### Class of 2023 After High School Planning

Jessica Walker

11th and 12th Grade School Counselor

walkerj@wfpsb.org

### Where to Begin?

- Job?
- Trade School?
- Community College?
- 4-year University?
- Military?



### Explore Your Options

#### College/University Community College

Attend a 4-year university to study the career you are most interested in. If you are undecided, let us look at your ACT interest inventory.

Attend a community college for a trade or associate's degree. You can transfer to a 4-year school afterwards to finish a bachelor's degree.

Exceptions for JumpStart students are Nicholls, Southeastern, and Southern.

## Explore Your Options

#### Military

Study for and then take the ASVAB. Meet with a recruiter and take notes. Pass a physical training test. Enlist in a branch of the military.

#### **Trade School**

Look into apprenticeships or technical jobs that require certificates or training at a local technical college. Some require less than 2 years of training.

### Narrow Your List of Colleges

Applying to A LOT of schools can be expensive and stressful. Ask the right questions and apply to schools you can really see yourself attending.

Do they have my major?

- What is their average freshman retention rate?
- Is the **price tag** realistic? (Consider their scholarship options.)
- Are there options to study aboard?

 What is their 4-year graduation rate?  Are their students employed upon graduation?

### School Comparison

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/compare-colleges

### Start your Applications

You don't have to finish it all in one sitting.

Proofread!
Then have someone else proofread!
Use correct capitalization.

Answer the "optional" essays & personal statements.

### Start your Applications

Send your test scores through your ACT portal.

Pay the application fee or ask for a fee waiver.

Stay on top of your deadlines!

Remember your username and passwords.

### Start your Applications

Give the people writing your letter of recommendation plenty of notice.

Make sure you meet the school's entrance requirements.

Fill out the transcript request form on the school website.





#### Common App







































Baylor University

#### Transcript Request

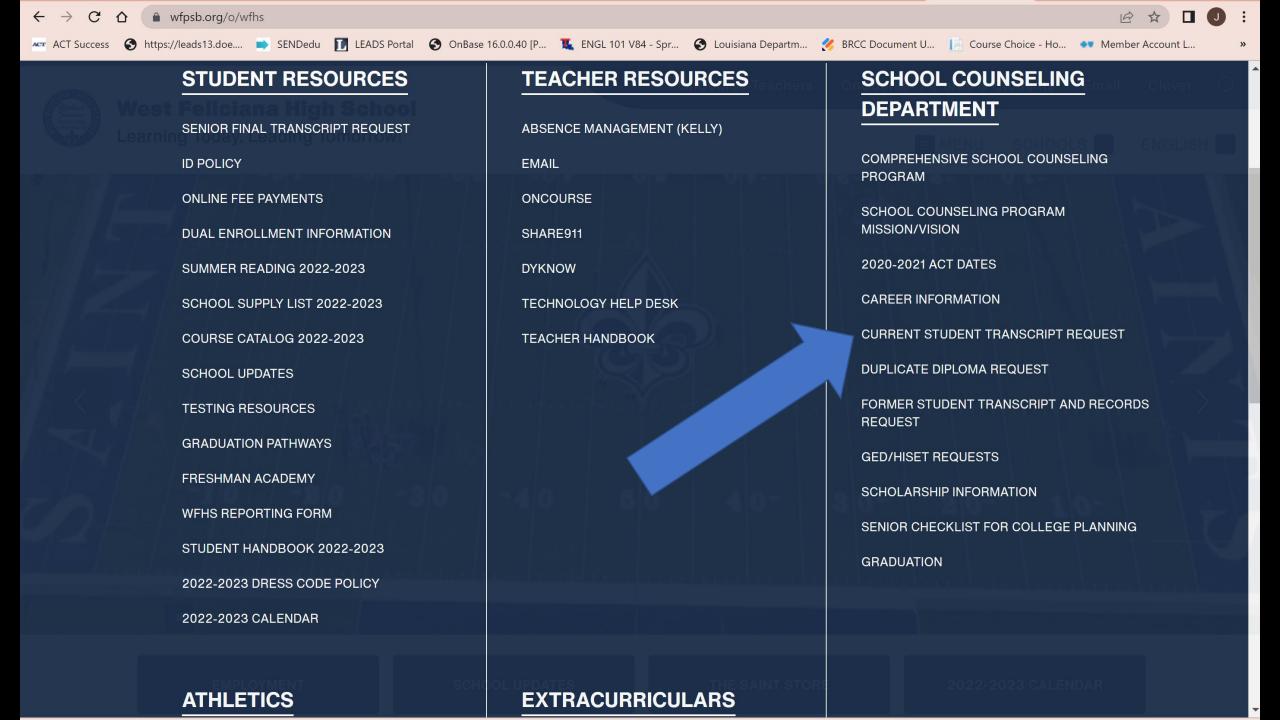
https://www.wfpsb.org/o/wfhs

#### In State Schools

- They can pull transcripts from State Transcript System (STS); this is a longer process.
- You can request them from Ms.
   Walker so your application can be processed faster.

#### Out of State Schools

- They will not accept transcripts via e-mail.
- Some schools will accept faxed copies temporarily.
- All official transcripts must be mailed. It usually takes 4-6 weeks to process to the transcript.



#### TOPS

| Opportunity      | Performance      | Honors           | TECH                        |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| GPA: 2.50 (Core) | GPA: 3.25 (Core) | GPA: 3.50 (Core) | GPA: 2.50                   |
| ACT: 20          | ACT: 23          | ACT: 27          | ACT: 17<br>Workkeys: Silver |

- Apply by completing the FAFSA beginning October 1st.
- Can only be used at in state schools.
- You must have a qualifying ACT by the April 2022 test date in order to receive TOPS for 4 years.
- If you receive a qualify TOPS score on the ACT in June or July 2022, then you can receive TOPS for 3.5 years.
- Send your ACT score to LOSFA: 1595.
- Create your LOSFA Student Hub to track your TOPS.

#### TOPS

( Matches Four Year University Diploma Graduation Requirements

- The Taylor Opportunity Program for Scholars (TOPS) requires students to graduate with at least a 2.5 grade point average in the TOPS core subjects, and score at least a 20 on the ACT.
- You must have 2 credits of the **same** foreign language.
- The calculation of the TOPS GPA will use a five point scale for grades earned in certain AP courses and Dual Enrollment courses.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> math must be some form of advanced math. Math Essentials or Financial Math <u>will</u> <u>not</u> satisfy TOPS requirements.
- Students must take either the Fine Arts Survey class or one year of art, band, theatre, or choir.
- Students must attend a Louisiana university or college to receive TOPS. It does not transfer to out of state schools.
- TOPS only pays for TUITION.

#### TOPS Tech

#### (Aligned with Career Pathways)

- The Taylor Opportunity Program for Scholars (TOPS) Tech requires students to graduate with at least a 2.5 grade point average in the TOPS Tech core subjects, and score at least a 17 on the ACT or a Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys.
- TOPS Tech can be used at BRCC, Louisiana Technical College campuses or other public Post-Secondary schools that provide skill or occupational training.
- TOPS Tech only pays for **TUITION**.

#### Standardized Testing

- Be familiar with terms. (Test Optional and Super-scoring)
- Set goals for scores; then study and practice.
- Know your deadlines for sending test scores for college acceptance and scholarship consideration.
- Know your composite scores and sub-scores (English and Math are especially important no matter if you are going to a 4-year school or community college.)

### Be Financially Savvy

- Don't be afraid to apply to private or out of state schools; often they can give great scholarships! (Merit-based and Needs-based scholarships)
- Know your in-state scholarship requirements and aim for those.
- Look for scholarships for students at your school, in your district, in your city, in your greater community, and in your state.

- CHECK college's websites for major-specific scholarships.
- Apply to schools and take the ACT/SAT with fee waivers (check with Ms. Bel to see if you qualify).
- Apply to as many scholarships as possible!
   Watch for emails from Ms. Walker!
- Fill out the FAFSA on October 1<sup>st</sup>! This is the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

### Be Financially Sarry

- Check the "Net Price Calculator" on a college's website for a good indicator of what you'll be paying.
- Don't be afraid to directly call a financial aid office and ask for help understanding a financial aid offer letter. Ask questions if something doesn't make sense! Ms. Walker is always willing to help you call!
- Fill out the FAFSA yearly. Your family's financial situation may change (abruptly), and it is much easier for the college to help you or adjust your financial aid package if they already have this on file.

### Work Hard

- "Senioritis" is real, but don't give up. ALL of you have classes left that you still need for graduation. Give it all you have until the end.
- Colleges can rescind your admission for poor grades. You can lose scholarships before you even start receiving money for them.
- A military branch or career may revoke their offer without your high school diploma in hand.

### Next Steps

- 1. Start filling out college applications and finding scholarships.
- 2. Fill out the transcript request form.
- 3. Give Ms. Walker copies of your college scholarship offers.
- 4. Send your ACT score to TOPS and the colleges you have applied to!
- 5. Complete the FAFSA and forward the confirmation email to Ms. Walker.

# Questions???