an early estimate of your EFC go to www.collegeboard.com and click on Pay for College at the top of the page, then click on fin.aid calculator. It contains a worksheet that will give a very good estimate of your EFC. You can also go to www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov to get an estimate of your EFC.

Note: The FAFSA website is www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is another website, www.fafsa.com, which charges you to complete the FAFSA. Remember, the FAFSA is FREE, so please be cautious.

Parents and students are always asking about scholarships. A fact to keep in mind is that only 2% of college costs are paid for with private scholarships. In fact, many times when a student is awarded a private scholarship, the school deducts this amount from the financial aid package. This does not mean that students should not pursue scholarships but that one needs to keep the process in perspective. Spending all of your time filling out applications and writing essays will most likely not result in a big payoff. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (www.nhcf.org) is a clearinghouse for many New Hampshire scholarships. Students can register online to be considered for aid. Most private scholarships will come from the local area. Profile School has the Common Scholarship Application (CSA) that students fill out and it is sent to many area organizations. This form cannot be completed until the student has been accepted and made a decision about which college to attend. A meeting is held in the spring with seniors to distribute the forms. Most financial aid will come from the college financial aid package and the local scholarships. There will be a running Goggle Doc that

contains various scholarships that we receive. This document is emailed to students as well as listed on the *Guidance* section of the Profile webpage.

College Search Resources

Choices – The Internet has many sites with college search programs. The commercial program *Choices* is among the best. Profile School subscribes to the Choices program and it is available on the media center computers. It is comprehensive and quick. If a student has a general idea of what he or she is searching for, it is easy to generate a list of potential schools. The search mode allows students to enter search criteria in over a dozen areas. For example, a student is interested pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Biology at a medium sized (4,000 – 8,000 student) college or university in the Northeast. The *Choices* program brings up a list of 19 schools that are a match. The program allows you to look up basic facts about the school and to connect directly with the school website. Life has become easier than the old days of searching through the thick college guidebooks.

College guidebooks do have a role to play in this day of electronic searches. They make it easy to make quick comparisons of schools and to look up tuition costs or admissions deadlines very quickly. Recommended are the following:

<u>The College Handbook</u>	(The College Board)
<u>The Fiske Guide to the Colleges</u>	
<u>The College Admissions Data Sourcebook</u>	(Wintergreen Orchard House)
<u>US News and World Report Ultimate College Guide</u>	
<u>The Best 361 Colleges</u>	(The Princeton Review)
<u>Rugg’s Recommendations on the Colleges</u>	(Fredrick Rugg)

The following books are also excellent sources in your search:

<u>Looking Beyond the Ivy League</u>	(Loren Pope)
<u>Colleges That Change Lives</u>	(Loren Pope)
<u>Harvard Schmarvard</u>	(Jay Matthews)
<u>Cool Colleges</u>	(Donald Asher)
<u>America’s Best Colleges for the B Student</u>	(Tamra Orr)
<u>The Gatekeepers*</u>	(Jacques Steinberg)

* An in-depth look at how a competitive college admissions office works. This book is not a how to guide for the process but may enlighten students and parents about admissions at this level.

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