Thank you to **Darcie D. Patrick**, IECA Professional Member of College HHI, for generously sharing this document as we guide families through the unknowns surrounding COVID-19. She has given permission for IECA members to use as much, or as little, of this document as you like and to freely share with students and families.

I want to revisit thoughts that I have shared with each of you:

* there are over 4,000 colleges in America.
* Roughly 80% of those colleges admit close to 50% of applicants.
* Sure, the Top 20-40 colleges and universities will always be hard to gain acceptance with a 5% to 10% acceptance rate.
* But, getting accepted into a college should not provide angst.

We’ve been working to create a robust college list based upon each student’s social, emotional, physical, spiritual, intellectual and financial needs. The College List is comprised of REACH/TARGET/SAFE schools and we create a culture of excellence and strive for the standards of the REACH school. Yet, I remain unshakable in my belief there is not one (1) perfect school per person, but quite a few schools that could best prepare each student for a career, graduate school or medical school.

ACT/SAT:

My broad-brush strategies have changed due to the uncertainty, including:

* 10th grade – In the past, I have been vigilant that the first time I wanted a student to take the ACT/SAT was December of their junior year. For the past five years, that strategy has worked famously. At this time, I am going to suggest the 10th grade students begin to prepare for the test(s) a little sooner; details forthcoming. My new strategy will be to take early and as often as you can! In the past, I have been resistant because I felt it was too risky to have a low/poor ACT or SAT score on their record.
* 11th grade – I want each of my students to sign up for the next two (2) offered test dates of their respective stronger test. Let’s produce a full range of testing and we will use the exam scores to see where the deficits are in planning for the next offered test.

SAT and AP TESTS:  
The College Board, which administers the SAT and AP tests, is continually updating its [list of test center closings](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/test-center-closings) and location changes for both US and international sites.

* SAT — The SAT for May 2 has been canceled. Makeup exams scheduled for March 28 are also canceled. Registered students will receive refunds.
* **AP — BREAKING NEWS:** On March 20, AP announced they will be offering AP exams on two separates dates and students will take the exams from the comfort of their homes. For the latest in details and information, please visit: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>
* SAT SUBJECT TESTS – We do not have clarity about the role of the Subject Tests in the Class of 2021’s admission applications. Seasonally, we have scheduled the Subject Tests to coincide with the dates of the IB and AP exams. There is discussion of removing the Subject Test from the application process for the upcoming year; details forthcoming.

ACT TESTS:  
ACT has rescheduled its April 4 national test date to June 13 across the US. All students registered for the April 4 test date will receive an email from ACT informing them of the postponement and instructions for free rescheduling to June 13 or a future national test date. Please check the [ACT website](https://www.act.org/content/act/en.html) for updates.

ACT INC., THE MAKERS OFthe [ACT](https://www.usnews.com/topics/subjects/act) college entrance exam, announced in October plans to drastically alter testing and scoring policies. At this time, there is discussion that in September 2020, students will be able to retake sections of the test, superscore their results and sit for a digital version of the assessment.

The ACT's sections are English, math, science and reading, with an optional 40-minute [writing test](https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/articles/2019-05-06/how-to-provide-ample-support-in-act-writing-responses). The new opportunity to retest in specific exam sections, rather than retaking the entire ACT, is a delightful change for many high school students. Section retests allow them to focus their energy on their weakest areas and may alleviate a considerable amount of [test anxiety](https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/2014/05/26/5-ways-to-reduce-anxiety-on-test-day).

Students who are interested in ACT section retesting should know these three facts:

* Section retests are available only in digital format.
* Students can take up to three section retests per sitting over seven dates.
* The cost and registration procedures are not known yet.

*Source: US News & World Report* + ACT.org

COLLEGE INFORMATION + VIRTUAL TOURS:

As a service to students and families, NACAC has created an online tool that is a [central resource on changes to the college admission process](https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/newsroom/college-admission-status-coronavirus/) due to the coronavirus outbreak. The tool includes information from colleges and universities nationwide on campus closures, deposit deadlines, and other admission-related changes. The tool updates automatically in real-time as we receive input from postsecondary institutions: [nacacnet.org/college-admission-status-coronavirus](https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/newsroom/college-admission-status-coronavirus/)

As a Professional Member of IECA, I have a cohort of thousands of educational consultants around the globe that are working together to support ALL of our students. Together, we are working to create a master list with many institutions' contingency plans and advice for remote work/teaching: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VT9oiNYPyiEsGHBoDKlwLlWAsWP58sGV7A3oIuEUG3k/htmlview?fbclid=IwAR3JQFp0MDOD9\_t0I5AEzF7NbNoScYhCF6l5KkBREwDuxdiJoP0fGijxfIg&sle=true&urp=gmail\_link#](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VT9oiNYPyiEsGHBoDKlwLlWAsWP58sGV7A3oIuEUG3k/htmlview?fbclid=IwAR3JQFp0MDOD9_t0I5AEzF7NbNoScYhCF6l5KkBREwDuxdiJoP0fGijxfIg&sle=true&urp=gmail_link)

According to *Inside Higher Ed* (3/16), they are reporting that the coronavirus is forcing colleges to rethink their admission process and has “created pressure to start producing their first online content for newly admitted students, or to greatly improve the content.”

VIRTUAL TOURS:

A campus tour is a quintessential part of the college search. First, they help a student make the right-fit decision. Second, a college tour demonstrates interest. Many colleges absolutely factor ‘Demonstrated Interest’ into their rubric for admission. In other words, they are protecting their yield. So, if you have not visited their campus and/or reached out personally to your local admission representative, they are often hesitant to extend an acceptance to you and don’t have confidence that you will actually accept their offer of admission; often regardless of your impressive data. During this pandemic, colleges have been focusing on increasing their online presence. I have compiled a list of my favorite sources for virtual tours:

* [www.Youniversitytv.com](http://www.Youniversitytv.com)
* [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)
* [www.youvisit.com](http://www.youvisit.com)
* [www.campusreel.org](http://www.campusreel.org)
* [www.college.harvard.edu/admissions/explore-harvard/virtual-tour](http://www.college.harvard.edu/admissions/explore-harvard/virtual-tour)
  + I simply used Harvard’s new virtual tour as an example, but most colleges will be following suit to attract potential students

The colleges track their students throughout the college application process. Visit the individual college websites on your list and sign in with your college email address. Please note that it is VITAL to check your college-only email address frequently. When you receive an email from a college, please open it. Now, I cannot make you actually read it; nor does that even really matter. But the colleges track every single touch point. So, they track to see if and when you open their emails. New mantra - *MAKE EMAIL RELEVANT AGAIN.*

IB CURRICULUM:

IB will make an international decision about their exam schedules on or before March 27, 2020. The IB has implemented the following deadline extensions for schools currently closed due to COVID-19, if your school has been closed please contact [support@ibo.org](mailto:support@ibo.org).

[https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/covid-19-coronavirus-updates](https://360planner.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=fd9b4b54b91f2033078e1685d81c9989&i=277A333A10A1348)

* eCoursework early component deadline (15 March) extended to **12 April**
* Internal assessment deadline (20 April) extended to **20 May**
* MYP personal project and ePortfolio deadline (20 April) extended to **20 May**
* CAS completion entry deadline (1 June) extended to**3 July**
* Predicted grade entry for DP, CP and MYP is extended to **1 June**
* Externally assessed components for film, dance, music, theatre and visual arts extended to **30 May**
* CP service learning and language development components to **1** **June**
* Language A: literature school-supported, self-taught alternative oral to **30 May**