

Over-arching Strategy: “Early”, Realistic, Manageable & Quality

Terms:

ACT, SAT, SAT II: Standardized exams that most colleges require, though SAT II is only required by the most selective ones. Students are urged to take the SAT and ACT once, a 2nd time on the strongest. Although a third time can show improvement, research shows more than 3x usually does not.

CEEB: College applications will ask for this high school code, which for Riverview is **101583**

Deferred: Decision on admissions is being delayed, usually because the college wants to see additional grades and information. Sometimes they want to see another standardized test score. Deferred is a good thing, as the successful IB senior has a lot to show.

Early Action: Some colleges have this application procedure, in which the candidate can find out if they are accepted. It is non-binding, and the college can also choose to delay decision.

Early Decision: The application option requests ‘immediate’ decision. It is recommended if the applicant is sure that he/she wants to attend and the profile (GPA/Class Rank/SAT/ACT) fits. Be careful, if the profile does not fit yet, students will be denied.

FAFSA: Free financial assessment that parents should fill out immediately after January 1. It lets the family know how much loan \$\$ may be available, advises what the family is able to pay, and lets the colleges know how much \$\$ can be granted.

GPA/Class Rank: Technically, this figure changes just at the semesters. It is the academic achievement comparison of students. When students report it on applications, consistency is advised.

Hook: As a student makes application, emphasis should be made as to what he/she brings to the college, and why the student is choosing that school. This should be consistent in application, essay, and, recommendations.

Personal Statement: Also synonymous with essay, in simple terms ‘Who are you?’ Think of the IB learner profile.

Registrar: The official office of the high school that issues grade reports. Students are responsible to request, receive, and verify with this office that reports have been issued.

Resume: This one page summary of your high school career should be used to complete applications, to use for recommendations, and to present at interviews.

Scholarships: The granting of funds for future study. They usually come from community agencies, national organizations and college sponsored sources. Although it is totally fine to apply for scholarships at any time, best success is reached when the student knows where and why they will be attending a college. Be careful of deadlines and what is being ask to specifically ‘provide’.

Strategy: Game plan to be admitted into the college that you choose to attend.

Recommend 3 – 8 applications

- ❖ *Reach:* A college that you would like to attend but fit some, no all, of their criteria.
- ❖ *Likely:* A college that fits what you want, whose admission criteria you math perfectly.
- ❖ *Safety:* A college that you could happily attend, but would prefer other(s).

Transcript: The official transcript is issued by the Registrar’s Office and it can be issued to you (you must not open the envelope.) or it can be sent to the college. Be careful, when you request the transcript, it will have the latest grades, i.e. first quarter. The unofficial transcript is not sealed.

Wait Listed: Admissions decision has not been made either way. Currently this status usually means that the college is trying to save face or protect itself in case actual enrollment is troublesome.