



Making Postsecondary Plans

Lesson Plan and Presentation: Junior College Match Day

The presentation and lesson plan from Kelly High School helps highly-qualified juniors understand the importance of match in the college application process.

Lesson Plan: Junior College Match Day

Sample from Kelly High School

Outcomes

- Students will be introduced to the concept of College Match
- Students will know their selectivity level on the College Access Grid
- Students will get an overview of colleges within their selectivity level
- Students will get an overview of the college application process

Match Level: Very Selective/Selective

What is College Match?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain College Access Grid • Explain Safety, Match, and Reach colleges according to student qualifications • Disclaimer: Current selectivity level is based on practice ACT scores. Students may fall in a different selectivity category based on actual ACT scores. • Show students examples of Safety, Match, and Reach colleges • Discuss strategies for transferring from community college to a 4-year university 	10 minutes
Proprietary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review pitfalls of proprietary/for-profit schools 	5 minutes
Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Action versus Early Decision versus Regular Decision • Common Application 	10 minutes
What should you do this summer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pick some colleges/universities to visit ◦ Participate in summer college programs ◦ Consider Teachers or Counselors who can write a letter of recommendation for college applications/scholarships 	5 minutes
Dual Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should contact counselor for information • These classes allow students to earn college credit while in high school • Can begin as early as this summer 	3 minutes

Junior College Match Day

Sample from Kelly High School

What is College Match?

A formula based on your unweighted **GPA** and **ACT** scores that matches you to appropriate postsecondary institutions.

TABLE 1
Categories for access to college types based on CPS graduates' GPAs and ACT scores and patterns of college enrollment

		Unweighted GPA in Core Courses				
		<2.0	2.0-2.4	2.5-2.9	3.0-3.4	3.5-4.0
Composite ACT Score	Missing ACT	Two-Year Colleges	Nonselective Four-Year Colleges	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Selective Colleges	Selective Colleges
	<18	Two-Year Colleges	Nonselective Four-Year Colleges	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Selective Colleges
	18-20	Nonselective Four-Year Colleges	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Selective Colleges	Selective/Very Selective Colleges
	21-23	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Selective Colleges	Selective/Very Selective Colleges	Selective/Very Selective Colleges
	24+	Somewhat Selective Colleges	Selective/Very Selective Colleges	Selective/Very Selective Colleges	Very Selective Colleges	Very Selective Colleges

Note: Students in the Selective category who are either in an IB program or have taken at least two AP and at least six honors courses are moved up to the Very Selective category.

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Examples of Very Selective Schools in Illinois

- Illinois Institute of Technology
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Northwestern University
- Illinois Wesleyan University
- Wheaton College

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Examples of Selective Schools in Illinois

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Augustana College | • Loyola University |
| • Bradley University | • McKendree College |
| • DePaul University | • North Central College |
| • Illinois College | • Rockford College |
| • Knox College | • Roosevelt University |
| • Lake Forest College | • Trinity Christian College |

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Types of Colleges: Safety | Reach | Match

- Your current Match Level might **change** based on your real ACT (not practice test)
- You should apply to at least one **Safety** college (Somewhat Selective) and one **Reach** college (Very Selective)
 - Most students in this Match Level under-match
 - Studies show graduation rates increase when you enroll in a college that is in your Match Level!

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Types of Colleges: Safety | Reach | Match (cont.)

- Don't like your ACT score?
 - **Re-take** the ACT! The next ACT test is **October 25, 2014**. You can get a fee waiver and register by **September 19**.
 - Maintain excellent grades in your **senior year!**
- Apply **Early Action** (in November) when it is less competitive!

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Beware of Proprietary Schools

- These are **for-profit** (to make money) and predatory companies
- They cost **a lot** more than city and community colleges
- Examples:
 - Everest College
 - Lincoln Technical Institute
 - The Illinois Institute of Art Chicago
 - Northwestern College
 - Harrington College of Design

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Beware of Proprietary Schools (cont.)

- They offer certificates that are all **available at city and community colleges**
- Don't sign anything or give them your contact information unless you are really serious about enrolling in one of these schools
- Examples:
 - University of Phoenix
 - Universal Technical Institute
 - Le Cordon Bleu: College of Culinary Arts
 - International Academy of Design and Technology

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The Application Process: Early Action | Early Decision

- **Early Action**
 - Apply **Early** (November 15)
 - Receive response early (January 15)
 - Typically less competitive
 - You will receive priority for merit scholarships
 - **Not required to enroll**
- **Early Decision**
 - Same as Early Action but...
 - You can only apply **Early Decision** to 1 school (your first choice)
 - Not offered by all schools
 - This is a **binding** contract
 - **Required to enroll**

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The Application Process: Regular Decision

- **Regular Decision**
 - This puts you in the general pool for admission = more competitive
 - You **must** still meet their deadlines to be considered for admission

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The Application Process: Common Application

The Common Application is an online application that allows you to apply to any participating college using **one** application. Many schools in your Match Level use the Common Application exclusively.

- Complete all personal and educational information
- Write about your extracurricular activities
- 500-650 word essay answering one of five questions

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The Application Process: Common Application (cont.)

- Some colleges require supplemental writing portions
- Most colleges require one teacher recommendation
- All schools require one Counselor recommendation (complete and turn in a Personal Profile to your Counselor in September)

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Over the Summer

1. Pick 6 to 10 potential colleges
 - Visit colleges you are interested in!
 - Review application requirements on their “**prospective students**,” “**admissions**” or “**undergraduate**” web pages
2. Participate in summer college programs, interview for a job/internship, and/or participate in **dual enrollment classes**

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Over the Summer (cont.)

3. Prepare a draft of your **personal statement** using the Common Application questions
4. Choose people to ask for **letters of recommendation**
 - Teachers, Counselor, employers
 - Give them a personal profile or resume to help them write the letter

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Dual Enrollment

Allows you to **gain college credit** while you are enrolled in high school through the City Colleges of Chicago

- Courses offered:
 - Biology, English, Math, Philosophy, Business, Manufacturing, Computer Informational Systems, Sociology, Humanities, History, Literature, Philosophy