

Miami Jackson Senior High School

CAP Bulletin

September, 2014



Welcome Back!

The CAP Office

I have an open door policy. That means you are welcome to come in anytime, with two exceptions: The first and last half hour of the block and not between Noon and 1:30 P.M. Please call me first at extension 2111 to make sure I'm here and available, and you must request a pass from your teacher. I am in Room 111.

E-Mails

If you haven't already done so, or if your E-Mail address has changed please let me know at anaros@dadeschools.net. It is very important that I have your E-Mail address in order to send incoming information from colleges, scholarship and grant information, financial aid and college entrance exam information. This is also a great way for us to communicate if you have any questions.

COLLEGE FAIRS

Ft. Lauderdale Performing And Visual Arts Fair Dillard Center for the Arts

Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 7:00 – 9:00pm

2501 NW 11th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Miami Jackson Senior High College Fair

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

9: 00 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Parents are Welcome!

Ft. Lauderdale NACAC College Fair

Tuesday, October 21st 5:00 - 8:30pm

Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This is an excellent fair for undecided seniors and other students who are eager to dig into the college search process. Approximately 250+ colleges and universities will be represented. Informative workshops on admissions, testing, scholarships and financial aid will also be given.

How Much Will a College Expect You to Pay?

By: Lynn O'Shaughnessy
The College Solution Newsletter
Blogger | Author | Speaker | Consultant

You can't possibly answer that question unless you know what your Estimated Family Contribution or EFC is.

An EFC is the amount of money, at a minimum, that a college will expect you to pay for one year of your child's college education. Often times you will have to pay more than your stated EFC unless you're attending an elite school with excellent financial aid packages.

Your EFC will be expressed as a dollar amount. A low-income family could have an EFC that's as low as \$0. There is no ceiling as to how high the EFC can be for wealthy families. The highest I've ever seen was about \$108,000 for a family where the father was a CEO. Obviously, \$108,000 is way above the price of one year's costs at any college.

CONNECTEDU IS HERE; TIME TO GET CONNECTED!

Create your Connect! Account Today:

1. Go to www.dadeschools.net
2. Sign into your STUDENT PORTAL
3. Click on "Apps / Services / Sites "
4. Select "CONNECTEDU "
5. Select "I'm a Student" and click
6. Enter Your:
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - State
 - School
 - Student ID (School ID number)
 - Graduation Year
 - Date of Birth
7. Click and complete the profile information and create a Username and Password.
 - Your Username must be your email address

With Connect! You Can:

1. Research over 4,300 colleges by location, type and study area
2. Develop a personalized college plan and monitor student process
3. Investigate career interests
4. Stay informed about college and career events such as college visits
5. Utilize interactive tools to learn about financial aid and scholarships
6. Use the Super APP feature to save time, complete college applications, and submit documentation requirements electronically
7. Keep track of college application deadlines
8. Receive important messages and information from counselors

How to Obtain Your EFC

Getting advance notice is better than waiting until your child receives his or her financial aid packages in the spring of her senior year in high school. I think families should obtain their EFC as early as a child's freshman year in high school. Here are two calculators that you can use to obtain your EFC.

[College Board's EFC Calculator](#)

[Fin Aid's EFC Calculator](#)

Here is some of the information that you'll need to use the calculators:

- Number of children in college.
- Marital status of parents.
- Adjusted gross income.
- Non-retirement investments.
- Income taxes paid for most recent calendar year.

Updates from the College Board

We want to update you on a few of our Access to Opportunity™ efforts, designed to identify and break down barriers that prevent students — particularly low-income, college-ready students from applying to and enrolling in colleges that are the best academic, social, and financial fit.

College Application Fee Waivers

SAT Test Fee Waivers

Students in the United States and U.S. Territories can NOW use fee waivers until the late registration date for ANY test date, without paying a late fee.

Beginning in the 2014-15 academic year, every senior who takes the SAT® or SAT Subject Tests using a fee waiver will receive four college application fee waivers from the College Board. These waivers will be delivered to students online via their SAT account starting in late August and are made possible by the generosity of more than 2,000 participating colleges and universities nationwide.

EARLY DECISION VERSUS EARLY ACTION:

First of all, it is important to realize that the traditional definition of Early Decision vs. Early Action is being redefined. The definitions below are the traditional definitions. My best recommendation is that you clearly understand the definition of these terms for the colleges that you are planning to apply to.

Early Decision (Binding Admission)

Pros: Great option if you believe your choice is the one and only and that you would be unhappy any other place. Admission reps love Early Decision because it commits a greater number of students to their incoming freshman class. Your chances of being accepted "ED" are much higher than Early Action and Regular Admissions. Notification usually comes within a month or so after the deadline.

Remember that if you apply "ED" at one college, you cannot apply "ED" at another. For other colleges I recommend that you apply "EA" or Regular.

Cons: Early Decision is not for everyone, especially if there is going to be a great need for financial aid. One drawback comes when you receive your financial aid award letter and realize that you cannot afford to go to your first choice. It gets worse since you must withdraw all other applications. You may end up scrambling to apply to your secondary schools at a later date.

Early Action (non-binding)

Pros: "EA" is for those students on the ball and eager to apply to their top choices. "EA" allows you to apply to any number of schools without being bound to any school that accepts you. "EA" notifications usually come a short time after "ED" notifications. As with "ED" applicants, you have a higher chance of acceptance if you go EA as compared to the regular deadline date.

Cons: Can't think of any. Applicants who may not meet grade and test score levels may be deferred to a later date.

Financial Aid: Students applying "ED" or "EA" have a greater chance at higher levels of financial aid than those students who apply regular decision. "The early bird gets the worm". A word of wisdom here: Most College Financial Aid Reps do not appreciate it if you try to negotiate a higher financial aid package by playing their institution off against another institutions offer. Be honest, sincere and truly desiring to attend their institution.