

Is Early-Decision Admission a Good Choice for Your College-Bound Teen?

It is time for high school seniors to apply for college. The United States has thousands of 2-year and 4-year colleges and technical training programs. Every student who wants to go to college should be able to find one.

Every high school senior should contact the school guidance counselor or advisor now. They need to discuss:

- Early Decision, Early Action, or regular admission,
- their ACT / SAT scores,
- their financial needs,
- extra-curricular activities and a resume,
- letters of recommendation,
- and possible colleges.

The counselor can advise them how and when to apply.

Many colleges offer Early Decision. This program allows applicants to apply to their first choice college and get an Early Decision, often by December 15. Colleges know that 2 out of the 3 students they accept for regular admission will choose to go to another school. They want to secure as many students as possible in the early round. Some colleges enroll 40% of their class by Early Decision.



If your student is admitted by Early Decision to a college, *he must attend*. He cannot change his mind, even if he gets an acceptance by another college. Early Decision may increase a student's chance for admission if the college is less selective. If your student knows for sure which college he wants to attend, Early Decision is good.

If your student is at the top of her class and is in need of financial aid, Early Decision may not be for her. If she waits until after the Early Decision students are accepted, she may have more bargaining power when asking for financial aid. Many colleges scramble in the spring to find students to fill their admission slots.

Do not let money or grades influence your student's decision to attend college. Schools are eager to help students find financial aid. They also want to fill their school with a diverse group of students who have more than good grades to offer. For more information on admission, Early Decision and Early Action, visit the webpage of the colleges on your list or call their Admissions Office.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week.