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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 American Council on Education'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 2018, this campaign was held from November 13 through November 30 and for the second year in a row, **all New Hampshire colleges and universities offered free college applications** to the students at the 42 participating public high schools during their school's event. Participating students benefitted from an **estimated \$127,000 in waived college application fees** (this does not include any existing free applications used by any of the state's colleges and universities). Additionally, each participating high school receives one \$500 scholarship to be raffled and awarded to a participating student.

2018 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: 1,672 * (an increase of 19% over 2017)
- Number of High Schools: 42 * (an increase of 20% over 2017)
- Number of Applications: 4,442 * (an increase of 24% over 2017)
- Average Number of Applications Per Student: 2.6 (an increase from 2.48 in 2017)
- Private NH colleges: 1,171
- Public NH colleges: 2,683
- In-state colleges: 3,854
- Out-of-state colleges: 588

*Data reported to American Council on Education as part of national initiative reporting.

Submitted Applications to NH Post-Secondary Institutions:

Institution Name	Applications	Institution Name	Applications
Colby-Sawyer College	157	New Hampshire Institute of Art	12
Dartmouth College	81	NHTI – Concord's Community College	260
Franklin Pierce University	162	Plymouth State University	536
Granite State College	13	River Valley Community College	36
Great Bay Community College	142	Rivier University	95
Keene State College	463	Saint Anselm College	130
Lakes Region Community College	83	Southern New Hampshire University	422
Manchester Community College	97	University of New Hampshire (Manchester)	44
Nashua Community College	30	University of New Hampshire (Durham)	911
New England College	112	White Mountains Community College	68

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

- University of New England – 49
- University of Maine – 26
- Merrimack College -15



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Submitted Applications by Participating High School:

Name of High School	Number of Participating Students	Number of Applications Submitted	Senior Enrollment Numbers *	% of Students Participating
Alvirne High School	25	51	311	8.04%
Belmont High School	34	159	109	31.19%
Berlin High School	11	31	95	11.58%
Colebrook Academy	13	35	32	40.63%
Conant High School	17	38	89	19.10%
Concord High School	69	147	410	16.83%
Dover High School	77	154	361	21.33%
Epping High School	33	106	62	53.23%
Fall Mountain Reg High School	32	109	125	25.60%
Franklin High School	18	95	50	36.00%
Groveton High School	23	87	26	88.46%
Kearsarge Reg High School	24	50	140	17.14%
Keene High School	58	133	323	17.96%
Kennett High School	53	122	189	28.04%
Kingswood Reg High School	62	189	192	32.29%
Laconia High School	78	178	138	56.52%
Lisbon High School	21	55	25	84.00%
Manchester Central High School	88	226	279	31.54%
Manchester Memorial High School	63	184	295	21.36%
Manchester West High School	30	63	141	21.28%
Mascenic High School	26	127	79	32.91%
Mascoma Valley Reg High School	17	36	68	25.00%
Merrimack Valley High School	73	206	193	37.82%
Nashua High School South	58	126	365	15.89%



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Nashua North High School	45	94	370	12.16%
Newfound Regional High School	34	91	93	36.56%
Newport High School	15	45	80	18.75%
Nute High School	10	30	31	32.26%
Pembroke Academy	52	139	150	34.67%
Pittsburg High School	3	4	5	60.00%
Pittsfield High School	19	69	27	70.37%
Portsmouth High School	60	74	279	21.51%
Profile High School	13	29	36	36.11%
Raymond High School	48	143	67	71.64%
Salem High School	64	146	252	25.40%
Sanborn Regional High School	80	245	158	50.63%
Somersworth High School	47	194	91	51.65%
Stevens High School	43	96	121	35.54%
White Mountains Reg High School	51	138	93	54.84%
Winnacunnet High School	49	111	241	20.33%
Winnisquam Regional High School	19	39	114	16.67%
Woodsville High School	17	48	47	36.17%
Totals:	1672	4442	6352	26.3%

*Data provided by NH Department of Education as of December 12, 2018.



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Volunteer Support:

In 2018, our program incorporated the use of “Super Volunteers” to help manage many of our 42 programs. Super Volunteers were utilized to specifically support site coordinators and coordinate other volunteers during a school’s event. This successful transition allowed us to expand our program from 34 to 42 schools and we are grateful for their support.

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, and student assistance organizations 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 two weeks, volunteers donated **over an estimated 750** hours of their time. 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:

- "I felt secure about applying to college with other people who knew what to do properly."
- "I loved the support from the people there. They seemed proud of me and made me feel good about myself."
- "I enjoyed how students received hands-on help applying to colleges. The people at the event made time for everyone and even the superintendent made an appearance."
- "It was a low-stress environment. Applying to college feels unreal in a way, and applying there with lots of help was comforting!"

Our Volunteers Say:

- "I always LOVE this event! The students at Manchester High School West were all at different stages of their applications but came to this event to look for help along the way. College applications can be daunting and asking for help can be even scarier! I think this event provides support for hiccups that may occur and encourages students to persevere towards their dreams of higher education."
- "This is by far my favorite part of my fall travel season. This event does a great job of making students excited for college and feeling like it's both an opportunity for them and a possibility."
- "Great event! Excellent opportunity for students to get the push/support they need to apply to their NH schools, and a fun atmosphere to do so."

And Our Site Coordinators/School Counselors Say:

- "I had an unaccompanied youth who was able to apply hassle-free to a number of schools for free as well as several others for whom app fees would have been a hardship (but may not have been able to obtain fee waivers for)."
- "I liked how it allowed students to receive the help they needed. College applications are so overwhelming to them, but this program alleviates so much stress for them."
- "A senior came to the event only interested in applying to two community colleges. With the help of her volunteer she gained the confidence to tackle the Common App on the spot and completed the entire thing, essay included, and submitted to one four-year college as well. It took her 2.5 hours, but she hung in there with lots of encouragement from volunteers."



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In The News:

11/2/18 – The NHHEAF Network Organizations' College Counselor Val Castonguay appears on WKXL 1450 AM to talk about College Application Week - <https://soundcloud.com/wkxl/nh-now-val-castronguay-11-2-18>

11/5/18 (Woodsville HS) - https://www.caledonianrecord.com/features/school/woodsville-high-school-to-participate-in-college-application-week/article_b989abd6-3139-56ae-ac3b-3885a66ebad2.html

11/9/18 (Media Advisory for Statewide Kick-off) – <https://nhheaf.org/media-advisory-2018-NH-College-Application-Week-Statewide-Kick-off-At-Merrimack.asp>

11/12/18 (Laconia and Belmont HS) - https://www.laconiadailysun.com/community/announcements/laconia-and-belmont-high-schools-participate-in-college-application-week/article_eba11052-5913-11e8-9cc3-cfa716561033.html

11/13/18 (Woodsville HS) - https://www.wcax.com/content/news/Kuster-joining-I-am-College-Bound-event-500378011.html?fbclid=IwAR0vilYYuKYL5j3sw8PM3EpsmkV_1uQPTZDLQgen5A0OFcQtuLFK8tCkJY

11/14/18 – (Dover HS) - <http://www.fosters.com/news/20181114/dovers-college-bound-seniors-get-boost>

11/14/18 – WMUR - <https://www.wmur.com/article/state-leaders-kick-off-i-am-college-bound-month-to-encourage-post-secondary-education/25091966>

11/15/18 - (Nashua South HS) - <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2018/11/15/seniors-get-n-h-college-application-fees-waived/>

12/5/18 – (Belmont HS) - https://www.laconiadailysun.com/community/announcements/belmont-high-school-participates-in-college-application-week/article_822b6d2a-b692-11e8-a191-f75656795556.html

12/7/18 – (Kennett HS) https://www.conwaydailysun.com/news/local/eagles-take-advantage-of-free-college-applications/article_933dab6e-f80a-11e8-9a92-a752af3c74d8.html

12/7/18 – (Final Press Release) - <https://nhheaf.org/press-release-2018-1672-NH-High-School-Seniors-Participate-in-I-Am-College-Bound-college-application-initiative.asp>

12/12/18 – (Statewide Coverage) <https://www.concordmonitor.com/Announcement-Master-22084524>



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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 and requires the support of the New Hampshire Department of Education and the use of the National Clearinghouse Data they receive.

"I Am College Bound/I Applied" will continue to expand in 2019 to include the participation of five (5) to seven (7) additional New Hampshire public high schools. To allow for this expansion, our "I Am College Bound/I Applied" events are expected to take place throughout the month of November in 2019. 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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Event Photos:



Our 2018 "I Am College Bound/I Applied" campaign kicked off Tuesday, November 12 at Merrimack Valley High School (MVHS) with MVHS 1978 graduate (and former Major League Baseball player) Bob Tewksbury, U.S. Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster, NH Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut and NH Governor Christopher T. Sununu.



"I Am College Bound/I Applied" is a success each year due to the support of our volunteers. Pictured here on the right is Ryan Patten, an admissions counselor with Plymouth State University, just one over 60 volunteers who helped make this year so special for our 1,672 participating students!



Say hello to Tyler, the first filer from Pittsfield HS who submitted a [#college](#) application for [#NH's Manchester Community College](#)! Tyler also attends the Concord Regional Technical Center (CRTC) – we love having students from all types of programs join us for our program!



The NHHEAF Network Organizations' college counselor (and Concord High School alum) Cam led this year's program at his alma mater!

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Meet Ben, [Kearsarge Regional High School](#)'s first filer from Kearsarge Regional High School (KRHS). At KRHS, 24 high school seniors participated in the school's event.

What a treat to have Dr. Bolgen Vargas, Superintendent of the Manchester School District, stop in to our "I Am College Bound/I Applied" event at Manchester West High School!



For more event images, please visit our 2018 Photo Gallery found [here](#).

This year we welcomed Alvirne High School to our "I Am College Bound/I Applied" program. What a great looking cake to celebrate students!

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