

You can get
fee waivers for
applications!

And get
scholarships!

**Try these
resources to
get all the
help you need**

TERI Higher Education Center

Boston Public Library at Copley
700 Boylston Street
Boston MA 02116
1-877-332-4348
www.tericollegeplanning.org

Bottom Line College Counseling Service

617-524-8833
www.bottomline.org

www.CollegeBoard.com

Information about applying for college
and SAT registration. Practice for the SATs with the
Question of the Day.

National Black College Alliance

617-442-8045
www.nbcalliance.org

Ready Set Go To College

<http://readysetgotocollege.com/ready.htm>

The Access Program

617-778-7195
www.accessboston.org

**Check your local community center and
library for SAT prep!**

For more info:

www.BostonScholarshipGuide.com

And check out the link to the
Boston Public School's College Guide

<http://boston.k12.ma.us/bps/CollegeGuide.pdf>



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

Mayor's Youthline

617-635-2240

www.BostonYouthZone.com

Mayor's Youthline

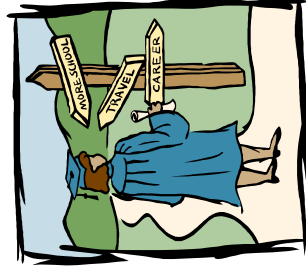
Countdown to College

Guide for Boston's Teens

The Mayor's Youthline prepared this
brochure for planning, applying, and
paying for college. This useful guide will
help you get organized, informed, and
ready for college.

Additional resources and a list of Boston
area scholarships can be found at:

www.BostonScholarshipGuide.com



Planning

College planning begins in the fall of your junior year. Use this list to prepare for college!

- ☐ Take the PSAT
- ☐ Attend a College Fair
- ☐ Investigate the schools that appealed to you during your college fair visit.
- ☐ Talk with your family about college, including college costs.
- ☐ Register for March SAT I and/or April ACT
- ☐ Develop a preliminary list of 15-25 colleges.
- ☐ Make an appointment with your guidance counselor to discuss your college plans.
- ☐ Select courses for senior year: keep in mind college requirements.
- ☐ Consider teachers for recommendations.
- ☐ Take SAT or SAT II's (if applicable)
- ☐ Make a financial aid checklist. Visit the:

Boston Public Library TERI Higher Education Center

The first few months of your senior year will probably be the most hectic of your high school career. You will have to cram a lot of things into a very small period of time. You will spend a good deal of time filling out college applications and writing college essays. Use this check list to keep on track!

- ☐ Meet with your guidance counselor
- ☐ Register for October SAT, ACT, ELPT and/or TOEFL tests.
- ☐ Plan college visits.
- ☐ Consider applying Early Decision or Early Action.
- ☐ Write college essays with the aid of a teacher or trusted friend.
- ☐ Ask two or three teachers whom you know well, to write recommendations for the colleges that you know you want to apply to.

Give them a copy of your updated "resume", the recommendation forms, and stamped addressed envelopes.

- ☐ Begin filling out college applications.
- ☐ Search for scholarships
- ☐ Complete all your drafts of applications and essays.
- ☐ Fill out FASFA.
- ☐ Mail applications.
- ☐ Complete financial aid forms.
- ☐ Visit schools to make final decision.

Applying

After choosing schools that are appealing to you, you must start on the applications! Here are some helpful tips to keep you on track!

- * **Photocopy everything!** You want to keep proof of all the information that you are sending to schools.
- * **Check eligibility for waivers.** Applications can be expensive! You can go to your guidance counselor, neighborhood library, streetworker or Boston Public Library Teri Higher Education Center for fee waivers.
- * **Have someone look over your application and essay.** Your application represents you. Therefore, you want everything to be perfect to show you are the best candidate for the school!

Common Application: This is an online common application to colleges and universities. www.commonapp.org

College Board: Helps with every aspect of the college process. www.collegeboard.com

- * College search & comparison
- * Essay writing tips
- * Info for parents
- * Financial aid info

Helpful Links

FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov
Online Federal Student Aid Application and Frequently asked questions.

Boston Scholarship Guide

www.boston scholarshipguide.com
Lists of nationally, community and college sponsored scholarships.

FastWeb-Great for finding nationally and community sponsored scholarships.

Financing

College is expensive, but can be affordable. Financial aid can help you pay for college. Each year, millions of students across the country receive financial assistance. Your family should also start saving for your college education if they already haven't done so. It is never too early to start a savings plan - the sooner you start the better prepared you will be.

Key Terms to Know

- **Loan**- is money borrowed that is usually repaid with interest.
- **Grant**- A type of financial aid that does not have to be repaid; usually awarded on the basis of need, possibly combined with some skills or characteristics the student possesses.
- **Scholarship**-financial assistance which does not require repayment or employment and is usually made to students who demonstrate or show potential for distinction, usually in academic performance, at the institution.
- **FAFSA**- Which stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is a form required of all students to apply for and determine need-based and other forms of aid.

Helpful Links