

CHOICES in EDUCATION

 MediaNews Group



HANDS ON

Skilled trades on the rise as college enrollment sags **PAGE 4**

Decision time

Tips to help students choose a college major **PAGE 10**

Direct admissions

How to get into college without applying **PAGE 12**

REGINA HIGH SCHOOL

Have a chance to win a **\$2,000 tuition voucher**

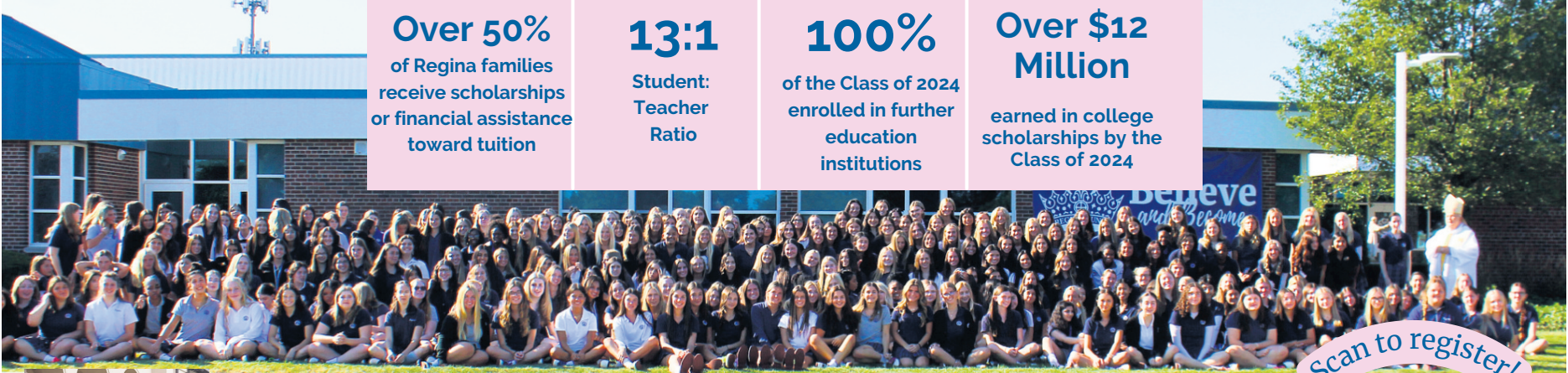
Open House

Sunday, October 27, 2024
1- 4pm

WHY Regina?

13900 Masonic Blvd, Warren, MI 48088

<p>Over 50% of Regina families receive scholarships or financial assistance toward tuition</p>	<p>13:1 Student: Teacher Ratio</p>	<p>100% of the Class of 2024 enrolled in further education institutions</p>	<p>Over \$12 Million earned in college scholarships by the Class of 2024</p>
---	---	--	---



Scan to register!

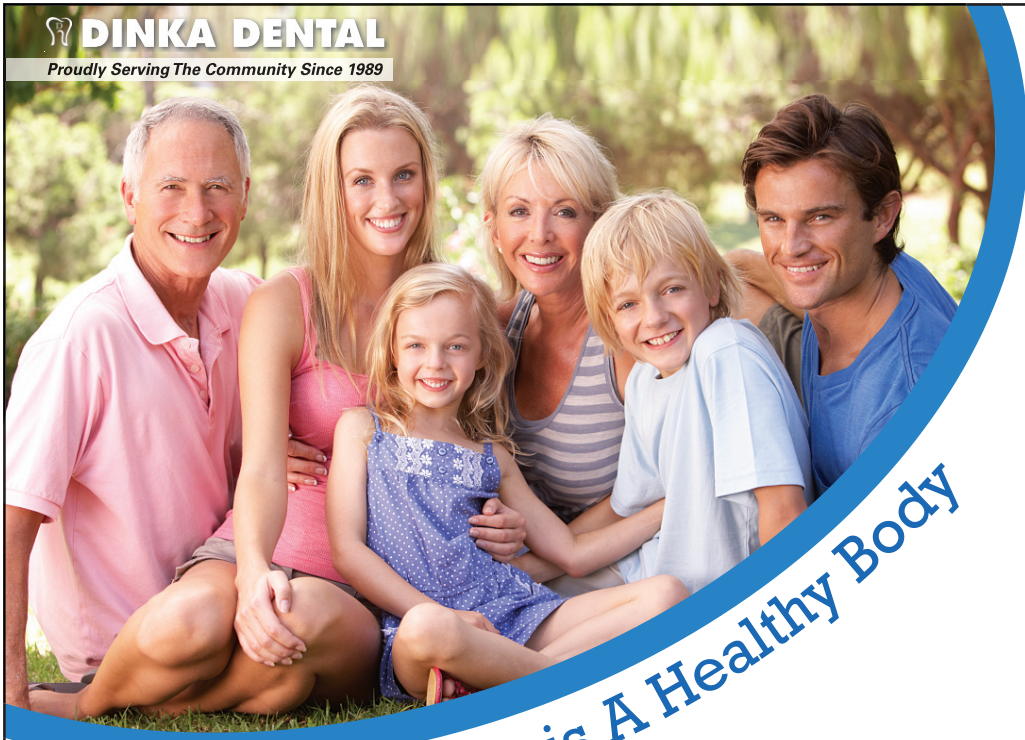


"I chose Regina because my shadow day experience was filled with many positive people who made me want to take part in their great traditions. Having recently concluded my four years I can attest that these traditions are worth experiencing for yourself."

Katie Lanzi '24

Guided every step of the way.
When she believes it, she can become it.

DINKA DENTAL
Proudly Serving The Community Since 1989



A Healthy Mouth is A Healthy Body

Don't Put Yourself At Risk For Heart Attack Or Stroke Because Of Gum Disease

- Same Day Emergencies
- Senior Discounts
- Dentures & Repairs
- Most Insurances Accepted
- Nitrous Oxide (Gas) Sedation
- Teeth Whitening/Bleaching
- Cosmetic Dentistry/Veneers
- Financing Available

COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY
ALWAYS WELCOMING PATIENTS OF ALL AGES!

<p>FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION With This Ad</p>	<p>FREE DIGITAL X-RAYS With This Ad 70% LESS RADIATION EXPOSURE</p>
--	--

WE

LOVE

CHILDREN

Come Visit Our State Of The Art Dental Office With All Of The Latest In Technology.

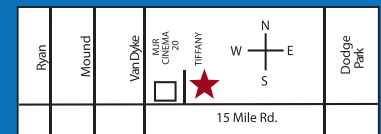
Our Patients Will Enjoy A Relaxing Environment For All Of Their Dental Needs

- LED Lighting • Digital X-Rays • Intra Oral Cameras
- On-Site Crown & Bridge Technicians For Your Custom Needs.

Always Using Premium
MADE IN AMERICA
 Crowns, Bridges, Dentures & Partial

John D. Dinka, D.D.S.
Catherine M. Osinski Dinka, D.D.S. & Associates
35100 Tiffany, Suite 101, Sterling Heights
On The 15 Mile Rd Entrance To MJR Cinema 20
586-939-5800 • www.DinkaDental.com
Mon - Thurs 8:30 - 7:00 • Fri & Sat 8:30 - 1:00 • By Appointment Also

Michigan Dental Association Members
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



DINKA DENTAL

'TICKET TO THE MIDDLE CLASS'

WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS

SKILLED TRADES ON THE RISE AS COLLEGE ENROLLMENT SAGS

By Colleen Schrappen

MediaNews Group

Both of Dan Tague's parents earned bachelor's degrees. So did his older sister and brother.

But as his turn approached, Tague, 20, saw a different route. In high school, he designed sets for plays and enrolled in any "hands-on" classes he could. By the time he graduated, he decided he wanted to be an electrician.

His mom and dad needed no convincing.

"They knew right out of the gate, you have a paycheck," he said.

After years of decline, the skilled trades are experiencing a renaissance, propelled by young adults like Tague. Soaring college tuition and student debt have upended the long-held belief that higher education is the key to success.

And the stigma that many of Generation Z's parents held about careers in carpentry or mechanics is crumbling.

Enrollment in four-year schools has flatlined, while vocation-focused community colleges experienced 16% growth in the past year, the biggest jump since the National Student Clearinghouse began tracking such data in 2018.

Mechanical and repair programs saw 8% enrollment gains in the past year; precision machinery classes grew by 7.5%.

Students studying construction ticked up by about 1% last year, but their ranks have increased by almost 14% over the past five years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO EDITORIAL SERVICES

More and more employers are partnering with high schools to grab the attention of teenagers early.

Community colleges and trade schools are offering new certifications and building new facilities. Young adults are being pulled onto a cheaper, quicker path to the workforce.

No debt, no delays.

This summer, Tague began an earn-and-learn apprenticeship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

In a couple of years, he should have his journeyman's license.

After another two years, he will become a master electrician and, he figures, will bring in about \$80,000 annually.

Ticket to the middle class

Over a lifetime, college graduates typically earn more and have higher employment rates than those without four-year degrees. But within those broad categories, the discrepancies can shrink — or even disappear — based on the field. According to the U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, for example, the median income for plumbers was \$61,500 last year — almost \$3,000 more than social workers.

And students who graduated in 2023 with bachelor's degrees carried an average of about \$30,000 in debt, according to the College Board.

Community and techni-

cal colleges have also focused on secondary schools, visiting counseling offices and hosting career fairs and "try-it" days.

Sharon Brueggemann, vice president of education at Ranken Technical College, refers to high school teachers and counselors as "influencers." Once they are on board, the kids will follow. The popularity of robotics teams and coding camps have helped the skilled trades shake off a reputation as "dirty" work done by people who don't land at a university.

The pandemic shifted mindsets, too. College enrollment fell. White-collar jobs weathered layoffs. Burnout spread through industries such as education and health care.

But the prospects in building and manufacturing boomed.

"Everyone needed tradespeople during COVID," Brueggemann said.

Ranken students have a 98% job placement rate, said Brueggemann. Often, they secure positions before their first year of classes is over.

"By the time they graduate, it's too late for employers," she said.

A shortage of workers has plagued many professions, especially plumbing and HVAC, as the number of retirees surpasses trainees.

More than a third of tradespeople are older than 50, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But the recent surge in interest has chipped away at the workforce deficit.

Macomb helps students discover their full potential

When students discover Macomb, they uncover paths to their full potential.

Student Hannah Le unlocked her potential by choosing to major in cybersecurity at Macomb. After graduating from Sterling Heights High School several years ago, Le, 32, struggled to find her place. She wasn't a strong student in high school and didn't think much about higher education at first. That changed one day.



Macomb alumni DeQuan Powell discovered how he could turn his love of basketball into a career.

"I wanted to change my life for the better," she said. "I was kind of scared at first to invest in something like a college degree when I'm broke. Macomb seemed like the most affordable and accessible way to give myself that chance."

Le decided to major in cybersecurity even though she had no prior interest in technology, science or math and admits she struggled with those classes in high school. Macomb's support services, clubs and internship program are helping Le through her journey.

"I'm learning at Macomb that I'm a lot stronger than I thought," she said.

When Le completes her associate degree, she plans to find a job in information technology. However, she hasn't ruled out pursuing a bachelor's degree in the future and is considering one of Macomb's transfer partnerships with a four-year college.

"I love that the credits we earn here go straight to the next degree at other schools for like one-tenth of the tuition and half the time," she said.

Like Le, Macomb alumni DeQuan Powell discovered his full potential at Macomb. Powell, who played basketball while he attended Macomb from 2018-2020, always wanted a career involving his favorite sport.

While he aspired to play for the NBA, he also realized his odds of playing professional basketball were slim.

At Macomb, Powell discovered another way to turn his love of basketball into a career. Powell, who had once pursued a degree in engineering, changed his major to business with hopes that he could go into sports management.

"Everything in this world is a business. That's what changed my perspective when I was changing my (major). I don't have to play basketball to achieve status," he said. "I could achieve it with my mind."

After Macomb, Powell transferred to Alma University, where he graduated with his bachelor's in business administration. He was recently hired to work as an assistant basketball coach for the women's team at Alma. He's on track to achieve his goal of working in professional sports.

"My ultimate career goal is to work my way up the college athletic ranks, potentially getting to a higher level, and then work my way to the professional level," he said. "Once I go professional, I want to work in the front office, trading players and building teams."

Ready to learn more? Macomb will host its

annual Discover Macomb event on Nov. 9 from 9:30 a.m. until noon at its Center Campus, located at 44575 Garfield Road in Clinton Township. At this free event, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about Macomb's career-oriented programs, meet faculty and staff, tour state-of-the-art classrooms and more. To register for the event, please visit macomb.edu/discovermacomb.



Macomb student Hannah Le is studying cybersecurity. After she earns her associate degree, she plans to find a job in information technology.

Discover Macomb Discover Your Future

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024

Lorenzo Cultural Center | Center Campus | 9:30am–Noon

Bring your friends and family

**Meet Students | Take Guided Tours
Meet Our Faculty | And Much More!**

**Questions?
586.445.7999,
select Admissions
[Macomb.edu/
discovermacomb](http://Macomb.edu/discovermacomb)**



**Macomb
Community College**

Education • Enrichment • Economic Development

Discover. Connect. Advance.

**Register
Today!**



ROUND TWO

New FAFSA process hopes to address issues from last year's botched launch



VINCENT ALBAN — CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jonathan Taledo, a freshman at the University of Illinois at Chicago, fills out paperwork with his mother, Julissa Leon, during a FAFSA workshop on Feb. 23, 2024, at UIC.

By **Shanzeh Ahmad**
sahmad@chicagotribune.com

Next year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid will require students to apply through a new process.

The 2025-2026 FAFSA form was released for testing with a smaller group of volunteer students and schools on Oct. 1, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The form will be made available to all students applying for federal aid on or before Dec. 1.

The updated form rollout will be in phases, starting with hundreds of students at the beginning of October and gradually expanding to tens of thousands of FAFSA applicants over the two-month period. Regular updates will be shared

throughout the testing period, according to the news release.

This year's new approach will significantly improve the FAFSA experience, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in the news release. "Following a challenging 2024-25 FAFSA cycle, the department listened carefully to the input of students, families, and higher education institutions, made substantial changes to leadership and operations at Federal Student Aid."

The Education Department's most recent FAFSA rollout fell flat after the form underwent a massive overhaul that was meant to make the application process easier, but ended up making it more difficult.

This led to a multitude of complaints from parents and students on social media. The number of students across the U.S. who had successfully submitted the FAFSA form was down by 29% in May from the same time in 2023.

After last year's botched launch, the department announced \$50 million in funding in May as part of the "FAFSA Student Support Strategy" to address the apparent issues with the 2024-25 form and help increase the number of successful submissions. The support strategy program, in part, led to higher student application success rates over the past six months, the department said, with the submission gap from last year going from about 40% in

March to less than 4% as of early August.

The Department of Education said the goal of this year's phased FAFSA rollout is to work with smaller groups of applicants to quickly resolve any system errors that might occur. The phased rollout will also allow for user feedback in real-time so that the application is as clear and easy to use for all students as possible.

"In close collaboration with partners, FSA is confident we will deliver not only a better product, but also a smoother process than last year," FAFSA Executive Advisor Jeremy Singer said in a statement. "One that makes higher education more accessible and within reach for more Americans."

WHATEVER IS NEXT

For Grand Valley students, next is opportunity and innovation. Next is global, connecting and uniting us. It's local, shaping the spaces in which we work and live. It's a commitment to progress. Next is where minds are free to imagine what could be. At GVSU, next is now. And whatever's next for you, we will help you get there.

gvsu.edu

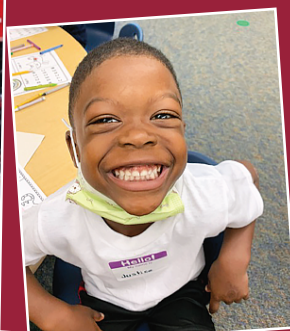
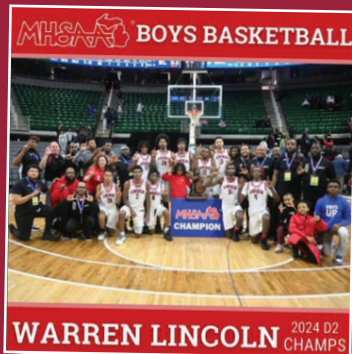
 **GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**



Applications for School of Choice for 2nd Semester will be accepted November 18, 2024 thru January 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Non-Resident School of Choice applicants who are current Macomb County residents may apply for grades 6 – 12. Non-Resident School of Choice applicants who are non-Macomb County residents may only apply for 6 - 10. If a Non-Resident, out-of-county School of Choice applicant is accepted, siblings in grades 11 or 12, may be accepted under the sibling's provision of the School of Choice policy, given their sibling also meets the criteria.

Please call 586.758.8341 for information.

- State-of-the-Art Buildings & Technology
- Award-winning Career & Technical Education Programs
- Safe & Secure Schools
- Transitional Kindergarten in All Elementary Buildings
- Supportive, Wrap-around Community with Excellent Family Resources
- College Credit Opportunities
- On-Site Health Clinic through Henry Ford Health Systems
- Early Childhood Center with Programs for Ages 0-5
- Free Breakfast and Lunch for All Students
- Before and After School Care through Lakeshore YMCA
- Success Academy - Flexible Setting Providing Alternative, Individualized Path to Graduation
- Academic Interventions and Supports in Math & Reading
- Free Summer Credit Recovery and Enrichment
- Thriving Enrichment Programs in Grades K-12: Art, Music, Physical Education, Technology
- Award Winning, No-Fee Athletics Program



MACOMB COUNTY

PRESCCHOOL

Head Start

586-469-5215

Federally funded program offering 2 options:

- Early Head Start (ages birth-3)
- Head Start Preschool (ages 3-5)

Support services for both programs that include disabilities, mental health, education, nutrition and family services.

Great Start Readiness Program/PreK for All

586-228-3468

State funded free PreK for All program for four-year-olds. As a nationally recognized preschool program, the Macomb County GSRP/PreK for All Preschool Programs provide developmentally appropriate learning in a safe, nurturing and positive environment.

- Half day and school day options are available.
- Some programs offer before and after school care.

Strong parent involvement component

High quality programs

Enroll NOW!

www.greatstartmacomb.org

LOCATIONS

- ★ Head Start Programs
- ★ Great Start Readiness Programs

- Half Day Programs
- Classic School Day Programs (4 day)
- Extended School Day Programs (5 day)
- Before & After School Care Available

What Will My Child Learn?

These programs cover the key areas a child needs to be ready for kindergarten. Some of these high quality preschools include:

- Listening and telling stories
- Recognizing and writing numbers
- Physical movement
- Singing songs and making music
- Cooperative play
- Sorting, counting and matching
- Learning letters and sounds
- Problem solving
- Personal care and healthy behaviors
- Building relationships
- Science
- Social studies

ARMADA

Armada Area Schools (586) 784-2681 ★●●●●

CENTER LINE

Center Line Public Schools (586) 510-2800 ★●●
 JB's Child Care (586) 619-7701 ★●●
 Little Prince & Princess's Childcare Center (586) 510-6344 ★●●

CHESTERFIELD

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools (586) 783-6323 ★★●●●
 Childtime - 23 Mile/Sass (586) 598-1700 ★●●●
 Eco Early Academy (586) 551-7028 ★●●●
 Li'l Graduates Child Development Center (586) 598-1255 ★●●

CLINTON TWP

Chippewa Valley Schools (586) 723-2275 ★●●
 Clintondale Community Schools (586) 791-6300 ★★●●●
 Macomb Intermediate School District (586) 469-5215 ★●●
 Academy 4 Early Achievers (586) 262-0399 ★●●●
 Bizzy Bees Early Learning Center (586) 300-6783 ★●●●
 Eco Early Academy (586) 238-3808 ★●●●
 Jelly Moon Learning Center (586) 241-5691 ★●●●
 Joyful Jungle Christian Learning Center (586) 221-4014 ★●●●
 Little Conquerors Educational Center (586) 298-2138 ★●●●
 Precious Angels Christian Academy (586) 649-7286 ★●●●
 Spark's Little Learners Academy (586) 817-1946 ★●●●
 Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center (586) 463-8803 ★●●●

EASTPOINTE

Eastpointe Community Schools (586) 533-3900 ★★●●●
 Boss Baby Early Learning Center (586) 900-2229 ★●●●
 CrossBridge Action Network (586) 260-6576 ★●●●
 Eaton Academy (586) 777-1519 ★●●●
 The Infinite Learning Center (586) 200-5264 ★●●●
 The Kid Cave (586) 350-0425 ★●●●
 Kid Fit Childcare (313) 421-2623 ★●●●
 Little Sprouts Academy (313) 500-3103 ★●●●
 Little World Childcare Center 2 (586) 879-0224 ★●●●
 St. Peter's Lutheran Early Childhood Center (586) 447-9280 ★●●●

FRASER

Fraser Public Schools (586) 439-7600 ★★●●●

MACOMB TWP

Childtime - 24 Mile/Romeo Plank (586) 677-9118 ★●●●
 The Goddard School Macomb (586) 786-5862 ★●●●
 God's Love Overpowers Child Care LLC (586) 213-1119 ★●●●
 Green Garden Child Development Center (248) 571-5767 ★●●●
 Northbrook Academy (586) 598-5112 ★●●●

MOUNT CLEMENS

Mount Clemens Community Schools (586) 461-3985 ★★●●●
 Kiddy Korner (586) 493-5988 ★●●●
 Morningstar (586) 469-5215 ★●●●

NEW BALTIMORE

Anchor Bay (586) 716-7862 ★★●●●

NEW HAVEN

New Haven Community Schools (586) 749-8063 ★★●●●
 Merritt Academy (586) 749-6000 ★●●●

RICHMOND

Richmond Community Schools (586) 727-3565 ★★●●●
 Seasons of Learning (586) 248-4949 ★●●●

ROMEO

Romeo Community Schools (586) 752-0314 ★★●●●

ROSEVILLE

Roseville Community Schools (586) 445-5780 ★★●●●
 Joyful Tots (586) 469-5215 ★●●●
 Kidz Kondo Learning Center (586) 871-2424 ★●●●
 Michigan Collegiate (586) 779-8055 ★●●●

ST CLAIR SHORES

Lake Shore Public Schools (586) 285-8570 ★●●●
 Lakeview Public Schools (586) 445-4159 ★●●●
 South Lake Schools (586) 435-1500 ★●●●
 Everlasting Word (586) 443-5760 ★●●●
 Joyful Jungle Christian Learning Center (248) 435-8445 ★●●●
 Mini Kampus (586) 294-2497 ★★●●●

SHELBY TWP

Childtime - 24 Mile/Mound (586) 781-8680 ★●●●
 Childtime - 22 Mile/Hayes (586) 532-7529 ★●●●
 Shining Star Pre-school (586) 731-3344 ★●●●
 Tutor Time - 21 Mile/Hayes (586) 532-7314 ★●●●

STERLING HEIGHTS

Utica Community Schools (586) 797-6930 ★★●●●
 Academy 4 Lil' Angels (586) 532-6666 ★●●●
 Chaldean Community Foundation (586) 722-7253 ★●●●
 Noor International Academy (586) 365-5000 ★●●●
 Sterling Heights KinderCare (586) 268-1680 ★●●●
 Tutor Time - 14 Mile/Van Dyke (586) 795-4770 ★●●●
 Tutor Time - 14 Mile/Hayes (586) 264-6554 ★●●●

WARREN

Fitzgerald Public Schools (586) 757-5150 ★●●●●
 Warren Consolidated Schools (586) 698-4046 ★★●●●
 Warren Woods Public Schools (586) 439-4885 ★●●●●
 Van Dyke Public Schools (586) 759-9406 ★★●●●
 The Giving Tree (586) 850-3729 ★★●●●
 Kids' Avenue Christian Learning Center #2 (586) 486-4630 ★●●●
 Kids Will Be Kids (586) 393-1096 ★●●●
 Little Leaders (248) 807-7232 ★★●●●
 Lovingkindness Learning Academy (586) 277-7211 ★●●●
 Michigan Math and Science Academy (586) 920-2163 ★●●●
 Mt Calvary Church (586) 469-5215 ★●●●
 One of a Kind Childcare Center (586) 459-5044 ★●●●
 Positive Impressions Childcare (586) 393-1385 ★●●●
 Second Home Child Development Center (586) 209-4267 ★●●●
 Small Wonders (586) 558-7444 ★●●●



Make Macomb Schools your home

For more information about Macomb Schools, go to www.misd.net

DECISION TIME

WHAT SHOULD YOU STUDY? TIPS TO HELP STUDENTS CHOOSE A COLLEGE MAJOR

Millions of students attend college after high school. The Education Data Initiative says there were 18,939,568 people enrolled in colleges in the United States in 2023.

At some point in their pursuit of post-secondary education, students will need to choose a major.

Choosing a major can be challenging for students who have various interests and/or did well in multiple subjects in high school.

The good news is that once a major is chosen, it isn't set in stone. Many students change their majors as they are exposed to different coursework in college.

Here are a few ideas for choosing a major:

- Don't be pressured by family. Some students simply choose "the family business" route and select the same school and major as one or both of their parents. Make this a well-informed choice that considers various aspects and not just what Mom or Dad do for a living.

- Select a subject you enjoy. You do not want to be slugging through the next four or more years of school studying topics that bore you. Avoid potential burnout by choosing a major that interests you and offers a future.

- Research a related industry. Investigate which jobs have higher rates of openings and compare other factors like earning potential. While the goal is not simply to select the major that will lead to a job with the highest earning potential, you should consider majors that will lead to jobs that are stable and offer growth potential. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is a good start for data. It currently lists wind turbine service technicians and nurse practitioners as the fastest-growing occupations.

- Determine how rigorous the coursework will be. Some majors



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO EDITORIAL SERVICES

feature more rigorous coursework than others. If you know that marathon study sessions and lots of research or writing projects are going to lead to extensive stress, it is probably best to consider another course of study. Indiana University Bloomington determined the most difficult majors based on the average time students spent per week preparing included architecture, chemical engineering and aeronautical engineering. Public relations, communications and criminal justice were among the less demanding majors, though it's important to note that excelling in any course of study requires hard work and commitment.

- Check in with your academic adviser. Academic advisers can guide you by offering career as-

essment quizzes and going over your grades. Such assessments may reveal skills that align well with certain fields of study.

- Delay the decision. If you truly do not know what you want to study, enroll in school undeclared. This will give you a chance to explore some general education "core" classes and feel out a school before making a larger commitment. Typically colleges will require a declaration of major by the end of sophomore year to allow enough time for completing that major's required courses.

Popular majors among modern college students

College students' choice of majors can set them on a path to-

ward rewarding and lucrative careers.

Though a career may not be foremost on the minds of students as they graduate high school and inch closer to the start of college, choice of major merits consideration, even among students who have yet to receive their high school diplomas.

Many college students enroll in school as undeclared, while others may pick a major without realizing what it requires and which career path it might set them on.

That might explain why it's so common for college students to switch majors.

Though data indicating how many students switch majors is somewhat dated, one study from the U.S. Department of Educa-

tion indicated about one in five students changed their majors at least once while pursuing a bachelor's degree. With that in mind, students may want to consider some popular majors as they try to determine which path to take in college.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than half of the 2.1 million bachelor's degrees awarded at United States colleges and universities in the 2020-21 school year were concentrated in six fields of study.

In addition, the NCES reports that the following are the six most popular degrees from that academic year.

1. Business: Almost one in five bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21 were in the field of business.

2. Health professions: This field accounted for 13% of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21. Common specializations include health sciences, health care administration, nursing and sports medicine.

3. Social sciences and history: NCES data indicates nearly one in 10 students majored in a social science in 2020-21. This includes specializations such as history, political science and sociology.

4. Engineering: Demand for engineers is expected to rise in the coming decades, and that should bode well for the 126,000 students who earned bachelor's degrees in engineering in 2020-21.

5. Biological and biomedical sciences: Bachelor's degrees awarded in biological and biomedical sciences increased by 46% between the 2010-11 and 2020-21 school years.

6. Psychology: NCES data indicates degrees in psychology accounted for 6% of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21.

— Metro Editorial Services



ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



HIGHLIGHTS:

STEAM-BASED CURRICULUM
 FREE 5-DAY-A-WEEK EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM
 CAREER TECH EDUCATION
 12 ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES
 GIFTED & TALENTED EDUCATION
 COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES
 SUMMER EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM

LAPTOP/IPAD FOR EVERY STUDENT
 STATE-OF-THE-ART CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY
 INDIVIDUALIZED MATH & READING PROGRAMS
 SAFE & SECURE SCHOOLS
 ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMS
 PERFORMING ARTS COURSES
 NO-FEE ATHLETICS

rosevillepride.org ■ 586.445.5500 ■



DIRECT ADMISSIONS

ON CAMPUS: HOW TO GET INTO COLLEGE WITHOUT APPLYING

By Eliza Haverstock

NerdWallet

This fall, high school seniors may find college acceptance letters in their mailboxes before they complete a single application.

It's not a scam — it's a nascent college admissions program called "direct admissions," offered by a growing number of states and third-party organizations.

Students eligible for direct admissions receive college acceptance letters before they apply, usually during the fall of their senior year of high school. Direct admissions decisions typically hinge on GPA only. Students may have to submit supplementary application materials to finalize and accept their offers, but the process doesn't require application fees, teacher recommendations, standardized test scores or endless essays. It's a streamlined route to college, which students can leverage in addition to (or instead of) the regular and early decision processes.

"The goal is really just to break down barriers for students, because students are worried. College is scary and foreign, and so the idea is to try and alleviate some of those anxieties and fears that students may have about, 'am I going to be admitted to a school?'" says Jessica Eby, Apply Idaho program manager at the Idaho State Board of Education.

Idaho became the first state to offer direct college admissions in 2015. Since then, a handful of states have rolled out their own programs, and experts say that number is poised to increase in coming years. Third-party providers Common App and Niche recently introduced their own direct admissions programs, opening the college pathway to students regardless of their geographical location.

"This is an incredibly low- to no-risk opportunity for (students). It will not cost them anything to participate. They can apply to the schools on their list with no appli-



Signage outside of the Admissions Office at Dartmouth College on Feb. 8, in Hanover, New Hampshire.

SCOTT EISEN — GETTY IMAGES

cation fee. It doesn't bind them to do anything, it doesn't limit them to doing anything," says Wendy Robinson, the assistant commissioner for programs, policies and grants at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

For state-based direct admissions programs, your participating high school will generally send your GPA and information to colleges; for third-party programs, you'll need to set up a profile with your GPA and other basic information.

Direct admissions doesn't automatically lead to more financial aid, but it can make it easier for students to apply to multiple schools, allowing families to compare colleges' financial aid offers and make an informed decision about paying for college. (Make sure to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to qualify for a financial aid offer, including federal student loans, grants, work-study and scholarships.)

"Apply to a community college, apply to a public four-year

school, apply to a private school, and see what your financial picture looks like at all three institutions, so that you can make the best choice for you and your family," Robinson says.

States with direct admissions

Some states already offer direct admissions or plan to in the upcoming year. Those states include:

- Connecticut: Launched in 2022-23.
- Georgia: Began in fall 2023.
- Hawaii: Launched in 2020-21.
- Idaho: Launched in 2015.
- Illinois: Pilot will begin in 2025.
- Indiana: Launched in fall 2023.
- Minnesota: Pilot started in fall 2022, program fully launched in fall 2023.
- Wisconsin: Launched in December 2024.

To see if your state offers direct admissions, check its higher education agency website.

State-based direct admissions

models vary. For example, Idaho promises to admit every public high school senior in the state to at least six in-state schools, which may include public and private options. Wisconsin's program only includes the public University of Wisconsin system.

Direct admissions is poised to expand in the coming years.

"I think in the next two or three years, there's going to be an explosion of states that are doing this," Robinson says.

If your state doesn't offer direct admissions

For students in states without direct admissions programs or those who want to go to an out-of-state school, companies like Niche and Common App present another route.

Niche, a commercial platform for families to research K-12 schools and colleges, works with colleges to set up minimum GPAs for direct admissions. Students set up free Niche profiles, then receive relevant direct admissions offers

on their dashboard. The offer will include financial information, like automatic scholarships and actual tuition estimates. (Students should still fill out the FAFSA for more financial aid, including federal loans and grants.) To accept a college's offer, a student will be navigated to the next steps, like paying an enrollment deposit and providing an official high school transcript.

"For a long time, there's been so much friction and difficulty applying to college, and this generation, Gen Z, is used to pressing a button, having Uber show up at their house, having a meal delivered to their door, they like things now and instantaneously. They don't want to wait six to nine months to get a result," says Niche CEO Luke Skurman.

So far, Niche has sent at least one offer to nearly 930,000 students for college enrollment in the fall, the company says. Ninety-one colleges participated in the 2023-24 recruitment cycle, and Niche aims to include at least 100 colleges for the upcoming year. Its direct admissions process for the 2024-25 recruitment cycle began Aug. 6.

Common App, a nonprofit that represents more than 1,000 colleges and universities, launched its own direct admissions program in the 2023-24 school year. It specifically targets students from low- and middle-income backgrounds who qualify for Common App fee waivers.

Participating colleges set admission requirements like a minimum GPA, then Common App finds students who qualify through information they've put into their Common App profile. The organization emails selected students with at least one non-binding direct admissions offer. Students may then finalize the application.

Seventy colleges and universities participated in the first year of Common App's direct admissions program, leading to offers for over 300,000 students across 28 states, according to a December 2023 Common App blog post.

Today's learners. Tomorrow's leaders.

Reimagining a new way of educating our students through the Academy approach



The Academy of Business, Entrepreneurship & Innovation (BEI)



The Academy of Design, Engineering & Manufacturing (DEM)



The Academy of Health, Human & Public Service (HHP)



An array of K-12 offerings in the fine arts include music, art, drama, choir and band.



Open to grade 6-12 resident and non-resident students, RVA offers an online option for independent learning with support from dedicated mentors. We also provide an in-district, on-site learning lab to promote student success. RVA students may participate in arts, athletics and other extracurriculars while earning a Romeo diploma *their way*.



The Academies at Romeo Middle School offer small learning communities where students can explore, engage and be empowered.



A new English Language Arts curriculum and specialized STEM, art and music classrooms support elementary instruction.



Open Fall of 2024 – a 10,000 square foot addition at Crowell Early Childhood Center!



For more information:
Contact the Enrollment Center
(586) 281-1404 • enrollment@romeok12.org
or go to RomeoBulldogs.org



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

316 North Main Street • Romeo, MI 48065

Embracing **R** community • Empowering students • Inspiring the future

SUCCESS AWAITS



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO EDITORIAL SERVICES

Closing the STEM skills gap to create new possibilities

By State Point

Over the next decade, it's projected that nearly 3.5 million manufacturing and STEM-related jobs will be available, yet 2 million are expected to go unfilled due to a skills gap, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Advocates are addressing systemic educational barriers that impact student success in order to fill this skills gap and expand opportunities for young people.

That's the idea behind Driving Possibilities, a \$110 million STEM career readiness and community engagement initiative of the Toyota USA Foundation. Its unique approach brings industry and academia together, while coordinating nonprofit services that address barriers and societal disparities — all to prepare youth for successful futures.

“From machine learning and connected technologies to autonomous vehicles and

electrification, the career opportunities of tomorrow will be boundless for those with STEM skills. During this time of rapid industry advancement, it's more important than ever to give all young people an equal opportunity to access rewarding careers in high-growth industries tomorrow,” says Colleen Casey, executive director, Driving Possibilities.

With the goal of increasing student awareness, excitement and interest in STEM learning, the multi-pronged approach of Driving Possibilities includes innovative, hands-on STEM programming from pre-K to 12th grade levels, professional and leadership development for teachers, and industry exposure and mentorship opportunities for students. The program also addresses students' essential needs to ensure they have the food, transportation, mental health services, after-school programming and early intervention lit-

eracy support they need to succeed.

This long-term initiative is already making a huge impact for thousands of families in such high-need locations near Toyota's operations in Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama. While the program looks a little different in each location because it is based on the unique needs of each community, the mission remains the same — to level the playing field for students facing educational barriers. To learn more, visit toyotaeffect.com.

“Young people are tomorrow's problem-solvers, makers and innovators. But they can face many roadblocks on their journey. Listening to what students need and then working within their communities to come up with solutions, will contribute to thriving communities, stronger local economies and limitless possibilities for all,” says Casey.

THOUGHT LEADERS

4 ways students can develop entrepreneurial skills

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

Young people who aspire to become prominent business professionals can now get a head start on the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful entrepreneurs before they ever leave high school.

Training for a particular field is an essential step in career preparation, but success comes from more than academic training. Developing ingenuity and creativity can take young professionals far, and those skills aren't necessarily found in a classroom.

If you, or a student in your life, is set on embarking on a challenging and rewarding path toward economic success, explore those entrepreneurial interests with these tips from the experts at Junior Achievement (JA), whose research shows 61% of teens would rather start their own businesses than have traditional jobs.

Tap into your network

Role models can provide immeasurable insight into the world of business and economics, demonstrating what it takes to build a successful and sustainable career. Identify someone in your circle who can serve as a mentor as you plan for the future. This might be a teacher, neighbor, someone who attends your church or a business owner in your community. Meeting and chatting even a couple of times a month can help you channel your ambition.

Participate in leadership events

Leaders put their skills into action. As a student, you can begin practicing your leadership skills by participating in events that challenge and engage you.

For example, the JA National Summit allows student teams — through the support of leading businesses like Staples, the Pacific Life Foundation and Chick-fil-A — to demonstrate their business acumen, creativity and entrepreneurial thinking in a competitive environment, showcasing their companies to Members of Congress.

Through one of the four dynamic competitions, the Company of the Year Competition, students launch and operate real business enterprises under the guidance of dedicated local business volunteers, conceptualize and market a product or service that addresses unmet consumer needs and attracts investors for their ventures. By most effectively demonstrating its company's achievements, as well as the personal development of each team member, FlameGuard, which offers a variety of fire safety products, was crowned this year's JA Company of the Year.

Understand your intended industry

It's never too early to begin following notable happenings in professional fields that interest you. That might mean monitoring news stories and setting up search terms to alert you to the latest articles.

You also may be able to subscribe to publications dedicated to the industry and join professional organizations connected to the field as a student ambassador. Researching the field can give you a stronger idea of how you can become more directly involved as a student.

Expand your education

As a student, you may have limited opportunities to explore your career field while also meeting the requirements for your high school diploma.

However, you can join (or start) a club to sharpen your focus on areas you have a special interest. You also can look for ways to learn more about your chosen field outside of school hours by attending camps, seminars and workshops. You may even be able to land a part-time job, internship or apprenticeship that provides greater visibility to your future career plans.

Find more ideas to support your growth as a future business leader at ja.org.

— Family Features

Find more ideas to support your growth as a future business leader at ja.org



BROTHER RICE



At Brother Rice, you are welcomed with **OPEN ARMS** to discover friendship, **ACCEPTANCE**, **KNOWLEDGE**, spirit, faith, **SUCCESS...and YOURSELF.**



RANKED THE #1 ALL-BOYS HIGH SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN

OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 24
6:00-8:00 PM

Join us to learn how Brother Rice is committed to helping every student, every year, achieve their highest level of excellence as they become ready for tomorrow.

SIGN UP: BRRICE.EDU/OPENHOUSE



CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

At Chippewa Valley Schools we inspire and empower students to achieve a lifetime of success. State-of-the-art facilities, tech-enhanced classrooms, and comprehensive instruction ready our learners for the rigors of the 21st century.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

From the moment your child enters school until the day they leave us, CVS is committed to their development and success. We provide a strong, challenging curriculum that ensures college readiness and creates productive, responsible, and caring students who love to learn.

SAFE & SECURE

Students learn best when they feel safe and secure. Our Safe Schools, Strong Schools bond improvements fund essential security enhancements district wide. School guard glass, emergency alert systems, security cameras, and improved locks and door systems ensure our students feel safe at school.

CTE PATHWAYS

At CVS, we're committed to preparing students for post-high school success. Our award-winning Career and Technical Education program is launching students into high-paying careers. With 15 comprehensive pathways to choose from, we support all our students' diverse interests.

DEDICATED EDUCATORS

Our learning community would be nothing without our tremendous teachers and support staff, who feel like family. They all help to create a warm, inspirational learning environment in which your child will feel at home. Our teachers share a clear focus to ensure an outstanding classroom experience for every student.

CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

A close-knit school community is one of our biggest assets. We believe parent involvement and community support are key to student success. Parents and families volunteer, attend meetings, conferences, and extracurricular events throughout the school year to show students they care.

FINE ARTS

Fine arts programs give learners the chance to explore their passions. Our students receive local, state, and national awards in the arts. With classes in art, photography, music, band, choir, theater, and more, we're igniting students' creativity.

ATHLETICS

Athletics at CVS are an essential part of learning cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership - qualities that last a lifetime. They make players into community leaders and teach them how to strive for a goal, handle mistakes, and cherish growth opportunities.

To learn more about enrolling in the Chippewa Valley School district visit:
choosechippewa.com or call us 586-723-2240.