



OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

DC College Application and Exploration Month: Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: Why was DC College Application Week changed to DC College Application and Exploration Month?

A month-long effort will allow students to do more than just submit an application. Applying is only one step of the college application process – the result of thoughtful exploration and planning. Within this expanded time frame, students can participate in the application process at their own pace – and find the best college fit for them. Counselors and high school staff will have more time to draft recommendations, secure transcripts and fee waivers, and support underrepresented students. High schools and community-based organizations can build upon or establish a college-going culture by utilizing the college exploration activities that already take place in the fall of the academic year.

Question 2: What does this mean for a participating school or community-based organization?

A month will allow schools time to integrate college awareness activities into their programming and communication with families. November is a natural time for this to occur, since there are already college exploration opportunities taking place across the state (e.g., Washington, DC National College Fair, regional college fairs, early decision application deadlines, college visits). Schools and community-based sites will have access to volunteers earlier in the planning process and will not have to compete with other schools/districts for their busy schedules if DC College Application and Exploration Month activities are spread throughout a month instead of a week.

Questions 3: What are the expectations for participating schools or community-based organizations and site coordinators?

Your DC College Application and Exploration Month event(s) can occur any time in the fall, but we encourage your site to focus on the month of November – schools and community-based organizations are not required to participate in the entire month. Participating schools or community-based organizations are expected to devote time and space during regular operating hours for college exploration activities, including support for seniors to complete college applications. Schools and community-based sites are encouraged, but not required, to integrate other college exploration events into the month – such as essay writing workshops or a parent night. New schools should start small and build on what works well. Returning schools should expand on successes they have had in the past.

Question 4: What support will participating schools and community-based organizations receive?

Registered public and public charter high schools in the District and community-based organizations will receive free marketing materials, application fee waivers, promotional for your student and a DC CAEM Site Coordinator handbook and toolkit.

Support Resource Timeline

- August – Registration Opens
- September – Attend Site Coordinator Orientation
- Late September – Site Coordinators gain access to Site Coordinator Toolkit, waivers, and schedule pick up of DC CAEM promotional materials at
- October– Promote #WhyApplyDC Day, Friday, Oct. 16

Questions?

For more information or questions, please contact Greg Palmer at Gregory.Palmer@dc.gov.

