Class of 2025
College Application Process &
Postsecondary Information Session

#### Who is your school counselor?













#### Who else works in the counseling office?









Counseling Social Media



Home Information Class 2025 College Corner Presentations Resources

#### **Walton High School Counseling Department**

1590 Bill Murdock Road • Marietta, GA 30062

Tel: 770.578.3225 • Fax: 770-578-3227

New Student Enrollment Information

**Upcoming Events** 

#### Counseling Website



Home Upcoming Events Information

#### Class of 2025



**Application Guide** 



**Everything You Need to Know About Naviance** 



Teacher Letter of **Recommendation Form** 



Georgia Match



Postsecondary **Options Packet** 



**Senior Presentations** 

Class of 2025 page on the counseling website

Walton Class 2025 Info

Lesson Overview Postsecondary options

College application process

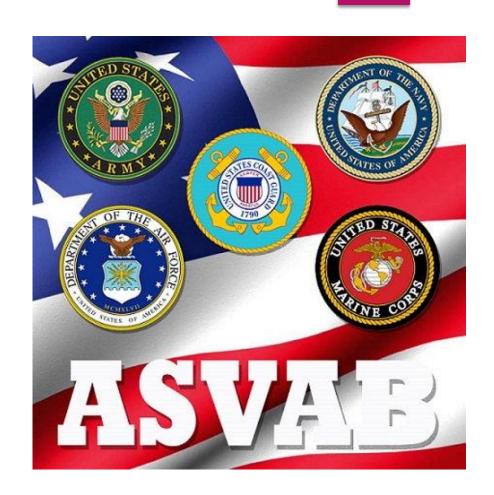
Naviance

Scholarships and financial aid

Volunteer hours

#### Military/Armed Forces

- High school diploma is required
- Take the ASVAB
  - Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> (WEB)
  - Lecture Hall
  - Click here to register
- Contact a branch recruiter
- Request your final transcript in May



#### Georgia Match





#### Dear Student Name,

Congratulations! GEORGIA MATCH recognizes your hard work in school, and I'm happy to say you're already eligible for direct admission into the Georgia public colleges and universities listed below. This accomplishment is based on your most recent transcript data submitted by your high school to GAfutures.org. The colleges listed below are holding a spot for you in their Fall 2024 class!

Use the QR code to request information from any colleges listed, and once you have chosen the one you want to attend, claim your spot to begin the admission and enrollment process. Fall is the perfect time to explore your college options and apply. All TCSG and USG colleges and universities waive their application fee for Georgia's seniors during November's Apoly to College Month!

#### TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA (TCSG)

Albany Technical College
Athens Technical College
Atlanta Technical College
Augusta Technical College
Central Georgia Technical College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Coastal Pines Technical College
Columbus Technical College

GA Northwestern Technical College Georgia Piedmont Technical College Gwinnett Technical College Lanier Technical College North Georgia Technical College Oconee Fall Line Technical College Ogeechee Technical College Savannah Technical College

South Georgia Technical College Southeastern Technical College Southern Crescent Technical College Southern Regional Technical College West Georgia Technical College Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

#### UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA (USG)

Adranam balowin Agricultural Coil Albany State University Atlanta Metropolitan State College Augusta University Clayton State University College of Coastal Georgia Columbus State University Dalton State College East Georgia State College Fort Valley State University Georgia Gwinnett College Georgia Highlands College Georgia Highlands College Georgia Southern University Georgia State University Georgia State University Gordon State College Kennesaw State University Middle Georgia State University Perimeter Colleges of Georgia State Savannah State University South Georgia State College University of North Georgia University of West Georgia Valdosta State University

Attending a public college or university in Georgia is affordable. GAfutures.org can help you plan and pay for college in Georgia by connecting you to information about Georgia's HDPE & Zell Miller Scholarships and Grants as well as 15 additional state-funded financial aid programs and Federal financia aid!

Congratulations on making Georgia proud! I look forward to seeing you on one of our college campuses next





- GSFC will send a letter to every Georgia high school senior in early October
- ► The letter identifies all the USG & TCSG colleges the student is academically qualified to attend based on HOPE GPA.
- Letter contains only MATCHES and not ACCEPTANCES
- When you click "Request Info" or "Claim Your Spot," your information is securely transmitted to that college
  - "Request Info" the college will contact you and share standard recruitment materials
  - "Claim Your Spot" the college will contact you with information about completing the application process
- November is Georgia Apply to College Month -FREE applications via GAFutures!
- Click here for more information

#### Trade School / Vocational School



- Typically completed in two years or less
- Certificate or diploma programs
- Career-focused
- Trains students for a specific job in a career field
- Examples of jobs:
  - Welding
  - Cosmetology
  - ► Construction Worker
  - ► Automotive, HVAC, Electrician
  - Dental Assistant
  - Carpenter
  - ▶ Plumber
  - Practical Nurse
- Examples of schools: Chattahoochee Tech, Gwinnett Tech, etc.

# 2-Year Community Colleges



- ► Requirements vary by 2-year colleges. Check websites for current requirements.
- Check with individual schools to see if the SAT/ACT is required may take the Accuplacer Exam instead.
- Transcript most will require a minimum of your final transcript for proof of graduation. Follow the transcript request process.
- Examples: Georgia Highlands College, Georgia Perimeter College

# 4-Year Colleges & Universities



- ► Typically have higher admission requirements
  - e.g., higher GPA, higher test scores
- On average, it takes students four years to complete
- Students work towards a Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist's, or Doctorate
- SAT/ACT test scores may be required (test-optional)
- Examples: University of Georgia, Kennesaw State University

#### Building a College List

**REACH SCHOOLS** 

Apply to 1 or 2

**MATCH SCHOOLS** 

Apply to 2 or 3

**LIKELY SCHOOLS** 

Apply to at least 1

"Reach schools" are those where your academic credentials fall below the school's range for the freshman class.

"Match schools" are schools where your academic credentials fall within or perhaps slightly exceed the school's range for the freshman class.

"Likely schools" are schools you will almost definitely get into because your academic credentials are much better than the typical range for their freshman class.

### Points to Consider

Check admissions requirements by visiting college website

GPA admission requirements vary from school to school

Weighted and unweighted GPAs will be reported on your CCSD transcript

CCSD does not rank students, so it is not included on transcripts or reported on secondary reports

Some colleges want students who show an interest in their school (demonstrated interest)

#### How Colleges Calculate GPA



Colleges typically calculate your GPA from your CORE ACADEMIC classes



Colleges may or may not "weigh" honors or AP courses



#### Examples of weighting at different colleges:

- UGA weights AP classes only with 1.0
- Alabama and Auburn take the WGPA off our transcript
- USC weights honors and AP courses the same

#### Step-by-Step Guide to Apply to College

Research and determine what colleges you are applying to

Determine application type (e.g., Common App or direct-to-college)

Decide your application deadline (e.g., Early Action, Regular Decision, etc.)

Submit your application(s)

Send your SAT/ACT scores via CollegeBoard/ACT

Use Naviance to add colleges to your "Colleges I'm Applying To" list and request teacher recs (if required)

Request your transcript from the records room (\$2 per transcript)

Track your admission status using the college websites

# STEP 1: Research & determine what colleges you are applying to

- SuperMatch College Search in Naviance
- ► How to Research Colleges in Naviance
- College websites
- College Fairs
  - Peach State Tour various dates in Aug & Sept
  - Cobb PROBE College Fair Wed, Sept 11 @ 6PM at Marietta High School
- Campus tour (2 excused absences)
  - ➤ You must provide the Attendance Office with a note or email from the college confirming your attendance at a college admission information session/tour
- College Rep Visits to Walton

#### College Rep Visits

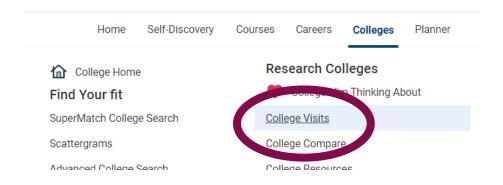
Over 130 college admissions counselors come to Walton each year to present information about academic and special programs, admission requirements, and campus life.

- College visits are open to Walton junior and senior students (only).
- ► All visits are listed in Naviance
- ▶ Students must sign up in Naviance at least 25 hours in advance.
- Print the Naviance confirmation email to show your teacher before coming to visit.
- ▶ When attending college visits:
  - ▶ Be prepared and ask thoughtful questions.
  - ▶ This is your opportunity to make a good first impression and show that you are interested in that college or university.

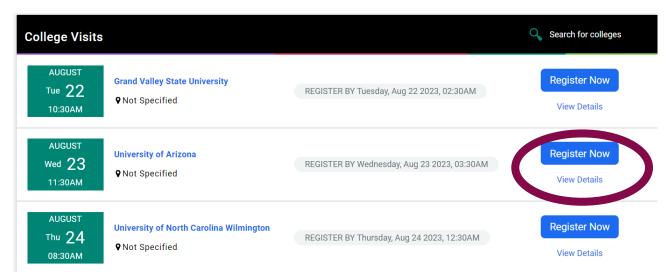


#### How to Sign Up for College Visits

- 1. Go to Colleges
- 2. Select College Visits



- 3. Review the upcoming college visits and select **Register Now**
- 4. Print the Naviance confirmation email to show your teacher before coming to the visit.



### **STEP 2:** Determine the application type Common App vs. Direct To Institution

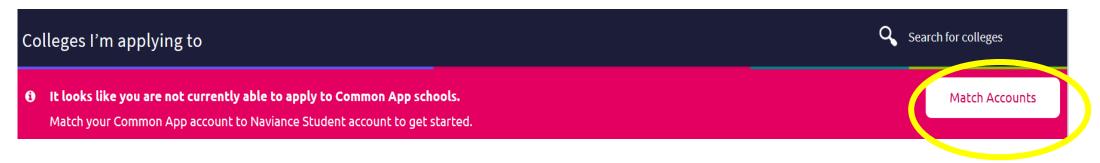
Common App (CA)	Direct To Institution
An online college application platform accepted by over <u>1000 colleges</u>	Applications are on each college's undergraduate admissions website
Submit one application through <u>Common</u> <u>App</u> that can go to up to 1000+ colleges	Submit multiple applications through multiple admissions websites
Use CA if colleges offer it	Some colleges don't accept CA
You must match your CA with your Naviance account and waive your FERPA rights (click here for instructions)	Most non-CA schools allow Walton to submit documents (e.g., transcript, letters of rec, etc.) through Naviance
Once CA & Naviance accounts are matched, the CA schools will automatically appear in the "Colleges I'm Applying To" list in Naviance	You must manually enter the non-CA schools into your Naviance <u>"Colleges I'm Applying To"</u> list for Walton to be able to submit documents through Naviance

Don't **■** forget!

Don't forge

#### Common App Matching

For Common App schools, students are required to match their Common App and Naviance Student accounts.



- To match the Common App account, students must first complete the following steps in their Common App account:
  - Complete the Education section of your Common Application
  - Add at least one college to the My Colleges tab
  - Sign the FERPA Release Authorization (remember you must WAIVE YOUR FERPA RIGHTS)



**Click** to watch the video on Common App matching.



#### Georgia Colleges Using Common App

- Agnes Scott College
- Augusta University
- Berry College
- Brenau University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Clayton State University
- Covenant College
- Emory University
- Georgia College
- Georgia Tech
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University

- Life University
- Mercer University
- Morehouse College
- Oglethorpe University
- Paine College
- Piedmont University
- Reinhardt University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Savannah State University
- Spelman College
- University of Georgia
- University of North Georgia
- Wesleyan College



# STEP 3: Decide your application deadline

#### Regular Decision

- Deadline date established by the institution
- Early Decision (I &II): Binding
  - Cannot apply ED to other colleges, can only apply regular decision.
  - If accepted, must attend (BINDING)
- Early Action: Non-Binding
  - Can apply early to other colleges, can apply for regular decision
- Single Choice/Restricted Early Action: Non-Binding
  - Cannot apply early to other colleges, can apply for regular decision
- Rolling Admission
  - Open admission, decisions are given throughout the year, not at a specific time
- Priority Deadline
  - Similar to rolling admissions but priority is given to those applicants who meet the earlier priority deadline
- ▶ Click here to read more about application deadlines

# **STEP 4:** Submit your college applications

- Complete and submit your applications as directed by the college
  - Common App or Direct To Institute?
  - "Colleges I'm Applying To" in Naviance
  - Application deadlines
- If a college has several application options, choose the one that streamlines the process for you (we suggest Common App)
  - No preference is given to one application over the other
  - Many Georgia colleges will direct you to the <u>GAFutures</u> website; you must set up an account before you can complete an application if you don't apply through CA
- ► Take your time completing your application and <u>essays</u> – this is a very important step!

# Information for College Applications

- ► Class size of the Class of 2025: **706**
- CCSD does not rank students
- Our grading scale is a weighted 4.0 scale
- Waive your <u>FERPA rights</u> when requesting recommendations
- ► Walton's CEEB code: 111987

### **STEP 5:** Research if you need/want to send your SAT/ACT test scores

- For colleges that are <u>test-optional</u> for Fall 2025:
  - Students can submit test scores if they think it will enhance their overall application.
  - Students who do not want to include their test scores do not need to send the scores.
  - Colleges may elect to weigh other application components differently since they will not be considering test scores.
  - Students should check the college's website in the fall to see if the college is test-optional and to determine other criteria for admission consideration.

#### SAT & ACT

- A college's <u>standardized testing policy</u> will be clearly explained on its website
- Dates and registration for upcoming <u>SAT</u> and <u>ACT</u> dates
- SAT/ACT Scores
  - If a college requires an official SAT/ACT score, these scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies' websites.
    - ► <u>Click here</u> to send your SAT scores directly from CollegeBoard
    - ► <u>Click here</u> to send your ACT scores directly from ACT
    - ► Electronic sending of scores can take a few weeks, so plan accordingly and pay attention to deadlines
  - Some colleges will allow you to self-report your standardized test scores



STEP 6: Use Naviance as your college "delivery" system & to request teacher letters of recommendation

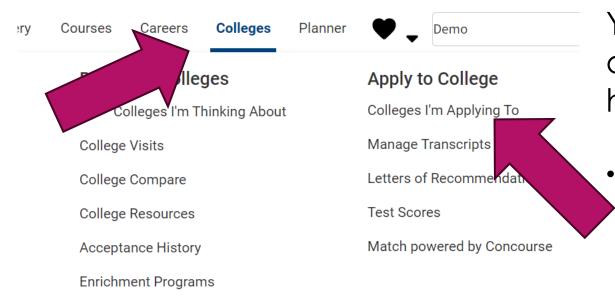
- ► <u>Naviance</u> IS...
  - a delivery system
  - how Walton sends your college materials (e.g., transcript, letters of rec, etc.)
  - where you request Teacher Letters of Rec and report which colleges you are applying to
  - search engine for college, scholarships, and career exploration
- ► Naviance IS NOT...
  - how you apply to college
  - where you request your transcript

#### Logging into Naviance

- You can access Naviance from the CCSD homepage, the Walton website, and the Walton School Counseling webpage.
- If you are on a CCSD computer, then you will be automatically logged into Naviance.
- To log into Naviance from home, you will use the following:
  - Go to www.cobbk12.org
  - Click on "**Find It Fast**" in the upper right-hand corner
  - Choose "Naviance" from the menu
  - If prompted, use your CCSD student ID and password

Username:	Password:
Microsoft	Microsoft
365	365
Username	Password

#### "Colleges I'm Applying To"



College Maps

You must add the colleges you're applying to in this section and indicate how you're applying

- If you applied through **CommonApp** 
  - you must <u>match</u> your CA and Naviance accounts and waive FERPA rights
  - the college(s) should automatically populate in your list
- If you applied Direct-to-Institute (not CA)
  - you must add the college to the "Colleges I'm Apply To" list

## How to Add Direct-to-Institute (Non-Common App Colleges) to "Colleges I'm Applying To"

- 1. Go to Colleges
- 2. Select Colleges I'm Applying to
- 3. Select the + symbol



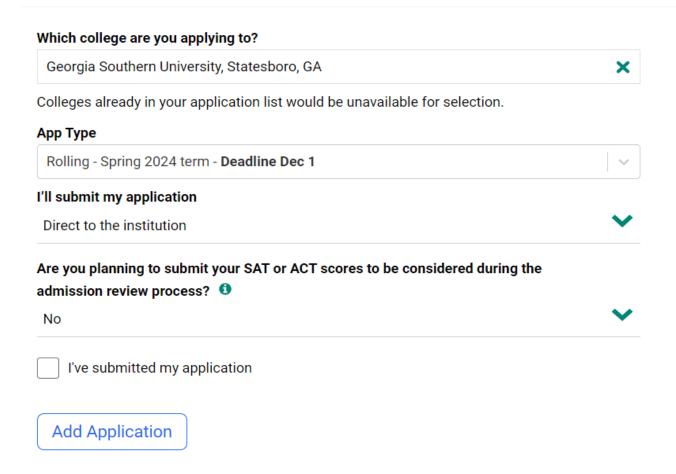






- 4. Complete the information
- 5. Select Add Application
- \*\*Remember you only need to add colleges if you are applying **Direct to Institution** or through **GAfutures**

If your application type and how you will submit your application are incorrect, the documents will not make it to the college!



#### eDocs Delivery Type Icons



• Mail Only - documents can only be sent by mail



Electronic - documents can be sent through eDocs



Common App - Common App docs can be sent through eDocs



Common App via Electronic - documents can be accepted

through eDocs



Common App Mail only: documents prepared but not sent through

**eDocs** 

#### "Colleges I'm Applying to" Dashboard

College	Арр Туре 🐧	Deadline	Expected Difficulty*	Transcripts	Office Materials	Submission (1) Type	Application
University of Florida	Regular Decision - Fall 2024	Nov 1	N/A	No request	Initial materials submitted		Unknown 🗸 🧷 EDIT
Georgia Southern University	Rolling - Spring 2024	Dec 1	N/A	No request	Pending		Unknown 🗸 🥒 EDIT

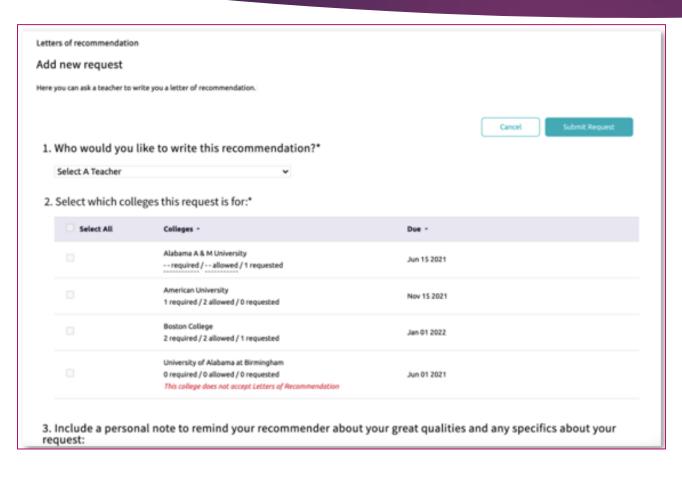
Make sure you indicate correctly in Naviance how you are applying to college. Otherwise, Walton cannot send your supporting materials (e.g., transcript, letter of rec, etc.)

#### Teacher Recommendations

- Students must request teacher recommendations by September 1, 2024
  - ▶ It is your responsibility to research which schools require a letter of recommendation on their website.
  - ▶ If they do not ask for a letter of recommendation, they do not use it in their admissions process. DO NOT ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR ONE IF THIS IS THE CASE!
- Students "invite" their teachers to upload and send letters of recommendation in 2 steps:
  - 1. Provide teachers with a copy of your <u>teacher recommendation form</u>. Include the deadline date of your first application that requires their letter of recommendation on the form.
  - Request <u>Letters of Recommendation</u> in Naviance(make sure your college has been added to the "<u>Colleges I'm Applying To</u>" tab)

\*\*\*\*\* BE SURE TO **ASK YOUR TEACHER IN PERSON** IF THEY WILL WRITE YOUR RECOMMENDATION **BEFORE** ADDING THE REQUEST IN NAVIANCE \*\*\*\*

### How to Request Teacher Letters of Recommendation



#### **Requesting Teacher Letters Of Recs**

- 1. Go to **Colleges**
- 2. Select **Letters of Recommendation** under the **Apply to College** column
- 3. Select Add Request
- 4. Select a **Teacher**
- 5. Select which colleges the request is for
- 6. Include a personal note
- 7. Select **Submit Request**
- 8. Select Request and Finish
- \*\*\* Remember the college must be listed in the "Colleges I'm Applying To" tab \*\*\*

### Track submission status of teacher rec letters

Deadline *	Recommender(s)	Status 🕦	Cancel Request
See applications	Genevieve T Recommen	dation Statuses:	×
	<b>⊠</b> Requested	: Student has requested a	
Арг 01 2018	Genevieve T letter of reco	mmendation	×
	in Progres	s: Teacher has written the	
	letter of reco	mmendation	Add Request
	<b> </b>	: High school faculty membe	er
	has sent the lo	etter of recommendation to	
	designated co	ollege(s)	
	X Cancelled:	Either the student, teacher,	ог
	counselor has	cancelled the request	
			2016, Hobsons I

# STEP 7: Requesting Transcripts (a 2-Step Process)

#### STEP 1

- ► Make sure the college you're applying to is listed in Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying To"
  - For colleges you're applying to via **Common App**, this is automatically done when you match your CA account to your Naviance account
  - For colleges you're applying directly to the institution, you must manually add the colleges to the "Colleges I'm Apply To" section. Click here for directions.

#### STEP 2

- ► Go to the Records Room (in the Counseling Office), sign your transcript card, and pay \$2.00 per transcript
  - Cash or check only (no credit cards or MyPaymentsPlus)
  - Exact change is preferred if paying with cash

You are responsible for completing ALL parts of the above process, or transcripts will not be sent. We will begin accepting transcript requests on <a href="Wednesday, August 21, 2024">Wednesday, August 21, 2024</a>

# Unofficial Transcript

- All seniors will receive a copy of their unofficial transcript via mail and in homeroom the week of August 19
- Take a picture of your unofficial transcript and put it in a safe place for your records
- Many college applications require you to self-report your grades, so you will need a copy of your transcript to do this
- Some colleges may require you to upload an unofficial copy of your transcript

# NCAA & Transcripts



- Click here to create an account on NCAA Eligibility Center
- Add NCAA to the "<u>Colleges I'm Applying To</u>" list in Naviance
- Add NCAA on your transcript card and pay \$2 in the records room (like you would with other transcripts)
- Your transcript will be sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse through Naviance once you complete these steps

# Counselor Recommendations/ Secondary School Reports

- Counselors must have a completed <u>Post-Secondary Options Packet</u> to write a letter of recommendation
  - ▶ At this point, you should have emailed this packet to your school counselor as part of your summer reading assignment. Teachers will give you credit for this assignment.
  - ▶ If you have not already completed and emailed your packet to your school counselor, you must do so by **September 1**, to allow time for them to complete the school report/recommendation portion of your application!

## Financial Aid

- Financial Aid helps students pay for college
- Types of Financial Aid:
  - Scholarships
  - Grants
  - Student Loans
  - Work-study
- Scholarships and Grants DO NOT have to be repaid
- Student Loans MUST be repaid (the amount borrowed + interest)
- Upcoming Financial Aid Night
  - ▶ Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 pm (in-person in Walton Theater)



# Scholarships

- ▶ Different types of scholarships:
  - ► Academic, community service, athletic, hobby/extracurricular, identity-based, need-based, employer, or military
- ► Check the Scholarship Resources in Naviance on the Colleges

Homepage

- Scholarship List frequently updated by CCSD and Walton
- Check the college websites and online search engines.
  - ▶ Pay attention to deadlines!!

## FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Submitted annually by college students to determine eligibility for student financial aid
- Includes sections to be completed by the student and parent/guardian
- ► FAFSA will be fully available on **December 1st, 2024**
- ► <u>Click here</u> for the FAFSA website
- ▶ Look for the "Net Price Calculator" on the college website to determine the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) -- the estimated amount you will have to pay to attend that institution

## **CSS** Profile

- Many private colleges require the <u>CSS Profile</u> in addition to the FAFSA
- Used by many Early Action/Early Decision Institutions
- CSS Profile is available October 1, 2024
  - ▶\$25 Original Application Fee/One College
  - ▶\$16 for additional college/program
  - Students eligible for SAT fee waiver may receive a CSS fee waiver
  - ► <u>Click here</u> for a comprehensive list of Schools

## HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships

#### ▶ HOPE Scholarship

- 3.0 GPA for core academic courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language)
- ▶ 4 HOPE rigor courses

#### Zell Miller Scholarship

- 3.7 GPA for core academic courses
- ▶ 1200 on SAT (1 sitting) or 25 on ACT (1 sitting)
- ▶ 4 HOPE rigor courses
- Remember for both HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships
  - ▶ HOPE GPA is calculated by the GSFC and found on the GAfutures website at <u>www.gafutures.org</u>
  - ▶ HOPE GPA is not listed on your Walton transcript
  - Click here for the HOPE rigor course list
  - Your SSN must be updated in the Cobb student record system to receive HOPE funds
  - Click here to learn more about the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship



## **HOPE** Grant

- ► The HOPE Grant Program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date
- ▶ The HOPE Grant Award amount will cover a portion of a student's tuition
- Full-time enrollment is not required
- Students are required to have a postsecondary cumulative 2.0 GPA to maintain eligibility









## Volunteer Service Hours

- ► <u>Click here</u> for detailed information about Walton's Volunteer Service Recognition Program
  - ▶ 180 hours of approved volunteer service
  - ► Hours must be tracked using MobileServe and submitted in the school year in which they were performed by **April 15**, **2025**
- Email <u>Rebecca.England@cobbk12.org</u> with questions



# Upcoming Events

- Senior Family Night College Presentation
  - ▶ Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm in Walton Theater
- ► Financial Aid Night
  - ► Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 pm (in-person in Walton Theater)
- ASVAB
  - ▶ Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> during WEB in the Lecture Hall (<u>click here</u> to register)



# HAVE A GREAT SENIOR YEAR!



https://www.waltonhighcounseling.com/class2025