



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

New Hampshire's "[I Am College Bound/I Applied](#)" campaign is designed to encourage high school seniors to pursue post-secondary education and to assist them in navigating the college admission process by inviting them to submit at least one college admission application during a specified school day with the support of their school counseling office and local higher education professionals.

This campaign is part of the ACT's [American College Application Campaign \(ACAC\)](#), a national effort to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential.

High schools are invited to participate in the "I Am College Bound/I Applied" campaign based upon a combination of documented higher-than-state average free and reduced lunch population for high school students, as well as a lower-than-state average college-going rate. While special focus is placed upon assisting students who would be the first in their families to attend college and students who may not have otherwise seriously considered attending college, each eligible senior at participating high schools is encouraged to take part in the event.

In 2019, this campaign was held from November 4 through November 20 and for the third year in a row, **all New Hampshire colleges and universities offered free college applications** to the students at the 50 participating public high schools during their school's event. Participating students benefitted from **nearly \$170,000 in waived college application fees** (this number does not include any existing free applications used by any of the state's colleges and universities). Additionally, each participating high school received one \$500 scholarship to be raffled and awarded to a participating student.

## 2019 I Am College Bound/I Applied Sponsors:

- NH Department of Education (primary sponsor)
- NH Charitable Foundation
- NH School Counselor Association
- NH Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
- The NHHEAF Network Organizations (in-kind)

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## I Am College Bound/I Applied by The Numbers:

- Number of Participating Students: 2268 \* (an increase of 35% over 2018)
- Number of High Schools: 50 \* (an increase of 19% over 2018)
- Number of Applications: 6,106 \* (an increase of 37% over 2018)
- Average Number of Applications Per Student: 2.7 (an increase from 2.6 in 2018)
- Private NH colleges: 1,785
- Public NH colleges: 3,783
- In-state colleges: 5,568
- Out-of-state colleges: 538

\*Data reported to ACT as part of national initiative reporting.

## Submitted Applications to NH Post-Secondary Institutions:

Institution Name	Applications	Institution Name	Applications
Colby-Sawyer College	266	NHTI – Concord's Community College	249
Dartmouth College	117	Plymouth State University	786
Franklin Pierce University	250	River Valley Community College	43
Granite State College	19	Rivier University	169
Great Bay Community College	172	Saint Anselm College	261
Keene State College	691	Southern New Hampshire University	540
Lakes Region Community College	124	University of New Hampshire (Manchester)	50
Manchester Community College	135	University of New Hampshire (Durham)	1394
Nashua Community College	51	White Mountains Community College	69
New England College	182		

## Submitted Applications to Out-of-State Post-Secondary Institutions (most popular):

- Merrimack College – 35
- University of Maine – 33
- University of New England -23



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## Submitted Applications by Participating High School:

Name of High School	Number of Participating Students	Number of Applications Submitted
Alvirne High School	62	150
Belmont High School	32	81
Berlin High School	14	42
Coe-Brown Academy	67	97
Colebrook Academy	16	61
Conant High School	22	75
Concord High School	73	163
Dover High School	105	211
Epping High School	33	89
Fall Mountain Reg High School	30	74
Franklin High School	16	81
Groveton High School	26	114
Inter-Lakes High School	37	86
Kearsarge Reg High School	25	40
Keene High School	70	203
Kennett High School	44	92
Kingswood Reg High School	49	130
Laconia High School	83	103
Lebanon High School	51	94
Lisbon High School	17	43
Littleton High School	37	106
Manchester Central High School	94	230
Manchester Memorial High School	88	360
Manchester School of Technology	8	13
Manchester West High School	15	50
Mascenic High School	28	119
Mascoma Valley Reg High School	24	51
Merrimack Valley High School	62	185
Milford High School	55	127
Nashua North High School	90	244
Nashua High School South	79	234
Newfound Regional High School	28	81
Newport High School	10	20
Nute High School	9	28



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Pembroke Academy	60	165
Pittsburg High School	6	16
Pittsfield High School	22	105
Portsmouth High School	81	167
Profile High School	17	27
Raymond High School	44	163
Salem High School	76	209
Sanborn Regional High School	104	312
Somersworth High School	37	107
Spaulding High School	128	383
Stevens High School	56	183
White Mountains Reg High School	33	134
Wilton-Lyndeboro High School	21	57
Winnacunnet High School	55	98
Winnisquam Regional High School	17	52
Woodsville High School	12	51
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>6,106</b>

\***28.65%** of all eligible high school seniors, as reported by reported by the NH Department of Education (as of January 2019), participated in this initiative.



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## Volunteer Support:

Based on positive feedback and results in 2018, we continued utilizing “Super Volunteers” to help manage many of our 50 programs. Super Volunteers supported site coordinators and coordinated other volunteers during a school’s event.

Our overall initiative would not be possible without the help of all of our volunteers from New Hampshire high schools, college and university admission offices, student assistance organizations, and retired school counselors who worked with students to complete their applications, provided technological assistance, recorded data and carried out the events across the state. Throughout the program’s three weeks, **over 85** volunteers donated their time to these programs. Our volunteer base includes representatives from:

Campus Compact/AmeriCorps VISTAs	NHTI – Concord’s Community College
NHHEAF Network Organizations’ Center for College Planning (CCP)	Plymouth State University
Colby-Sawyer College	River Valley Community College
Educational Talent Search (UNH)	Saint Anselm College
Franklin Pierce University	Southern New Hampshire University
Gear-Up NH	Southern New Hampshire University – The Advantage Program
Granite State College	St. Paul’s School
Great Bay Community College	The Derryfield School
Keene State College	The Tilton School
Manchester Community College	University of New Hampshire – Durham
Nashua Community College	University of New Hampshire – Manchester
New England College	Upward Bound (Keene State & UNH)
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	White Mountains Community College



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## Our Student Participants Say:

- "Everyone was helpful and there was no judgment on what school you applied to."
- "I was sitting next to the woman who would look over my application for one of the colleges that I am applying to."
- "Not only did I have a lot of help with the process, I was celebrated which made me feel good."
- "I was very happy with all the representatives there, they were nice and helped me every time I had a question. I was overwhelmed going in, but satisfied and confident walking out."
- "The fee waivers were excellent, because I would not have applied to many of the colleges without them."

## Our Volunteers Say:

- "When asked by his counselor why he was applying to only one school, a student replied, "Until today, I didn't expect I'd apply to any.""
- "This event really provides access to students who otherwise may not be able to afford college applications and helps students who may not qualify for fee waivers but still have financial need."
- "At WMRHS there was a student who was very apprehensive about submitting his 1st application. By the end of the session he was helping others with the process."

## And Our Site Coordinators/School Counselors Say:

- "I have a student who is bright, intelligent and very capable but struggles with anxiety/depression. She was very hesitant to apply to college and had decided two weeks prior to "think" about applying to a 2-year program. She saw her peers applying during the event, and Given the excitement of the day decided (despite her fears) to take the leap and applied to Keene State!"
- "I have one student in particular who had a really rough time in his early high school years. I don't think college was something he even thought of as a possibility until the start of his senior year. Events like this help bring up the conversation within the school and he actually came to 2 blocks so he could have his whole application reviewed as well as his essay (he was over 30 words so one rep worked with him word by word to get it down to the 650). He's really excited about the prospect of going to college and has been super motivated academically this year as well as a result."



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## In The News:

10/30/19 – Spaulding High School - <https://www.fosters.com/news/20191030/spaulding-high-to-participate-in-college-application-initiative>

11/6/19 – Kennett High School - [https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/program-helps-students-save-on-college-application-fees/article\\_cee1b364-fb46-11e9-bc89-db5023507ff1.html](https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/program-helps-students-save-on-college-application-fees/article_cee1b364-fb46-11e9-bc89-db5023507ff1.html)

11/7/19 – Dover High School - <https://www.fosters.com/news/20191107/i-am-actually-going-to-college-dover-students-get-application-boost>

11/15/19 – Spaulding High School - <https://www.fosters.com/news/20191115/spaulding-students-to-take-part-in-i-am-college-bound-i-applied>

11/15/19 – Kennett High School - [https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/eagles-take-part-in-i-am-college-bound-month/article\\_6d46088a-0640-11ea-b33a-e7a3e8c22e60.html](https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/eagles-take-part-in-i-am-college-bound-month/article_6d46088a-0640-11ea-b33a-e7a3e8c22e60.html)

## Photo Gallery:

Please view photos from this year's initiative here - <https://nhheaf.org/IACB-gallery-2019.asp>

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## Looking Ahead:

Follow-up materials regarding completing the college admissions and financial aid processes were provided to participating students at each school's event, and students who opted in for additional electronic communications have been subscribed to The NHHEAF Network Organizations' [Varsity Letter monthly e-newsletter](#) to re-inforce the key next steps in the college admissions, financial aid and private scholarship processes.

It is our hope to continue to build the "I Am College Bound" brand across the state of New Hampshire. In addition to "I Am College Bound/I Applied", we will further our work to create [campaigns and initiatives](#) around "I Am College Bound/I Filed" to support FAFSA-filing efforts and "I Am College Bound/I Decided" to support decision day activities for all high school seniors. These three initiatives align with other national efforts to recognize these milestones for high school seniors.

Admissions offices at New Hampshire colleges and universities have been provided the names of participating students in this program who have applied to their institution for follow-up and hopefully, quick notification of college acceptances.

Many high schools immediately awarded their \$500 scholarship to participating students after their school's event. Other high schools will award their scholarships during their awards ceremony in the Spring.

Tracking students to college enrollment after high school graduation is imperative to the success of this initiative. We are grateful to GearUp NH for their partnership to help us track participating students through the Clearinghouse to determine how many enroll in a 2- or 4-year college the following year.

"I Am College Bound/I Applied" will continue to expand in 2020 to include the participation of five (5) to seven (7) additional New Hampshire public high schools. It is our goal to have all high schools, public and private, participate in "I Am College Bound/I Applied" by 2025.





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## A Few Final Photos:



Our 6th Annual "I Am College Bound/I Applied" month kicked off at Manchester Memorial High School, with this amazing group of leaders encouraging the school's high school seniors to apply. Leaders joining the celebration included (from left to right) The NHHEAF Network Organizations' President & CEO Christiana Thornton, NH Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Congressman Chris Pappas, Congresswoman Annie Kuster, Senator Maggie Hassan, Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig, NH Senator Lou D'Allesandro, and Manchester School Superintendent John Goldhardt.



We love how some participants list the colleges they applied to when they sign their school's banner, like they did at Nute HS (a new school in 2019!!)

**Published:** December 2019

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