

MONTANA



College Application Week

An Overview for Teachers & Staff

Our school is participating in Montana's statewide College Application Week! To ensure that our event is a success for our students, we need your help in promoting and coordinating this event — and making sure our initiative is exciting and fun for our students, families, and community!

What is College Application Week?

College Application Week (CAW) is a statewide initiative coordinated by Montana GEAR UP, the Office of Public Instruction, and the American Council on Education. High schools across Montana will conduct College Application Week events during the week of **September 28 - October 2, 2020**. During this week, students can apply to Montana Colleges with a deferred or waived application fee.

Montana is in good company! This fall all fifty states plus the District of Columbia will participate in the American College Application Campaign (ACAC). A program of the ACAC, Montana CAW has been successfully implemented in Montana since 2012.

What is the goal of College Application Week?

Our goal is to provide every graduating high school senior with the opportunity to apply to college. While much of the focus of CAW is geared toward first-generation college students, low-income students, and other students who face barriers to applying to college, we encourage all students, including freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, as well as seniors who have already applied to college, to participate in events to help them explore and prepare for postsecondary education, including certificate programs, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees.

What happens during College Application Week?

Think of CAW as a school spirit week, during which we all work together to build excitement and awareness surrounding the college exploration and application process. We will provide computer lab time to students to allow them to explore colleges and apply online, but the event becomes truly spectacular when we integrate fun activities into our school and community environments. For example, we can decorate our doors and classrooms in college themes, post signs and pennants in our community, decorate storefronts, have college trivia contests — let's get creative!

How can I help?

You can help by assisting students in applying, contributing to the spirit of the week, or — perhaps most importantly — reaching out to students to encourage them to apply to college. Seek out those students who might traditionally be overlooked when it comes to college planning, and talk to them about their options for college. Be sure to ask students if they've applied as they board the bus, go through the lunch line, or a store, or your classroom.