

2024-25 Fast Track Admission - Marketing Checklist and Timeline

Welcome to Fast Track Admission 2024-2025! This guide is provided to assist high school counselors, administration and staff in the implementation and marketing of the Fast Track Admission program at your school. You may download the document into your Google Docs and use the checklist below to keep track of tasks. Resources are linked to corresponding materials for ease of access.

Provided Marketing Materials

<h3>Fast Track Student Fact Sheet</h3>  <p>FAST TRACK ADMISSION FACT SHEET</p> <p>TAKE THE FAST TRACK TO COLLEGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA!</p> <p>Fast Track Admission is a new pilot program that lets high school seniors bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. With Fast Track Admission, you are notified of which participating universities you've been accepted to – without even having to apply!</p> <p>This fall, you will receive a letter listing the participating universities where you have earned direct general admission based on your academic records. This communication will outline your next steps, so you can secure admission to the right school for you.</p> <p>OUR GOAL: We want to help students easily transition from high school to college. By removing the traditional application process, we hope to reduce the anxiety around accessing college and allow students to focus on determining which school is their best fit based on career interests and financial aid opportunities.</p> <p>FAST TRACK ADMISSION AT A GLANCE</p> <p>*Fast Track Admission means a student has earned general admission to a participating university without even having to apply.</p> <p>To participate, students must activate their Fast Track Admission by selecting their school(s) of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form found with their letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating South Dakota Public Universities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Hills State University - Main Campus - Spearfish Black Hills State University - Rapid City Northern State University - Aberdeen South Dakota State University - Brookings University of South Dakota, Main Campus - Vermillion University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls Current Participating South Dakota School Districts* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen Sioux Falls <p><i>Save here for more information!</i></p> 	<h3>Fast Track Student Fact Sheets (Translated)</h3> <p>Coming Soon!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spanish - Swahili - Amharic - Kunama - Nepali - Karen - Vietnamese - Korean 	<h3>Fast Track Poster</h3>  <p>Fast Track Admission is a new pilot program in South Dakota that lets students bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. With Fast Track Admission, you are notified of which participating universities you've been automatically accepted to – without even having to apply!</p> <p>THIS IS A THREE-YEAR PILOT STARTING IN 2024-2025. ONLY STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. THE PROGRAM AIMS TO EXPAND TO ADDITIONAL SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOLS IN FUTURE YEARS.</p> 
<h3>Fast Track PowerPoint</h3>	<h3>Fast Track Social Media Guide</h3>	<h3>Fast Track Next Steps Packet</h3>
 <p>Fast Track Admission is a new pilot program in South Dakota that lets high school seniors bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements.</p> <p>Participating university campuses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Hills State University, Main Campus - Spearfish Black Hills State University - Rapid City Northern State University - Aberdeen University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls South Dakota State University - Brookings University of South Dakota, Main Campus - Vermillion University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls <p>This is a three-year pilot starting in 2024-2025 that includes students in select school districts, including those in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, and Spearfish. Participation is expected to expand in future years.</p>	<p>POSTS</p> <p>Preview</p>  <p>Image File</p> <p>Facebook and Instagram</p> <p>Twitter</p> <p>Newsletter Content</p>	 <p>ATTENDING A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE!</p> <p>YOU'RE HERE! TAKE THE FAST TRACK AND ATTEND COLLEGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA!</p> <p>WHY? Because South Dakota public universities are a true value – they offer quality education at an affordable price. And the investment in your future in real education can open doors, and leave them open, providing you with flexibility and control, now and whenever they need.</p> <p>SOUTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FAST TRACK ADMISSION</p> <p>Through the South Dakota Board of Regents' Fast Track Admission program, we're simplifying the traditional application process for many of our state universities. Making one less "to-do" in your already busy senior high school year. So with one CONGRATS!</p> <p>Based on your high school transcript, you were directly admitted to some or all of the following institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY - MAIN CAMPUS - SPEARFISH BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY - RAPID CITY NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY - ABERDEEN SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY - BROOKINGS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA, MAIN CAMPUS - VERMILION UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA - SIOUX FALLS <p>FIRST STEP</p> <p>ACTIVATE YOUR FAST TRACK ADMISSION</p> <p>Scan here to let us know your future plans, or visit us on our website!</p> <p>Activate your Fast Track Admission by selecting the university and enter a gift you may or may not be interested in. We'll use the information to help find the perfect match for your future goals.</p> <p>IN THE PAGES AHEAD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career and College Exploration • University Profiles and Admissions Contacts • Understanding Your Investment • Paying for College Resources 

Fast Track Flyer (2 per page)

SOUTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITY **FAST TRACK ADMISSION** YOU ARE IN! TAKE THE FAST TRACK TO COLLEGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Fast Track Admission is a pilot program that allows high school seniors to skip the traditional college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. In late September, eligible students will receive notifications regarding which universities are offering Fast Track Admission. To activate their admission, students must complete the Fast Track Activation Form linked in the September notification.

- ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**
- On track to graduate high school in Spring 2025 with a regular high school diploma
 - 2.0 or higher GPA



- PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS**
- SOUTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES**
- Black Hills State University - Main Campus - Spearfish
 - Black Hills State University - Rapid City
 - Northern State University - Aberdeen
 - South Dakota State University - Brookings
 - University of South Dakota, Main Campus - Vermillion
 - University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls

- SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
- Aberdeen
 - Sioux Falls
 - Spearfish

- HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CHECKLIST**
- Receive your Fast Track Admission letter in September notifying you of where you've earned direct admission. No application necessary.
 - Activate your Fast Track Admission by selecting universities of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form found with your letter.
 - Consider your career interests and explore universities and their academic programs to determine the best college fit for you.

Fast Track FAQ for Students & Families

FAST TRACK ADMISSIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for Students and Families

WHAT IS FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Fast Track Admission is a new pilot program in South Dakota that lets high school seniors bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. Students from participating districts will receive a notification through US mail and email during the fall telling the universities where they have earned automatic acceptance, without even having to apply! Students must then activate their Fast Track Admission by selecting their universities of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form provided with their notification.

HOW DID I GET SELECTED FOR FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Your high school volunteered to participate in the Fast Track Admission program, and you were included because a review of your academic record showed that you are on track to graduate and meet the specific academic criteria for general admission to each school on your list. Your information was shared through a data-sharing agreement between your high school and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Check out the Fast Track Admission website at sdtrf.edu or contact your school counselor.

WHAT HIGH SCHOOLS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM?
During the 2024-2025 school year, high schools in three school districts will participate in the Fast Track Admission pilot program. These districts include the Aberdeen, Spearfish, and Sioux Falls school districts. Only students enrolled in those participating high schools are eligible to participate. The program aims to expand to additional South Dakota high schools in future years.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE FAST TRACK ADMISSION PROGRAM?
The Fast Track Admission program aims to help students easily transition from high school to college by removing the traditional application process and ensuring students they have already met admissions criteria. We hope to reduce student anxiety around attending college as they can focus on determining which school is the best fit based on career interests and financial aid opportunities.

WHICH COLLEGES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM?
South Dakota has both comprehensive regional and research universities participating in the Fast Track Admission pilot program. These include the following:

- Black Hills State University - Main Campus - Spearfish
- Black Hills State University - Rapid City (non-residential)
- Northern State University - Aberdeen
- South Dakota State University - Brookings
- University of South Dakota, Main Campus - Vermillion
- University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls (non-residential)

SOUTH DAKOTA INDEPENDENT COLLEGS ARE NOT PART OF THE CURRENT PILOT PROGRAM. The South Dakota Board of Regents and the Fast Track Admission workgroup felt the program should start small and with institutions under its jurisdiction.

WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Check out the Fast Track Admission website at sdtrf.edu or contact your school counselor.

DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Fast Track Admission doesn't obligate you to attend any of the universities on your list.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FAST TRACK ADMISSION LETTERS?
Fast Track Admission doesn't obligate you to attend any of the universities on your list.

WHAT DO I DO ONCE I RECEIVE MY FAST TRACK ADMISSION LETTER?
After you select your schools, university representatives will follow up to provide additional information.

CAN I ACCEPT AN APPLICATION AT MORE THAN ONE COLLEGE LISTED ON MY FAST TRACK ADMISSION LETTER?
Yes! Selecting more than one school can be a great idea, especially if you're still deciding what you want to study, its best to name all the colleges you are interested in when you submit your FASTA. This will ensure that you receive financial aid information for all potential schools, so the comparison to help you make your final college choice.

Fast Track FAQ for Schools

FAST TRACK ADMISSIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for High School Partners

WHAT IS FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Fast Track Admission is a new pilot program in South Dakota that lets high school seniors bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements. Students will receive a Fast Track Admission notification through the United States Postal Service and via email in late September. To activate their admissions status, students must complete a Fast Track Activation Form which will be provided with their September notification.

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WHO OVERSEES FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
The South Dakota Board of Regents coordinates the Fast Track Admission program. The pilot is a partnership between the selected high schools, participating universities, and the Board of Regents.

HOW WILL INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS FIND OUT ABOUT FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
High school staff are encouraged to help communicate about Fast Track Admission with seniors at the beginning of the school year. Students will receive the official Fast Track Admission communication in September, notifying them of their automatic admission opportunities to a specific list of schools. High schools will be provided with a FAQ document designed for students and parents, a printed and digital fact sheet for students and parents, promotional posters, and other informational materials to be used by staff and/or students. School districts will receive optional social media graphics, newsletter copy, and website copy that can be used to share information about Fast Track Admission with their students and families.

WHAT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ARE USED TO DETERMINE FAST TRACK ADMISSION?
Students eligible for Fast Track Admission are high school seniors who (1) are on track to graduate in the spring with a regular high school diploma and (2) have a GPA of 2.0 or greater at the end of their junior year.

STUDENTS WITH A GPA OF 2.0 - 2.9999 WILL GAIN FAST TRACK ADMISSION TO FOUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES:

- Black Hills State University - Main Campus - Spearfish
- Black Hills State University - Rapid City (non-residential)
- Northern State University - Aberdeen
- University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls (non-residential)

STUDENTS WITH A GPA OF 2.8 AND ABOVE WILL GAIN FAST TRACK ADMISSION TO SIX UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES:

- Black Hills State University - Main Campus - Spearfish
- Black Hills State University - Rapid City (non-residential)
- South Dakota State University - Brookings
- University of South Dakota, Main Campus - Vermillion
- University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls (non-residential)

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING THE LETTERS? ARE THEY PHYSICAL LETTERS?
To maximize student privacy, the Board of Regents, partnering with the high schools, will send letters and e-mails notifying students of their Fast Track Admission.

11th Grade College Prep Checklist (+Fast Track)

DAKOTA DREAMS
COLLEGE AND BEYOND

11TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

As you continue to move through high school, make sure to take advantage of all the opportunities offered and consistently work with your school counselor to ensure you meet your goals.

Use this checklist to stay on track:

FALL SEMESTER:

- Research **college majors** and careers that interest you.
- Take with your school counselor about your options and explore life after high school. They can help you be strategic - connecting you to the right coursework, scholarship opportunities, work-based learning and volunteer experiences - to make you marketable for the future.
- Prepare, Register and Take the ACT
- Research **college majors** to determine which fields you plan to take. This college tests may be important to college admissions and are required for certain scholarship opportunities.
- Know test dates for the ACT in **fall** and register or **wait to re-test** ahead!
- Consider **college costs** - research the cost of college and investigate well-funded study plans. The updated **College Board's College Board** website is a great resource for all South Dakota students to graduate with no student loans.
- Consider **scholarship** opportunities to take the **PSAT** in October. A high score on the PSAT could qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Explore **Colleges and Academic Programs**
- Consider how college programs of study align with your interests and familiarize yourself with college admissions requirements.
- Break **down your college costs**. These lists are a great way to get a feel for the costs - fall and winter break the good news is to go.
- Attend **college fairs** - your goal is to learn as much as you can about the colleges that interest you.
- Attend **college fairs** - your goal is to learn as much as you can about the colleges that interest you. Talk to college admissions representatives who come to your high school. Admissions representatives are great at helping your career interests and other college search criteria and then pointing you in the right direction.
- Complete **College Board Opportunities**
- Work with your school counselor on coursework opportunities that save you time and money to college and prepare you for college career goals. A college course that may offer off-credit scholarships and help you get admitted to the college of your choice.
- Stay on track to qualify for the **South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship** by making sure you are taking the right coursework.
- Look into **High School Dual Credit** courses for the spring semester. See the dual credit advisory tools and certificate opportunities on outreach.southdakotadreams.com to help you consider the types of courses that would most benefit you based on your interests.

12th Grade College Prep Checklist (+Fast Track)

DAKOTA DREAMS
COLLEGE AND BEYOND

12TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

Congratulations! You are officially a senior in high school, which means graduation is getting closer and closer! With that comes the extra importance of staying on top of your to-do list and completing the tasks that will help you easily transition into your future.

AUGUST:

- Stay on track - Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate high school and meet college admission requirements.
- Research **scholarship opportunities** on the **Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board** and use a spreadsheet to track important deadlines.

SEPTEMBER:

- Ask for personal references from teachers, school counselors or employers early in the year for at least two weeks before college or scholarship application deadlines. Follow your school's procedure for requesting letters of recommendation for scholarships. If it's one.
- Take to the **ACT** or **SAT** if you haven't already. If you need to sharpen your skills, consider taking the free, self-paced **Measures of Academic Progress** available at sdtrf.edu.
- Wait for a Fast Track Admission letter in your home mailbox and email. This will tell you which universities you've been already admitted to - without even having to apply!
- Fast Track Admission** is a new pilot program in South Dakota that lets eligible high school seniors bypass the college application process for participating universities based on their academic achievements.
- Activate your Fast Track Admission by selecting the universities of interest on the Fast Track Activation Form found with your letter.

Explore Colleges and Academic Programs

- Talk to college Admissions representatives. They are there to help you navigate the process of entering college.
- You can give you tips on connecting your career interests with college search criteria and finding scholarships you should consider.
- If you haven't already, schedule a **college visit** to those schools you are interested in learning more about.

Apply for Scholarships

- Search scholarship opportunities on the **Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board** and use a spreadsheet to keep track of important scholarship deadlines.
- Apply for college-specific scholarships by their stated **priority deadlines** for the best opportunity to receive funding.
- Call the **admissions offices**, financial aid offices and the academic program departments at the colleges you are interested in to make sure you are aware of all your scholarship opportunities.

Prepare for the FAFSA

- The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the major factor in determining the financial aid you may qualify for.
- Create your account at StudentAid.gov by setting up your FSA ID while you wait for the FAFSA application to open. Remember to have your FSA ID, your username and password for your StudentAid.gov account. You and anyone contributing to your FAFSA (like a parent) will need their own StudentAid.gov accounts.
- Print out your **Financial Information for FAFSA** and print it out at the end of your school year.
- If you need additional assistance, families and students can get the answers to college planning and financial aid questions for free by contacting Mapping Your Future via email (thehelp@sdtrf.edu) or phone (605-374-4072). Mapping Your Future is a nonprofit organization funded by the South Dakota Community Foundation.

A Junior's Guide to College Prep (+Fast Track)

Coming Soon!

Additional Resources

Provided at no cost to South Dakota high schools and community organizations, Our Dakota Dreams offers grab-and-go resources to help high schools build a culture of college going.

Build a Culture of College Going:

<h3>You Bet I Went to College Poster</h3> <p>YOU BET, I WENT TO COLLEGE!</p> <p>NAME: _____ COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED: _____ MAJOR(MAJOR(S) OR YEAR): _____ CURRENT MAJOR: _____ ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT(S) OR EMPLOYMENT SINCE: _____ WORD(S) OF WISDOM TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: _____</p> <p>DAKOTA DREAMS COLLEGE AND BEYOND</p>	<h3>Human College Bingo Activity</h3> <p>COLLEGE BINGO CARD</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Never thought they would go to college</td> <td>Went to a public university</td> <td>Had a job while in college</td> <td>Lived in a dorm</td> <td>Played a sport while in college</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Had an internship</td> <td>Graduated in 4 years</td> <td>Was the first in their family to go to college</td> <td>Went to a private college</td> <td>Took out loans to help pay for college</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Studied on a Saturday night while in college</td> <td>Changed their major at least one time</td> <td>FREE</td> <td>Received a scholarship to help pay for college</td> <td>Went to a concert or sporting event during college</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belonged to a fraternity or sorority</td> <td>Was a member of the student government/association</td> <td>Studied overseas while in college</td> <td>Transferred from one college to another</td> <td>Went more than 500 miles away from home</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lived at home during college</td> <td>Went to a technical college</td> <td>Was in college for more than 4 years</td> <td>Belonged to a student group</td> <td>Did scientific research</td> </tr> </table> <p>DAKOTA DREAMS COLLEGE AND BEYOND</p> <p>Find a teacher, administrator, or other adult in your school who experienced one of the following statements. Ask that person to sign within the box. Up to the people may sign and check boxes that fit in a row with - horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.</p> <p>Educators: The purpose of human bingo is to help:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) demonstrate to students the variety of college experiences that adults in the school have, and 2) reinforce that adults in their schools are "ready resources" for college information. 	Never thought they would go to college	Went to a public university	Had a job while in college	Lived in a dorm	Played a sport while in college	Had an internship	Graduated in 4 years	Was the first in their family to go to college	Went to a private college	Took out loans to help pay for college	Studied on a Saturday night while in college	Changed their major at least one time	FREE	Received a scholarship to help pay for college	Went to a concert or sporting event during college	Belonged to a fraternity or sorority	Was a member of the student government/association	Studied overseas while in college	Transferred from one college to another	Went more than 500 miles away from home	Lived at home during college	Went to a technical college	Was in college for more than 4 years	Belonged to a student group	Did scientific research	<h3>College Trivia Activity</h3> <p>COLLEGE 101 TRIVIA QUESTIONS</p> <p>Use the following trivia questions in a variety of games to introduce and reinforce information about college.</p> <p>What do you call education/training after high school? College</p> <p>Who can go to college? Everyone!</p> <p>Name one benefit of going to college.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>New experiences</td> <td>People or places</td> <td>Explore interests</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Career options</td> <td>Make more money</td> <td>Job security and satisfaction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health and happiness</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When should you start getting ready for college?</p> <p>Now! It's never too early or too late to make a plan for life after high school.</p> <p>What is one thing you can do now to get ready for college?</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Do well in school.</td> <td>Take the right classes.</td> <td>Get organized.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prepare for admission tests.</td> <td>Get involved.</td> <td>Make good choices.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Explore college/career options.</td> <td>Learn about paying for college.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Name one person who can help you prepare for college:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Teacher</td> <td>Counselor</td> <td>Parent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mentor</td> <td>Sibling</td> <td>Friend</td> </tr> </table> <p>How long does it usually take to earn an Associate degree? Two years</p> <p>At what type of college can you earn an Applied Associate degree? Technical colleges</p> <p>What type of degree usually takes four years to complete? Bachelor's</p> <p>What do all colleges require to get accepted? High school diploma or GED</p> <p>What's another word for the document that lists a student's academic record? Transcript</p>	New experiences	People or places	Explore interests	Career options	Make more money	Job security and satisfaction	Health and happiness			Do well in school.	Take the right classes.	Get organized.	Prepare for admission tests.	Get involved.	Make good choices.	Explore college/career options.	Learn about paying for college.		Teacher	Counselor	Parent	Mentor	Sibling	Friend
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<h3>ABCs of College Posters</h3> <p>Bachelor's Degree</p> <p>A 4-YEAR DEGREE THAT IS GRANTED BY A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.</p> <p>DAKOTA DREAMS COLLEGE AND BEYOND</p>	<h3>College Door Wars Activity</h3> <p>COLLEGE DOOR WARS: CREATING VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS OF COLLEGES</p> <p>AUDIENCE: 11th grade students</p> <p>MATERIALS NEEDED: college viewbooks, promotional materials or websites, markers, crayons, colored pencils, construction paper, butcher paper, glue, tape, scissors or anything else needed to express creativity.</p> <p>PURPOSE: This activity encourages students to learn about colleges, through a variety of commonly available facts and figures, and to express that information in a creative door poster for others to view. These college door posters are one way to initiate conversations about the different types of colleges.</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS: Provide each classroom with a piece of butcher paper that fits their classroom door.</p> <p>Choose a college to represent with your door poster. There are many ways to pick a college to represent. For example, assign specific colleges to doors, choose only South Dakota colleges, or use the teacher's alma mater. The choice of which college to represent can be made by the teacher or by student vote.</p> <p>Provide students with a list of all items that must be included on their door poster. We would suggest using the following items to guide student's creativity and research:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of College</td> <td>Student traditions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Location</td> <td>Notable sports teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of students</td> <td>Favorite student clubs and organizations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Popular majors</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Activities or mascot</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rivalries</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Students can be creative in how they express this information using provided materials. You can make this a friendly competition by allowing students to vote on their favorite door poster—winner getting bragging rights or a small prize.</p> <p>MODIFICATIONS: If class size is such that there are too many students to easily work on one door poster, students can be broken up into small groups and each group can choose a college to research and represent. This will lead to more than one poster and classroom. Additional posters could be displayed in the classroom hallway, or common area.</p> <p>Additionally, this activity could span more than one day. On the first day, students could pick a college to be assigned a college and complete the needed research. On the two, students could create the design of their door poster.</p>	Name of College	Student traditions	Location	Notable sports teams	Number of students	Favorite student clubs and organizations	Popular majors		Activities or mascot		Rivalries		<h3>College Decision Map</h3> <p>COLLEGE DECISION MAP</p> <p>TAKE A PATH THAT LEADS TO SUCCESS!</p> <p>WHAT KIND OF DEGREE DO YOU WANT?</p> <p>1. Associate Degree 2. Bachelor Degree 3. Certificate or Diploma</p> <p>Visit the CAREER EXPLORATION page on OurDakotaDreams.com to learn more!</p> <p>WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 COLLEGES OF INTEREST?</p> <p>1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____</p> <p>Visit the EXPLORING COLLEGES page on OurDakotaDreams.com to find colleges that offer the program you plan to study.</p> <p>COMPARE YOUR TOP THREE COLLEGES OF INTEREST.</p> <p>Visit the FINDING YOUR FIT page on OurDakotaDreams.com to compare your top three schools.</p> <p>List your top 3 colleges.</p> <p>What is the cost per year? _____</p> <p>What activities do they offer that interest me? _____</p> <p>DAKOTA DREAMS COLLEGE AND BEYOND</p>																																					
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Free College Application Period (October-November):

<h3>Free College Application Period Flyer (+Fast Track)</h3> <p>FREE S.D. COLLEGE APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Students can apply to South Dakota's state public colleges and universities for FREE between October 1 - November 30.</p> <p>Explore which college is right for you and APPLY TODAY.</p> <p>DAKOTA DREAMS COLLEGE AND BEYOND</p> <p>Students in the Aberdeen, Spearhead, and Sioux Falls school districts do not need to apply for this exemption when they have received Free Track admission.</p> <p>BOARD of STUDENTS</p>	<h3>Free College Application Period and SD College Map Poster (+Fast Track)</h3> <p>SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES</p> <p>APPLY TO THESE SCHOOLS FOR FREE DURING THE FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION PERIOD: OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30</p> <p>STUDENTS IN THE ABERDEEN, SPEARHEAD, AND SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICTS DO NOT NEED TO APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITIES WHEN THEY HAVE RECEIVED FREE TRACK ADMISSION.</p> <p>Letter Size Legal Size</p>	<h3>College Awareness Announcements (+Fast Track)</h3> <p>COLLEGE AWARENESS ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>Read these weekly during school announcements to encourage a college-going culture and increase knowledge about the importance and steps for a college degree.</p> <p>FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION PERIOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Free College Application period is running statewide October 1st-November 30th. This means anyone can apply to any of South Dakota's public technical colleges and universities without having to spend a dime. Remember, if you were directly admitted to a university through the Fast Track Admission program, you don't have to apply. You just have to fill out the Free Track Admission form included with your letter. If you are interested in any colleges and universities not on your Fast Track list, you are encouraged to apply now. The Free College Application Period is almost over. If there are any public technical colleges or universities that you'd like to attend not included on your Fast Track Admission list, you are encouraged to apply before November 30 so you can do for free. <p>THE BENEFITS OF COLLEGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who wants to be a millionaire? Well, people with a college degree earn almost a million dollars more over their lifetime than those with just a high school diploma. Our Dakota Dreams can help you get ready for college, so check out OurDakotaDreams.com. What do you love to do? Imagine if you could get paid to watch sports, read books, or play music. Going to college allows you to study the things you love to do - and get a job in that field. Get help from your school counselor or at OurDakotaDreams.com. Research shows that if you go to college, there's a much better chance that in the future you will be healthy and volunteer in your community. Make your future count! Check out OurDakotaDreams.com for get information and tips on preparing for college. <p>PAYING FOR COLLEGE/FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worried about how to pay for college? Filling out the FAFSA or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the best way to get money for college. Get grants, loans, and scholarships from the federal government and colleges by filling out this one form! Visit OurDakotaDreams.com to learn more. There's \$120 billion up for grabs to help pay for college. Want to get your hands on a chunk of that? Just fill out the FAFSA as close to December 1 as possible. See your school counselor for more information or check out OurDakotaDreams.com.
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What do I need to do?

Month	Checklist
September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Fast Track Admissions Letters, Activation Form and Next Steps packets (sent to seniors in participating districts, mid-September)● Hang Fast Track Admission posters in student common areas● Use printed or digital Student Fact Sheets to promote Fast Track Admission program● Present Fast Track Admission PowerPoint slides to seniors● Add Fast Track Admission blurb in September Parent Newsletter/Communications● Share digital versions of college prep checklists with students and parents.● Invite university or Board representatives to staff a Fast Track Admission table at conferences. Contact Molly Weisgram at molly.weisgram@sdbor.edu if you are interested.● Add digital versions of Fast Track Admission Communications Materials (above) into your high school's online platform for Class of 2025 seniors● Use Social Media Graphic - September to promote Fast Track Admission on school or district social media
October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Free College Application Period Direct Mailer (sent to seniors in participating districts who did not receive Fast Track Admission, early October)● Schedule a fall Financial Aid Night with Mapping Your Future via email (feedback@mappingyourfuture.org) or phone (1-800-374-4072), if you haven't already.● Incorporate grab-and-go resources and activities to foster a culture of college-going at your high school● Promote the Free College Application Period with modified materials referring to Fast Track Admission● Add digital versions of Free College Application Period communications (above) into your high school's online platform● Promote the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board and prompt the use of a spreadsheet to track important deadlines.● Communicate High School Dual Credit opportunities in advance of Spring 2025 registration opening (November 1). Use HSDC Advisory Tools to help juniors and seniors select courses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use Social Media Graphic - October to promote Fast Track Admission, Free College Application Period, and A Juniors Guide to College Prep on school or district social media
November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “A Junior’s Guide to College Prep” Booklet (sent to juniors in participating districts, mid/late November) ● Announce November 1st registration date for Spring 2025 HSDC courses to students. Students can apply here. ● Promote the Free College Application Period with modified materials referring to Fast Track Admission ● Continue incorporating grab-and-go resources and activities to foster a culture of college-going at your high school ● Promote FAFSA completion by encouraging senior students to create their FSA ID at StudentAid.gov while they wait for the FAFSA application to open December 1 or before. ● Add digital versions of A Junior’s Guide to College Prep Booklet (above) into your high school’s online platform ● Post Social Media Graphic - November
December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board. ● Announce FAFSA release – This year’s FAFSA application is scheduled to open December 1 or before. ● Encourage families and students who need free financial aid assistance to contact Mapping Your Future via email (feedback@mappingyourfuture.org) or phone (1-800-374-4072). Mapping Your Future is a nonprofit organization funded by the South Dakota Community Foundation. ● Post Social Media Graphic - December
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reminder to complete Fast Track Activation Form, FAFSA, and Scholarships postcards (seniors in participating districts) ● Encourage students to search scholarship opportunities on the Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board. ● Conduct outreach to students who have not completed their FAFSA yet (based on the FAFSA Completion Portal information). If you are not yet a member of the FAFSA Completion portal, join by completing this form. ● Post Social Media Graphic - January

February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invite university or Board representatives to staff a Fast Track Admission table at conferences (name/contact info) ● Promote FAFSA Completion and refer students to Mapping Your Future for financial aid questions (feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or 1-800-374-4072) ● Outreach to students who have not completed their FAFSA yet (based on the FAFSA Completion Portal information) ● Communicate High School Dual Credit opportunities in advance of Summer and Fall 2025 registration opening (March 1 and April 1, respectively). Use HSDC Advisory Tools to help sophomores and seniors select courses. ● Post Social Media Graphic – February
March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announce March 1st registration date for Summer 2025 HSDC courses to students. Students can apply here. ● Outreach to students who have not completed their FAFSA yet (based on the FAFSA Completion Portal information) ● Post Social Media Graphic – March
April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announce April 1st registration date for Fall 2025 HSDC courses to students. Students can apply here. ● Encourage juniors to get an estimate of how much federal student aid they may be eligible to receive for college through the Federal Student Aid Estimator. ● Outreach to students who have not completed their FAFSA yet (based on the FAFSA Completion Portal information) ● Post Social Media Graphic – April
May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “It’s not too late to go to college” postcards (sent to seniors in participating districts who have not applied to a regental institution) ● Post Social Media Graphic – May

June 2025

July 2025