

ISSUE

06

JAN-FEB 2012

Higher Ed *Connection*

A community outreach service provided by Higher Education Servicing Corp.



Who We Are

Founded in 1978 as private, non-profit sister organizations, North Texas Higher Education Authority, Inc. (NTHEA) and Higher Education Servicing Corporation (HESC) have worked persistently to ensure student access to higher education by assisting lenders throughout Texas to provide billions of dollars in loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), donating hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to schools, providing industry leading repayment benefits to borrowers, and, over the last decade, administering over 600 college preparation and financial literacy outreach programs to more than 100,000 students and parents throughout Texas.

OUR MOTTO

Inspiring students to achieve a higher education by promoting a college-going culture through educational outreach activities, services and community partnerships.

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National survey elevates voices of school counselors in education reform efforts¹

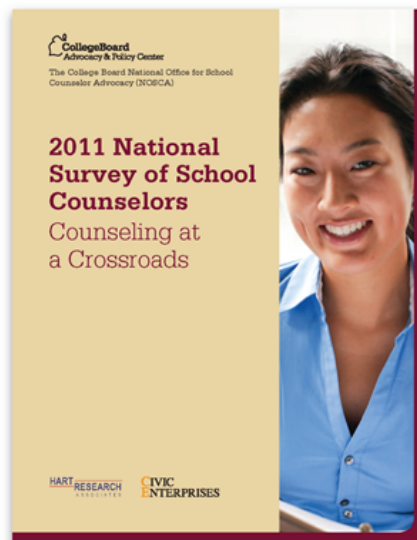
Courtesy of Counseling Today

One of the largest-ever national surveys of school counselors suggests that these counselors are ready to be more proactive in students' lives, while also helping them to bridge the gap between college and career readiness.

The National Survey of School Counselors, released Nov. 15, was a collaborative effort among the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center's National Office of School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA), Civic Enterprises and Peter D. Hart Research and Associates to elevate the voices of school counselors and help encourage much-needed education reform.

"The counseling profession is at a crossroads in terms of its role in education reform, and we need all hands on deck to educate our way out of this economic crisis," said Patricia Martin, NOSCA's assistant vice president.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



[Click here to view the complete report](#)

Additional Articles of Interest

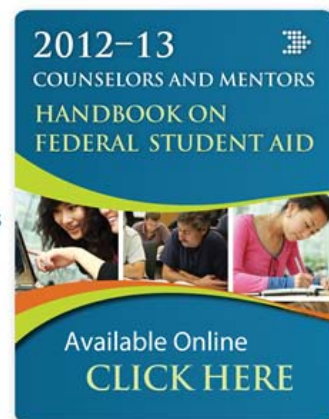
Study: Texas School Attrition Down for Second Year²
Courtesy of Education News

Will my Father's 529 Affect my Son's Financial Aid
Courtesy of CNN Money

TG Releases new edition of State of Student Aid & Higher Ed in Texas
Courtesy of Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation

Financial Tips to Help your Students Avoid Freshmen Mistakes
Courtesy of Adventures In Education

As Jan. 1 Application Deadline Nears, an Argument for a Yearlong Breather
Courtesy of New York Times



CONTACT INFO

If you have questions about any of our services or would like to schedule an event, please feel free to contact Phillip Wambsganss at phillipw@nthea.com or (817) 265-9158 ext. 4160.

Counselor Connect

We want your feedback! Is there an article you've recently read that you'd like to see in our next newsletter? Or some news that you believe other counselors in the area would benefit from? Send us an [email](#) with all of the details and we may just use it in our next newsletter!

College Admissions Testing Schedule for ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests³

ACT - To get more information about the ACT, access useful tools, or register, visit www.act.org.

*No test scheduled in NY

SAT and SAT Subject Tests - To get more information on the SAT or SAT Subject Tests, access useful tools, or register, visit www.collegeboard.org.

**SAT only, no Subject Tests

Scheduled Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
*Saturday, Feb 11, 2012	Friday, Jan 13, 2012	Friday, Jan 20, 2012
Saturday, Apr 14, 2012	Friday, Mar 9, 2012	Friday, Mar 23, 2012
Saturday, Jan 28, 2012	Friday, Dec 30, 2011	Friday, Jan 13, 2012
**Saturday, Mar 10, 2012	Friday, Feb 10, 2012	Friday, Feb 24, 2012

Courtesy of Adventures in Education

Simple ideas to help keep your students on track

Incorporate these ideas, provided by *Adventures in Education*, into your counselor calendar to help better prepare your students for college and beyond!

Counselor Checklist

- Advertise college entrance exam test dates and registration deadlines.
- Remind seniors to turn in all required college forms needed in January to the appropriate school officials.
- Alert parents of seniors who failed a course that is required for graduation.
- Organize your distribution and interpretation of PLAN and PSAT results to students. A parent/student meeting in January is a great way to distribute the test results and get the juniors organized for spring/summer campus visits and taking the SAT/ACT.
- Advertise the availability and location of the FAFSA on the Web (www.fafsa.gov).
- Remind senior males that they must register for the Selective Service 30 days before or after their 18th birthday to be eligible to receive government financial assistance for college.
- Conduct a financial aid night this month for senior students and parents. Contact us or a financial aid officer from a nearby college to make the presentation.
- Post and advertise scholarships.

Easy Ideas

- *Financial aid help* - Ask a financial aid officer from a local college or university to be available on your campus one day after school for a couple of hours to answer specific questions about the FAFSA. Advertise this assistance to students and parents.
- *Junior lunch bunch* - Conduct weekly lunch sessions in your office or a classroom for juniors (5-8 at a time) to provide them with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss college preparation. With busy junior schedules, lunch may be their only free time. This activity also allows you to be time efficient — better five at a time than one at a time.
- *Host workshops* - Local colleges and universities in your area may also be conducting financial aid workshops for high school counselors.
- *Review college acceptance letters* - Seniors are now receiving acceptance letters from colleges. Collect copies of the letters and start a bulletin board that lists colleges and the names of accepted students. Students enjoy this and can connect with other students accepted to the same school. This is a good way to help students find potential roommates!
- *Distribute the Senior Spring Checklist* - Print out and distribute the Senior Spring Checklist (www.AIE.org/Handouts/SeniorSpringChecklist.pdf) to students.

Monthly Mentions⁴

Keep your students up-to-date with these helpful monthly college planning tips

SR January

- **Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** as soon as you can. Check the colleges you're interested in to see if they have a financial aid priority deadline.
- **Submit other financial aid forms** that may be required – And keep copies.
- If a college wants to see your **midyear grades**, give the form to your school counselor.
- **Review your transcript** to make sure that you have received credit for all of your coursework.
- Make a list of your **extracurricular activities** for use in filling out college applications.
- **If you have a college interview**, be sure to be fully prepared – take a transcript and resume with you. This is your opportunity to share information about yourself that was not covered in your application. Remember to follow-up the interview with a thank you note.

JR January

- **Make sure you are on track** to complete all required courses for graduation. Review your transcript to verify that it correctly reflects all your coursework.
- Complete any necessary paperwork to **register for your senior year courses**. And make sure your course choices are appropriate for your prospective colleges' admission requirements.
- **Choose solid academic classes**. These include English, math, science, social studies, and foreign languages.
- Start thinking about **what you want to study in college**.
- **Meet with your school counselor** to talk about the colleges you are interested in, what entrance exams you should take, and when you should take them.
- **Register for the SAT** if you want to take it in March.

February

- **Contact your colleges** to confirm that all application materials have been received.
- After you submit the FAFSA, you will receive your **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. Make any corrections necessary and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- If any **special circumstances** affect your family's financial situation, alert each college's financial aid office.
- Complete any last **scholarship applications**.
- **Register for AP Exams** you want to take.
- **College campus visits are a critical step in making that final decision**. Take a tour of prospective colleges. You'll get a thorough view of the campus and tour guides are a great source of information.
- **Meet with an admissions representative** to answer any additional questions you may have.

February

- Think about which teachers you will ask to write **letters of recommendation**.
- If you're in Advanced Placement Program (AP) classes, **register for AP Exams**, given in May.
- Ask your counselor or teacher about taking the **SAT Subject Tests** in the Spring.
- Start **searching for scholarships**. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.
- **Research prospective colleges**.
- **Take a tour** of prospective colleges. You'll get a thorough view of the campus and tour guides are a great source of information.
- **Meet with an admissions representative**. He or she will review the college's admission criteria and help you understand the application process.

Our Services

Committed to supporting students in their goal of attaining a higher education

The school year is nearly half-way over, and before you know it, many of your seniors will be going off to college! It's more imperative than ever to make sure they're prepared for this next stage in life. And with the FAFSA filing season about to begin, there's no better time to offer our college prep and financial aid presentations to your students and parents.

- College Prep – focused on juniors and seniors, the program covers everything students should be doing to prepare for college during the fall semester including: admissions, ACT/SAT testing, paying for college, finding scholarships, etc.
- Financial Aid 101 – focused on seniors and their parents, the program covers the FAFSA in detail and how the financial aid process works.
- Ready2Go Lunch-n-Learns – focused on specific subjects related to preparing for college in short 30 minute programs such as: test prep, applying for admissions, scholarship searches, financial aid, etc.

Our presentation calendar fills up quickly this time of year, so be sure to [contact us](#) as soon as possible to schedule your event!

Upcoming Outreach Presentations

Jan 10 TUE	Mesquite ISD Financial Aid Night Financial Aid Presentation 7:00 pm
Jan 20 FRI	Martin High School FAFSA Presentation 6:00 pm
Jan 31 TUE	Arlington High School Financial Aid Presentation 7:00 pm
Feb 2 THR	Midlothian High School FAFSA Presentation 6:00 pm
Feb 13 MON	Sam Houston High School FAFSA Presentation 6:30 pm
Feb 16 THR	Mesquite High School FAFSA Presentation 6:00 pm
Feb 23 THR	Summit High School FAFSA Presentation 6:30 pm
Mar 27 TUE	Sam Houston High School FAFSA Presentation 6:30 pm
Apr 9 MON	Azle High School College Prep Presentation Time TBD



North Texas Higher Education Authority, Inc. / Higher Education Servicing Corporation

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