# Parent Letter

Dear Parent:

Very soon, your high school senior will have the opportunity to participate in a college application day at **<INSERT ORG>**. Our school is joining many others across the state in a successful national initiative, College App Week. Through our partnership with GEAR UP, the Oklahoma College Access Network (OK-CAN) and the Oklahoma College Assistance Program (OCAP), every senior in our school will have the opportunity to receive hands-on, encouraging assistance from knowledgeable volunteers in submitting their online college applications.

For many students, particularly those who do not have an immediate family member who attended college, applying to college can be overwhelming. Having someone to encourage and help them navigate the college application process can open the door for students to pursue a postsecondary education.

Maybe you’re thinking, “My student isn’t planning to attend college, so why participate?” College graduates are more likely to be employed and enjoy good health and safety throughout their lives. One way to increase the number of students who seek education beyond high school is to ensure students apply to college in a timely and supported manner. Even students that are undecided on their college plans are generally more likely to attend college if they simply submit an application.

Your senior should receive a student packet with information on how to prepare for this special day. They will need to collect some basic information from you and prepare in advance as much as possible. They will also need to create a free online student account at OKcollegestart.org. Many of the preparations will take place at school.

Please visit with your student about this opportunity, review the student packet and discuss college options together. Even if you are worried about how to pay for college, consider letting your student apply and pursue financial aid. College opens doors for more opportunities for the future.

Our college app day will be **<INSERT DATE>**. We hope you will consider supporting our College App Week efforts. Together, we can make the students in our community more successful by providing services that help our students reach their dream of a college education. Please contact me at **<INSERT PHONE>** or by email at **<INSERT EMAIL>** for more information.

Sincerely,

**<INSERT HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR’S NAME>**