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# SECTION V – ENGAGING FAMILIES

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Use these letters to strike up conversations between students and their families about College Decision Day, to recruit volunteers, and inform the school community of activities to promote a college going culture in your school. Disseminate via hard copy and /or email.

## Student/Family Informational Letter

SCHOOL LOGO

SCHOOL ADDRESS

[date]

Dear Students and Families, [change this based on who you're sending letter to]

The administration and staff of [high school name] invites you to attend College Decision Day on [date] from [time] to celebrate the Senior Class of [year] as they make the decision on their next steps after high school.

May 1<sup>st</sup> is a big day across the state and nation in the college admissions process. It's the day by which seniors nationwide declare what they want to do with their futures and decide where they will go after high school. [School name] will host its [inaugural, 3<sup>rd</sup> annual, etc.] Decision Day to celebrate the Senior Class of [Year] as they make this important decision to achieve greatness by attending college, trade school or enlisting into the armed services. This celebration also applauds the college-going culture within [school name] as well as within [community name].

*[Insert information about all activities leading up to and during College Decision Day. Include speakers, games, prizes, food, etc. Parking information and/or visitor pass if necessary]*

All graduating seniors are expected to attend and are encouraged to wear a t-shirt of their college selection.

Parents, school administrators, teachers, staff and community members are invited to join the celebration. To RSVP, [insert information]

We are extremely proud of our Senior Class of [year] and hope you will join us in celebration. We look forward to seeing you on [date].

Sincerely,

[SCHOOL COUNSELOR/PRINCIPAL/SITE COORDINATOR]



## Student / Family Follow-up Letter

SCHOOL LOGO

SCHOOL ADDRESS

[date]

Dear Students and Families,

Recently, your student participated in College Decision Day South Carolina hosted by [high school name]. Congratulations on taking this important step toward your student's education!

Now that your student has enrolled in a college, it is important that students consider the following next steps:

- If you've applied for financial aid by completing a FAFSA, read and understand your Student Aid Report (SAR) to find out how much financial aid you have received. If you have questions, be sure to share them with your college's financial aid office.
- To enroll, follow the directions in the official acceptance letter/email you received from your college. Each college has its own steps and system for officially enrolling. Most likely, you will be directed to the college's official website and instructed to log into the internal student information system. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask questions of your college.
- Some colleges require a monetary deposit to officially enroll. This deposit can range from \$100 to \$500 or more. If you need help, don't hesitate to contact the college's financial aid office to discuss options.
- As part of the enrollment process, you will likely be prompted by the college to sign up for campus housing, accept your financial aid award, and start the advising process to sign up for classes.
- After you have officially enrolled, you will also get information from your college about summer orientation and placement exams. Be sure to sign up for any required testing and attend orientation events.
- After you have officially enrolled, make sure to request a copy of your final high school transcript to be sent to your college.
- Check out your college's summer reading list to get a jump start on your college experience.

If you have any questions, please call [name, title], at [phone number] or email me at [email]. Thank you for supporting your student's future and helping them navigate the path to college!

Sincerely,

[SCHOOL COUNSELOR/PRINCIPAL/SITE COORDINATOR]