

HOW TO APPLY FOR COLLEGE



Step 1: Think About What You Want

Before applying, ask yourself:

- What careers or jobs sound interesting to me?
- Do I want to stay close to home or move away?
- Do I want a big school or a smaller one?
- What kind of programs or activities do I like?

You do not need to have it all planned out yet!
Many students change their major!



Step 2: Make a List of Schools

Look for colleges, universities, trade schools, or technical programs that match your interests.

Think about:

- Cost
- Location
- Housing options
- Majors



Many Florida schools have support programs specifically for students who were in foster care!

Step 3: Learn the Requirements

Every school is different. Some may ask for:

- High school transcripts
- SAT or ACT scores
- An essay or personal statement
- Letters of recommendation
- Volunteer or activity information

Check the school's website to be sure!



APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

Step 4: Fill Out Applications

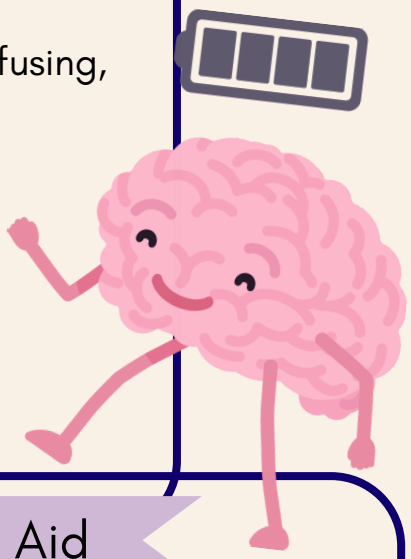
Take your time and:

- Double-check spelling
- Use a professional email address
- Answer questions honestly
- Save copies of your work

If an application feels confusing, ask for help from:

- School counselor
- Teacher
- Case manager
- Guardian ad Litem

Most schools let you apply online!



Step 5: Apply for Financial Aid

The main form is:

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

You may also qualify for:

- Education and Training Voucher (ETV)
- Florida tuition assistance or fee exemptions for eligible foster youth
- Scholarships for foster youth or first-generation students
- Work-study programs
- Grants (money you do not repay)

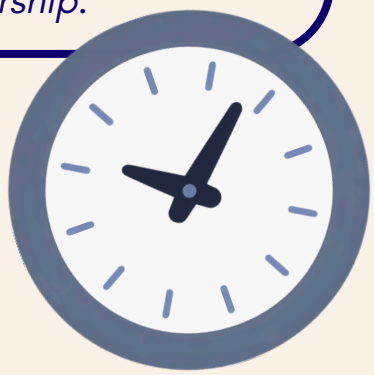
Ask your case manager about the Road to Independence (RTI) Scholarship.

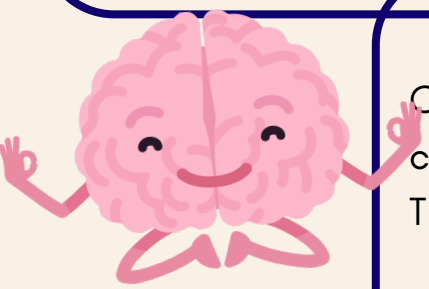
Step 6: Watch Your Email

After applying, colleges will usually contact you by email.

Check your email often for:

- Acceptance letters
- Requests for documents
- Financial aid updates
- Housing information
- Important deadlines





Step 6: Make Your Decision

Once you receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers, compare your options carefully.

Think about:

- Total cost after financial aid
- Housing support
- Campus support programs for foster youth
- Transportation and location

