DCPS Goes to College COVID-19 FAQ

College Admissions:

1. **How will learning at home impact college admissions for students?**
    Generally speaking, colleges and universities evaluate students within the context of their high school (and school district). DCPS has consulted closely with our college partners, and they have assured us that colleges will be as flexible as they can be in evaluating student transcripts of future applicants. That said, they asked us to be as clear, concise, and consistent as possible in our grading policies and in the presentation of our transcripts.

2. **Due to COVID-19, are colleges and universities making changes to their admissions process?**
    For current seniors who have applied to college, many universities have announced that they are extending their enrollment deadline beyond May 1. A list of schools and information on if they have extended their enrollment deadline can be found here.

    The 2021 class should continue to take advantage of Khan Academy, a free test prep resource. Though some colleges have announced that they will be going test-optional due to COVID-19 for the 2021 class, studying for the SAT or ACT will continue to prepare you for college-level work. If there is a college or university you are currently considering, check their website or follow them on social media for up-to-date information about admission requirements.

3. **How do I know if the college I was accepted to has changed their enrollment deadline?**
    Many colleges have extended their enrollment deadline beyond May 1 in response to COVID-19. To see if the colleges you were admitted to have extended their enrollment deadline you can search a list created by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) here. You can also check out a list put out by the Admissions Community Cultivating Equity & Peace here for a list of colleges with extended deadlines.

4. **I need to switch my plans and go to school locally. What should I do?**
    You should reach out to your Counselor and/or College and Career Coordinator (all are available to connect virtually during learning at home) to explain your situation. They can then help you identify colleges locally that are still accepting applications and help you find a school that will be the right fit. A list of Counselors and College and Career Coordinators by school and their emails can be found here.

5. **Due to my families' financial situation I am unable to pay the enrollment deposit. What should I do?**
    Do not let the enrollment deposit be the one reason you do not enroll in college! Students that are unable to pay the enrollment deposit at this time should reach out to their college to explain

the situation. Many colleges are delaying the deadline to pay or waiving the fee in response to COVID-19. Pell Grant eligible students may request their deposit to be waived by writing an email to the admissions office. If you need additional assistance, please reach out to your Counselor and/or College and Career Coordinator.

6. **If I received a decision from a college or university, what should I do with the decision?**
   In addition to carefully reviewing all decisions and financial aid award letters (click here to access the DCPS Financial Aid Award letter calculator) students should enter all decisions (accepted, waitlist, rejected, etc.) into Naviance. Click here for directions on how to enter it into Naviance. Some schools are also collecting copies of students' decisions. Students should check with their Counselor or College and Career Coordinator to see if their school is collecting decisions.

7. **How can I explore colleges that I was accepted to or might be interested in applying to since campuses are closed?**
   Many colleges are now offering their on-campus visit programs virtually. This includes virtual campus tours, virtual information sessions and virtual chats with students, professors and admissions counselors. Visit the admissions website of a college you are inserted in learning more about to see details on the specific virtual programs they are offering. A sample list of colleges and their virtual options are also available on the DCPSGoesToCollege website. Students can also use platforms like Naviance to learn more about specific colleges and universities and do a college search. Click here for directions on how to do a college search in Naviance. 360 degree virtual tours of many colleges are also available at You Visit.

Financial Aid:

1. **How should I review my financial aid award letters?**
   Students should review all financial aid award letters they have received. To review a financial aid award letter, students can use the DCPSGoesToCollege Financial Aid Award Letter Calculator or the Financial Aid Analyzer Excel Spreadsheet. These tools allow you to enter all your colleges award information and compare and contrast the different packages you have received. If students need additional assistance understanding their award letters, they should reach out to their Counselor, College and Career Coordinator and/or DC-CAP advisor (all of whom are working virtually during learning at home).

2. **My family's income has changed since I submitted my financial aid application. How do I update my application?**
   Check out your college's Financial Aid Office website for assistance on this or email them (the financial aid office's email should be listed on their website) if you cannot find the necessary appeals forms on their website to submit your appeal. It can take time for a university to review your appeal, so you should submit the appeal as early as possible. If you are unable to find the right information and/or need additional assistance, please reach out to your Counselor, College

and Career Coordinator or DC-CAP advisor.

3. **How can I submit my DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DC-TAG) application? Is the DC-TAG office open for me to drop off my supporting documents?**
Starting this year, students have the ability to submit their supporting documents online and no longer need to visit the DC-TAG office. Information on submitting your documents digitally can be found here. DC-TAG counselors are working remotely and are still reviewing applications submitted. If you need additional assistance submitting your DC-TAG application, please reach out to your DC-TAG counselor. A list of DC-TAG counselors can be found here.

4. **Has the DC-TAG application deadline been extended since the tax filing deadline was extended till July?**
As of April 15, the deadline has not been extended and remains June 30. The deadline for submitting documents online remains June 16. For further updates on DC-TAG, check out their Twitter or website.

5. **Where can I find information on scholarships I can apply for during distance learning?**
The DCPS Dollars4College financial aid and scholarship newsletter is a great resource for finding local and national scholarships you can apply for. All previous issues of the Dollars4College newsletter can be found here. If you do not already receive the newsletter, you can sign up for it here. New issues go out at the beginning of each month.

6. **What should I do if I don't have reliable internet access but still need to submit my FAFSA?**
The FAFSA application is mobile friendly and has a mobile app (can be downloaded from the App store or the Google Play store) so students without a computer can submit it via their phone. If you are unable to submit it via the phone or computer, you can fill out a paper copy of the FAFSA. A paper copy is available here. If you need additional assistance submitting your FAFSA your Counselor, College and Career Coordinator or DC-CAP advisor are here to help.

SAT/PSAT:
1. **Which test administrations have been cancelled?**
In response to the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19, College Board has cancelled the following test administrations (as of 4/15):
   - March 14: SAT National Administration
   - March 25: SAT Makeup Day
   - May 2: SAT National Administration
   - June 6: SAT National Administration

2. **What is the status of the Fall SAT national administration?**
If it is safe from a public health standpoint, the College Board will provide weekend (Saturday) SAT administrations every month through the end of the calendar year, beginning in August.

This includes a new administration in September and the previously scheduled tests on August 29, October 3, November 7 and December 5. Students can register for these administrations starting in May.

3. **Where can students and families go for the most up to date information from College Board?**
Students and families can visit the following College Board website for the most up to date information: https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters

Additionally, students may login to their College Board Student Account for more information: collegeboard.org.

4. **What online resources are available for SAT test prep and practice?**
   - Students may still access free, individualized SAT test prep, including 8 full-length practice exams via Khan Academy at khanacademy.org/sat.
   - Students may also use the College Board Daily Practice app to answer daily questions and receive immediate feedback. Students can download the app via the Apple App Store or Google Play.
   - Kaplan is offering Free SAT prep for a month. Please click here to access the SAT Prep.

Other Questions:
1. **What are some things I can do during learning at home to prepare for college?**
It is never too early to start preparing for college! Students in grades 9-12 can check out our college prep checklists (click here to access them) for activities they can do during learning at home to help prepare for college. Students in grades 9-11 can also review their Guide to Graduation, Career and College that was mailed home in March and is available in Aspen. Resources for understanding your Guide are available on the DCPSGoesToCollege Website and you can review a video of how to access the guide through the Aspen Parent Portal.

2. **Where can I find other College Prep resources?**
Additional college prep learning at home resources can be found on the DCPS Goes to College website distance learning page (dcpsgoestocollege.org/distance-learning-resources/). Additional non-learning at home specific resources can also be found on the DCPS Goes To College website (dcpsgoestocollege.org/).

3. **How do I login to Naviance?**
Students should login to Naviance via Clever. Click here for a one pager with step by step directions.
> **Login site –** https://clever.com
> **Username –** Student ID
> **Password –** six - digit birthday (mmddyy)
> Click on the Naviance icon to be brought to your Naviance page.

4. **What should I do if I have additional questions that were not answered here?**
    If you have additional questions that were not answered here you should reach out to your Counselor and/or College and Career Coordinator (click here for a list of Counselors and College and Career Coordinators and their emails). If you are unsure who this is or still have questions after reaching out to them, please reach out to ccp@k12.dc.gov.

5. **Is there a Twitter account I can follow for other updates from the College and Career Programs Division?**
    The College and Career Programs division Twitter (@DCCollegeCareer) is a great place to get additional resources on preparing for college and career and to hear more about the great college and career work happening in DCPS.