Rising Seniors:

What's new in college admissions and applications for 2026-2027?

- Over 1,000 colleges and universities, including 78 Pennsylvania colleges and universities, are using the **Common Application:** https://www.commonapp.org.
- Some colleges have their own application and do not use the Common Application. The colleges do not have a preference which application you use. Choose whichever one works best for you.
- Some schools will have students **self-report SAT or ACT** scores in the application. This means you do not need to send official SAT/ACT scores until after you have committed to attending that school (after May 1 of senior year).
- Some schools are asking for **self-reported transcripts**, where you need to re-create your transcript (i.e., courses you have taken and the grades within those courses) as part of the application. It is recommended that you have a copy of your unofficial transcript in front of you when completing these parts of the application. Courses and grades can also be found on PowerSchool - grade history tab. Use Y1 – located all the way at the bottom.
- **Some schools are using self-reported transcripts AND self-reported test scores.**
- Many colleges and universities are still test optional this year but not all. Some highly selective colleges have reinstated requiring SAT or ACT scores.
- **Bottom Line: Each college is different and may have different requirements. You must read the directions carefully for each school you are applying to!**

Tips for when you are completing the Common Application:

Profile Section:
If you are eligible for free/reduced lunch, complete the Common App Fee Waiver subsection so that your application fees will be waived. If you are not on free/reduced lunch and paying the college application fees poses a hardship for you and your family, please speak to your School Counselor.

Education Section:
Williamsport Area High School
Address: 2990 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
CEEB Code: 395327
Date of Entry: If you started at WAHS in freshman year, your date of entry: August 2023
Graduation Date: June 2027

Colleges & Universities Section:
Q: If you have ever taken coursework at a college or university, please indicate the number of colleges: Please complete this question only if you have already completed a Dual Enrollment (DE) course at WAHS, or taken a summer course at a college with a grade and transcript. Do not count DE courses that you are taking senior year in this section.

Grades Section:
Graduating Class Size: 332
Class Rank Reporting: Yes
GPA Scale Reporting: 100-point scale
Cumulative GPA: You can find your cumulative GPA in the PowerSchool app – NGA – located at the top left corner. Also found on your transcript.

Courses & Grades Section: Grading Scale: A-F Schedule: Yearly

Testing Section: Only report on test scores you are proud of.

Activities Section: Review this great article about creating an effective Activities List in the Common App: https://tinyurl.com/ActivitiesListCA

Students will see two changes to the optional "Additional information" questions as of August 1, 2026.

- The "Additional information" question word/character limit will be reduced. The first-year app limit will be reduced from 650 to 300 words max.

Below is the "Challenges and circumstances" question (250 words max):

Sometimes a student's application and achievements may be impacted by challenges or other circumstances. This could involve:

- *Access to a safe and quiet study space*
- *Access to reliable technology and internet*
- *Community disruption (violence, protests, teacher strikes, etc.)*
- *Discrimination*
- *Family disruptions (divorce, incarceration, job loss, health, loss of a family member, addiction, etc.)*
- *Family or other obligations (care-taking, financial support, etc.)*
- *Housing instability, displacement, or homelessness*
- *Military deployment or activation*
- *Natural disasters*
- *Physical health and mental well-being*
- *War, conflict, or other hardships*
- *If you're comfortable sharing, this information can help colleges better understand the context of your application. Colleges may use this information to provide you and your fellow students with support and resources.*
- *Would you like to share any details about challenges or other circumstances you've experienced?**

For each college you have listed in your "My Colleges" tab, you will need to complete the **Recommenders and FERPA section**.

Before you can Invite Recommenders, you must complete the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) questions. We recommend you authorize your schools and colleges to release and share records. **We HIGHLY recommend you select: "I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents."** Doing so gives the colleges confidence that you trust your recommenders to write honest assessments. Teachers and colleges pay close attention to how you respond to this question.

- After completing the FERPA Release Authorization, **Invite** your School Counselor, Teacher(s) or Other Recommenders. Once you've done this with your first school, do the same for every other school on your "My Colleges" list—the "Recommenders" part must be completed separately for each college you apply to.

Please complete if counselor letter of recommendation is needed:
https://tinyurl.com/27SeniorWAHS

Class of 2027 School Counselor Information:

Mrs. Tara Johnson
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