



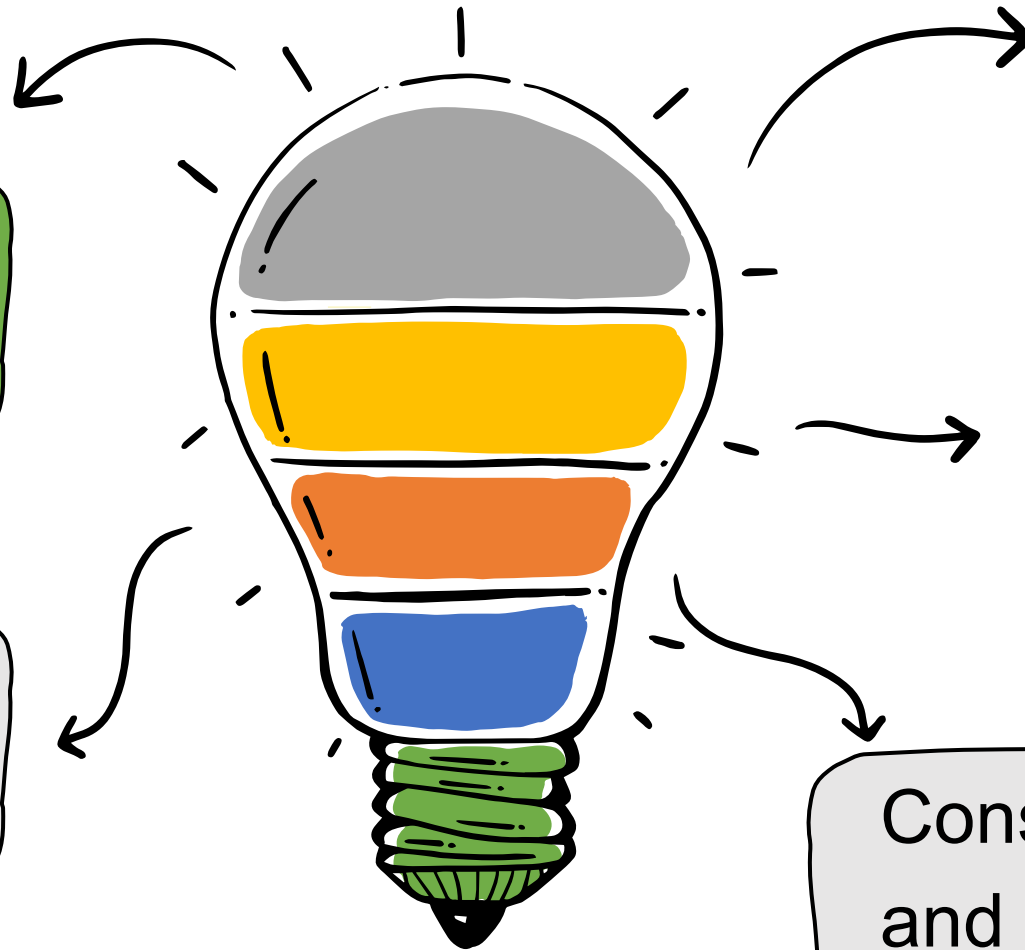
What Parents of Smart Students (and their students) Need to Know About College Admissions

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Topics for discussion tonight

1
What to know
before you start

5
What colleges
to visit and why



2
Objectivity and
your smart kid

3
College Lists
and Choices

4
Considering costs
and opportunities
for scholarships

How to begin this journey



- Monitor your own objectivity
There are more vals and sals in the USA than spots in Ivy League Schools—your gifted and talented child is very special but so are many other students.

If a college admits 10-20% or fewer applicants, admission is highly selective and unpredictable. This college is a reach school for everyone.

My niece Taylor story--

Which colleges to visit? Questions for your student to consider



- Where do you want to study? Geography—close/far? urban, suburb, rural?
- Small, medium or large school
- Private or public
- Does your child think he or she knows which major –or undecided (most kids change majors)
- What types of interests?
- Visit a range of schools—do not only visit reach schools

Make a reasonable college list



- Usually about a dozen
- Understand what highly selective means

Consider the right match, future graduate school plans, what you can contribute financially, etc.

Consider Cost and Scholarships



If money is not an object—
Early Decision may be
helpful, but it is binding. If
you need scholarships, do
not apply ED—you can
consider Early Action.
Endowments and
scholarships

Letters of recommendation/Professional college counselors



- People who know your child best
- Only those that are required and perhaps one additional—Do not go overboard
- Should you hire someone to help?

Positives and Negatives about getting help

What about 2e—our recent grant and study

<https://giftedasd.project.uconn.edu>

Students who are 2e/ASD who were successful in graduating from highly competitive colleges/universities:

- Half attended smaller/closer colleges first and then transferred
- All selected schools with excellent disability services
- All registered with the disability services
- Most had taken advanced courses and extra-curricular activities based on their interests



What not to do—the Don'ts



- Don't talk about college all the time
- Don't only listen to school counselors
- Don't criticize colleges due to what you think you know. Much has changed since you went to college
- Don't only visit reach schools.
- Don't be swayed by a bad or really good tour guide
- Don't focus only on undergraduate school

What are the right things to do?--



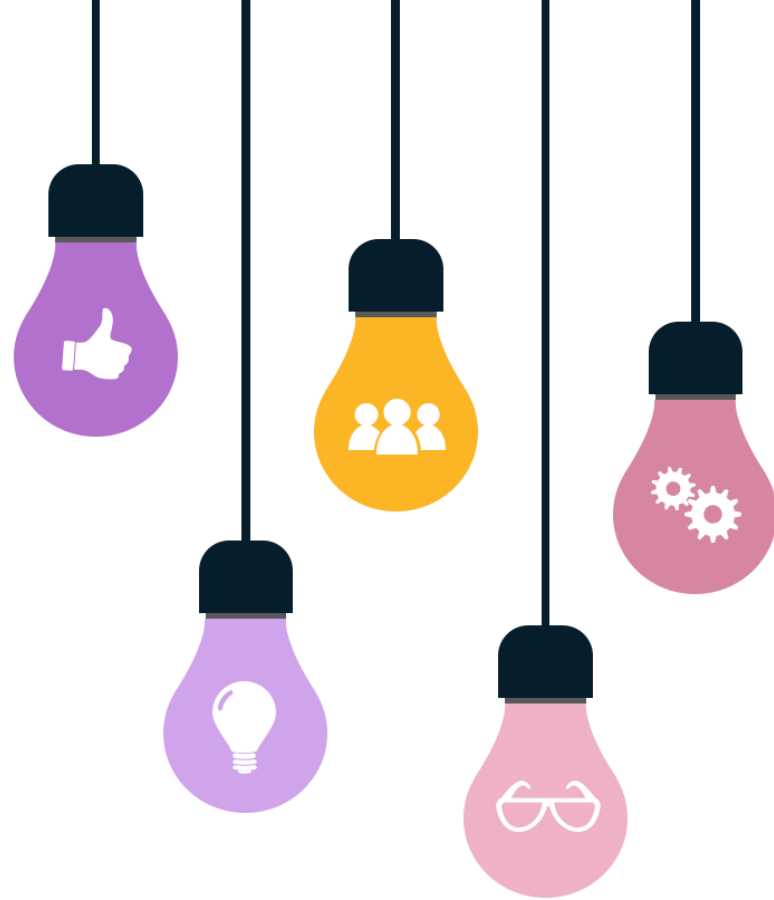
- Start the process early in high school
- Encourage as many challenging classes as possible—AP, Honors
- Engagement in extra-curricular activities
- Volunteer activities
- Consider the best fit type of school for your student—Highly creative? Faculty research opportunities? Major?
- Create a resume, calendar, and to do list
- Understand the PSAT, SAT, ACT
- Read and become your own best advocate
- Consider whether graduate school is going to be an option and financially, what works best

<https://giftedchallenges.blogspot.com/2014/11/ten-essential-tips-to-help-your-gifted.html>

Most important....

- A college/university where your child will be challenged academically and also feel welcomed and supported socially and emotionally
- The size, location, and type of school
- A college/university that offers the right choice for academic interests, extra-curriculars, work in labs, and also general education requirements?
More/less/AP credits count?
- Study abroad?
- Graduate School placements—ask about pre-med, law school, etc





Questions?