

## Important Dates

Friday, October 9  
**SDP Closed for Staff  
Professional Development**

Monday, October 12  
**SDP Closed for  
Indigenous People's Day**



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

Thanks to all who joined in last week's Virtual Orientation. It was great to see some familiar faces and new ones, too! In case you missed it, you can [click here to access the recording](#) (passcode: R@F57.xr).

Read on for information regarding high school selection, FAFSA, college fairs, October College Corner sessions, and more!

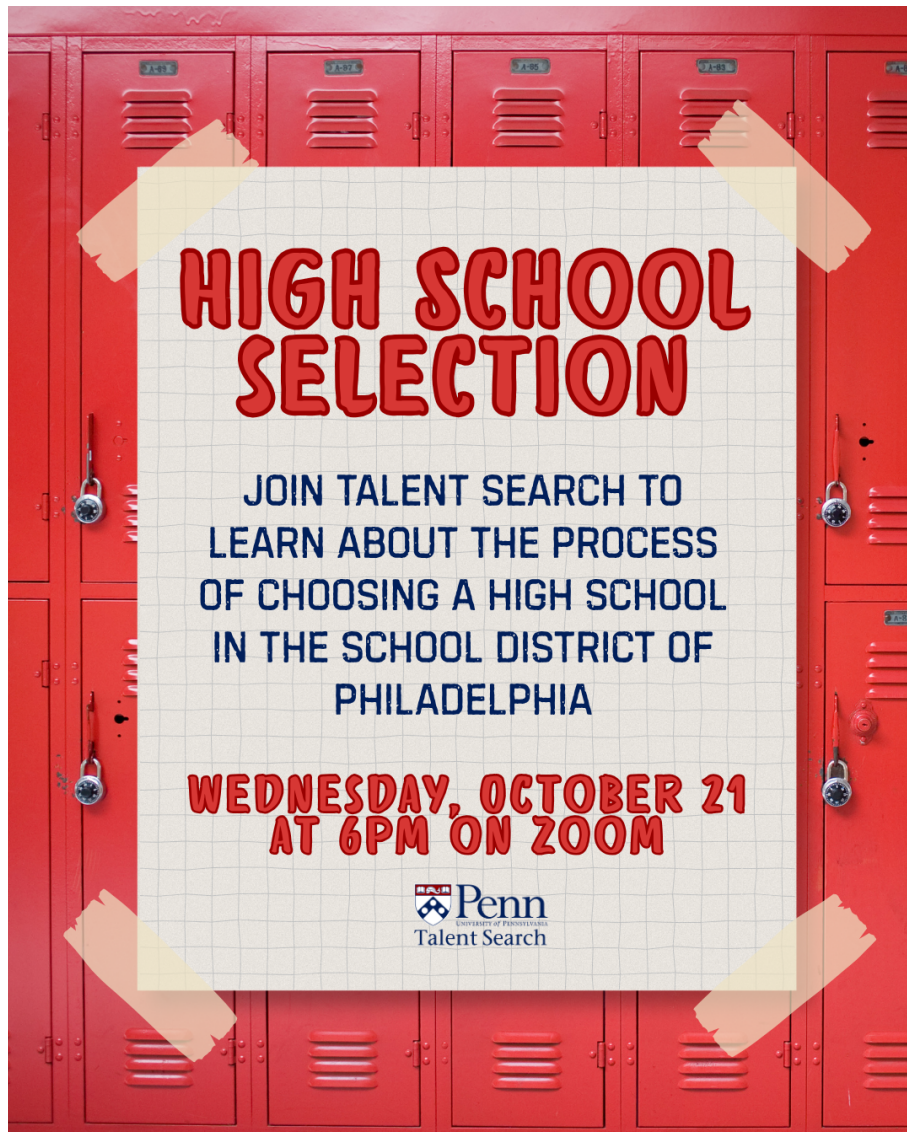
Have questions or need assistance? Contact us any time at [vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu](mailto:vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu).



## High School Selection for 8th graders

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's school selection opens TODAY 10/5 at 4 p.m. and closes on **Tuesday, November 24 at 11:59 p.m.**



Penn Talent Search will host a School Selection Virtual Information Session on **Wednesday, October 21** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Join us on Zoom to learn ...

Zoom Link:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/97919483585?pwd=4gWiCpOuBFIL0KrMXt1Q7jZ1niVaek.1&jst=1>

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## FAFSA Info for High School Seniors

The 2027-28 FAFSA is now available! Colleges and career schools use the **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive, which could include grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.

Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs should complete the FAFSA. You must apply for aid every year, but with the right information in hand — and a little help from Talent Search — it's easy.



# FAFSA WORKSHOP

All students applying to college, trade, or beauty school should fill out the FAFSA.

In this Zoom session, we will cover:

- What the FAFSA is & how to fill it out
- Which family members sign the FAFSA
- Dependent vs. independent students

**Monday, October 19  
at 6pm**

**Zoom link on Canvas!**

Penn Talent Search will host a virtual FAFSA Workshop on **Monday, October 19** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Join us on Zoom to learn how to create an FSA ID, the difference between dependent and independent students, and more.

Zoom Link:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/97826070298?pwd=pPbkKzaFPKwgh7bJC7SlvrGuOefX6b.1&jst=1>

## College Fair Tips and Tricks

College Fairs are a great way to explore your interests and meet representatives from many different colleges all in one place. Make sure you're prepared by registering for one of the following upcoming fairs and following these expert tips. You don't have to be a senior to attend!

### UPCOMING COLLEGE FAIRS

#### **Philadelphia National College Fair**

- Saturday, October 10th from 11 am-3 pm
- Pennsylvania Convention Center (1101 Arch Street)



### Philadelphia Architecture & Design College Fair

- Sunday, October 25th from 10 am-2 pm
- Temple Tyler School of Art (2001 N. 13th Street)

### PASSHE College Fair

- Wednesday, November 4th from 4-7 pm
- School District of Philadelphia Building (440 N. Broad Street)

### Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair

- Wednesday, November 18th from 3:30-7 pm
- Martin Luther King HS (6100 Stenton Avenue)

## BEFORE THE EVENT

- **Register online.** Most college fairs are free, but organizers require your basic information to RSVP.
- **Find the list of schools attending.** Click around on the event website to find the list of schools that will be attending. Make sure the schools you want are on the list.
- **Research schools you are interested in.** The more you know, the better prepared you will feel! Have specific questions in mind for specific schools.
- **Come up with a game plan.** Know which schools you will prioritize at the fair, but make sure to talk to reps from other schools too!

## AT THE EVENT

- **Introduce yourself!** Say hello and tell college reps your name, grade, and the school you attend.
- **Explain your interests.** You can talk about what subjects you like, extracurriculars you participate in, or majors you want to explore in college.
- **Ask questions.** Collecting information will help you decide if the school could be right for you. Inquire about student demographics, campus life, academic workload, and whatever else you want to know.
- **Be professional.** This can look like attentive listening, eye contact, and a handshake if you're comfortable. Represent the best possible version of yourself!

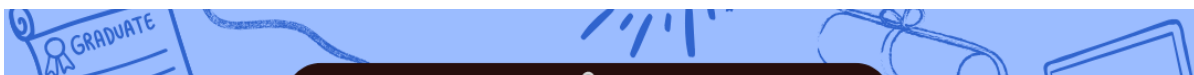


## AFTER THE EVENT

- **Applying seniors** should make sure to have a **Common App** account created, request letters of recommendation from teachers, and complete the **FAFSA** as soon as possible.
- **Get additional support from Talent Search** by attending College Corner sessions and/or scheduling a **one-on-one Zoom appointment**.

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# October College Corner Sessions





FALL 2026

# COLLEGE CORNER

~~Sep. 23~~ Common App & College Timeline

Oct. 14 Early Deadlines

Oct. 28 Writing the College Essay

Nov. 18 School-Specific Essays

Dec. 2 Regular Decision Checklist

Wednesdays 6-7pm

Zoom link in Canvas!

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

Mark your calendar for **TWO College Corner sessions** this month!

- Wednesday, October 14 - Early Deadlines
- Wednesday, October 28 - Writing the College Essay

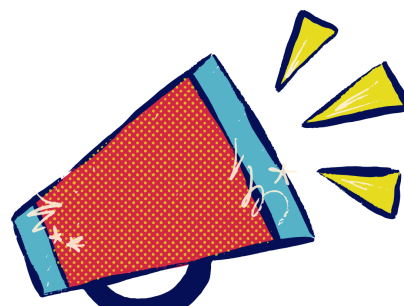
Both sessions will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the same Zoom link:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/98477349020?pwd=iYy3upDlicDe0wYBRaBKWj6Y8ISnWL.1&jst=1>

## Talent Search and TRIO Advocacy Update

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

With grant funding from the federal government, 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 more than 500 students in Philadelphia.

**As of last month, Penn's Talent Search program was just refunded for another five years!** We are thrilled to be able to continue serving you all and to welcome more new students each year. This positive outcome is due, in part, to the work of our community members who have reached out to members of Congress letting them know how valuable Talent Search and other TRIO programs are to our participants.

We still need your support! Recent proposals from the U.S. Department of Education would fundamentally change TRIO—shifting it away from its core mission of college access for low-income and first-generation students and toward a workforce pipeline model. **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 serve every one of our participants along their educational journey. **Enter your address and zip code at the top of this page to send a message to your elected officials in support of Talent Search and all TRIO programs.**

Thank you for being a TRIO advocate!

## Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

### Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP)

The Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) places high school students in Department of Navy laboratories where they will **take part in real Naval research for eight weeks during the summer.**

SEAP gives high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors interested in STEM the opportunity to learn about Naval research and technology while receiving first-class mentoring from top scientists and engineers. New participants earn a **stipend of \$4,000.**

SEAP is a competitive program limited to about 300 placements across 38 laboratories in the country. Interns are selected based on academic achievement, personal statements, recommendations, and career and research interests.

Eligibility requirements:

- **High school students who have completed at least Grade 9**
- Must be currently enrolled in high school; graduating seniors are eligible

### TGR Learning Lab Workshops

TGR Learning Lab Philadelphia gives students the chance to explore, create and try something new in a fun, hands-on environment. From STEAM subjects to weekend activities, career-connected workshops and college readiness experiences, students build skills, discover interests and gain confidence along the way.

This fall, students in **grades 9-12** can register for **FREE workshops exploring Pre-Law, Healthcare, and other topics.**

Upcoming workshops:

- **Partners in Care: Inside the Exam Room** (Wed. 10/7, 4:30-5:30 pm)
- **One Thing is Certain: Financial Planning** (Thurs. 10/8, 4:00-5:30 pm)
- **Learn from a Lawyer: Sports and Entertainment Law** (Wed. 10/21, 4:00-5:30 pm)
- **Disease Detectives: Investigate an Outbreak** (Wed. 10/28, 4:30-5:30 pm)
- **The Business Behind Every Business: Careers in Accounting** (Wed. 11/4, 4:00-5:30 pm)

to apply

- Must be 16 years old or older by the internship start date
- Must be a U.S. citizen (some labs make exceptions for Permanent Residents or Dual Citizens)

[Click here to get more information and apply no later than November 30.](#)

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## 826 National Student Publishing Opportunity

Submissions are open for 826 National's 2026-27 student anthology, *Infinite Words*. Students across the country are invited to explore the infinite ideas they can make possible through writing. Genres can include short stories, memoir, poetry, essays, and more. Selected pieces will be published in 826 National's annual anthology.

Submissions are welcomed from **all students in the U.S. currently enrolled in grades K-12**. In alignment with 826 National's mission to serve students from under-resourced schools and historically marginalized communities, priority consideration will be given to students enrolled in Title 1 schools.

[Click here to get more information and submit no later than December 4.](#)

[Click here to get more information and register for each workshop separately.](#)

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## Friday Night Writes

The Philadelphia Writing Project invites students (**ages 10+**) to attend monthly drop-in sessions with undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students from the University of Pennsylvania available to discuss students' creative and academic writing.

Writing coaches will be on site at Gutmann College House (211 S. 40th Street) on the following Fridays from 4-6pm:

- October 16
- November 6
- November 16

No need to make an appointment! Just show up to **write, work, and get feedback**. Parents and caregivers are welcome to drop off or stay! Snacks included.

Coaches are ready support any form of writing, including submissions to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, college scholarship and admission essays, creative works (e.g., poems, short stories, novels), and school assignments.

[Click here to get more information.](#)



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

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