

## Important Dates

Friday, September 12  
**SDP Half Day  
Staff Development**

Tuesday, September 23  
**SDP Closed  
for Rosh Hashanah**

Wednesday, September 24  
**Penn Talent Search  
Virtual Orientation**



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

We're excited to start a new school year with all of you and want to extend a warm welcome to our recently enrolled students.

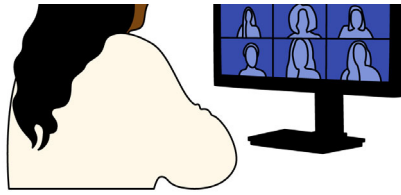
If you're a returning student, welcome back! There's **no need to reapply** to the program. Once you're enrolled in Talent Search, you remain in the program until you graduate high school. However, **if you're in 9th grade or have changed schools, please keep us updated** by sending your name, grade level, and school name to [vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu](mailto:vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu).

This month's newsletter is packed full of information! **Read on to learn about our upcoming virtual program orientation, high school selection for 8th graders, College Corner, and more!**

Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at [vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu](mailto:vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu).



## Virtual Program Orientation



Penn Talent Search will host a virtual orientation for new and returning scholars, parents, and guardians.

**Wednesday, September 24**  
**6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Join us on Zoom to meet the staff, learn more about the program, and get a preview of what's in store for this year!

**Zoom Link:**

[https://upenn.zoom.us/j/94799001477?  
pwd=G45cF7Y7jsYN2Er9814fSaGcHiXK2b.1&from=ad  
don](https://upenn.zoom.us/j/94799001477?pwd=G45cF7Y7jsYN2Er9814fSaGcHiXK2b.1&from=addon)

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## High School Selection

Eighth graders who would like to attend a high school other than their catchment (neighborhood) school will need to go through the School District of Philadelphia's School Selection process. This year, school selection opens on September 8th at 4pm and closes October 23rd at 11:59pm.

[Click here for official details](#) or attend one of the events listed below for more information and support in selecting and applying to high school.

### **K-12 Philly School Fair**

*PA Convention Center at 12th and Arch Streets*

- Saturday, September 20 (10AM - 4PM)

[Get your free tickets!](#)

### **Penn Talent Search School Selection Information Session**

[Virtual on Zoom](#)

- Wednesday, October 1 (6-7 PM)



# COLLEGE CORNER

Sep. 17	Common App & College Timeline
Oct. 8	Early Deadlines
Oct. 22	Writing the College Essay
Nov. 12	School-Specific Essays
Dec. 3	Regular Decision Checklist

Wednesdays 6-7pm

Zoom link in Canvas!

Are you a high school student getting ready to apply to college? Join our counselor, Ms. Sofia, for **College Corner**, a series of live webinars covering everything you need to know about the college application process.

This semester's first College Corner session is scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6:00 p.m.** We'll cover the Common App and the college application timeline.

Join on Zoom:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92100309823?pwd=x5LHaixCb1wn8EvSeieFjp7nPwvaNF.1>

## Take a Leadership Role as a Student Ambassador!

Talent Search is now accepting applications for 9th-12th grade Student Ambassadors. These specially chosen students will serve as a connection between Talent Search and their school, giving suggestions for future events and recruiting classmates to the program.

Penn Talent Search will select one high school student applicant per school to represent the program, assist with recruitment, and act as a mentor for fellow Talent Search participants. Penn Talent Search ambassadors are expected to attend a monthly meeting on Zoom.

If you're interested, [fill out our application now!](#)

## Advocate for Talent Search and Other TRIO Programs

Did you know that Penn Talent Search is a federal TRIO program?

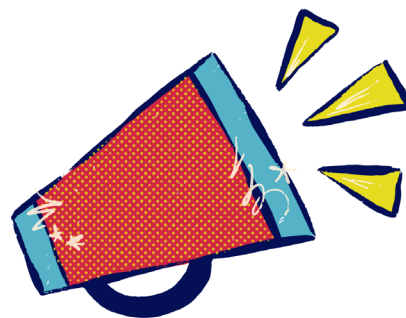
TRIO programs operate in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Collectively, [more than 3,400 TRIO programs](#)

[nationwide](#) help nearly one million students enter and graduate from college each year.

Penn Talent Search alone serves 583 students in Philadelphia.

Recently, the White House issued a [budget proposal](#) that would **eliminate all TRIO**



**programs** in the coming year. Across the country, TRIO students could lose access to the academic advising, career guidance, and personal support that make success possible for so many first-generation and low-income students.

**Policymakers in Congress need to hear from YOU** — the TRIO students, parents, and families — about the importance of protecting Talent Search and other programs, so we can continue to support every one of our participants along their educational journey!

Use the links below to contact your senators and representative asking for continued funding of the federal TRIO programs

- [\*\*Sample Email from Current TRIO Student\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Sample Email from Parent/Guardian and Other Supporters\*\*](#)

Thank you for being a TRIO advocate!

## Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

### Gates Scholarship

The Gates Scholarship is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for **outstanding high school seniors from low-income households**. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to exceptional student leaders, with the intent of helping them realize their maximum potential.

Scholars will receive funding for the **full cost of attendance** that is not already covered by other financial aid and the Student Aid Index, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the methodology used by a Scholar's college or university.

To apply, students must be:

- A high school senior
- Pell-eligible
- A US citizen or permanent resident
- In good academic standing with a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

Additionally, a student must plan to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university.

[\*\*Click here to get more information and apply no later than September 15.\*\*](#)

### 10X Digital Scholarship

### Access Engineering

High school students who are **interested in STEM and engineering**, apply to be a student in Access Engineering! Participants get hands-on lessons every week, mentorship from Penn students, and the opportunity to explore exciting fields in science and engineering.

Access Engineering is the University of Pennsylvania's largest student-run engineering education program. The program aims to cultivate Philadelphia high school students' interest in engineering and demonstrate their capability to make meaningful change through a semester of weekend lessons at Penn Engineering's campus that introduce students to six engineering disciplines.

This program is for all students in the Philadelphia public high school district and is completely free to attend. Lunch and SEPTA keys will be provided. The program meets on **Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm** on campus at Penn.

[\*\*Click here to apply no later than October 4.\*\*](#)

### FLoP Bowl Esports Tournament

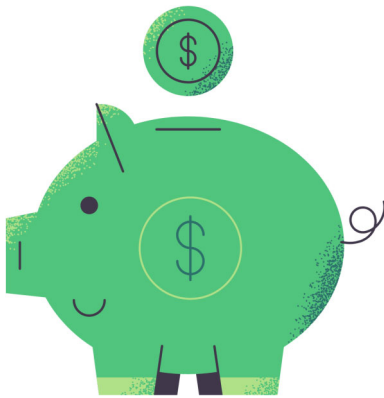
The Free Library has announced its first-ever FLoP (Free Library of Philadelphia) Bowl, a free esports tournament for **teens aged 12 to 18** hosted at ten local library branches

Are you a **high school senior** or undergraduate who is looking to offset the cost of your business, tech, marketing or communications degree? Apply for the 10X **\$4,000 digital marketing scholarship**.

Applicants must write an essay of at least 500 words regarding your life story, your intended field of study, career and how you specifically will make an impact on the world.

To apply, you must be a high school senior or college student who is majoring (or plans to major) in a field related to digital marketing. You must plan to take at least 10 credit hours.

**[Click here to get more info and apply no later than September 10.](#)**



throughout the city. Participants will compete in a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament on the Nintendo Switch, with games running weekly from September 22 to December 8.

Teams will meet weekly in person to compete virtually against other teams from other Free Library branches. They will also have the opportunity to compete live on stage at Localhost's Center City facility for the tournament's Midway Madness and Grand Finals events.

**Participation is through in-person registration only.** Sign up no later than Monday, September 15 at one of the following library locations:

- Field Teen Center, Parkway Central Library
- Philadelphia City Institute Library
- Lillian Marrero Library
- Lucien E. Blackwell West Philadelphia Regional Library
- South Philadelphia Library
- Kingessing Library
- Lovett Memorial Library
- Joseph E. Coleman Northwest Regional Library
- Fox Chase Library
- Tacony Library

**[Click here to get more info!](#)**



Follow us on social media and visit us online at **<https://vpse.upenn.edu/ets!>**

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